



CAPT Bob Rutherford, USN (Ret.)
“Rooter”

Hometown: Phoenix, AZ

High School and College Career:

Sunnyslope HS, Phoenix, AZ, 1974

University of Arizona, BS Aerospace Engineering, 1978

Dates on Active Duty: 05 May 1979 – 01 Jan 2008

Date Commissioned/Source:

AOCS (AVROC) 05 May 1979

Date of Designation: 30 Jan 1981

Total Flight Hours: 4502.6

Carrier/Ship Landings: 937 fixed wing

Flight Hours: Jet: 4083 Prop: 408.5 Helo: 11.1
 VA/VFA: 3673.5

Combat tours:

Desert Storm: VFA-147/CVN-68 Mar 91–Aug 91

Arabian Gulf/Iraq, F/A-18C

Southern Watch: VFA-147/CVN-68 Dec 95 – Jul 96

Arabian Gulf/Iraq, F/A-18C

Combat missions: 24 F/A-18C

Commands:

CO VFA-147 Feb 1995 – Sep 1996

CO VX-31 Aug 1998 – Aug 1999

CO VX-9 Aug 1999 – Aug 2000

CO NAS Lemoore Aug 2002 – Aug 2005

CO FACSAC SD Aug 2005 – Sep 2007



Awards:

Legion of Merit: 3

Meritorious Service Medal: 4

Navy Commendation Medal: 1

Navy Achievement Medal: 2

Duty Assignment Chronology

05/78-05/79	AOCS (AVROC) Officer Candidate Pensacola, FL Non-flying
09/79-02/80	VT-6 SNA NAS Whiting Fld, FL T-34C
03/80-06/80	VT-26 SNA NAS Beeville, TX T-2C
07/80-01/81	VT-25 SNA NAS Beeville, TX TA-4J
03/81-11/81	VA-122 (FRS) RP NAS Lemoore, CAA-7E
11/81-03/83	VA-113 Fleet JO NASL/CV-61 A-7E
03/83-09/83	VFA-125 (FRS) RP NAS Lemoore, CA F/A-18A
09/83-11/85	VFA-113 Fleet JO NASL/CV-64 F/A-18A
01/86-12/86	ETPS (RAF) Student RAF Boscombe Dn, UK Multiple types
01/87-03/89	SATD/Carrier Suitability Test Pilot NATC Pax River, MD A-7E / F/A- 18A
04/89-06/89	VFA-125 (FRS) RP/IP NAS Lemoore, CA F/A-18A/B/C/D
06/89-12/89	CVW-9 Cag OPS NAS Lemoore, CA F/A- 18C
12/89-11/92	VFA-147 Dept Head NASL/CVN-68 F/A-18C
12/92-12/93	CNAP F/A-18 Readiness NAS North Island, CA F/A-18A/B/C/D
01/94-09/96	VFA-147 XO/CO NASL/CVN-68 F/A-18C
10/96-08/99	NWTS/VX-31 CTP/CO NAS China Lake, CA F/A-18A/C/D/E
08/99-08/00	VX-9 CO NAS China Lake, CA F/A-18C/D/E/F
10/00-07/02	PMA-265 (F/A-18) Deputy PMA NAS Pax River, MD Non-flying
08/02-08/05	NAS Lemoore CO NAS Lemoore, CA F/A-18C/D

Associations/Membership/Boards:

Military and aviation focused association memberships:

1. Tailhook Association – Life Member
2. Society of Experimental Test Pilots - Member
3. A-7 Corsair II Association – Life Member
4. Navy League – Member

Directorships on Veteran focused governing boards:

1. Tailhook Educational Foundation – Director
2. Fisher House Southern California – Director

Summary of Significant Career Events

1. Luck of the draw and timing placed me in one of the first two squadrons (VFA-113) to transition to the F/A-18A in 1983. Same for first Night Attack squadron (VFA-147, Lot 12s) in 1990 and as CO of one of first two APG-73 RUG squadrons (VFA-147, Lot 16/17) in 1995/96. The Argonauts won the CSFWP awards for both maintenance excellence and ordnance excellence in 1996.

2. Operationally enforced no-fly zones over Iraq in 1991 (ODS) and 1996 (OSW). Show of force operations during third Taiwan Strait Crisis in 1996. And an interesting night with the USS LaSalle, me, and the Iranian navy in May 1991. Kept the Indian Ocean safe from communism in 1982 and 1985.

3. Graduated test pilot training from Empire Test Pilot School on exchange with RAF UK 1986. Flew several tours as a developmental or operational test pilot including as CO of both VX-31 and VX-9.

4. Flew 31 different aircraft types (16 jets including 9 TACAIR fighter or ground attack platforms of different services and nations).

5. Logged arrested landings on 17 different aircraft carriers.

6. Flew numerous first flights of tactical weapons and integrated weapons systems. First operational F/A-18 fleet launch of AIM-7 AAM and delivery of B-57 nuclear shape. First demonstration of simultaneous dual JDAM delivery against separated targets.

7. Oversaw completion of F/A-18E/F OPEVAL in 2000 as CO VX-9.

Summary of Post Military Work

Northrop Grumman 2008-2018. Unmanned Aerial Systems Business Development, Flight Test, and Program management. Heavily involved with development, test, and program management of MQ-8C Fire Scout, MQ-4C Triton, and X-47B.

Personal

Married for 37 years to my personal favorite Navy wife, Ann, whom I lost to cancer in 2020. My daughter works in the publishing industry. I serve on several non-profit boards and remain active in my local Rotary club. Recreationally I play a lousy, but strangely satisfying, game of golf, sail on other people's boats, and ski as many days in the winter that finds snow under my feet.