



Robert F. Aumack, Commander, USN (Ret.)
 “Bob”

Date of Designation: 8 May 1950 NA # T-582

Dates of Active Duty: August 1948 - July 1976

Total Flight Hours: 7,300+

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed: 512 (Arrested (Tough & go and bolters not included)

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 6,000 Prop: 1,360 VF: 7,000

Other: Civilian: Approximately 400 hours in F4U-4/5 and P-51 plus various single/twin engine aircraft.

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VF-162 aboard USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34), Northern sector, Aug. 1967 - Jan. 1968. 76 missions.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-162, Feb. 1968 - Dec. 1968

Though not a command, was O-in-C and Leader of U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Team (Blue Angels) all of 1964, 1965 and 1966.

Combat Awards:

2 Distinguished Flying Crosses

7 Air Medals

1 Distinguished Flying Cross (non-combat)

Duty Assignment Chronology

9/48-5/50 Joined the Navy under the Holloway Program (Public Law #729), known as the Flying Midshipman Program, and designated Naval Aviator (# T-582) at NAS Pensacola on 8 May 1950.

5/50-4/51 Assigned to VF-24 with temporary duty in VF-13 at NAS Jacksonville. When Korean

War began in June 1950, orders were canceled and went to VF-43 when Air Group Four was recommissioned that September at NAAS Cecil Field. Reported to VF-174, NAS Jacksonville (4/51) as replacement pilot when Air Group Seventeen was readying for deployment.

4/51-10/53 VF-174. Two Mediterranean cruises in USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVB-42) flying F4U-5/F4U-4 through end of '52 when transitioned to F9F-6. Dead stick landing in Corsair on *FDR*, 7/31/51.

10/53-4/54 FASRON-6 (IFTD). Assigned in setting up and instructing in Instrument Flight Training Detachment for fleet aviators. (First formal instrument training detachments). Flight instructor, ATU-201 NAAS Kingsville, TX.

6/54-1/55 Flight instructor, ATU-204 NAAS Chase Field, Beeville, TX.

1/55-8/57 Formed and instructed at Jet Transition Training Unit (JTTU), NAAS Olathe - the first Navy unit whose mission was to transition fleet prop Naval Aviators into jets. F9F-6 fleet experienced pilots were cadre of the unit. General Line School at U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA.

7/58-10/60 Assistant Air Operations, USS *Ranger* (CVA-61). First super carrier in Far East and was showboat for dignitaries. Two cruises to WESTPAC. Second year/cruise was also Senior Air Controller when CIC needed controller organization.

10/60-2/61 VF-124 F8 RAG, NAS Moffett Field, CA.
 3/61-3/63 VF-191 Maintenance Officer and Operations Officer. Two WESTPAC deployments in USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA-31).

4/63- 9/63 VF Training Officer, COMFAIRMIRAMAR..
 9/63-3/67 Blue Angels. Officer-in-Charge 1964 through 1966. Out of the country to Caribbean and

- Continued -

Duty Assignment Chronology continued

- Mexico in 1964. First European tour for Team in 1965. Paris Air Show in June 1965 and recognized by being written into the Congressional Record and awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.
- 3/67-12/68 After RAG (VF-124) familiarization, joined VF-162 as XO (8/67) while deployed WEST PAC (Vietnam-Yankee Station). Day/night operations in USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34).
- 2/68-12/68 CO, VF-162 with first F8Js on the West Coast.
- 1/69-8/70 Air Warfare Officer, CARDIV TWO Staff. Two cruises to Mediterranean.
- 8/70-12/72 Naval Air Systems Command (AIR-03). Long range VF planning and design of future fighter. Deeply involved with other divisions of AIR-03 with missile development at NAS China Lake and with civilian industry development of various simulators (Air Combat Maneuvering/G Simulators/Carrier Approach Simulator). Also worked on paper with what would become the F-16 and F-18 when Navy sent letters of interest to contractors for ideas for lightweight fighter.
- 1/73-4/75 US Naval Postgraduate School Baccalaureate Degree Program, Monterey, CA.
- 4/75-7/76 Operations Officer, NAS Miramar, CA.
- 6/30/76 Retired from active duty.

Aircraft flown:

Aircraft with minimum of 1,000 hours in type.

- F4U-4/5/5N
- F9F-2/6/8/8T
- F11A,
- F8A/C/D/F/H/J & RF8A
- TV-2

Other: T-28, T-34, T-39, T-2J, T2V, TA4, SNJ, SNB, SBD, S2F, JRB, C1A, FG-1D, F6F, F4D, F-105, P-51.

Embarked in the following carriers (CVs)

- USS *Ticonderoga* (CVA-14)
- USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA-31)
- USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34)
- USS *Midway* (CVB-41)
- USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVB-42)
- USS *Saratoga* (CVA-60)
- USS *Ranger* (CVA-61)
- USS *Independence* (CVA-62)
- USS *America* (CVA-66)
- USS *John F. Kennedy* (CVA-67)
- USS *Block Island* (CVE-106)
- USS *Palau* (CVE-122)
- USS *Cabot* (CVL-28)
- USS *Wright* (CVL-49)

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Cadre which formed and instructed at Jet Transition Training Unit (JTTU), NAAS Olathe, KS., in 1955. Mission: Transition fleet prop Naval Aviators (Junior Officers through Admirals) into jets. Forerunner of the RAG Squadrons. Aircraft: TV-2 and F9F 6/8. Jan. 1955 through Aug. 1957.
- (2) Leader and OinC of Blue Angels 1964 through 1966. Out of country to Caribbean Islands plus Mexico in 1964. First European tour for the Team in June-July 1965 including Paris Airshow. Recognized by being written into the Congressional Record and awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.
- (3) Made dead stick landing in an F4U-5 aboard CVB-42 on 31 July 1951.