



Paul T. Gillcrist, Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)
 “Paul”

Date of Designation: 18 December 1953 NA # T-4011

Dates of Active Duty: 6 June 1952 - 1 October 1985.

Total Flight Hours: 6,000+

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 966

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 5,200 Prop: 700 Helo: 100 VF/VA: 5,900

Combat Tours:

- Vietnam: VF-53, USS *Ticonderoga* (CVA-14), Tonkin Gulf, Mar. 66 - May 66. 44 combat missions.
- Vietnam: VF-53, USS *Hancock* (CVA-19), Tonkin Gulf, Jan. 67 - Jun 67. 90 combat missions.
- Vietnam: VF-53, USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA-31), Tonkin Gulf, Jan 68 - Mar. 68. 33 combat missions. Total - 167 missions.

Aviation Commands:

- CO, VF-53, Mar. 67 - Mar. 68.
- Commander, Carrier Air Wing THREE, Apr. 71 - Feb. 72.
- CO, NAS Cecil Field, Oct. 75 - Feb. 77.
- COMFITAEEWINGS, PAC, Apr. 79 - May. 81.

Combat Awards:

- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Bronze Star
- 13 Air Medals
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross

Duty Assignment Chronology

- 12/18/53 Designated Naval Aviator.
- 3/54-10/55 Fighter Squadron 191 (USS *Oriskany*).
- 11/55-2/58 Fleet Air Gunnery Unit, Pacific, NAAS El Centro, CA.



- 3/58-10/58 Navy Test Pilot School, NAS Patuxent River, MD.
- 11/58-3/61 Flight Test Division, Carrier Branch, NAS Patuxent River, MD.
- 4/61-3/64 Fighter Squadron 62 (USS *Shangri-La* and USS *Lexington*).
- 4/64-8/65 American University, Washington, D. C.
- 9/65-3/68 Fighter Squadron 53 (USS *Ticonderoga*, *Hancock* and *Bon Homme Richard*).
- 4/68-10/69 OPNAV (Pentagon)
- 11/69-11/72 Carrier Air Wing 3, USS *Saratoga* (CV-60).
- 12/72-4/75 OPNAV (Pentagon)
- 3/75-5/77 NAS Cecil Field, FL.
- 6/77-8/79 CINCLANT, Norfolk, VA.
- 9/79-11/80 COMFITAEEWING, PAC, NAS Miramar, CA.
- 12/80-5/82 COMNAVBASE San Diego/COMNAVBASE San Francisco.
- 6/82-10/85 OPNAV(OP-50), Pentagon.
- 10/1/85 Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Flew early swept wing jet aircraft from straight deck carrier, USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34), 1955.
- (2) Selected as Weapons Delivery Instructor at Fleet Air Gunnery Unit Pacific (Oct 55 - Feb 58). Conducted first U. S. Navy air-to-air rocket firings.
- (3) As test pilot at Flight Test Division, 1958-1961, flew 34 different model test airplanes, including single and multi-engine jet and props.
- (4) MIG pilot, 1969 (10 flights).
- (5) First real life use of rocket powered ejection system (May 1959).

Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (6) Flew contingency air defense flights versus Cuban aircraft from NAS Key West and McCalla Field at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- (7) Flew contingency flights against Cuban air defenses from the USS *Lexington* (CV-16) in 1962.
- (8) Commanded Air Wing THREE during first evaluation of "CV concept" during 6th Fleet deployment of USS *Saratoga*, 1971-72.
- (9) First Flag Officer to land in F-14 on a carrier, 1981, on USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV-63) at age 51.
- (10) First Navy pilot to fly the SH-2G.
- (11) Flew two missions in F-20 at age 55.
- (12) Selected "Tailhook Aviator of the Year" by the Tailhook Association, 1985.
- (13) Received Tailhook Association's Lifetime Achievement Award, 1966.