



William H. Harris, RADM, USN (Ret.)
 "Bill"

Date of Designation: 20 September 1946 NA # P-24733

Dates of Active Duty: 1 November 1943 - 1 August 1978

Total Flight Hours: 6,000

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed: 600 Rotary: 125 (approx)

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 2,600 Prop: 2,500 VF/VA: 5,000

Helo: 900 HS/HC/HU: 900

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: CO, VA-146, USS *Constellation* (CVA-64), Aug. 1964 - Jan. 1965.

Vietnam: CAG-2, USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43), Nov. 1966 - Jun. 1967.

Vietnam: CO, USS *Seminole* (LKA-104), Nov. 1969 - May 1970 (Support for Marines).

Vietnam: CO, USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43), Nov. 1971 - Jun. 1972.

Total combat missions - 89

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA-146, Dec. 1964 - Nov. 1965

CAG-2, Dec. 1965 - Mar. 1967

CO, USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43), Aug. 1971 - Nov. 1972

COMLATWINGPAC, Jun. 1975 - Jul. 1976

COMMATVATWINGPAC, Jun. 1975 - Jul. 1977

Combat Awards:

Silver Star

Legion of Merit

2 Distinguished Flying Crosses

2 Meritorious Service Medals

Bronze Star

8 Air Medals

Distinguished Service Medal (non-combat)



Duty Assignment Chronology

- 1947-1948 VF-13A (F4U-4, F6F-5).
- 1948-1949 VF-133 (F8F).
- 1949-1950 VF-13 (F4U-5)
- 1950-1951 CNO Office (Assistant Registered Publications Officer), Potomac River Naval Command, Washington, D. C.
- 1951-1953 Naval Air Training Command, Pensacola, FL.
 - IBTU, Whiting Field, IBTU Instructor
 - Helo Training (H-31)
- 1953-1956 HS-2, Ream Field, Imperial Beach, CA.
- 1956-1956 Olathe, KS., Air Control and Radar School.
- 1956-1958 NAS Moffet Field, CA., GCA/RATCC Officer (Built Radar Air Traffic Control Center for Navy - the first of four in the nation).
- 1958-1960 University of Oklahoma.
- 1960-1961 VA-93 Ops. Officer, USS *Ranger* (CVA-61).
- 1962-1963 COMCRUDESPEC Staff, ASW Helo Officer (DASH).
- 1963-1965 XO/CO, VA-146, USS *Constellation* (CVA-64). Maddox - Turner Joy incident, August 4 - 5, 1964. First Vietnam strikes - Aug. 5, 1964.
- 1965-1967 CAG-2, USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43) - Vietnam.
- 1967-1969 COMNAVAIRPAC, Air Wing Training and Force Training Officer.
- 1969-1970 CO, USS *Seminole* (LKA-104) -Vietnam.
- 1970-1971 National War College, Washington, D. C.
- 1971-1972 CO, USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43)
 - Mined Haiphong harbor
 - Air Wing 15 (got 5 MIGs)
 - VMA-224 (First Marine A-6's in combat from a carrier).
- 1972-1975 CINCPACFLT Staff
 - Chief of Staff (Operations).
 - Deputy COS for Operations & Plans (Flag).
- 1975-1976 COMLATWINGPAC and COMMATVAQ-WINGPAC.
- 1976-1977 COMMATVAQWINGPAC.

- Continued -



1977-1978 Deputy Director, Naval Education and Training (OP-099B).
8/1/78 Retired from active duty.
1979-1990 Executive Vice President, La Jolla Association, Ltd.
1990-1991 Corporate Vice President - First Capital Life Insurance Co.
1991 Retired/Retired now.

Summary of Significant Career Events

Just did my job along the way - lots of fun and action, no speed records - not a test pilot.

- (1) 1950 - Member of four man flight of F4U-5's that intercepted B-36's over Florida, dispelling Air Force claims that B-36's were untouchable.
- (2) Ordered to first helo ASW squadron, HS-2, and helped write and evaluate first instrument training syllabus. Made first all-weather night approach for helo after rescue mission into San Diego, Lindberg Field - before approach authorized for helo. Wrote the helo/destroyer tactics for squadron/NWIP.
- (3) As COMCRUDESPAC ASW Aviation Officer, outfitted and trained first destroyers officers and crew to fly drone anti-submarine helos as forerunner to manned helos - FRAM I & II DD's modified with helo decks. Qualified first four ships to operate DASH (Helos) without incident. Returned to VA-146 as XO/CO.
- (4) First carrier and air wing to mine Haiphong Harbor at direction of President Nixon, May 1972 (USS *Coral Sea*).