



**James Robb, Rear Admiral USN (Ret.)**  
 "Rookie"

Date of Designation: 7 June 1972

Dates of Active Duty: 7 June 1972 - 28 February 2006

Total Flight Hours: 4,820

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 1,052

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 4,710 Prop: 60 Helo: 50 VF/VA: 3,720  
 VT: 320 VS: 150 HS: 50 AQ: 40 VAW: 40  
 Adversary: (A-4/F-5/F-16N/MIG 21/F-7/T-38): 500

Combat Tours:

Southern Watch: CAG-9 Jan-June 1993, USS *Nimitz*  
 (F-14, A-6, S-3)

Enduring Freedom: USCENTCOM, Dec 2001-March 2004  
 Total Combat Missions: 40 (F-14, A-6)

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-51: July 85-Oct. 86 (F-14A/B)  
 Navy Fighter Weapons School: Feb 90 – Sept 91 (F-16C,  
 A-4, F-14A)  
 Commander CVW-9: Aug. 92-July 93 (F-14, F-18C, A-6E,  
 KA-6D, S-3, SH-3, EA-6B, E-2C)  
 Commander CARGRU 7: Aug. 2000 – Oct 2001  
 (F/A-18C/D, S-3, SH-60, EA-6B, E-2C.)

Combat Awards:

Air Medals: 2 Strike/Flight  
 Defense Distinguished Service Medal (Enduring & Iraqi  
 Freedom)

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

8/72-9/72 Flight Prep, SERE and Primary Training  
 Command, Pensacola, FL. (T-34B).  
 9/72-10/74 Jet Basic & Advanced Training Command,  
 NAS Pensacola, FL (T-2A/TA-4).



10/74-11/74 Maintenance Analysis Course – NAS  
 Memphis, TN.  
 12/74-7/75 VF-124 Fleet Replacement Pilot, NAS  
 Miramar, CA (F-14A).  
 8/75-3/78 VF-14 Line/1st LT/Tactics/NATOPS Officer,  
 NAS Oceana, VA (F-14A).  
 4/78-10/80 VF-101 F-14 FRS (RAG), Tactics Officer,  
 NAS Oceana, VA (F-14A, A-4E/F).  
 11/80-4/83 VF-32 Operations/Maintenance Officer, NAS  
 Oceana, VA (F-14A).  
 5/83-7/83 TOPGUN Instructor Training, NAS Miramar,  
 CA (F-5E/F).  
 8/83-9/83 USAF Adversary Instructor Pilot Course,  
 Nellis AFB, NV (F-5E).  
 10/83-7/85 Officer in Charge, Navy/Marine Corps  
 Detachment 4477 TES, Nellis AFB, Las  
 Vegas, NV (F-5/T-38/MU-2/MIG-21C/F-7).  
 8/85-9/85 VF-124 F-14 Refresher Training, NAS  
 Miramar, CA (F-14A).  
 9/85-1/88 VF-51 XO/CO, NAS Miramar, CA (F-14A).  
 2/88-6/88 VAQ-129/VA-128 Initial Qualification  
 Training, NAS Whidbey Island, WA (EA-6B/  
 A-6E).  
 6/88-7/88 VS-41 Initial Qualification Training, NAS  
 North Island, CA (S-3A).  
 8/88-10/88 VF-124 F-14 Refresher Training, NAS  
 Miramar, CA (F-14A).  
 10/88-5/90 DCAG 11, NAS Miramar, CA (F-14A/B,  
 A-7E, EA-6B, A-6E, S-3, E-2, H-60).  
 6/90-2/92 CO Navy Fighter Weapons School TOPGUN,  
 NAS Miramar, CA (A-4E/F, F-16C, F-14A).  
 3/92-7-93 CAG 9, NAS Lemoore, CA (F14-A/B, A6-E,  
 EA-6B, E-2C, S-3A, H-60, F-18C, B-1).  
 8/93-6/94 CNO Strategic Studies Group 13, Navy War  
 College, Newport RI.  
 7/94-5/97 Office of the CNO, N3/5 Joint Planner,  
 Pentagon, Washington, D.C.  
 6/97-1/99 CINCPAC Executive Assistant, Camp Smith,  
 HI (B-707).

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### Duty Assignment Chronology continued

2/99-3/2000 Deputy Director Air Warfare, N880  
OPNAV, Pentagon, Washibgton, D.C.

3/2000-10/2001 Commander Carrier Strike Group Seven,  
NAS North Island, CA Embarked in USS  
*John C. Stennis* (CVN-74) (S-3B, F-18C/D,  
H-60, EA-6B, E-2C).

10/2000-2/2001 Deputy Commander Joint Task Force  
Southwest Asia, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
(KC-10) Concurrent Duty.

11/2001-4/2004 U.S. Central Command, Director, Plans,  
Policy and Coalition Affairs, J-5, Tampa,  
FL.

4/2004-3/2006 CNO Staff, Director of Readiness N43,  
Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

3/2006 Retired from active duty.

### **Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) One of the first six pilots selected to join F-14 fleet introduction directly out of training command.
- (2) Handpicked to join VF-14 on first East Coast F-14 deployment – genesis of call sign “Rookie”.
- (3) Selected 1978 AIRLANT Pilot of Year for pioneering F-14 tactics development.
- (4) Qualified Air Demonstration Pilot in the F-14.
- (5) Led the first F-14 section to go through TOPGUN.
- (6) Only pilot to recover a F-14 from a fully developed Flat Spin (witnessed by Rabbit).
- (7) Flew TARPS missions in support of Lebanon Crisis in 1981.
- (8) While serving as operations and maintenance officer, Fighter Squadron Thirty Two won the Battle E, the Safety S and the Joseph Clifton Award being recognized as the best Fighter Squadron in the Navy.
- (9) Selected to represent TOPGUN in the 4477th Test and Evaluation Squadron flying 200 classified Test and Evaluation missions in the MIG -21 and F-7 in the Tonopah test ranges.
- (10) As CO VF-51, deployed four F-14s and KC-130 to Adak, Alaska in support of Operation Coyote, flying intercept and escort missions against Soviet Bear H aircraft flying nuclear attack simulations against the US.
- (11) Pioneer in the Deputy CAG program. NATOPS qualified in 5 tactical aircraft as DCAG 11.
- (12) Flew CAP missions from USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65) in support of Operation Classic Resolve, the U.S. response to rebel attacks on Philippine President Aquino in 1989.
- (13) While CO of TOPGUN, served as Adversary Program Model Manager, worked to mitigate F-16 fatigue life issues and founded the SFTI Program.
- (14) As CAG 9, flew combat missions over Iraq in the A-6, F-14 and S-3 pioneering mixed section tactics with the F-18C.
- (15) As N880, spearheaded shift to all precision munitions plans; procured AESA radar for F-18, and started the F-18G and P-8 programs.
- (16) As CSG-7, led Third Fleet response to 9/11 coordinating operations of the 25 ships that emergency sortie from San Diego to provide CAP and Cruiser coverage of West Coast high value locations.
- (17) Coordinated attacks on Baghdad air defense sites while serving as Deputy Commander Joint Task Force Southwest Asia. First combat use of the AGM-154 Joint Standoff Weapon (JSOW).
- (18) Coordinated Carrier Air integration into Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom as CENTCOM J-5 from 01-04. Deployed 15 times to Afghanistan, Qatar, Pakistan and Iraq in direct support for combat operations.
- (19) First Navy Flag Officer into Kabul following the fall in December, 2001. Mission coordinated Allied and Afghan operations to stabilize Afghanistan and reopening of US embassy. Led mission that negotiated the creation of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in December 2001.
- (20) Three term Board Member for Tailhook Association.
- (21) Married best gal in the world 2 June 1979, Judy.