



**LtGen Robert E. Schmidle Jr., USMC (Ret.)**  
"Rooster"

Date of Designation: 30 June 1978

Dates of Active Duty: 26 March 1976 – 30 June 2016.

Total Flight Hours: 4634.6

Carrier/Ship Landings: 42

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 4546.5 Prop: 44.9

Combat Tours:

Iraq: August 1990 - April 1991

Bosnia: January 1994 - April 1994

Commands:

CO VMFA-251 June 1993 - January 1995

CO VMFA-115 April 1995 - July 1995

Total Combat Missions: 81 Iraq - 37, Bosnia - 44

Awards:

Defense Distinguished Service Medal

Defense Superior Service Medal

Legion of Merit

Meritorious Service Medal

Distinguished Flying Cross with Combat "V"

Air Medal - 6 Strike Flight

### **Duty Assignment Chronology**

1979 - 1983 VMFA-333 (Pilot Training Officer)

1983 - 1986 VMFAT-101 (Maint)

1986 - 1987 1st BN 9th Marines (OPS, Air Officer)

1987 - 1991 VMFA-333 (AMO, OPS, XO)

1991 - 1992 Command and Staff College

1992 - 1993 MAG-31 (XO, OPS)

1993 - 1995 VMFA-251 (CO)



1995 - 1995 VMFA-115 (CO)

1995 - 1996 War College

1996 - 1997 Faculty, Marine Corps University

1997 - 2000 SPMAAGTF(X) Marine Corps Warfighting Lab  
(XO, CO)

2000 - 2002 J-8 Joint Staff

2002 - 2003 Military Secretary Commandant Marine Corps

2003 - 2004 Marine Corps Combat Development Command  
(Requirements, Concepts, Resourcing)

2004 - 2005 OSD – Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR)

2005 - 2007 J-8 Joint Staff (Deputy Director Resources  
Acquisition and SAP programs)

2007 - 2008 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (CG)

2008 - 2010 Marine Corps Staff (QDR, Programs)

2010 - 2012 United States Cyber Command (Deputy  
Commander)

2012 - 2014 Marine Corps Staff (Deputy Commandant for  
Aviation)

2014 - 2016 OSD Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation  
- (Principle Deputy)

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

(1) VMFA-333, 1979-1982. (F-4J)

Attended TopGun in an F4J, participated in project EW CAS flown on the Nellis ranges.

(2) VMFAT-101 1983-1986. (F-4J/S)

Updated and taught the F-4 Fighter Weapons syllabus, to account for the increased capability of the F4S. One of two USMC pilots qualified to fly IUT support for what was then a classified program.

(3) Desert Storm: F-18A's

Planned and led the largest USMC strike the first night of the war. Including the first tactical integration of unmanned platforms into a complex night strike, which destroyed the largest oil refinery in Eastern Iraq. Perfected the tactics and then led the first flights in the execution of the USMC SEAD

- Continued -

Significant Career Events continued:

plan for “hard bombing” the SAM sites in Kuwait in anticipation of the ground offensive.

(4) Bosnia 1994: F-18A's

While the Commanding Officer of VMFA-251, executed the first delivery of ordnance by the USMC in Europe since 1918. Volunteering for the mission in mountainous terrain, low visibility and low ceilings, successfully strafed and destroyed numerous Serbian armored personnel carriers. Subsequently credited with saving the life of the United Kingdom (UK) forward air controller (FAC) pinned down by enemy fire in the town of Gorazde.

While deployed in support of Operation Deny Flight his squadron of 8 F-18's and 15 pilots flew 1000+hour months committed to NATO support.

(5) CAG-1 1994/5: F-18C's

As the Commanding Officer, led the squadron through F-18 Carrier Qualifications (most of the pilots were initial Hornet quals) joined CAG-1 and became the second USMC squadron in TACAIR Integration. Developed tactics and flew (with NVG's) the first integrated tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP's) with Seal Team 6 for night delivery of ordnance in very close proximity to ground forces.

(6) Commanding Officer SPMAGTF(X) 1998-2000:

Pioneered the continued development and execution of integrated operations between unmanned aircraft and helicopters. Conducted the Hunter Warrior and Urban Warrior warfighting experiments. This was the first execution of truly integrated MAGTF Fires and Maneuver using cutting edge technology at the tactical level. Created the concept for and then executed, lethal fires from air-delivered platforms including loitering, lethal, UAV's in direct support of ground forces.

(7) Commanding General 1st MAW 2007-2008:

Fully qualified in the F-18A/C/D - day, night (including NVG's), in all weather and as a flight lead without caveats.

(8) Deputy Commander United States Cyber Command 2010-2012. Stood up the newest Combatant Command while simultaneously executing full spectrum cyber operations.

(9) Deputy Commandant for Aviation (DCA)- 2012-2014: Qualified and current as pilot in command (PIC) in both the F-18 and F-5 aircraft. Fully qualified adversary pilot in the F-5 flew all mission profiles including adversary support for all WTI classes. Refined the concept of Distributed short takeoff and vertical landing (STOVL) Operations. Developed and implemented the concept of Digital Integration of all USMC aviation and ground forces. Responsible for enabling the development and execution of unprecedented long-range raids by the USMC Infantry Officers Course (IOC) in V-22's. Executed the successful standup of the first operational F-35B squadron on the planet VMFA-121 in Yuma, AZ in November 2012.

## **Post Career and Educational Accomplishments**

Holds a bachelor's degree in History from Drew University, a master's degree in Philosophy from American University and earned his doctorate from Georgetown University. His doctoral thesis, recognized with distinction, was titled “The Power of Context in Shaping Moral Choices.” He is a Professor at Arizona State University, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Defense Science Board the National Security Agency Advisory Board and the British Wittgenstein Society. His numerous publications are in the fields of moral philosophy, social psychology, cyber security and military history. He is currently flying a Pitts Special and a Super Decathlon and resides in Washington, D.C. with his wife Pamela.