



James D. Wetherbee, Captain, USN (Ret.)
“Wxb”

Date of Designation: 30 Dec 1976

Dates of Active Duty: 19 Aug 1975 – 31 Oct 2003.

Total Flight Hours: 7,021

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 345

Flight Hours: Jet: 5,372 Prop: 46 Rocket: 1,594 Helo: 6
Glider: 2

Deployments:

USS *Eisenhower* (Shakedown cruise), Caribbean Sea;
Nov 1978 – Feb 1979.

USS *John F Kennedy*, Mediterranean Sea;
29 Jun 1978 – 8 Feb 1979.

USS *John F Kennedy*, Mediterranean Sea;
4 Aug 1980 – Dec 1980.

Space Flight Commands:

STS-52 Columbia, 22 Oct – 1 Nov 1992

STS-63 Discovery, 2 – 11 Feb 1995

STS-86 Atlantis, 25 Sep – 6 Oct 1997

STS-102 Discovery, 8 – 21 Mar 2001

STS-113 Endeavour, 23 Nov – 7 Dec 2002

Space Flight Pilot:

STS-32 Columbia, 9 – 20 Jan 1990

Awards:

Two Defense Superior Service Medals, US Navy

Distinguished Flying Cross, US Navy

Two Defense Meritorious Service Medals, US Navy

Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal, US Navy

Two National Defense Service Medals, US Navy

Navy Achievement Medal, US Navy

Two Meritorious Unit Commendations, US Navy

Four Distinguished Service Medals, NASA

Six Space Flight Medals, NASA



Two Outstanding Leadership Medals, NASA
Flight Achievement Award, American Astronautical Society,
1995 (STS-63)
Flight Achievement Award, American Astronautical Society,
1998 (STS-86)

Duty Assignment Chronology

08/75-11/75 Aviation Officer Candidate School; NAS Pensacola, FL.
12/75-12/75 Training Squadron VT-1, (T-34B); NAS Saufley Field, Pensacola, FL.
01/76-06/76 Flight Training Squadron VT-21, (T-2C); NAS Kingsville, TX.
06/76-12/76 Flight Training Squadron VT-22, (TA-4J); NAS Kingsville, TX.
01/77-09/77 Fleet Replacement Squadron VA-174, (A-7E); NAS Cecil Field, Jacksonville, FL.
10/77-12/80 Attack Squadron VA-72, (A-7E), Carrier Air Wing One; NAS Cecil Field, Jacksonville, FL.
01/81-12/81 USN Test Pilot School; NAS Patuxent River, MD.
01/82-12/83 Systems Engineering Test Directorate; NAS Patuxent River, MD.
01/84-6/84 Strike Fighter Squadron VFA-132, (F/A-18); NAS Lemoore, CA.
01/84-6/84 (Concurrently with above): Fleet Replacement Squadron VFA-125, (F/A-18); NAS Lemoore, CA.
07/84-01/05 National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Johnson Space Center; Houston, TX.
08/95-12/96 and 10/97-03/01 Deputy Director, Johnson Space Center, NASA.
09/98-09/01 Director, Flight Crew Operations, Johnson Space Center, NASA.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Naval Aviator, US Navy (Dec 1975 – Dec 1981).
Weapons Training Officer
Maintenance Line Officer
Squadron Legal Officer
- (2) Test Pilot, US Navy (Jan 1981 – Dec 1983).
Conducted test and evaluation flights in the F/A-18 and A-7E aircraft.
- (3) Astronaut, Flight Crew Operations, NASA (Jul 1984 – Mar 2003).
Operational Search Director, Space Shuttle Columbia Human Remains Recovery, Lufkin Command Center, Lufkin, TX.
Six space flight missions.
Lead, Requirements Assessment Team for the International Space Station, for the redesign requested by the President, United States of America.
- (4) Deputy Director, Johnson Space Center, NASA (Aug 1995 – Dec 1996, and Oct 1997 – Mar 2001).
Member, Flight Readiness Review Board.
Designated Safety and Health Official.
Co-chair Russian-American Crew Operations Panel.
- (5) Director, Flight Crew Operations, NASA (Sep 1998 – Sep 2001).
Operation included 150 astronauts, 400 civil servants and contractors, and 40 airplanes.
Member, Astronaut Selection Board.

Summary of Post Military Highlights

- (1) Technical Assistant to Director, Safety, Reliability, Quality Assurance, NASA (Apr 2003 – Jun 2004).
- (2) Space Shuttle Lead, Independent Technical Authority, NASA (Jun 2004 – Jan 2005).
- (3) Vice President, Safety, L-3 Communications, Titan Group (Jul 2005 – Jan 2006).
- (4) President, Escape Trajectory LLC (Apr 2005 – Dec 2006).
- (5) Auditor, Safety and Operations, BP Corporation North America, Inc. (Dec 2006 – Mar 2011).
Member of BP's independent Safety and Operations auditing team.
Operational Review of Bond Offshore Helicopters Safety Management System (Exploration and Production, North Sea).
Lecturer at BP's Leadership Academy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- (6) Leadership and Culture Leader, Texas City Refinery, BP America, Inc. (Sep 2008 – Oct 2009).

- (7) Safety and Operations Culture Leader, BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc. (Oct 2009 – Mar 2011).
- (8) Vice President, S&OR Operating Leadership, Safety and Operational Risk, BP (Apr 2011 – Dec 2013).
- (9) Consultant, Speaker, Author (Jan 2014 – Present)
Publication: Controlling Risk—In a Dangerous World: 30 Techniques for Operating Excellence; Morgan James, New York, NY; 2019.

Space Flight Experience

STS-32 Columbia (January 9-20, 1990). Rendezvous and recovery of the 21,400-pound Long Duration Exposure Facility (LDEF) satellite; deployed the Syncom IV-F5 satellite.

STS-52 Columbia (October 22 to November 1, 1992). Deployed the Laser Geodynamic Satellite (LAGEOS). Operated the first U.S. Microgravity Payload (USMP).

STS-63 Discovery (February 2-11, 1995). First American flight operations with the Russian Space Station, Mir; first flight with NASA woman pilot; checkout of the rendezvous and navigation procedures, close approach to 10 meters from the docking port of Mir; operation of the Spacehab module; deployment and retrieval of the Spartan-204 satellite.

STS-86 Atlantis (September 25 to October 6, 1997). Seventh mission to rendezvous and dock with the Russian Space Station Mir; first flight to dock with the damaged Mir after the collision with the Russian Progress vehicle; exchange of US crewmembers, the first space walk by a Russian Cosmonaut, from an American vehicle.

STS-102 Discovery (March 8-21, 2001). First crew exchange mission to the International Space Station; delivery of the Expedition-Two crew and return of Expedition-One crew.

STS-113 Endeavour (November 23 to December 7, 2002). First combined crew exchange and assembly mission to the International Space Station; delivery of Expedition-Six crew, installation and activation of the P1 Truss; return of Expedition-Five crew.

Other Organizations

- (1) Lifetime Member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots (from Dec. 1983).
- (2) US Astronaut Hall of Fame (inducted 2009).
- (3) Long Island Air and Space Hall of Fame in the Cradle of Aviation Museum, Garden City, NY (Inducted 2014).

-Continued-

Other Organizations continued:

(4) Honorary Member, Musicians' Union, Local 47, American Federation of Musicians, Los Angeles, CA.

Personal

Married the former Robin DeVore Platt of Jacksonville, FL, in 1983. Robin was a labor and delivery nurse before moving to a state with no reciprocal agreement for nursing, and is currently a real estate broker. Formerly, she tested the training program software that was used by International Space Station astronauts in Earth orbit. They have two daughters, Kelly, a graphic designer, who is a former US Army Psychological Operations Specialist (and combat veteran in the Iraq War), and Jennie, an Audiologist with a doctorate degree. They have two granddaughters.