



John R. Wilson, Jr., Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)
 “Smoke”

Date of Designation: 17 October 1956 NA # T-54890

Dates of Active Duty: 22 May 1950 - 30 June 1990

Total Flight Hours: 4,793

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 1,034 Rotary: 2

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,665 Prop: 914 VF/VA: 3,588
 VR/VP: 294 VS: 88 VU/VFP: 135 VT: 602
 LTA: 4 Gliders: 18 Others: 63
 A total of 106 different type aircraft.

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VF-14, Aug. 1966 - Feb. 1967
 CO, VF-142, Jul. 1971 - Jan. 1972
 Commander, CAW-14, Jan. 1975 - Apr. 1975
 Total Missions - 172

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-142, Apr. 1971 - May 1972.
 COMCVG-14, Nov, 1974 - Feb. 1976.
 CO, USS *Kansas City* (AOR-3), Oct. 1977 - Jan. 1979
 Commander, Pacific Missile Test Center, Jul. 1984 - May 1986.

Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross
 Bronze Star
 10 Air Medals (9 Strike/Flight, 1 Individual)
 Navy Commendation Medal with Combat “V”
 Vietnam Gallantry Cross
 Vietnam Distinguished Service Order



Duty Assignment Chronology

6/55-10/56 Flight Training, NAS Pensacola, FL, NAS Memphis, TN (DUINS).
 10/56-4/59 VF-112, NAS Miramar and WESTPAC.
 4/59-11/60 VF-53, NAS Miramar and WESTPAC.
 12/60-9/61 VX-4 (Guided Missile Unit 41,) NAS Point Mugu, CA.
 9/61-7/64 Naval Test Pilot School, NATC Patuxent River, MD.
 7/64-7/65 COMCARDIV FOUR (Aide/Flag Lt.) Norfolk/Mediterranean.
 7/65-9/65 VA-43 (DUINS) NAS Oceana, VA.
 9/65-12/65 VF-101 (DUINS) NAS Key West, FL
 12/65-4/68 VF-14 (Operations Officer), NAS Oceana/WESTPAC/Mediterranean.
 4/68-7/69 Naval Test Pilot School, NATC Patuxent River, (Ops.Off./Flt.Inst.)
 7/69-1/70 Armed Forces Staff College (DUINS) Norfolk VA.
 1/70-6/70 VF-121 (DUINS) NAS Miramar, CA.
 6/70-4/71 XO, VF-142 NAS Miramar, CA
 4/71-5/72 CO, VF-142 (CO) WESTPAC/ Indian Ocean/ NAS Miramar, CA.
 5/72-1/ 74 Naval Missile Center, Pt. Mugu, CA (Fit. Test Officer).
 1/74-11/74 Staff, COMNAVAIRPAC, NAS North Island (VF Training Officer).
 11/74-2/76 Commander, CAW 14, WESTPAC/NAS Miramar, CA.
 2/76-5/77 NAVAIRSYSCOM (AIR-5025, Air Launched Guided Missile Branch), Washington, D. C.
 6/77-7/77 Naval Amphibious School, Little Creek, VA (DUINS).
 7/77-10/77 SWOSCOLCOM, Newport, RI (DUINS)
 10/77-1/9 CO, USS *Kansas City* (AOR 3) NAS Alameda, CA/WESTPAC.
 1/79-5/79 SOSMRC, Idaho Falls, ID (DUINS).
 5/97-7/81 Commander SERVRON 3, Vallejo, CA.

Duty Assignment Chronology continued

7/81-9/82 COMNAVAIRPAC (Chief of Staff), NAS North Island, CA.
9/82-7/84 CINCPAC, Aiea, HI (Director, Logistics & Security Assistance).
7/84-6/86 Commander, Pacific Missile Test Center, Point Mugu, CA.
6/86-1/87 NAVAIRSYSCOM (AIR- 42, Deputy Assistant Commander for Ranges & Field Activity Management).
1/87-9/87 NAVAIRSYSCOM (AIR-05, Assistant Commander for Systems & Engineering).
9/87-6/90 Office of SECNAV, Washington, D.C. (Chief of Naval Research).
6/30/90 Retired from the United States Navy.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) 4500 hours in 106 different type aircraft. Over 1000 carrier arrested landings of which 223 were at night.
- (2) 1957-59: Two deployments in *Ticonderoga* flying the F3H-2 Demon. Made the first pier side catapult launch of the Demon at Yokosuka, Japan.
- (3) 1960: Assigned to VX-4, participated in the OPEVAL of the F8U-2N and the AIM-9C & D Missiles, the Delmar & TDU- 17 target systems, and the high speed fin flutter tests of the AIM-9C & D on the F8U-2N.
- (4) 1961-64: Completed TPS. Conducted Carrier Suitability test on the F8U-1T, A3J-1, RA5C, A6A, E2A, F4B/G, & A4E aircraft. Conducted the first arrestment operations of the F-104G on a SATS sight (1000x72 ft aluminum runway.) First carrier ops of E2A & RA5C, including first cats & traps, minimum end speed determination, cross wind limits, and first single engine carrier landings of the E2 (3).
- (5) 1965-68: Operation Officer VF-14 flying F-4B. Vietnam & Mediterranean deployments.
- (6) 1968-69: Returned to TPS as Operations Officer & Flying Qualities instructor. Qualified as a FAA Glider Flight Instructor. Participated in the Navy's test and evaluation of the X26A.
- (7) 1970-72: XO & CO of VF-142 flying F4J aircraft. Two deployments, one to Vietnam & Indian Ocean. During this time the Squadron won the Battle "E", the "Father" Award (best F4 Sqd. in the Pacific,) the CNO Safety Award, and the Joe Clifton Award. That's all there was to win!

- (8) 1972-74: Flight Test Officer NMC Point Mugu, and Operations Officer of the Navy's Joint Evaluation Team (NMC/NATC/VX4) for the BIS Weapons Trials of the F-14A. First pilot to fire all four air-to-air weapons from the F-14. First firing of AIM-9 at limit flight conditions (1.9 IMN @ 50,000'.) Fired first and only 6 Phoenix missiles at 6 separate targets.
- (9) 1974-76: COMCVW14 flying F-14A, A-7E, A-6E, E2B, SH-3D, & RA-5C aircraft. Deployed in *Enterprise*, flew the final flight operations of the Vietnam war.
- (10) 1976-77: NAVAIRSYSCOM Air Launched Guided Missiles. JSOR for AMRAAM, & Tech support for the Navy's AIMEVAL/ACEVAL effort.
- (11) 1977-81: CO USS *Kansas City* (AOR-3)/COMSERVRON 3 (Black shoe stuff).
- (12) 1981-82: Chief of Staff, COMNAVAIRPAC.
- (13) 1982-84. Dir. Logistics & Security Assistance, USCINCPAC.
- (14) 1984-86: Commander, Pacific Missile Test Center
- (15) 1986-87: NAVAIRSYSCOM, Assistant Commander for Systems Engineering.
- (16) 1987-90: Chief of Naval Research until retirement.
- (17) Although the last 13 years of active duty was in non-flying billets, I managed to fly the CH46D, F5E & F, F16, F18, and was on of three Navy pilots to fly the F20. . . and also got some stick time and a take off and landing in the contractor owned Gulfstream IV.