



**Michael L. Coats, Capt. USN (Ret.)**  
"Mike"

Date of Designation: 26 Sept 1969      NA# V-28887

Dates of Active Duty: 6 Jun. 1968 - 30 Sep. 1991.

Total Flight Hours: 6,450

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 406 total/124 night.

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 6,150    Prop: 300

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: 1970-1972

Total Combat Missions: 315

Commands:

Space Shuttle Discovery-STS-29: 13 Mar. to 18 Mar. 1989.

Space Shuttle Discovery-STS-39: 28 Apr. to 6 May 1991.

Director, Johnson Space Center: Nov. 2005 to Dec. 2012.

Combat and Flight Performance Awards:

Defense Superior Service Medal

Legion of Merit

Distinguished Flying Cross (3)

Strike Flight Air Medals (32)

Individual Action Air Medals (3)

Navy Commendation Medals w/Combat V (9)

NASA Space Flight Medals (3)

NASA Distinguished Service Medal

NASA Medal for Outstanding Leadership

### **Duty Assignment Chronology**

7/68-9/69      Navy Flight Training.  
10/69-7/70     VA-122 A7E RAG student.  
7/70-8/72      VA-192 Fleet Pilot.  
9/72-12/73    VA-122 A7E RAG Instructor Pilot.



1/74-11/74      US Naval Test Pilot School student.  
11/74-3/76     Test Pilot--Strike Aircraft Test Directorate  
3/76-6/77      USNTPS Instructor Pilot.  
6/77-6/78      Student-- US Naval Postgraduate School.  
7/78-9/91      NASA Astronaut.  
9/91             Retired from US Navy.

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

- (1) Two cruises to WestPac with the VA-192 World Famous Golden Dragons on the USS *Kitty Hawk*: 315 combat missions.
- (2) U.S. Navy Test Pilot School Class 66.
- (3) Lead Navy Test Pilot for the A7E FLIR (Forward looking Infrared) system.
- (4) USNTPS lead instructor for Out of Controlled Flight (spin) syllabus. Successfully demonstrated to NAVAIRSYSCOM that A7E departure/recovery training could be safely adopted for fleet pilots.
- (5) NASA Astronaut 1978-1991.  
--Pilot for STS-41-D, first flight of Space Shuttle Discovery.  
--Commander for STS-29.  
--Commander for STS-39.
- (6) Vice President, Loral Space and Communications Company 1991-1996.
- (7) Vice President, Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company 1996-2005.
- (8) Director, Johnson Space Center 2005-2012.