



**William V. Cross, Rear Admiral, USN (Ret)**  
"Bill"

Date of Designation: 8 October 1968

Dates of Active Duty: 7 June 1967 – 1 February 2000

Total Flight Hours: 4,035

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 795 Rotary: 25

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,700 Prop: 300 VF/VA: 3,535

VT: 300 Misc other (glider, transport, utility): 200

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VF-161 (F-4B), USS *Coral Sea*, Aug. 1969-June 1970.

Vietnam: VF-161 (F-4B), USS *Midway*, Apr. 1971-Aug. 1971

Desert Storm: CO, USS *Dwight D Eisenhower*, 1991

Balkans Conflict: COMCARGRU SIX, 1995/96

Total Combat Missions: 177

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-31 (F-14), USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67), 1981-83

CO, USS *Inchon* (LPH-12), 1988-90

CO, USS *Dwight D Eisenhower* (CVN-69), 1990-93

Commander Carrier Group Six, USS *America* (CV-66), 1995-96

Combat/Service Awards:

Defense Distinguished Service Medal

Defense Superior Service Medal

4 Legion of Merit

Air Medal (8 Strike/Flight)

Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V"

### Duty Assignment Chronology

6/63-6/67 U.S. Naval Academy.

6/67-10/68 Flight Training.



- 10/68-8/71 VF-161, USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43), USS *Midway* (CVA-41).
- 8/71-6/72 Student, Naval Test Pilot School.
- 6/72-4/73 Engineering Test Pilot, Carrier Suitability Division.
- 4/73-3/75 Test Pilot School, Flight Instructor.
- 3/75-6/77 USS *Nimitz*, Strike Operations/Training Department Head.
- 6/77-6/78 Student, Naval War College.
- 6/78-7/80 VF-32 (F-14), NAS Oceana, Maintenance Department Head.
- 7/80-8/83 XO/CO, VF-31 (F-14), USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67).
- 8/83-5/85 NAVAIR, Engineering Manager (Class Desk) F-14 Programs.
- 5/85-10/86 Nuclear Power Training.
- 10/86-8/88 XO, USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71).
- 8/88-5/90 CO, USS *Inchon* (LPH-12).
- 8/90-7/93 CO, USS *Dwight D Eisenhower* (CVN-69).
- 7/93-6/95 Director of Plans & Policy (J5), U.S. Transportation Command
- 6/95-6/96 Commander, Carrier Group Six, USS *America* (CV-66).
- 6/96-9/98 Director of Operations (J3), U.S. European Command.
- 9/98-2/2000 Program Executive Officer (PEO), Aircraft Carrier Programs.

### Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) The first Top Gun pilot selected by my first squadron (VF-161, NAS Miramar). Member of TopGun's second graduating class in 1970.
- (2) Test pilot for the Carrier Suitability Flight Test Division at Patuxent River. Tested several modifications to the F-4J for carrier operations. Also a test pilot for flying qualities, performance and carrier suitability for the new F-4N model of the Phantom with leading edge maneuvering slats.

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### Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (3) As a Test Pilot School flight instructor (1973-75), completely revised the school's flying qualities test procedures textbook and instructional manual.
- (4) As Asst Strike Ops and Training Department Head in USS *Nimitz* (1975-77), was one of two ship's company pilots who were both day and night carrier qualified in the C-1B (COD). Also qualified and served as an OOD Underway.
- (5) Selected in 1977 as one of the Navy's first 7 candidates for the Space Shuttle astronaut program and participated in NASA astronaut interviews at the Johnson Space Center.
- (6) Graduated with "Highest Distinction" from the Naval War College in 1978.
- (7) During squadron command tour in VF-31 (1980-83), designated as one of the Fighter Wing's F-14 air demonstration pilots and was a nominee for CO of the Blue Angels.
- (8) As F-14 Engineering Manager (Class Desk) at NAVAIR, led the design team for the new F-14D cockpit and weapon system. While at NAVAIR maintained flight qualification in the F-14, flying from NAS Patuxent River.
- (9) During CO tour in USS *Inchon* (1988-90), maintained day and night carrier qualification in the UH-1 helo.
- (10) During tour as IKE's CO, crew won multiple Battle 'E' and Golden Anchor awards and I accumulated 101 arrested landings flying the F-14. Selected for Flag rank following my tour.
- (11) As Commander Carrier Group Six in 1995/96, directed numerous carrier air strikes against targets in Serbia and Bosnia from my flagship, USS *America*, flying from the Adriatic Sea.
- (12) Selected in 1998 as the Navy's first Program Executive Officer (PEO) for Aircraft Carriers in Washington. Directed and managed the initial design of the new combat systems for CVN-77 and the new CVN-78 class of aircraft carriers.