



CDR Billy V. Wheat, USN (Ret.)
"Bill"

Date of Designation: 10 February 1950

Dates of Active Duty: June 1950 - 31 October 1971

Total Flight Hours: 4,823

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VA-86, USS *Independence* (CVA-62) 1965.

Vietnam: VA-25, USS *Ranger* (CVA-61) 1970.

Total Combat Missions - 96

Aviation Commands:

OinC, U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Team "Blue Angels"

Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross

6 Air Medals

Purple Heart

2 Navy Commendation Medals with Combat "V"

Vietnam Service Medal

Republic of Vietnam Service Medal

Duty Assignment Chronology

- 1950 Enlisted in US Navy.
- 1952 Selected for Naval Aviation Cadet Flight Program.
- 1954 Received Wings and Commissioned Ensign.
- 1954 Orders to VF-172 Blue Bolts squadron based at NAS Jacksonville, FL. (F2H Banshee).
- 1958 Orders to NAAS Chase Field, Beeville, Texas for Flight Instructor Duty (F9F Cougar).
- 1961 Orders to USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* CVA 42 as Catapult Officer.
- 1963 Orders to CAG-7 as Senior Landing Signal Officer.
(A4 Skyhawk, F8 Crusader).
- 1965 Shot down and rescued in North Vietnam flying with VA-86.



- 1965 Orders to Naval Personnel Office, Washington, DC as Air combat Placement Officer for Attack Community.
- 1967 Orders to Navy Flight Demonstration Team, The Blue Angels as OINC and Flight Leader (F11 Tiger, F4 Phantom).
- 1970 Orders to VA-25, Fist of the Fleet, as Executive Officer (Aircraft A7 Corsair II).
- 1971 Medical Retirement due to Aneurysm in brain.

Summary of Significant Career Event

- (1) Two Combat Tours 1965 and 1970.
- (2) Shot down and rescued in North Vietnam, 1965.
- (3) Flight Leader of Navy Blue Angels, 1967-1969. Taking Blue Angels to Paris for the International Air Salon, 1967

Summary of Significant Post Career Events

- (1) Manager of State of Florida Pari-Mutual Facility 1972-1996.
- (2) President of Navy League Chapter in Lake Chapala, Mexico.