



Frank W. Ault, Captain, USN (Ret.)
 “Frank”

Date of Designation: 17 October 1945 NA # C-28044

Dates of Active Duty: 7 July 1939 - 1 March 1971

Total Flight Hours: 5,000

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 863

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 1,500 Prop: 3,500 VF/VA: 3,800
 VR/VP: 800 VT: 400

Combat Tours:

None in aviation except five “milk runs” missions in Korea in 1953 (AD’s)

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA-216, Sep. 1955 - Sep. 1956
 Commander, Carrier Air Group 10, Feb. 1960 - Feb. 1961
 CO, USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43), Feb. 1966 - Mar. 1967

Combat Awards:

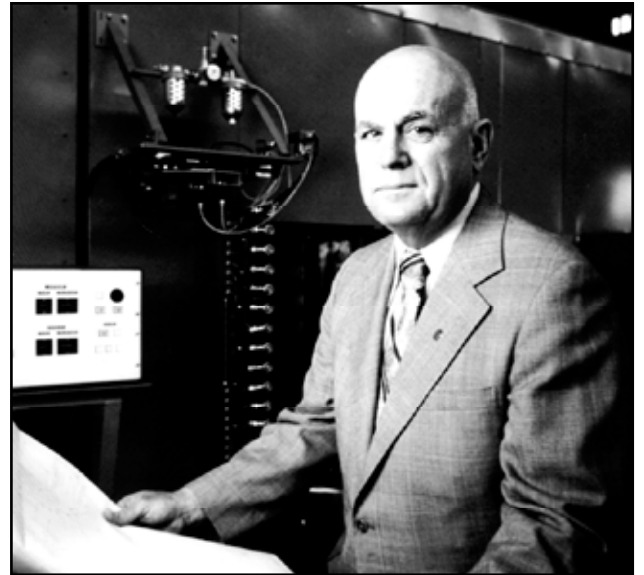
2 Legion of Merit
 Joint Service Commendation Medal
 National Order of Vietnam
 Gallantry Cross with Palm (Vietnam)
 SECNAV Unit Commendation
 Meritorious Unit Commendation
 Eighteen Theater and Service Ribbons

During Duty Assignment

(1)
 (2)
 (3)
 (4)
 (5)
 (6)

Duty Assignment Chronology

7/39-6/42 U. S Naval Academy (Midshipman).
 8/42 USS *Astoria* (Gunnery Department). Survived sinking in 1942.
 11/42-11/44 USS *Tuscaloosa* (Gunnery Department).
 11/44-3/46 Flight Training (HTA).



4/46-9/47 VA-4B/VT-75 (SB2c's/AD's) U.S.S. *Roosevelt* (Operations Officer).
 10/47-8/48 Armed Forces Special Weapons Project - (Nuclear Weapons Training).
 8/48-3/51 VC-5 (AJ's) First Navy Nuclear Delivery Squadron (Bomb Cdr.).
 3/51-3/53 OPNAV (OP-36), Assistant for Air (Nuclear) Weapons.
 4/53-8/53 Jet Transition, NAS Kingsville, Texas.
 9/53-4/54 XO, VA-55 , USS *Essex*.
 5/54-8/55 COMFAIRALAMEDA (Personnel Officer and CO of Flag Admin. Unit).
 9/55-9/56 CO, VA-216, USS *Yorktown*.
 10/56-9/57 BUORD (Director, Air Nuclear Weapons Research).
 9/57-8/58 BUORD (Director Space Research).
 9/58-6/59 Industrial College of the Armed Forces (Student), Washington, D. C.
 7/59-1/60 Replacement Air Group 4 (Safety Officer).
 2/60-2/61 Commander, Air Group 10, USS *Shangri La*.
 3/61-12/61 OPNAV (OP-76) Director , Navy Space Systems.
 1/62-3/64 DDR&E (Assistant for Navy Space Systems) Award - (2).
 4/64-5/65 CO, USS *Renville* (APA-227).
 6/65-1/66 COMFAIRALAMEDA (Chief of Staff)
 2/66-3/67 CO, USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43) Awards - (1), (3), (4) and (5).
 4/67-3/68 Chief of Staff, COMCARDIV 1, (USS *Enterprise* and USS *Ranger*. Award - (6).
 4/68-1/69 Air Weapons Study (OPNAV/NAVAIR).
 2/69-2/71 NAVAIR (Assistant Deputy Commander for Plans and Programs & Controller. Award- (1)
 3/1/71 Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

(1) Survived sinking of USS *Astoria* during First Battle of Savo Island in 8/42.

- Continued -

- (2) Participated in the initial U.S. offensive operations in both theaters during WW II: Invasion of Guadalcanal in 8/42 and the Invasion of North Africa in 11/42.
- (3) Bomb Commander (Plank Owner) in Navy's first atomic bomb delivery squadron (VC-5): 8/48-3/51.
- (4) Author of first Navy space program plan 12/57.
- (5) First Program Manager of the Navy's Navigation Satellite Program (TRANSIT): 6/57-7/58
- (6) Author of the 1968 'Ault Report' on fighter systems performance in Vietnam which is credited with raising the air combat kill ratio from 2.5 to 1 to over 12.5 to 1. One of the products of the Ault Report was the Navy Fighter Weapons School, featured in the popular movie "Top Gun".