



**William L. Bennett, Captain, USN (Ret.)**  
 “Bill”

Date of Designation: 20 November 1945 NA # P-23015

Dates of Active Duty: 8 August 1940 - 1 November 1972

Total Flight Hours: 3,582

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 55 Rotary: 648

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 45 Prop: 2,300 Helo: 1,200 VF/VA: 25  
 VR/VP: 2,050 HS/HC/HU: 1,200 VS: 110  
 VT: 200 LTA: 15 Other: 10 (Free air balloon)

Combat Tours:

WW II: USS *Baltimore*, Sky Plot Officer (credited with killing three Japanese “Bettys”. Night firings. 14 month deployment.

Vietnam: CO, USS *Winston* (AKA-94), Vietnam coast.  
 CO, USS *Yorktown* (CVS-10), Sea of Japan and Vietnam

Aviation Commands:

Officer-in-Charge, HS-2 Detachment “A”. Aug. 1952 - Dec. 1952.

Officer-in-Charge, HS-2 Detachment “A”. Aug. 1953 - Jan. 1954.

CO, HS-3, Mar. 1960 - Mar. 1961.

CO, HS-10 (RAG), Aug. 1961 - Aug. 1962.

CO, USS *Yorktown* (CVS-10), Jul. 1967 - Jul. 1968.

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

8/40-6/43 U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD.  
 6/43-8/43 NAS Jacksonville - Flight Indoctrination.  
 8/43-10/44 USS *Baltimore*-Sky Plot Officer. Atlantic and Pacific ocean campaigns including; Tarawa, Gilbert and Marshall Islands, Truk, Saipan, Guam, Philippine Sea and Presidential cruise to Hawaii and Alaska.



10/44-7/46 Flight Training - Student Pilot at NAS Ottumwa, IA., NAS Pensacola, FL., and NAS Hutchinson, KS.  
 8/46-8/48 VP-102, VP (HL)-2 at NAS Agana, Guam. Co-Pilot and Patrol Plane Commander. Officer-in-Charge of Detachments at Pelilieu and Kwajalien.  
 9/48-11/48 VP (HL)-8 at NAS Kaneohe, HI.  
 12/48-7/49 COMFAIR West Coast at NAS San Diego, CA - Aide and Flag Lieutenant.  
 8/49-8/51 Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River MD. Test Pilot School, Electronics Test.  
 9/51-3/52 HU-1 at NAAS Ream Field. Rescue Pilot.  
 3/52-8/52 XO, HS-2 at NAAS Ream Field.  
 8/52-12/52 USS *Rendova* (CVE-114). Helicopter Pilot in support of Joint Task Force 2 (First Hydrogen Bomb Test).  
 1/53-8/53 HS-2 at NAAS Ream Field. ASW Helicopter Pilot.  
 8/53-1/54 Officer-in-Charge, HS-2 Detachment A in USS *Sicily* (CVE-118) and at NS Oppama, Japan (Evaluating Dipping Sonar-OP V 109).  
 2/54-6/54 Student, Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA.  
 7/54-2/57 War Plans Officer, Chief, Naval Air Technical Training at NAS Memphis, TN.  
 3/57-2/58 Operations Officer, VP-11 at NAS Brunswick, ME., and RNAS Halfar, Malta.  
 2/58-3/60 Staff, Commander Naval Air Forces, Atlantic Fleet at NAS Norfolk, VA. Training Division.  
 3/60-3/61 CO, HS-3 at NAS Norfolk, VA., and USS *Valley Forge* (CVS-15) - Mediterranean deployment.  
 4/61-8/61 Staff, Commander Naval Air Forces, Pacific Fleet at NAS North Island, San Diego, CA. Training Division.  
 8/61-8/62 CO, HS-10 at NAAS Ream Field, San Ysidro, CA. Replacement Air Group Training.  
 8/62-1/63 U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD. Flag Lieutenant and Aide to the Superintendent.

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1/63-2/66 Chief of Naval Operations Staff, Office of the Deputy for Research and Development (OP-722) - aircraft, helicopters, missiles, bombs, air cushion vehicles, and hydrofoils.

3/66-6/67 CO, USS *Winston* (AKA-94). Pacific deployment. (Moving US Army, US Marine Combat Engineers and ROK artillery along the coast of Vietnam) .

7/67-7/68 CO, USS *Yorktown* (CVS-10). Pacific deployment (Vietnam, Sea of Japan Pueblo Incident).

768-5/69 Chief of Staff, ASW Group One. Pacific deployment.

7/69-10/72 Chief of Naval Material, Washington, D. C. Special Assistant to the Chief for Joint Matters.

11/1/72 Retired from active duty.

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

- (1) First helicopter qualified pilot to graduate from Navy Test Pilot School. Assisted TPS Professor with writing Chapter in the Aerodynamics book dealing with the coefficient of lift of a helicopters blade.
- (2) Pilot of first helicopter to fly over "hole" left by Hydrogen Bomb test with Dr. Von Braun, receiving over 5,000 milli-roentgens ray exposure in 20 minutes.
- (3) First helicopter pilot to hold a Green Instrument rating. Led a flight of 16 helicopters on instruments from Norfolk, VA., to Quonset Point, RI.
- (4) First designated, helicopter pilot to command an *Essex* Class carrier.