



**William F. Bringle, Admiral, USN (Ret.)**  
 “Bush”

Date of Designation: December 1940 NA # 7000

Dates of Active Duty: 3 June 1937 - 1 January 1974

Combat Tours:

WW II: CO, VOF-1, Dec. 1943 - Oct. 1945. Allied invasion of Southern France, Pacific operations in the vicinity of Sakishima, Nansei Shoto invasions of Luzon and Iwo Jima, operations in the Inkirawa and Philippine Islands areas, Western Carolines, Leyte, Luzon, and Okinawa Gunto area

Vietnam: Commander Attack Carrier Striking Force SEVENTH Fleet/Commander Task Group 77.6, Mar. 1965 - Jun. 1965

Vietnam: CTF-77, May 1965 - Jun. 1965  
 COMSEVENTHFLT, Nov. 1967 - Mar. 1970

Aviation Commands:

CO, Composite Scouting Squadron 2, Nov. 1942-Aug. 1943  
 CO, Observation Fighting Squadron 1, Nov. 1943-Oct. 1944.

CO, Composite Spotting Squadron 1, Oct. 1944 - Jun. 1945  
 Commander, Carrier Air Group 17, Jun. 1945 - Aug. 1946  
 CO, Fighter Squadron 17, Aug. 1946 - Sep. 1946  
 Commander, Air Group 1, Jun. 1948 - May 1950  
 Commander, Heavy Attack Wing 2, Aug. 1957 - Jul. 1958  
 CO, USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63), Apr. 1961 - May 1962  
 COMCARDIV 7, Mar. 1964 - Jul. 1965  
 COMSEVENTHFLT, Nov. 1967 - Mar. 1970  
 COMNAVAIRPAC, Mar. 1970 - May 1971  
 CINCUSNAVEUR, May 1971 - Dec. 1973

Combat Awards:

Navy Cross  
 Distinguished Service Medal with two Gold Stars  
 Legion of Merit with two Gold Stars and Combat "V"  
 5 Distinguished Flying Crosses  
 17 Air Medals  
 French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star



**Duty Assignment Chronology**

7/33-6/37 Midshipman, U. S. Naval Academy.  
 6-37-3/40 USS Saratoga (CV-3).  
 3/40-1/41 NAS Pensacola, FL. (Flight Training).  
 1/41-11/42 USS Milwaukee (CL-5).  
 11/42-8/43 CO, Composite Scouting Squadron TWO.  
 8/43-11/43 NAS, Melbourne, FL. (Instruction).  
 11/43-11/43 Carrier Aircraft Service Unit 21 (Instruction).  
 11/43-10/44 CO, Observation Fighting Squadron ONE.  
 10/44-6/45 CO, Composite Spotting Squadron ONE.  
 6/45-8/46 Commander, Carrier Air Group SEVENTEEN  
 8/46-9/46 CO, Fighter Squadron SEVENTEEN.  
 9/46-6/48 Staff, U. S. Naval Academy.  
 6/48-5/50 Commander, Air Group ONE.  
 5/50-7/52 Staff, U. S. Naval Academy (Flag Lt/Aide).  
 7/52-6/53 Naval War College (Student).  
 6/53-9/53 New York Naval Shipyard (PXO USS Hornet (CVA-12).  
 9/53-12/54 XO, USS Hornet (CVA-12).  
 12/54-8/55 Office of CNO (Head, Operational Intelligence Branch).  
 8/55-6/57 Office of the Secretary of the Navy (Aide).  
 6/57-8/57 Jet Transitional Training Unit, NAS, Olathe, Kansas (Instruction).  
 8/57-7/58 Commander, Heavy Attack Wing TWO.  
 8/58-7/60 Staff, U. S. Naval Academy (Commandant of Midshipmen).  
 7/60-4/61 New York Shipbuilding Corporation, Camden, NJ. (PCO USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63).  
 4/61-5/62 CO, USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63).  
 5/62-2/63 Office of CNO (Assistant Director, Aviation Plans Division).  
 2/63-3/64 Office of CNO (Director, Aviation Plans Division).  
 3/64-7/65 Commander, Carrier Division SEVEN.  
 7/65-11/67 CINPACFLT (Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Plans).  
 11/67-3/70 Commander, SEVENTH Fleet.  
 3/70-5/71 Commander, Naval Air Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet. (- Continued -)

5/71-12/73 CinC, U. S. Naval Forces, Europe  
Naval Component Commander of the U.S.  
European Command/ADDU: Commander.  
1/1/74 Retired from active duty.

### Summary of Significant Career Events

William Floyd Bringle was born in Covington, TN., on April 23, 1913. He attended Byars-Hall High School in Covington, and Columbia Military Academy, Columbia, Tennessee, and entered the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, on appointment from his native state on July 6, 1933. As a Midshipman he was a member of the Naval Academy Football Team (N\* award). He was graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 3, 1937, and through subsequent advancement attained the rank of Rear Admiral, to date from January 1, 1964; Vice Admiral, to date from November 6, 1967 and Admiral, to date from July 1, 1971.

After graduation from the Naval Academy in June 1937, he was assigned to the USS Saratoga until February 1940, with engineering, communications and gunnery duties on board that carrier, operating in the Pacific. In April 1940 he reported to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, for flight training, and was designated Naval Aviator in December of that year. Detached from Pensacola in January 1941, he joined the USS Milwaukee, and served as Senior Aviator on board that cruiser until December 1942. During the eight months to follow, he served as Commanding Officer of Composite Scouting Squadron TWO.

From September to November 1943 he had training at the NAS Melbourne, Florida, and in December formed the first Observation Fighting Squadron (VOF-1) during World War II. He commanded that squadron throughout the period of hostilities. For outstanding service while in command of that squadron during the invasion of Southern France and Pacific operations in the vicinity of Sakishima, Nansei Shoto invasions of Luzon and Iwo Jima and operations in the Inkirawa and Philippine Islands areas, he was awarded the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross with Gold Star in lieu of five additional awards and the Air Medal with Gold Stars in lieu of sixteen similar awards.

He is also entitled to the Ribbon with Star for the Navy Unit Commendation awarded the USS Marcus Island and USS Wake Island and their Air Groups for heroic service in the Western Carolines, Leyte, Luzon, and Okinawa Gunto areas. He was also awarded the Croix de Guerre with Silver Star by the Government of France for heroism while commanding VOF-1 during the Allied Invasion of Southern France in August 1944 before he moved his squadron to the Pacific.

After the Japanese surrender, from October 1945 until October 1946 he was Air Group Commander of Group SEVENTEEN, and when detached he returned to the Naval Academy for duty as Battalion Officer. He remained there until June 1948, then for two years was Air Group Commander of Carrier Air Group ONE, based on the

USS Tarawa and USS Philippine Sea. Again at the Naval Academy, he served from June 1950 until July 1952 as a member of the Superintendent's Staff. The next year he spent as a student at the Naval War College, Newport, and from July 1953 to December 1954 served as Executive Officer of the USS Hornet (CVA-12).

In January 1955 he reported to the Navy Department, Washington, D.C., for duty as Head of the Operational Intelligence Branch in the Office of the CNO and on August 24, 1955, was transferred to duty as Naval Aide to the Secretary of the Navy. He commanded Heavy Attack Wing TWO from August 1957 until June 1958, after which he had duty until August 1960 as Commandant of Midshipmen at the Naval Academy.

Ordered to the USS Kitty Hawk, building at the New York Shipbuilding Corporation, Camden, New Jersey, he served as PCO until she was placed in commission, April 29, 1961, then as CO. In June 1962 he was assigned to the Office of the CNO, Navy Department, where he served as Assistant Director of the Aviation Plans Division until January 1963, then was designated Director of that division. On April 6, 1964, he assumed command of CARDIV SEVEN. "For exceptionally meritorious service as Commander Attack Carrier Striking Force SEVENTH Fleet and as Commander Task Group SEVENTY-SEVEN POINT SIX from March 29 to June 29, 1965, and as Commander Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN from May 28 through June 27, 1965..." he was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V".

On July 12, 1965 he became Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations to the CINCPACFLT and was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Second Legion of Merit for exercising "...forceful supervision and outstanding direction over each of the many diverse and complex operations conducted by the Pacific Fleet..." In November 1967 he became COMSEVENTHFLT and for "exceptionally meritorious service...was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and Gold Star in lieu of a Second similar award for combat operations in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam conflict.

In March 1970 he became COMNAVAIRPAC, with headquarters at the NAS North Island, San Diego, California. For "...his distinguished and dedicated service..." in that capacity, from March 1970 to May 1971, he was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Third Legion of Merit. In July 1971 he reported as Commander in Chief, U. S. Naval Forces, Europe and Naval Component Commander of the U. S. European Command with additional duty as United States Commander Eastern Atlantic. "For exceptionally meritorious service... from July 1971 to August 1973. . ." he was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Third Distinguished Service Medal.

Returning to the United States, Admiral Bringle had temporary duty at Headquarters Naval District, Washington, D. C from September 1973 and on January 1, 1974 was transferred to the Retired List of the U. S. Navy.