



**William M. Gortney, Captain, USN (Ret.)**  
 "Bill"

Date of Designation: 16 February 1945      NA # C-25280

Dates of Active Duty: April 1942 - 1 June 1970.

Total Flight Hours: 6,000+

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 600+

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 2,500 Prop: 3,500 Helo: 150 VF/VA: 4,000

Other: 30 Different types (Props, Jets & Helos).

Combat Tours:

Korea: VF-51 in USS *Valley Forge*, Jul. 1950 - Dec. 1950  
 - 48 combat missions.

Vietnam: USS *Midway* (Air Boss), Jan. 1965 - Aug. 1965.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA-93 (A-4), Aug. 1962 - Jan. 1964.

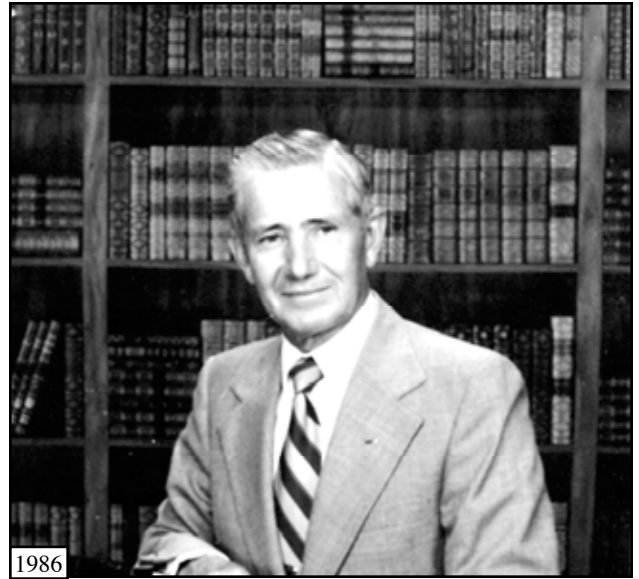
Combat Awards:

4 Air Medals

Legion of Merit (non combat)

### Duty Assignment Chronology

4/42-12/43 Enlisted.  
 12/43-2/45 Flight Training (Olathe and Corpus Christi).  
 2/45-5/45 VF-6, Sanford, Florida (FM-SBD).  
 6/45-8/45 VF-97, Grosse Ile. (F6F Hellcat).  
 8/45-9/46 VF-3, NAS Oceana, VA. (F6F Hellcat).  
 10/45-6/48 Northwestern University, Five Term Program.  
 6/48-8/48 All-weather flight training, Corpus Christi, TX  
 8/48-4/49 VF-211, Seattle, WA. (F6F-5N).  
 4/49-5/49 VF-52, Jet Transition (F-80).  
 5/49-2/52 VF-51, North Island, USS *Boxer* and USS  
*Valley Forge* (FJ-1/F9F-3/F4U-4).  
 2/52-12/52 Line School, Monterey, CA.



12/52-6/53 NARTC St Louis, MO., VF Training Officer.  
 (F8F, F2H, and AM aircraft).  
 6/53-7/55 USS *Boxer*, CCA Officer and Assistant  
 Navigator.  
 7/55-7/57 VF-114, NAS Miramar, CA., USS *Essex*  
 and USS *Hancock* (F2H-3 Banshee).  
 7/57-8/59 NATC Patuxent River, Test Pilot Class 21.  
 8/59-6/60 Naval War College, Newport, RI.  
 7/60-6/62 COMSEVENTHFLT Staff on CA-73, CLG-5  
 and CLG-6 (Strike Operations and Nuclear  
 Deployment Officer).  
 6/62-8/62 VA-125, NAS Lemoore, CA. (A4 Skyhawk)  
 8/62-1/64 CO, VA-93, NAS Lemoore, USS *Ranger*  
 and USS *Hancock* (A-4 Skyhawk).  
 1/64-8/65 USS *Midway*, Air Boss.  
 8/65-6/66 Industrial College of the Armed Forces  
 (ICAF), Ft. McNair, Washington, D. C.  
 6/66-3/69 CNO Staff - Aviation Requirements.  
 3/69-6/70 CNO Staff - Aviation Plans.  
 6/1/70 Retired from active duty.

### Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) National Air Races-Acrobatc Team, 1946.
- (2) Early jet pilot and experimental ejection seat dummy, 1949-50.
- (3) First U. S. Military Strike into North Korea on 3 July 1950.
- (4) Early nuclear weapons delivery pilot. Helped develop low level pilot training for weapons delivery, 1954.
- (5) Patuxent River (Test Pilot School, Class 21), 1957.
- (6) VFAX coordinator. Led DOD fight on Air Force FX/VFAX, 1968.
- (7) Author of first long range Naval Aviation Plan, 1969.