



**Joe H. Ausley, Captain USN (Ret.)**  
"Joe"

Date of Designation: 28 November 1956

Dates of Active Duty: 6 April 1955 - 1 June 1979

Total Flight Hours: 4,875

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 600+

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,625 Prop: 1,250 VF/VA: 1,375 VT: 1,350

VAH - 800, RVAH - 1,100

Misc: 250 (SNB, R3D, T-33)

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: 1967, USS *Bon Homme Richard* - 44 missions (O-1 Birddog, 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron (TASS), 20 South Vietnam, 24 North Vietnam).

Vietnam: 1969, USS *Kitty Hawk* - 65 missions, RVAH-11 (RA-5C).

Vietnam: 1972-73, USS *Ranger* - 40 missions, XO RVAH-5 (RA-5C).

Total combat missions: 149

Aviation Commands:

CO, RVAH-5, October 1973 - October 1974

Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross

14 Air Medals (1 Individual & 13 Strike/Flight)

2 Navy Commendation Medals with Combat "V"

Air force Commendation Medal with Combat "V"

2 Navy Achievement Medals with Combat "V"

Combat Action Ribbon

Presidential Unit Citation



### Duty Assignment Chronology

- 4/55-11/56 Flight Training, Mainside Pensacola, S. Whiting Field (SNJ), Saufley Field (SNJ), Baron Field (SNJ), Corry Field (T-28), NAS Memphis (T-28/TV-2), Sherman Field (F9F-2).
- 11/56-1/57 IBTU, NAS Pensacola (T-34).
- 1/57-7/58 BTG1, Saufley Field (T-34, T-28, TV-2).
- 7/58-2/59 VA-125, NAS Moffett Field, (F9F-8/8T, A4D-1/2).
- 2/59-7/59 VA-216, NAS Moffett Field (A4D-2).
- 7/59-7/60 VA-192 NAS Moffett Field (A4D-2).
- 7/60-1/62 CAG-19 Air Wing LSO, Moffett Field, (A4D-2/2N, F3H, F8U, AD-5/6, SNJ).
- 1/62-8/62 CVW-19 Air Wing LSO, NAS Lemoore.
- 8/62-2/64 VAH-123, RAG LSO/Instructor, NAS Whidbey Island (A3D-1/2T).
- 2/64-3/65 USNPGS, Monterey, CA (T2A).
- 3/66-9/67 CVA-31, USS *Bon Homme Richard*, Ordnance and Gunnery Officer, (O-1 Birddog, A4D5, A3D, C1).
- 9/67-8/68 RVAH-3, NAS Sanford, FL/Albany, GA (TC47J, TA4F, RA-5C).
- 8/68-1/70 RVAH-11, RA-5C, NAS Albany, GA LSO, Training Officer, Maintenance Officer.
- 1/70-5/71 USNPGS Monterey, CA, MS Computer Systems/Financial Management.
- 5/71-5/72 Deputy Special Assistant to the CNO For POW/MIA Affairs.
- 5/72-9/72 RVAH-3 (TA4F/RA-5C).
- 5/72-11/74 RVAH-5, RA-5C, XO/CO.
- 11/74-7/76 Special Assistant to Pers-4 for Financial Management and Coordinator for the then Planned Move to NAS New Orleans.
- 7/76-5/77 National War College. Washington, D.C.
- 5/77-6/79 Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.
- 6/79 Retired from active duty

## Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) 1957 - As Ensign flight Instructor, was named Instructor-of-the-Month for Saufley Field on several occasions.
- (2) 1960 - Qualified as Air wing LSO assigned as Senior LSO CAG-19. Flew in all Airwing aircraft (AD, F3H, F8U, A4D-2N, AD-5/6 and famed A3D).
- (3) 1961 - Flew A4 tanker support from CVA-31 for F8 photo aircraft crossing South of DMZ to Laos.
- (4) 1962 - Assigned as Senior LSO for the A3D RAG. Day and night qualified in A3D (27 landings).
- (5) 1963 - One of 3 pilots selected to field evaluate A3D single engine capability to land aboard ship in an emergency.
- (6) 1967 - While serving as Ordnance and Gunnery Officer on USS *Bon Homme Richard*, volunteered through 7th Fleet and 7th Air Force to fly O1E Birddog as Forward Air Controller with the Air Force during two week period while ship was offline.
  - Assigned to 20th TASS (12-27 June '67)
  - Flew 20 Missions in South Vietnam from Danang supporting troop operations.
  - Flew 22 missions from Dong Ha into North Vietnam to control flights to interdict supply lines and attacking 37 mm and 57 mm gunsites north of the DMZ.
  - Fabric on fuselage frame suffered ground fire & shrapnel damage on several flights.
  - Awarded Air Force commendatio with Combat "V" Nominated for DFC by Air force, never received paper work confirmation.
- (7) 1969 - Operation Quicklant – Translated RA5C from NAS Albany, GA to Rota, Spain non-stop – 3 rendezvous in flight refueling Air Force C-130's.
- (8) 1969 - Flew tactical photo recon, IR, SLR, PECM Surveillance of North Vietnam in support of ship/airwing. Flew photo recon pre-strike and post-strike photography of target areas.
- (9) 1972-73 - Numerous flights to get pre-strike target photography, loiter until strike complete, and then get post-strike BDA photography. Tasked to get aerial photos of Polish freighter damaged by Navy aircraft – excellent photos of freighter at Haiphong dock. Low level photo recon run (1500' overcast) from north of Haiphong through Karst Islands to Haiphong Harbor to photo two Chi Com Missile patrol boats – heavy ground fire and several Sam missiles that flew into mud (didn't track).  
PECM flight off coast when Linebacker II B-52's initial wave hit Hanoi and Haiphong – counted over 150 Sam missiles launched and watched several B-52 burnings and in flat spins. Flew several recon BDA missions from Haiphong to Hanoi to assess damage of Linebacker II strikes.
- (10) 1974 - Flew photo surveillance missions around Cuba to photograph Russian SSBN submarines at piers on south side of Cuba – chased by Cuban Mig back to Key West on one of these flights. "Atta-boy" from AirLant.
- (11) 1974 - As CO of RVAH-5, accepted Airlant Battle Efficiency Award "E" on behalf of the men and officers of the squadron.