



**Donald Vaux Boecker, RADM, USN (Ret.)**  
 “Don”

Date of Designation: 31 January 1962 NA # V-18380

Dates of Active Duty: 6 June 1960 - 1 March 1995

Total Flight Hours: 4,118

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 818 Rotary: 5

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,737 Prop: 350 Helo: 31 VF/VA: 3,400  
 VT: 318 LTA: 2

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VA-75 (A-6A Intruder), USS *Independence* (CV-62), Jun. 1965 - Dec. 1965. 69 combat missions.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA-85 (A-6A), May 1973 - Nov. 1975  
 Commander, Naval Air Test Center, NAS Patuxent River, MD., Jul. 1988 - Jun. 1991

Combat Awards:

6 Air Medals

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

6/55-6/56 Enlisted U. S. Naval Reserve, NTTC Great Lakes, IL.  
 6/56-6/60 Midshipman, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD.  
 6/60-9/60 Company Officer (Plebe Summer), USNA.  
 9/60-2/62 Flight Training, (NAS Pensacola, FL., and NAAS Beeville, TX.)  
 2/62-9/63 VA-76, NAS Oceana, VA. Deployed USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65) flying A-4C Skyhawks.  
 9/63-9/66 VA-75, NAS Oceana, VA. Deployed USS *Independence* (CVA-62) flying A-6A Intruders.



9/66-6/67 U. S. Naval Test Pilot School, NAS Patuxent River, MD.  
 6/67-10/69 Test Pilot, Weapons System Test and Board of Inspection and Survey, NAS Patuxent River/10/69-11/70 VA-42, NAS Oceana, VA. Training Officer, A-6 RAG.  
 11/70-4/72 VA-75, NAS Oceana, VA. Deployed USS *Saratoga* (CVA-60) flying A-6A's as Maintenance Officer.  
 4/72-5/73 Staff, Commander, Medium Attack Wing ONE, NAS Oceana, VA. Plans and Programs Officer.  
 5/73-11/75 XO/CO, VA-85, NAS Oceana, VA. Deployed USS *Forrestal* (CVA-59).  
 11/75-5/78 A-6A Class Desk Officer,NAVAIRSYSCOM, Washington, D.C. In charge of all engineering changes for A-6E aircraft.  
 5/78-12/79 XO, USS *Saratoga* (CVA-60). Med deployment.  
 12/79-8/81 Staff, Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering), Tactical Air Warfare Branch (F-14, F-15, F-16 and F-18) Staff Specialist.  
 8/81-2/82 Senior Officer Ship Materiel Readiness Course, Idaho Falls, ID.  
 2/82-8/83 CO, USS *Concord* (AFS-5). Two Med deployments.  
 8/83-4/84 Head, Aviation Plans and Programs, OPNAV (OP-508).  
 4/84-4/86 Deputy Director, Aviation Plans and Requirements Division (OP-50B).  
 4/86-7/87 Executive Assistant, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition).  
 7/87-7/88 Director, Navy Space Systems Division (OP-943) (1st Flag Assignment).  
 7/88-6/91 Commander, Naval Air Test Center, NAS Patuxent River, MD.  
 7/91-3/95 Vice Commander, Naval Air Systems Command, Arlington, VA.  
 3/1/95 Retired from active duty. (- Continued -)

## Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Seventh pilot to make “Centurian” (100 arrested landings) aboard USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65) - 19 March 1963.
- (2) Member of first A-6A crew to eject in combat over Laos during Vietnam War flying from USS *Independence* (CVA-62) - 14 July 1965. Evaded ground forces for 18 hours and rescued by Air America helo.
- (3) First Navy pilot to fly TC-4C (A-6 Bombardier/Navigator Trainer) at Peconic River, Long Island, NY., during Navy Preliminary Evaluation tests by the Naval Air Test Center - 13 November 1967.
- (4) First Navy (military) pilot to fly the A-7E and USAF A-7D as team leader for the Joint Navy/Air Force Service Evaluation at LTV, NAS Dallas, TX - 4 March 1969 and 10 May 1969.
- (5) Have flown over 90 different models of aircraft in U.S. and Europe.