



**Mike Bucchi, Vice Admiral USN (Ret.)**  
 “Smiles”

Date of Designation: 15 Oct 1971 NA# V-31781

Dates of Active Duty: Feb 1970 – 01 Jun 2003.

Total Flight Hours: 6,051

Carrier/Ship Landings: 1,029

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 6,001 Prop: 35 VF/VFA: 4,047 VS: 14 VT: 1,935  
 Helo: 20

Combat Tours:

Jan 1991 thru March 1991 – Persian Gulf/Desert Storm I  
 31 combat missions.

May 1991 thru June 1991 – Northern Iraq/Provide Comfort  
 2 combat missions.

Total Combat Missions: 33

Aviation Commands:

VF-33: Dec 1986 – May 1988.  
 Commander Carrier Air Wing Three: Dec 1992 – April 1994.  
 Commander Carrier Battle Group Six: Jun 1996 – Dec 1997.  
 Chief of Naval Air Training: Dec 1997 – Oct 2000.  
 Commander Third Fleet: Oct 2000 – May 2003.

Combat Awards:

Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V.  
 Bronze Star with Combat V.  
 3 Strike/Flight with Combat V.  
 Humanitarian Service Medal.

Other Awards:

Distinguished Service Medal  
 Defense Superior Service Medal  
 Legion of Merit  
 3 Meritorious Service Medals  
 Various campaign and unit awards



**Duty Assignment Chronology**

- 2/70-5/70 Aviation Officer Candidate School; Pensacola, FL.
- 6/70-4/71 Naval Air Basic Training Center; Pensacola, FL; Meridian, MS.
- 4/71-1/74 VT-25; Advanced Training – Advanced Jet Instructor, NAS Chase Field, Beeville, TX.
- 1/74-7/74 VF-124; Fleet Replacement Squadron; NAS Miramar, CA (F-14A).
- 7/74-8/77 VF-14; NAS Oceana, USS *Kennedy* (F-14A).
- 8/77-6/80 Navy Fighter Weapons School (Topgun); NAS Miramar, CA.
- 6/80-3/81 VF-101; Fleet Replacement Squadron; NAS Oceana (F-14A).
- 3/81-11/82 VF-31; Department Head Tour; NAS Oceana, USS *Kennedy* (F-14A).
- 11/82-9/83 Commander, US Atlantic Fleet; Special Operational Intelligence; Norfolk, VA.
- 11/83-4/85 Commander, Tactical Wings Force Atlantic; Ass’t Ops; NAS Oceana, VA.
- 4/85-5/88 VF-33; XO/CO; NAS Oceana, USS *America* (F-14A).
- 5/88-1/90 Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic; Fighter Readiness Desk, Norfolk, VA.
- 1/90-6/90 VFA-106/VF-101; Fleet Replacement Squadrons, NAS Cecil Field, FL and NAS Oceana (VF-14A/VFA-18C).
- 6/90-7/91 Carrier Air Wing Eight; Deputy Air Wing Commander, USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (F-14A/FA-18C).
- 7/91-6/92 National War College; Washington, D.C.
- 7/92-12/92 VFA-106/VF-101; Fleet Replacement Squadrons, NAS Cecil Field, FL and NAS Oceana (VF-14A/VFA-18C).
- 12/92-4/94 Commander, Carrier Air Wing Three; USS *Kennedy*/USS *Eisenhower*.
- 5/94-7/94 Capstone Course; Washington, D.C.
- 7/94-6/94 Deputy Military Representative to NATO; Brussels, Belgium.

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## Duty Assignment Chronology continued

6/94-12/97 Commander, Carrier Group Six; NS Mayport, FL., USS *Stennis*.  
11/96-3/97 Deputy Commander JTFSWA; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.  
12/97-10/00 Chief of Naval Air Training; NAS Corpus Christi.  
10/00-5/03 Commander, Third Fleet.

## **Summary of Significant Career Events**

(1) Reported to Pensacola, FL for Aviation Officer Candidate School in February 1970. After completing Primary Flight training, selected for the Jet Pipeline, the first class in about 6 months to get any jet quotas. Headed to Meridian, MS for Basic Jet Training. First carrier landings were aboard the USS *Lexington* off the coast of Pensacola. Flew T-34; T-2A; T-2B and T-2C.

(2) Reported to VT-25 located at NAS Chase Field, TX for Advanced Jet Training, flying the TF-9J Cougar.

(3) Designated a Naval Aviator 15 Oct 1971 and retained in VT-25 as an Advanced Jet Instructor. Flew TF-9J and TA-4J. Received the City of Beeville and Chase Field Navy League Award. Became a fully qualified flight instructor as a non-fleet experienced instructor; first non-fleet aviator to receive orders to the then new F-14A.

(4) Reported to VF-124 Fleet Replacement Squadron in January 1974 to transition into the F-14A. Achieved the highest air-to-air gunnery score in the class. In addition to training flights, commenced duty with VF-14 while still an FRS student.

(5) Officially reported to VF-14 in July 1974 at NAS Oceana. First Fleet pilot to launch a Phoenix Missile in the Atlantic Fleet. The entire evolution was carrier based – missile uploaded on F-14 and launched off carrier in the Atlantic Ocean. During second deployment to the Mediterranean Sea in VF-14, won two of the three Air Wing Tailhook competitions and the overall Top Tailhooker for the deployment.

(6) Navy Fighter Weapons School (Topgun) orders received while deployed to the Mediterranean. OINC of the first and highly successful NFWS detachment to train adversary pilots from VC-5 and provide ACM adversary support for forward deployed CVW-5 Fighter Squadrons. Directed major revision to NFWS syllabus involving combining of Topscope and Topgun syllabi into a single curriculum. Won Functional Wing Commander's competition as number one air to air gunner on West Coast. (High Noon Shootout Competition)

(7) Operations Officer for VF-31's introduction to the F-14. Squadron won COMNAVAIRLANT's Fox One Award for missile firing excellence; planned and executed the first Fleet Air Superiority Training (FAST) at NAS Oceana; Top Tailhooker for VF-31 during Indian Ocean Deployment.

(8) Selected by COMNAVAIRLANT for a special TAD assignment to CINCLANTFLT Staff as a member of the Strategic Support Team as part of the most sensitive National Intelligence programs in existence in 1982/83. Received Legion of Merit Award.

(9) Next stop was the Readiness Officer on the COMTACWINGSLANT staff. Selected for Fighter Squadron Command; coordinated LANTFLT tactical aviation units in a JCS sponsored, NORAD joint training exercise "Amalgam Brave" in Canada.

(10) Reported as XO of VF-33 in April 1985. Flew Secretary of the Navy on a combat training mission. During CO tour, developed the first East Coast Air Wing TACNOTE on mixed F-14/F-18 fighter tactics; Developed the tactics and produced a Secret report on the Operational employment of the Fighter-to-Fighter Data Link. Selected for Deputy Air Wing Commander.

(11) While waiting for the Deputy Air Wing Commander slot, ordered to be F-14 Readiness/Adversary Officer for COMNAVAIRLANT. Coordinated F-16N basing at NAS Oceana and established a permanent VF-101 F-14 Detachment at NAS Key West; drafted the impact message to CINCLANTFLT on AIM-54 Phoenix Program termination.

(12) Reported to VFA-106, NAS Cecil Field for training in the F-18. Selected for Air Wing Commander and Captain before reporting as Deputy Air Wing Commander Eight.

(13) During tour as Deputy Air Wing Commander, participated in Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Provide Comfort; OINC at Incirlik, Turkey for Joint Task Force Provide Comfort. After deployment, attended National War College (Jul 91-Jun 92) in Washington, D.C.

(14) Another quick refresher training for both the F-14/FA-18, then reported as the Commander, Air Wing Three mid-deployment aboard the USS *Kennedy*. Air Wing supported relief flights into embattled Bosnia-Herzegovina; expanded tactics utilizing Special Warfare/SH-3 integration; spearheaded the use of Night Vision Goggles (NVG) for the F-14 community. Significant milestones by Air Wing squadrons: Two Battle "E" winners; Two Type Wing Golden Wrench Awards; All squadrons Class "A" mishap free. Achieved milestone of 1,000 carrier arrested landings and screened for Flag rank.

(15) Completed Capstone Joint Course prior to reporting as the Deputy U.S. Military Representative to NATO for first flag tour. Staff worked negotiations on resolving the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina; planning Close Air support in Croatia; expanding the Partnership for Peace inside NATO. Selected for a Battle Group.

(16) Reported as Commander Carrier Group Six land based at Naval Station Mayport; operations aboard the USS *Stennis*. Immediately involved as JTFACC for Joint Exercise Unified

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### Summary of Significant Career Events continued

Endeavor 96-2; from 29 Nov 1996 to 5 Mar 1997 forward deployed as Deputy Commander, Joint Task Force Southwest Asia in Riyadh; Coalition TFC for JWID 97. Selected for second star.

(17) Next stop was as the Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) in Corpus Christi, TX. Worked closely with the Thomas Group to reduce time to train for our aviation candidates; increased pilot production by nearly 40% and eliminated all pools within CNATRA. Selected for third star.

(18) Last career tour was as Commander, THIRD FLEET. Executed two major Fleet Battle Experiments and nine major at sea exercises; prototyped system known as Naval Fires Network (NFN); re-invigorated ASW scenario plays during all major fleet exercises. Ended tour with five of six Carrier Battle Groups deployed in support of Desert Storm II.

### **Summary of Post Military Highlights**

(1) Started work as a civilian with Ocean System Engineering Corporation (OSEC), as the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President; became President on 1 Mar 2005. Company acquired by major company as part of QinetiQ North America; became the Senior Vice President for business unit in Southern California.

(2) Moved to Bloomington, IN and began work with Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC) in support of NSWC Crane. Last DoD contracting work was with Phoenix Data Corporation before retiring from DoD work in Dec. 2015.

(3) Selected as an Adjunct Professor for Harding University's International Studies Program in May 2015. Spent a semester abroad in the Fall of 2016 in Florence, IT.

### **Personal**

Married the former Marilyn Kay White of Indianapolis, IN on 1 Jan 2006. The combined family has three boys and two girls. We are the proud grandparents of 6 grandkids – two boys and four girls. Before marrying, Marilyn was a Kindergarten and Reading Recovery teacher. Both are very active in church work and host a diverse college age class in their home for the Indiana University female students. We reside in Bloomington, IN.