



Richard J. Cavicke, Captain USN (Ret.)
 “Dick”

Date of Designation: 22 October 1954

Dates of Active Duty: February 1953 - July 1983

Total Flight Hours: 4000

Arrested Landings: Fixed wing
 Total: 608; Day - 470; Night - 138

Approx. Flight Hours:
 Jet: 3,430 Prop: 330 VF/VA: 3,372
 Other: 226

Combat Tours (Vietnam)

Jun. 1964. VF-111 *USS Kitty Hawk*, Laos and Vietnam - 2 missions.

Oct. 1964 - Aug. 1966. *USS Bon Homme Richard*, Ship’s Company.

Jul. 1968 - Mar. 1969. VF-24 *USS Hancock*, 69 missions.

Aug. 1969 - Apr. 1970. VF-24 *USS Hancock*, 86 missions.

Oct. 1971 - May 1972. CARDIV 1 Staff, *USS Midway*.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-24, 7/69 - 7/70

CO, *USS Cleveland*, (LPD7), 8/77 - 12/78

CO, Amphibious Squadron ONE, 3/79 - 6/80

Combat Awards:

Bronze Star, 2 awards

Strike Flight Air Medal, 10 awards

Presidential Unit Citation

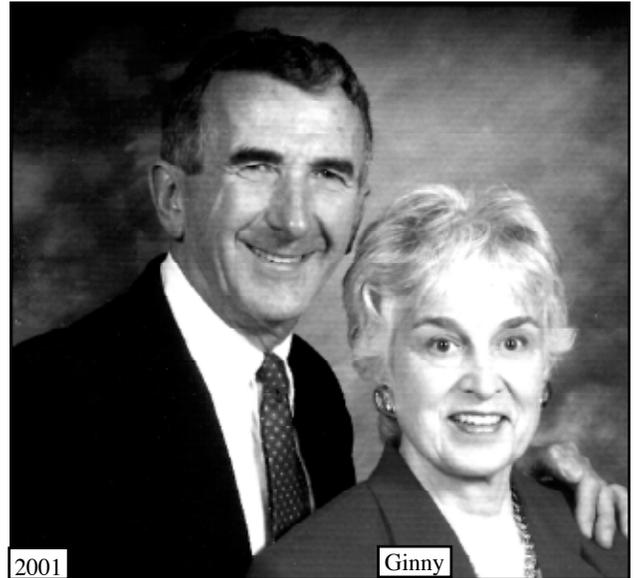
Navy Unit Commendation

Meritorious Unit Commendation

Vietnamese Navy Distinguished Service Order

Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Meritorious Unit

Citation



Duty Assignment Chronology

- 9/49-2/53 Cornell University School of Civil Engineering, NROTC Contract Student.
- 2/53 Joined NAVCAD program at USNAS Squantum, MA.
- 5/53-10/54 Flight Training. (SNJ, SNB, F6F, TV-2 and F9F-2).
- 10/54-1/56 VF-124, Junior Ensign in first West Coast F7U-3 Cutlass squadron. Deployed onboard *USS Hancock*.
- 3/56-4/57 VF-124 re-designated as VA-126. Flew F7U-3 as attack aircraft.
- 5/57-3/59 VF-211, at Moffett Field. One of the first two West Coast F8 Squadrons. CO, “Red Dog” Davis. Asst. to the Maint. Officer, Jim Stockdale. Deployed to West Pac on *USS Midway*.
- 4/59-7/62 VF-124, NAS Moffett Field and NAS Miramar. First fleet Crusader pilot- instructor in the F8 RAG.
- 8/62-10/64 VF-111, first F8U-2Ns. Made *Kitty Hawk’s* first two West Pac deployments.
- 10/64-7/66 Ship’s Company *USS Bon Homme Richard* (CVA-31). V6 Aircraft Maint. and Aircraft Handling Officer. Ship’s first Vietnam deployment.
- 8/66-2/67 Armed Forces Staff College.
- 3/67-6/68 VF-124 RCVW F8 Instructor and Aircraft Maintenance Officer.
- 7/68-7/70 VF-24, XO/CO, F8H. Two 9-month Vietnam deployments on *USS Hancock*.
- 9/70-8/71 Naval War College, School of Naval Warfare.
- 9/71-7/74 CarDiv/CarGru-1. Asst. Ops. to Bob Kirksey on *USS Midway*. Planned and coordinated Vietnam strike and mining operations. Then made first *Kitty Hawk* CV deployment to Indian Ocean.

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Duty Assignment Chronology continued

8/74-2/77 OPNAV, OP-506 Program Coordinator for F4, F8, Aircraft Targets and RPV's; then to OP-506B, Asst. Head, Aircraft and Weapons Requirements Branch.

3/77-8/77 SOSMRC, Newport and Idaho Falls.

8/77-12/78 CO, *USS Cleveland* (LPD7); West Pac deployment.

3/79-6/80 Commander Amphibious Squadron ONE.

7/80-8/82 OPNAV, Head, Aircraft and Weapons Requirements Branch, OP-506.

9/82-7/83 OPNAV, Deputy Director, Aviation Plans and Requirements Division, OP-50B.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Earned 3 Special Weapons Delivery "E's" in F7U-3. Accumulated 400 hours in Cutlass and 24 straight-deck/paddles traps.
- (2) During 1958 F8U-1 deployment, determined the cause of a squadron accident at Atsugi where one wing folded on T.O. Findings resulted in changes to the wingfold lock system and pilot procedures.
- (3) In 1960, while F8 RCVW instructor at Moffett Field, drafted the first F8 NATOPS Manual which became the model and standard for all other NATOPS Manuals.
- (4) First pilot to reach 1,500 hours in Chance Vought jet aircraft.
- (5) January 1963, flying from *USS Kitty Hawk*, made first night intercept of a Soviet Badger; followed by several more day and night Badger intercepts.
- (6) June 6, 1964, when Chuck Klusman's RF8 was shot down in Laos, flew RESCAP mission from *Kitty Hawk*. Provided on-scene support to Air America.

(7) June 7, 1964, flew first USN armed escort of RF8's into Laos, Plain of Jars from *Kitty Hawk*. XO, Cdr. Bud Lynn, took serious small arms hit and was forced to eject. Shot Zunis at suspected source of ground fire. Tanked 5 times, flew 4.1 hours. (Lynn was rescued by Air America and returned to ship.)

(8) December 17th 1966, one of first pilots to reach 2,000 F8 hours.

(9) January 1967, while student at Staff College, nominated to head Blue Angels; job went to Bill Wheat.

(10) During VF-24 XO tour on *Hancock*, headed the accident investigation of a fatal night landing and found that the runway lighting on 27C Class carriers created a glide slope conflict with the lens. Built a lighted flight deck model validating both the problem and a solution. The model was shown to numerous flag officers visiting *Hancock* including the CNO, Adm. Tom Moorer. It was later demonstrated at OPNAV and NAVAIR. The lighting change was made to *USS Hancock*. Awarded Navy Achievement Medal for work.

(11) Presented COMFAIR Miramar Individual Safety Award on June 9th 1969 for 2,500 accident free hours in the F8.

(12) Flew every model of the F8, including the F8U-1T. In a 13 year period, logged Crusader flight time in all but 14 months. Finished the F8 in July 1970 with totals of 2,800 F8 hours, 440 day arrested landings and 138 night arrested landings.