



CAPT Robert Gibson, USN (Ret.)
 "Hoot"

Date of Designation: 29 January 1971

Active Duty: June 1969-August 1996

Total Flight Hours: 13,837

Carrier/Shipboard Landings: Fixed: 309

Approx. Flight Hours:

Jet: 11,563 Helo: 26 VF/VA: 1,005/220
 Prop: 1,380 (including 706 Experimental) Rocket: 868
 VT: 3,447 (predominantly NASA T-38)
 Of total time, 6.899 hours as Southwest Airline pilot

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: USS *Coral Sea*, VF-111, April-Jun 1972,
 56 combat missions
 Vietnam: Apr 1975, VF-1 evacuation of Saigon,
 1 combat mission
 Total Combat Missions: 57

Commands:

Commander, STS 61-C aboard Columbia, 1986
 Commander, STS-27, aboard Atlantis, 1988
 Commander, STS-47, aboard Endeavour, 1992
 Commander, STS-71, aboard Atlantis, 1995
 Chief of Astronaut Office, Dec 1992-Sep 1994

Combat Awards/Flight Performance Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross Medal
 3 Air Medals
 Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V"
 Vietnam Service medal (One Bronze Star)
 Six Aviation & Three Space World Records
 Konstantin Tsiolkovsky Medal
 Yuri Gagarin Gold Medal
 2 FAI Louis Bleriot Medals



Other Awards:

Defense Distinguished Service Medal
 Defense Superior Service Medal
 Legion of Merit
 Defense Meritorious Service medal

Duty Assignment Chronology

6/69-1/71 Flight Training (T-34B, T-2, TA-4)
 2/71-4/72 F-4 RAG VF-121/VF-126 (F-4J, TA-4)
 4/72-10/73 VF-111 Weapons Training
 10/73-12/73 F-14 RAG Student VF-124
 1/74-8/75 VF-1 Personnel, Avionics, AME/PR
 9/75-5/76 F-14 RAG Instructor VF-124
 7/76-6/77 U.S. Naval Test Pilot School
 7/77-6/78 Strike Aircraft Test Directorate
 7/78-8/96 NASA Astronaut
 8/96 Retired from the United States Navy

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) F-14 Fleet Project Team 1971.
- (2) Combat tour aboard USS *Coral Sea* during Operations Freedom Train and Linebacker in the F-4B, 1972.
- (3) Transferred from VF-111 after 2 cruises into VF-1 to make the first cruise of the F-14A.
- (4) Supported Saigon evacuation Operation Frequent Wind in F-14A, April 1975.
- (5) Made first flight, envelope expansion and structural clearance of F-14A TARPS.
- (6) Selected as one of 15 pilot astronauts in the first Space Shuttle Astronaut selection.
- (7) T-38A chase pilot for the first 2 Space Shuttle flights.

- Continued -

Significant Career Events continued:

- (8) Flew as Pilot (Copilot) on the 10th Space Shuttle launch in 1984.
- (9) Flew as Mission Commander on 4 missions, 1986, 1988, 1992 and 1995.
- (10) First astronaut to command 4 Space Shuttle missions.
- (11) Trained in Russia on the “Mir” Space Station and “Soyuz” simulators to dock with “Mir”.
- (12) Performed the first-ever docking by a Space Shuttle, in 1995 with “Mir”.
- (13) My handshake with “Mir” Commander, Colonel Vladimir Dezero has been described as marking the end of the Cold War.
- (14) NASA’s Chief Astronaut 1992-1994.
- (15) Left NASA and retired from the United States Navy in 1996.