



David W. Kunkel, Rear Admiral USCG (Ret.)
 “Dave”

Date of Designation: 31 October 1975
 Coast Guard Aviator #1726

Dates of Active Duty: 7 June 1971 – 1 July 2008

Total Flight Hours: 5,000

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 1,000 Helo: 4,000

Aviation Commands:
 Coast Guard Air Station Astoria, Oregon 1994-1997

Awards:
 Distinguished Flying Cross – Night rescue of 3 people from the S/V SPINDRIFT offshore Humbolt Bay, California 1983
 CG Distinguished Service Medal – 1
 Defense Superior Service Medal - 1
 Legion of Merit - 3
 Meritorious Service Medal – 3

Duty Assignment Chronology

7/71-1/73 Enlisted Seaman, Cape May, NJ.
 1/73-9/74 Ensign, Captain of the Port, Kodiak, AK.
 9/74-10/75 Basic Flight Training, Pensacola, FL.
 Student Naval Aviator.
 11/75-7/79 Aviator C.G Air Station New Orleans, LA.
 7/79-7/81 Aviator/Maintenance Officer C.G. Air Station Borinquen, Puerto Rico.
 7/81-7/85 Aviator/Engineering Officer C.G. Air Station Astoria, OR.
 7/85-7/88 Aviator/Engineering Officer C.G. Air Station San Diego, CA.
 7/88-7/91 Aviator/Engineering Officer C.G. Air Station Clearwater, FL.
 7/91-7/94 Coast Guard Headquarters – Assistant Chief Aeronautical Engineering Division.



7/94-8/97 Commanding Officer, C.G. Air Station Astoria, OR.
 7/97-7/98 Coast Guard Headquarters - Chief Aeronautical Engineering Division.
 7/98-7/00 Coast Guard Headquarters – Chief Aviation Forces.
 7/00-7/01 Pacific Area Chief of CG Operations, Alameda, CA.
 7/01 5/02 Pacific Area Chief of Staff, Alameda, CA.
 5/02 7/04 PACOM’s Director Joint Interagency Task Force West, Alameda, CA.
 7/04-7/06 Coast Guard Headquarters - Chief of Capabilities.
 7/06-8/08 Commander CG District Seven and Director of Homeland Security Task Force Southeast, Miami, FL.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Ancient Albatross #20, 7/06 - 7/08 (C.G. aviator on active duty holding earliest date of designation).
- (2) Aircraft Commander of HH-3F helicopter during the Cuban Mariel Boatlift - 5/80.
- (3) S/V SPINDRIFT - night rescue of 3 from sinking sailing vessel, 7/83 – awarded Distinguished Flying Cross.
- (4) OPBAT - Operation Turks and Caicos - helicopter counter drug interdiction operations in the Caribbean, 7/88 - 7/91.
- (5) Project lead in arming CG helicopters to counter drug smuggler fast moving vessels. Established HITRON-10 - Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron 10, 1/97.
- (6) PACOM’s Director of the Joint Interagency Task Force West (JIATF-West) – counter-narcotics task force.

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Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (7) Commander CG District Seven and Director of Homeland Security Task Force Southeast – Interagency task force to deter a mass migration into the U.S.