



**Anthony A. Less, VADM, USN (Ret.)**  
 “Tony”

Date of Designation: June 1961

Dates of Active Duty: April 1960 - 1 May 1994

Total Flight Hours: 6,200

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 1,025+ Rotary: 50+

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 5,700 Prop: 500 VF/VA: 4,500  
 VR/VP: 50 VS: 100 VU/VFP: 4 VT: 300+

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: Dec. 1968 - Sep. 1969 - 110 missions  
 Commander JTFME for "Praying Mantis"

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA-12, 1972-1973  
 CO, Blue Angels 1974-1975  
 COMCVW-9, 1976-1979  
 CO, USS *Wichita* (AOR-1)  
 CO, USS *Ranger* (CV-61) 1982-1983  
 Commander, Carrier Group ONE, 1987  
 COMNAVAIRLANT, 1991-1994

Combat Awards:

10 Air Medals (Strike/Flight)  
 Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V"

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

3/60-12/60 NABTC, NAS Pensacola, FL (DUINS).  
 1/61-6/61 NAAS Kingsville, TX (DUINS).  
 6/61-11/61 NATTC-Memphis, TN (DUINS).  
 11/61-4/62 Attack Squadron 43 (DUINS).  
 4/62-11/64 Attack Squadron 86.  
 11/64-2/66 Attack Squadron 44.  
 2/66-9/66 NARTU, NAS Memphis, TN.

9/66-1/68 Attack Squadron 174.  
 1/68-10/69 Attack Squadron 105.  
 10/69-2/71 Bureau of Naval Personnel (Assignment Off.)  
 2/71-4/71 Attack Squadron 174 (DUINS).  
 4/71-6/72 Attack Squadron 12 (XO).  
 6/72-10/73 CO, Attack Squadron 12.  
 10/73-1/76 CO, Naval Flight Demonstration Squadron (Blue Angels).  
 1/76-12/77 Commander, Carrier Air Wing NINE.  
 12/77-4/79 Office of CNO (EA to OP-05).  
 4/79-5/79 Naval Amphibious School, Little Creek, VA (DUINS).  
 5/79-8/79 Surface Warfare Officers School Command, Newport, RI (DUINS).  
 8/79-12/79 Bureau of Naval Personnel (DUINS).  
 12/79-7/81 CO, USS *Wichita* (AOR-1).  
 7/81-4/82 Staff, CINCPAC (EA).  
 4/82-8/83 CO, USS *Ranger* (CV-61).  
 8/83-3/85 Commander, SEVENTH Fleet (CoS).  
 3/85-7/87 Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff (Deputy Director, POLMIL Affairs) (J-5).  
 8/87-12/87 Commander Carrier Group ONE.  
 1/88-4/89 Commander Joint Task Force Middle East/ Commander Middle East Force.  
 4/89-7/91 Office of CNO (Assistant DCNO, Plans, Policy and Operations) (OP-06B).  
 7/91-5/94 Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.  
 5/1/94 Retired from active service.

Tony Less was born in Salem, OH on 31 August 1937. Upon graduating from Heidelberg College in Tiffin, OH, he completed the Naval Aviation Officer Candidate Program and was commissioned as Ensign in April 1960. He earned his naval Aviator's wings in June 1961.

Subsequent operational and combat tours included five Light Attack squadron assignments, flying primarily the A-4 Skyhawk and A-7 Corsair aircraft. VADM Less has logged more than 6,200 hours and over 1,000 arrested carrier landings in navy frontline tactical jets. His sea assignments have included command of Attack Squadron TWELVE, Carrier Air Wing NINE, USS *Wichita* (AOR-1), USS *Ranger* (CV-61), Carrier Group ONE, Joint Task Force Middle East and Middle East Force, and duty as Chief of Staff to Commander, U.S. SEVENTH Fleet.

Shore assignments have included duty as an A-4 Skyhawk weapons instructor, Aviation Assignment Officer, Commanding Officer of the Navy's Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Squadron, Executive Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Air Warfare (OP-05) in Washington, DC, Executive Assistant and Senior Aide to the Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Pacific Command in Honolulu, HI, Deputy Director for Politico-Military Affairs in the Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate of the Joint Staff in Washington, D.C., Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Plans, Policy and Operations) (OP-068), and

as Acting Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Plans, Policy and Operations) (OP-06). In his last assignment prior to retirement, he served 32 months as Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. VADM Less retired from active duty on 1 May 1994, after completing 34 years of naval service.

VADM Less is authorized to wear the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal (with Gold Star in lieu of second award), Defense Superior Service Medal (with Oak Leaf cluster in lieu of second award), Legion of Merit (with Gold Star in lieu of second award), Air Medal with 10 strike/flight awards, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V", joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Unit Commendation, Navy "E" Ribbon and other campaign awards.

VADM Less is married to the former Leanne Carol Kuhl of Memphis, TN. They have four daughters: Robyn (Mrs. Paul Monger), Pam (Mrs. Chris Maxey), Tracy, and Christy. They also have five granddaughters and one grandson.

From 17 August 1994 until 19 January 1996, VADM Less served as the President of the Association of Naval Aviation. On 22 January 1996, he joined Kaman Aerospace Corporation where he now serves in the Washington Office as Vice President of Government Programs.

### **Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) Training Command with Honors (no downs).
- (2) Initial cadre of instructors to introduce A-7.
- (3) Team Captain for "Best Hit '73". Won WEPS meet (in Italy) between Greeks, Turks, Italians and the U. S. sold 50 A-7's to Greeks as result.
- (4) First Commanding Officer of Blue Angels.  
Commissioned Navy flight demo squadron in 1973.  
From 1946 to 1973 Blues had always an Officer-in-Charge (O-in-C)
- (5) CVW-9 was most modern airwing of the time (1976-1977). Made major WESTPAC deployment aboard CV-64. Tested many new concepts. Airwing was class "Alpha" accident free during entire tenure as CAG.
- (6) As AIRLANT flew every aircraft in inventory and accumulated over 50 carrier landings during tenure. Even flew bombing hops in F-14 after we opted to use it as a bomber.
- (7) Made 5 MED and 5 WESTPAC/Indian Ocean deployments during career. Had 4 separate and distinct Washington tours.