



Riley D. Mixson, RADM, USN (Ret.)

Date of Designation: 7 June 1960 NA # V-16316

Dates of Active Duty: 1 October 1958 - 28 February 1994

Total Flight Hours: 5,720

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 920 Rotary wing: 15

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,740 Prop: 1,950 Helo: 30 VF/VA: 2,738
 HS/HC/HU: 30 VS: 1,620 VU/VFP: 30 VT: 970
 LTA: 1.5

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: May-Nov. 1969, A-4E, 103 combat missions
 Vietnam: Dec. 1970- Jun. 1971, A-7E, 152 combat missions
 Desert Storm: Jan. 1991-Feb. 1991 Commander Carrier Group Two and Commander Battle force Red Sea (Three Carrier Battle Force plus 30 Allied Ships)

Aviation Commands:

CO VA-215 (6/74-10/75), USS *Oriskany*, NAS Lemoore, A-7B Aircraft
 CAG CVWR-30 (5/77-12/78), NAS Alameda, F-4B, A-7B, KA-3B, RF-8G
 CO USS *Midway* (CV-41), (7/85-4/87) Forward Deployed Western Pacific
 CCG-2 (12/89-6/91) USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV-67), Desert Shield/Storm

Combat Awards:

Air Medal with bronze numeral 24 and gold star;
 Meritorious Service Medal;
 Legion of Merit with gold star;
 Distinguished Service Medal with gold star



Duty Assignment Chronology

- 10/58-6/60 Flight training NAS Pensacola, Whiting, Memphis, Kingsville.
- 6/60-6/64 VS-32 NAS Quonset Point & USS *Lake Champlain* (straight deck CV, paddles LSO, maintenance officer (S-2F, AD-1W).
- 7/64-8/65 Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA Student (UC-45J).
- 9/65-7/66 Naval Air Systems Command, Washington, DC, avionics procurement officer (UC-45J).
- 7/66-7/68 VT-21, NAS Kingsville TX; Flight Instructor & LSO (TAF-9J, TF-9J).
- 7/68-2/69 VA-125, NAS Lemoore CA, FRS Student (A-4 B/C/E).
- 2/69-7/71 VA-195, NAS Lemoore CA, Operations Officer (A-4E, A-7E).
- 7/71-7/72 Naval War College, Newport RI, Student (T-1A, UC-45J).
- 7/72-4/73 VA-125, NAS Lemoore CA, FRS Student & Instructor (TA-7A, A-7A/B).
- 4/73-10/75 VA-215, NAS Lemoore CA, XO/CO (A-7B).
- 10/75-5/77 USS *Oriskany* (CV 34), WESTPAC & NAS Alameda, CA, Air Operations Officer (F-8J, TA-4B).
- 5/77-12/78 CVWR-30, NAS Alameda CA, CAG (F-4B, A-7A/B, KA-3G, RF-8G).
- 12/78-1/80 OPNAV, Pentagon, Deputy Strike Warfare Analysis, OP-967.
- 1/80-2/82 USS *Roanoak* (AOR-7), WESTPAC, CO; (H-46).
- 2/82-3/83 OPNAV, Pentagon, Deputy Systems Analysis Division, OP-96.
- 3/83-7/85 COMCRUDESGRU THREE, Naval Station San Diego, COS, WestPAC USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV-63), and USS *Texas* (CGN).
- 7/85-4/87 USS *Midway* (CV 41), Yokosuka Japan, CO. Indian Ocean/Western Pacific (F-4S, A-6E, E-2C).

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Duty Assignment Chronology continued

4/87-9/88 NORAD, Colorado Springs CO, Cheyenne Mountain Command Director.
9/88-12/89 U.S. Space Command, Colorado Springs CO, Director Joint Strategic Defense Planning Staff (National Missile Defense).
12/89-6/91 Carrier Group Two, USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67), CVBG Commander (A-7E).
6/91-6/92 OPNAV, Pentagon, DCNO Air Warfare (OP-05) (F/A-18B).
6/92-11/93 OPNAV, Pentagon, DCNO Air Warfare (OP-05) (F/A-18B)
11/93-2/94 Transition, retired 2/94

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) 1961 -The recovery of America's first Mercury space capsule and Alan Sheppard on the flight deck of USS *Lake Champlain* (CVS-3), my first CV duty station.
- (2) 1969 - 1970 Vietnam: Evaluating the Focus missile (air to ground sidewinder missile with a light sensitive seeker) against truck convoys in the valleys of NVN and Laos on dark moonless nights; 60 straight days of close and very personal air support in the DMZ during Operation Lamson 719; day one of General Lavel's retaliatory strikes in NVN.
- (3) 1970 - Talking with Admiral John McCain, USN (CINCPAC), in the passageway on USS *Kitty Hawk* following a combat mission and discussing his son and our POW situation in general.
- (4) 1986 - Taking USS *Midway* to sea with hull strengthening and stabilization enhancement (infamous blisters), and observing destroyer like rolling movements including an 18 degree roll in minor sea states from what was to have been a stability induced ship modification.
- (5) 1991 - Spending Christmas Eve 1990 with my Navy son and a few of his USMC comrades on my flagship USS *John F. Kennedy* just prior to their departure for the front lines in Kuwait; Returning home to emotionally charged welcome home ceremonies at pierside and throughout the country.
- (6) 1992 - Flying with the Israeli Air Force out of Ramat David in an F-16 to evaluate the Python-4 missile and starting the transition of that technology to AIM-9X.
- (7) 1992-1994 In company with my fellow Naval Aviators formulating a 20 year Naval Aviation Plan that has charted naval aviation's course into the future.