



**H. Robert Pearl, CAPT USN (Ret.)**  
"Bob"

Date of Designation: August 12, 1955      NA# V-7635

Dates of Active Duty: February, 1954 – September 1979

Total Flight Hours: 3,840

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 645  
(Day: 546, Night: 99)

Approximate Flight Hours:  
Jet: 3,161   Prop: 679   VF/VA: 3,161

Combat Tours:

- Vietnam    VF-111, CVW-2, USS *Midway*, March 1965-  
Nov. 1965, F8D's, 112 missions
- Vietnam    VF-111, CVW-16, USS *Oriskany*, May 1966-  
Nov. 1966, F8E's, 78 missions
- Vietnam    VF-111, CVW-8, USS *Shangri-La*, June 1970  
– Dec. 1970, F8H's, 58 missions
- Vietnam    VF-111, CVW-15, USS *Coral Sea*, Dec. 1971-  
June 1972, F4B's, 128 missions

Total combat missions: 376

Aviation Commands:

CO VF-111, June 1971 – June 1972

Combat Awards:

- 2 Distinguished Flying Cross Medals
- 1 Bronze Star
- 28 Air Medals
- 1 Navy Commendation Medal w/Combat "V"
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medals with 1 star
- Gallantry Cross with Silver Star

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

2/54-8/55    Naval Air Training Command (NAVCAD),  
Pensacola FL/Beeville TX (SNJ, T-28, TV-2,  
F9F-2).



- 9/55-10/57    FASRON 4, NAS North Island, CA.  
Communications Officer/Utility Pilot  
(SNB-5, TV-2, F9F-5, F9F-8, R4D-8, AD-4,  
AD-6, S2F-1).
- 10/57-10/58    VF-121, NAS Miramar, CA. RAG Flight  
Instructor/Asst Training Officer (FJ-3, F11F-1)
- 10/58-11/59    VF-111 Line Division Officer, NAS Miramar/  
USS Shangri-La (F11F-1).
- 11/59-11/62    VF-124 Instrument Flight Instructor/RAG  
Flight Instructor NAS Moffett/NAS Miramar  
(F9F-8T, F8U-2N).
- 11/62-8/64    Patrol Force Seventh Fleet, Aide/Flag  
Lieutenant/Flag Pilot, embarked in USS *Pine  
Island*, USS *Salisbury Sound* and USS  
*Currituck*, Okinawa (HU-16).
- 9/64-2/65    VF-124 RAG Student, NAS Miramar (F8E).
- 2/65-2/67    VF-111 Maintenance Officer, NAS Miramar,  
USS *Midway*/USS *Oriskany*, (F8D/E)
- 2/67-11/67    NAF China Lake, Missile Test Pilot/AIMD  
Officer (F8D/E).



- 12/67-12/69    USNPGS Monterey, Student (T-28B and  
US2-A/B).
- 1/70-6/70    VF-124 RAG Student, NAS Miramar (F8H).

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### Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- 6/70-6/72 VF-111 CO/XO, NAS Miramar, USS *Shangri-La*, USS *Coral Sea* (F8H, F4B).
- 7/72-7/74 Commander Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet, Officer Personnel Officer, NAS North Island
- 9/74-3/76 USS *Constellation* (CV-64) Operations Officer/Executive Officer, San Diego, CA/Bremerton, WA.
- 3/76-10/79 Commander Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet, Ships Training Officer, NAS North Island, CA

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

- (1) Completed 4 combat deployments during intense North Vietnam air war activity from 1965 to 1972 achieving a total of 376 combat missions primarily as section, division and strike lead.
- (2) Participated as one of three AIM-9 Missile Development test pilots at NAF China Lake to seek improvement, new developments and tactics in the F8 weapons system.
- (3) Participated in the planning and execution of a successful 22 plane (F8) TRANSPAC (Cubi Point to NAS Miramar) in 1970 to enable an expedient turnaround while CVS-38 returned to its East Coast homeport.
- (4) Transitioned VF-111 from F8H aircraft to F4B aircraft and successfully combined a cadre of F8 and F4 pilots and maintenance personnel into a combat effective F-4 Squadron for combat operations in December 1971.
- (5) As Commanding Officer led numerous Airwing ALPHA Strikes over NVN. VF-111 became the first squadron to shoot down a MIG aircraft during the Coral Sea 1972 cruise.
- (6) During command tour in 1972 assumed position of CVW-15 for six weeks due to his combat loss. As CAG, led the Coral Sea component of a three Airwing ALPHA strike (*Coral Sea, Constellation, Kitty Hawk*) into Hanoi/Haiphong, the first strike subsequent to the lifting of President Johnson's 1968 bombing halt. The mission was highly successful against extremely strong SAM opposition.

### **POST NAVY CAREER EVENTS**

- (1) After retiring from the Navy spent 18 years as a marketing Manager for Hughes Aircraft and Raytheon. The last seven of those years were at the Naval Weapons Center China Lake working programs such as AIM-9, AIM-9X, ESSM and AMRAAM.
- (2) Member of Tailhook, Past Commander of the Naval Order, Southwest Commandery (the aviation commandery), and a board member/treasurer of the Crusader Association.
- (3) Key member and fundraiser of the "F8 Ready Room Museum" committee of the Crusader Association. The committee conceived and constructed the F8 Ready Room which resides in the USS *Midway* Museum, San Diego, CA.