



Doniphon B. Shelton, RADM, USN (Ret.)
 "Don"

Date of Designation: 7 February 1947 NA # P-25214

Dates - Active Duty: 6 August 1939-2 July 1941 (Enlisted)
 2 July 1941-7 June 1944 (USNA)
 7 June 1944-1 October 1979

Total Flight Hours: 4,000

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 500

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 2,500 Prop: 1,500 Helo: 30 VF/VA: 4,000
 VP: 40

Combat Tours:

WW II: USS *St. Louis* (CL-49), Aug. 1944-Aug. 1945,
 (#2 Turret Officer/Catapult Officer), Philippines,
 Okinawa, and off Japan.

Korea: VC-3 (F4U-5N Night Fighter Detachment), Mar.
 1951-Apr. 1951, USS *Philippine Sea*/USS
Princeton. - 23 night interdiction missions.

Vietnam: CO, USS *Paricutin* (AE-18), Jun. 1967-Jun. 1968.
 CO, USS *Tripoli* (LPH-10), Jul. 1968-Mar. 1969.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-92 (F3H), Jul. 1961 - Jul. 1962. WESTPAC, USS
Ranger.

CAW-19, Aug. 1964 - Aug. 1965. Deployed Indian Ocean
 and WESTPAC, USS *Bon Homme Richard*.

CO, USS *Tripoli* (LPH-10), Aug. 1968-Aug. 1969.
 Deployed Vietnam.

Combat Awards:

Air Medal (Korea)

Legion of Merit with Combat "V" (Vietnam)



Duty Assignment Chronology

- 8/6/39 Enlisted in U.S. Navy from Springfield, MO.
- 8/39-10/39 Naval Training Center, San Diego, CA.
- 10/39-4/40 Seaman, USS *New Mexico*.
- 4/40-10/40 Seaman, USS *California*.
- 10/40-7/41 Naval Academy Prep Class, NOB Norfolk, VA
- 7/41-6/44 U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD.
- 7/44-8/45 USS *St. Louis* (CL-49), #2 Turret Officer and
 Catapult Officer.
- 10/45-6/47 Flight Training - Dallas, Corpus Christi,
 Pensacola. Wings - 7 February 1947.
 VF Operational Training, Banana River.
- 7/47-8/48 VF-1E (F6F-5N), NAS North Island, CA.
 TAD CAG-1 (Bringle) "Around The World
 Cruise", USS *Tarawa*, then VCN-1/FAWTU-
 PAC, Barbers Point, HI.
- 11/49-7/51 VC-3, NAS Moffett Field. Various VF(N)
 teams to WESTPAC and Korea, USS
Boxer, USS *Valley Forge*, USS *Philippine
 Sea* and USS *Princeton*.
- 8/51-2/52 Navy Test Pilot School, NATC Patuxent
 River, MD., Class 7.
- 2/52-12/53 Service Test Division, NATC Patuxent River.
- 12/53-10/54 Project Cutlass, NAS Miramar, CA. Fleet
 introduction of the F7U-3. Carrier trials USS
Hancock.
- 10/54-2/56 Team Leader F7U-3 TTU in VC-3, NAS
 Moffett Field, CA.
- 2/56-1/58 Operations Officer, then XO, VF-124. First
 F3H AirPac squadron. Deployed WESTPAC,
 USS *Lexington*.
- 1/58-6/58 Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA
 ("never an infantryman")!
- 6/58-2/61 Staff, Navy Test Pilot School, NATC Patuxent
 River, MD.
- 3/61-7/62 CO, VF-92 (F3H) deployed WESTPAC, USS
Ranger.
- 8/62-8/63 U. S. Navy War College, Senior Course.
 Masters Degree with GWU.

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Duty Assignment Chronology continued

8/63-3/65 P-CAW/CAW-19, USS *Bon Homme Richard* Concord Squadron Cruise Indian Ocean and Vietnam.

4/65-5/67 OPNAV (OP-602C), National Command Matters. A fine tour.

6/67-6/68 CO, USS *Paricutin* (AE-18). WESTPAC/Vietnam. A really fine tour.

8/68-8/69 CO, USS *Tripoli* (LPH-10). Flagship COMPHIBRON 9 and Commander, Amphibious Ready Group BRAVO. Vietnam (and Marines)! Fine tour.

8/69-6/71 Branch Head, OP-506C, Aircraft and Weapons Requirements. Talent in that branch.

6/71-4/72 OP-61B, Deputy Director, Politico-Military Policy Division.

4/72-2/73 OP-61, Director, Politico-Military Policy Division.

2/73-8/75 Commander, Naval Base/Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Philippines/CINCPAC Rep Philippines, Subic Bay, Philippines. A great tour.

8/75-8/77 OP-98B, Deputy Director, RDT&E.
6/76 - Collateral duty as Senior Military Advisor, U.S. Delegation to negotiate revised U.S. - Philippine Bases Agreement (remained in effect until 1991).

8/77-9/79 Staff, CINCPAC. J-5 (Director for Plans).

10/1/79 NTC San Diego for Retirement 1 October 1979 (40 years, 2 months, 27 days, 3 hours).

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) 1941-1944. U.S. Naval Academy. Enlisted (for 6 years) to get into the Academy and it has been the fundamental basis for my career.
- (2) November 27, 1944. USS *St. Louis* (CL-49) on the receiving end of 4 Kamikaze direct hits in Battle for Leyte Gulf. An experience not to forget.

- (3) 1947-1948. VF-1E. Navy delegated the FR-1 to the "boneyard" and I entered the night/all-weather game in the F6F-5N. Quals and operations in USS *Bairoko/Badoeng* Strait (small deck CVE's).
- (4) March 2, 1951. F4U-5N pre-dawn dead stick landing USS *Princeton* off Korea. Details available, just ask.
- (5) 1951-1953. Navy Test Pilot School Class 7, then assigned to Service Test Division. Test projects included: flying first jet engine (F9F-4) to 1,000 hours utilizing component replacement vice overhaul; various tests F2H/F9F-4,5,6,7 series including shot gun air starts in F9F-5; F7U-3 project officer including early investigation F7U-3 stall characteristics; flew profiles early investigation jet flame-out approaches; F7F back seat couch configuration preliminary to Mercury capsule couches.
- (6) February 1, 1956. F3H flame-out approach/landing Pax River during the F3H Fleet Indoctrination Program. Details available, just ask.
- (7) February 18, 1956. Married Peggy Terrell, my career best significant event ever.
- (8) 1960. Staff, Test Pilot School - answered the phone from Mr. Gilruth (NASA) to screen for the original 110 for Project Mercury - missed the cut, though was in the 110.

- (9) April-July 1975. Supervised planning and coordinated operations for Project New Life, the processing of 43,000 evacuees and refugees from South Vietnam through Subic Bay. One of the very finest Navy operations in my experience.