



**Gordon H. Smith, RADM, USN (Ret.)**

“Gordon”

Date of Designation: 20 October 1948

Dates of Active Duty: June 1945 - June 1979

Total Flight Hours: 6,482

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 708

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 280 Prop: 6,200 VF/VA: 6,000

Combat Tours:

Korea: VF-33, Aug. 1950-Jan. 1951 (F4U -38 missions.  
Vietnam: VA-152, Feb. 1965-Nov. 1965 (A1) -128 missions  
Vietnam: VA-152, Apr. 1966-Nov. 1966 (A1) -78 missions

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA-152, February 1966 - April 1967

Combat Awards:

Silver Star  
Navy/Marine Corps Medal for Heroism  
4 Distinguished Flying Crosses  
Bronze Star  
23 Air Medals  
2 Navy Commendation Medals  
Purple Heart

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

12/48-6/51 VF-33, Line Officer/ Communications Officer (F8F, F4U).  
7/51-6/53 ATU-200, Flight Instructor/Schedules Officer (F8F).  
10/53-7/54 USS *Gilbert Islands* (AKV-39), Assistant CIC Officer.  
7/54-6/55 USS *Ticonderoga* (CVA-14), OI Division Officer.

6/58-5/60 Joint Staff, US Forces Korea. Chief. Special Intelligence Section.  
7/60-6/62 US Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA. Student.  
10/62-8/64 VA-215, Operations Officer/XO (A1H).  
9/64-2/65 VA-122, Operations Officer (A1H).  
2/65-5/67 VA-152, XO/CO (A1H).  
5/67-2/68 COMNAVAIRPAC Staff, Assistant Weapons Officer.  
2/68-8/69 First Fleet Staff, Air Warfare Officer.  
6/70-5/74 OSD, DDR&E. Special Assistant/Director, Research and Advanced Technology.  
5/74-4/76 Naval Electronics System Command, REWSON Program Manager.  
4/76-6/79 Vice Commander, Naval Electronics System Command.  
6/30/79 Retired from active duty.

**Summary of Significant Career Events**

(1) During the mid-1960's, became a recognized expert in search and rescue tactics and procedures in Southeast Asia. Was on-scene commander for 23 rescue attempts in North Vietnam of which 11 resulted in successful extraction. Most noteworthy was a successful night rescue 17 miles from Hanoi in a heavily defended area. The downed airman had no survival gear except a radio which would receive but not transmit. Finally homed in on the downed airman's cigarette lighter and directed the helo to the pick-up while making runs with lights on to draw fire. Returned to the carrier with less than 5 minutes of fuel remaining.