



**Robert E. Stumpf, Captain, USN (Ret.)**  
 “Ripper”

Date of Designation: 6 February 1976

Dates of Active Duty: 6 June 1974 - 1 October 1996

Total Flight Hours: 10,554 (5,351 civilian)

Carrier/Ship Landings: 955

Approximate Flight Hours: Jet: 4,967 Prop: 236  
 VF/VA/VFA: 3,831 VT: 425 Other: 711

Combat Tours:

Operation El Dorado Canyon: April 1986  
 Operation Desert Storm: January to March 1991

Total Combat Missions: 26

Aviation Commands:

CO, VFA-83 Rampagers 1991-1992, USS *Saratoga*, NAS Cecil Field.  
 CO, Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron 1992-1994, NAS Pensacola.

Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross  
 Air Medal (5 individual, 2 strike flight)  
 Navy Commendation with Combat V (3)

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

07/74-09/74 US Naval Academy, Assistant Crew Coach.  
 09/74-02/76 Student Naval Aviator, NAS Pensacola; VT-1 NAS Saufley Field T-34B; VT-6 NAS Whiting Field T-28B/C; VT-7 NAS Meridian TA-4J.  
 03/76 LSO School, NAS Pensacola.  
 04/76-12/76 VA-174, NAS Cecil Field, A-7E RAG Training.



12/76-09/79 VA-105, USS *Saratoga*, NAS Cecil Field, LSO, Division Officer, Admin Officer.  
 10/79-10/81 VF-805 Squadron, Royal Australian Navy, HMAS *Melbourne*, A-4G, Safety Officer; VC-724 Squadron, HMAS *Albatross*, New South Wales, A-4G, Macchi MB326H, RAG Instructor.  
 10/81-02/84 Fighter Attack Squadron VFA-125, NAS Lemoore, F/A-18 A/B RAG Instructor.  
 02/84-10/86 Strike Fighter Squadron VFA-132, NAS Lemoore, USS *Coral Sea*, NAS Cecil Field, Department Head.  
 10/86-09/88 Office of the CNO, OP-60, Pentagon, Joint Action Officer.  
 01/87-06/89 Georgetown University, MA National Security Studies.  
 09/88-06/89 Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington DC, Student, Commandant's Award for Research.  
 07/89-12/89 VFA-106, NAS Cecil Field, F/A-18 Refresher Training.  
 12/89-07/92 VFA - 83, USS *Saratoga*, NAS Cecil Field, XO/CO.  
 07/92-01/95 Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, NAS Pensacola, CO, Flight Leader.  
 01/95-02/95 CAG training, NAB Dam Neck, NAS Miramar, NAS Fallon.  
 02/95-05/95 Fifth Allied Tactical Air Force, Vicenza, Italy, Assistant Chief of Plans.  
 05/95-09/95 VFA-106, NAS Cecil Field, F/A-18 Refresher Training.  
 09/95-12/95 VF-101, NAS Oceana, F-14A/B RAG Training.  
 01/96-10/96 COMFITWINGLANT, NAS Oceana, Special Projects.  
 10/96 Retired from active duty.

## Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Flight School: Unusual pipeline to wings of gold. Completed Basic in the T-28, then directly to TA-4s.
- (2) A-7E RAG. Low levels, bombs, bullets, and rockets! Night CQ on the Lady Lex.
- (3) VA-105. Two Med deployments at the height of the Cold War. Battle E. McClusky Award (best attack squadron in the Navy 07/76-12/77).
- (4) Australia. RIMPAC cruise on tiny HMAS *Melbourne* flying A-4Gs, daytime only! Port call in Honiara, Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal).
- (5) VFA-125. Initial cadre of F/A-18 instructors. Contributed to the development of Hornet tactics and procedures. Transitioned fleet squadrons and Hornet babies.
- (6) VFA-132. Plank-owner; this initial Privateer ready room produced three astronauts, an admiral, a vice admiral, and a rear admiral. First East Coast Hornet deployment. 3 months of "Line of Death" ops against the Soviet trained and equipped Libyan air force. Strike on Benghazi 15 April 1986. Estocian Award (Best Hornet squadron in the Navy). Longest unrefueled Hornet flight, 1725 NM (unofficial), NAS Lemoore to NAS Pensacola.
- (7) VFA-83. Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Led long range air wing strikes into to Iraq and Kuwait from the Red Sea. Estocian Award, Battle E, CNO Safety Award.
- (8) Blue Angels. '92 European tour as Blue Angel 9 (squadron pilot!). First Hornet into Moscow, Bulgaria, Romania. Flew a MIG-29 in Moscow, and a P-51 in El Centro. Flight leader in '93 and '94. Wingmen and ace maintainers made us look good!.
- (9) Logged over 3800 Hornet hours and more than 500 USS *Saratoga* traps.
- (10) Tailhooker of the Year, 1996.

## Summary of Significant Post Career Events

- (1) Second career in cargo airlines, flying freighters domestically and internationally. 1996-2014.
- (2) Co-founder and CEO in 1998 of The Trader Jon's Preservation Squadron, Inc. Goal was to buy and operate the historic bar as a non-profit entity. The organization was ultimately unsuccessful in buying Traders, but donated its treasury — roughly \$80,000 — to the Tailhook Educational Foundation, the Marine

Corps Scholarship Foundation and the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation.

- (3) In 2002, retroactively promoted to Captain, date of rank 1 July 1995, the result of BCNR petition submitted in 1996. Original promotion, which had the advice and consent of the United States Senate, was arbitrarily cancelled by the Secretary of the Navy in December 1995 because I had attended Tailhook '91.
- (4) Former President of the Blue Angels Foundation, a non-profit organization providing academic scholarships to Blue Angel dependents and grants to wounded Veterans organizations.
- (5) Enjoying retirement with the love of my life, Susie, my former high school sweetheart, and spending time with our three daughters and seven grandchildren.