



Jerry L. Terrell CAPT, USN (Ret.)
 "Possum"

Date of Designation: April 23, 1958 NA# T-6531

Dates of Active Duty: 29 June 1956 – 1 September 1983

Total Flight Hours: 4,370

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 972

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,446 Prop: 924 VF/VA: 3,576
 VT: 668 Other: 126

Combat Tours:

- Vietnam: VA-15, Apr. 1966-Nov. 1966, 99 missions (A-4B, USS *Intrepid* (CVA-11))
- Vietnam: VA-15, May 1967-Dec. 1967, 101 missions (A-4C, USS *Intrepid* [CVA-11])
- Vietnam: VA-105, May 1972-Jun. 1972. 21 missions (A-7A), USS *Saratoga* {CVA-60}
- Vietnam: VA-93 Jul. 1972-Jan. 1973, 155 missions (A-7B, USS *Midway* [CVA-41])

Total Combat Missions: 376

Aviation Commands:

- CO VA-93, July 1972-Jan. 1973
- CO VA-174, May 1975-July 1976
- CO NAS Cecil Field, Sept. 1980-July 1982

Combat Awards:

- 1 Legion of Merit
- 7 Distinguished Flying Cross Medals
- 1 Bronze Star
- 39 Air Medals
- 3 Navy Commendation Medals



Duty Assignment Chronology

- 1956-1958 Naval Air Training Command, Student Naval Aviator (T-34B, T-28B/C, TV-2, F9F-2).
- 1958-1958 Aircraft Maintenance Officer's School, NATTC Memphis, TN
- 1958-1960 VA-176/VA-35, Line Division Officer (AD-6).
- 1960-1962 VA-44/VA-46. RP, Weapons Training & Safety Officer (A-4A/B/C).
- 1962-1963 US Naval Postgraduate School, DUINS (T-2B).
- 1963-1964 BUPERS, Aviation Assignment Officer (T-1A)
- 1964-1965 Marine Corps Schools, Quantico-AWS, DUINS, (T-1A).
- 1965-1967 VA-44/VA-15, RP, Admin Officer (A-4B/C/E).
- 1968-1970 COMFAIRJAX, Attack Training Officer (A-7A/B, A-4C, TA-4F, F-8K).
- 1970-1970 Armed Forces Staff College, DUINS (A-4B, TA-4F).
- 1970-1972 VA-174. Operations Officer, Executive Officer (A-7A/B/C/E).
- 1972-1972 VA-105, Executive Officer (A-7A).
- 1972-1973 VA-93, Commanding Officer (A-7B).
- 1973-1975 LATWING ONE, Chief Staff Officer (A-7A/B/C/E, TA-4J).
- 1975-1976 VA-174, Commanding Officer (A-7A/B/C/E).
- 1976-1977 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL, DUINS, (A-7E, TA-4J).
- 1977-1979 NAS Memphis, Executive Officer.
- 1979-1980 CRUDESGRU THREE, Chief of Staff.
- 1980-1982 NAS Cecil Field, Commanding Officer (A-7E, TA-7C).
- 1982-1983 SEABASEDASWINGSLANT, Chief of Staff, (A-7E, TA-7C).
- 1983-Present Retired list of the U.S. Navy

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) During 1967 predeployment workups, was awarded CARDIV TWO bombing trophy as best individual pilot in eight competing squadrons.

- Continued -

Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (2) Awarded 1967 “Top VALION (VA-15) Carrier Pilot”, 1967 Vietnam deployment, USS *Intrepid* (CVA-11)
- (3) Three combat deployments to the Tonkin Gulf, two of which were during periods of the most intensive air war activity over North Vietnam- summer of 1967 and summer of 1972.
- (4) During the 1967 Rolling Thunder campaign, as a designated Iron Hand leader, helped refine tactics that proved to be exceptionally effective in combating the SA-2 surface-to-air missile threat in the heavily defended skies over North Vietnam, tactics so effective that, by the end of 1967, the enemy’s stock of SAM’s had either been destroyed or expended- this undoubtedly led to the bombing halt declared in January of 1968
- (5) As CO of VA-93 in 1972 and one of the CVG-5’s designated strike leaders led many ALPHA strikes, destroying a myriad of targets in North Vietnam most notable of which was the Haiphong Shipyards.
- (6) During the 1972 Linebacker II campaign, led the first Iron Hand mission in support of the B-52 “Twelve Days of Christmas” attacks on Hanoi which led directly to the cessation of the Vietnam War hostilities one month later.
- (7) As Commanding Officer, NAS Cecil Field, laid the groundwork for infrastructure support development for the F/A-18 aircraft’s introduction into AIRLANT squadrons.
- (8) After retiring from the Navy, flew B-707 aircraft with a U.S. air carrier between destinations throughout the U. S., Canada, Latin America, and Europe-holds an FAA Airline Transport Pilot Certificate.
- (9) Taught for 23 years as Professor of Aeronautics in the Jacksonville University (FL) aviation degree program-lauded as Jacksonville University’s 2010 Professor of the Year.

