



**Donald A. Weiss, RADM USN (Ret.)**  
"Don"

Date of Designation: 3 Feb 1970

Dates of Active Duty: 5 June 1968 - 1 June 2002

Total Flight Hours: 5,438

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 1,108 (367 Night)

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 5,250 Prop: 40 VF/VA: 5,050 VS: 50 Helo: 28  
Other: 148

Combat Tours: None

Aviation Commands:

CO VA-105  
DCAG CVW8  
CO USS *Concord* (AFS5)  
USS *Saratoga* (CV 60)  
Commander Carrier Group Three

### Duty Assignment Chronology

8/68-10/68 VT-1 NAS Saufley, FL (T-34).  
11/68-3/69 VT-7 NAS Meridian, MS (T-2A).  
4/69-5/69 VT-9 NAS Meridian, MS (T-2B).  
6/69-7/69 VT-4 NAS Pensacola, FL (T-2B).  
8/69-2/70 VT-23 NAS Kingsville, TX (TF-9/AF-9).  
3/70-4/70 Operation Feedback, NAS Atlanta, GA (T-34).  
6/70-11/70 VA-174, NAS Cecil, FL (A7B/A7E)  
12/70-3/74 VA-66, (A7E)(CAG-7, CV62) (Personnel,  
Aircraft Division & Training Officer).  
4/74-2/77 VA-174 (Instructor A7E, Weapons Instructor)  
NAS Cecil Field, FL / MCAS Yuma, AZ.  
3/77-12/79 VA-87 (A7E)(CAG-6 , CV62) (CAG-6,  
CV66) (DH - Safety, Maint, OPS).  
1/80-12/81 Naval Military Personnel Command (Light  
Attack Sea Detailer).



1/82-4/82 VA-174 (A7E Refresher Training).  
5/82-5/85 VA-105 (A7E) (CO/XO (CAG-3, CV67)  
(CAG-15, CVN70, 1st Marine Air Wing,  
MAG 12).  
6/85-4/87 Commander Air Forces Atlantic (Light Attack/  
Strike Fighter Readiness Officer).  
5/87-9/87 CAG Training Pipeline (FA18, A6, F14).  
10/87-3/89 Deputy Commander CAG 8 (CVN-71).  
4/89-11/89 CO Surface Warfare Training.  
12/89-6/91 Commanding Office, USS *Concord* (AFS5)  
(Operation Desert Shield/Storm).  
7/91 Fleet Operations Training.  
8/91-9/92 Seventh Fleet Operations Officer (Pacific  
Fleet, Yokosuka, Japan).  
10/92-11/92 CO Carrier Training.  
12/92-3/94 Commanding Officer, USS *Saratoga* (CV60).  
4/94-6/94 Joint Forces Training.  
7/94-7/96 Director of Operations, Defense Special  
Weapons Agency.  
8/96-9/96 Carrier Group Training.  
10/96-5/98 Commander Carrier Group Three, USS *Carl  
Vinson* Battle Group  
6/98-6/00 Commander, US Naval Forces Japan,  
Yokosuka, Japan.  
7/00-6/02 Director, Asian Pacific Security Affairs,  
Secretary of Defense Staff.

### Summary of Significant Career Events

- 1970 Top Gun / Top Hook Student VA174 (A7E)
  - Instructor Pilot VA 174.
    - > Created, set up and led the first formal A7E Pilot Training Center.
    - > Twelve Weapons Detachments in final two years.
  - Department head tour VA 87.
    - > Led the team that won the Light Attack Wing Atlantic weapons competition.
    - > Air Wing Top Ten Tailhook Award for both *America* and *Independence* deployments.
- Continued -

## Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- Command Tour VA 105.
  - > Deployed in *Kennedy*.
  - > Around the world Deployment *Carl Vinson*.
    - First Centurion on CVN70.
    - Led and flew the redeployed of two A7Es from Cubi Point to CVN70 in the Gulf of Aden with VMGR 152 C130 tanking support across the Indian Ocean but without Air Force support.
    - Won the Air Wing 15 Top Tailhook Award for the deployment.
  - > First USN UDP Deployment to First Marine Air Wing/Marine Air Group 12, Iwakuni, Japan.
    - Deployed twelve A7Es from Cecil Field, FL, to Iwakuni, Japan and back without incident.
  - > Won the Commander Naval Air Forces Atlantic, Battle "E" for best Light Attack Squadron.
- Deputy Commander, Carrier Air Wing Eight.
  - > Qualified in the A6, FA18 and F14.
  - > Deployed USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN71).
  - > First Double Centurion CVN 71.
- Commanding Officer, USS *Concord*.
  - > Desert Shield / Desert Storm.
  - > Followed Ike through the Suez.
  - > Serviced IKE, *Kennedy* and *Saratoga* in the Red Sea.
  - > First US ship into Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- Commanding Officer USS *Saratoga*.
  - > Accelerated Overhaul.
  - > Passed OPPE (first time).
  - > Carrier Air Wing Seventeen embarked.
  - > Very successful Operational Readiness Inspection.
  - > Deployed early in support of Yugoslavian Conflict.
  - > Launched Operations for "Provide Comfort" and "Deny Flight"
- Commander Carrier Group Three, USS *Carl Vinson* Battle Group.
  - > Battle Group work-up without a Training Group.
  - > Carrier Air Wing 11 launched a successful night strike upon entering The Persian Gulf.
- Commander Naval Forces Japan
  - > Forced closure of Shinkanpo Incinerator bordering NAS Atsugi, Japan. After several years of unsuccessful USG efforts, this single action improved the lives of thousands CVW-5 and Air Station sailors and their families.