



**John P. Gay, CAPT USN (Ret.)**  
"Phil"

Date of Designation: February 26, 1965 NA#V-22001

Dates of Active Duty: June 1963 - August 1993

Total Flight Hours: 4,127

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 1,257

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 4,097 Prop: 30 VF/VA: 3,825

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VA-216, USS *Hancock*, Oct. 1965-Jul. 1966  
 Vietnam: VA-216, USS *Coral Sea*, Oct. 1968-Mar. 1969  
 Vietnam: VA-93, USS *Midway*, Jun. 1971-Oct. 1971;  
 Vietnam: VA-93, USS *Midway* Apr. 1972-Feb. 1973  
 Iraq: USS John F. Kennedy, Jan.-Mar. 1991  
 Total 488 combat missions

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA-86, Mar. 1980 - Jun. 1982  
 COMCVW-13, Jun. 1984 - Nov. 1985  
 CO, USS *Niagara Falls*, Jan. 1988 - Aug. 1989  
 CO, USS *J. F. Kennedy*, Dec. 1990 - Feb. 1992

Awards:

Silver Star  
 Defense Superior Service Medal  
 4 Legion of Merit  
 Distinguished Flying Cross  
 Bronze Star  
 2 Meritorious Service Medal  
 47 Air Medal (41 Strike Flight; 6 Single Action)  
 Navy Commendation Medal  
 Navy Achievement Medal w/ "V"  
 Presidential Unit Citation  
 3 Navy Unit Citation  
 2 Meritorious Unit Citation  
 2 National Defense Service Medal



### Duty Assignment Chronology

6/63-2/65 NAVCAD Program, NAS Pensacola, FL;  
 NAS Meridian, MS; NAS Chase Field,  
 Beeville, TX.  
 3/65-10/65 VA-125, NAS Lemoore, CA.  
 10/65-5/69 VA-216, NAS Lemoore, CA.  
 5/69-5/71 VA-125, NAS Lemoore, CA.  
 6/71-6/73 VA-93, NAS Lemoore, CA.  
 8/73-7/75 Navy Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA.  
 8/75-4/77 COMCARGRU FOUR, NAS Norfolk, VA.  
 4/77-4/79 CNO (OP-96), Washington D.C.  
 4/79-11/79 VA-174, NAS Cecil Field, FL.  
 11/79-7/82 VA-86, NAS Cecil Field, FL.  
 7/82-7/83 CNO (OP-08), Washington D. C.  
 7/83-1/84 VA-125, NAS Lemoore, CA.  
 1/84-12/85 Carrier Air Wing THIRTEEN, NAS Oceana,  
 VA.  
 12/85-8/87 CNO (OP-06), Washington D. C.  
 8/87-1/88 SOSMRC, Newport, RI.  
 1/88-8/89 USS *Niagara Falls* (AFS-3), NS Agana,  
 Guam.  
 8/89-7/90 COMSC, WNY, Washington D. C.  
 11/90-2/92 USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67), NS Norfolk,  
 VA.  
 2/92-8/93 Joint Staff, J-5, JCS, Washington DC

### Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Top graduate of Navy Fighter Weapons School.
- (2) Commanding Officer of the VA-86 "Sidewinders".
- (3) Re-established Carrier Air Wing Thirteen and served as its commander.
- (4) Introduced the F/A-18 to the East Coast and established five new squadrons.
- (5) Commanding Officer of USS *Niagara Falls*.

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#### Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (6) Commanding Officer of USS *John F. Kennedy* during Desert Storm.
- (7) Executive Assistant to General John W. Vessey Jr., the President's Special Envoy to Vietnam for POW/MIA matters.

#### **Summary of Significant Post-Career Events**

- (1) 8/93 to present, owner with wife, Carol, of "Trout & About", a fly fishing teaching, guiding and destination service on the Gunpowder River in Monkton, MD.
- (2) 8/2000 to present - Board of Governors, Federation of Fly Fishers, Livingston, MT.