



**Robert E. Kirksey, VADM, USN (Ret.)**

Date of Designation: 20 May 1953 NA # T-3331

Dates of Active Duty: 31 October 1951-30 September 1986

Total Flight Hours: 4,300

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 510

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,800 Prop: 500 VF/VA: 3,800 VT: 500

Combat Tours: Total - 242 combat missions

Vietnam/Laos: VA-195 (A4C) Nov. 1964 - Dec. 1964,

Vietnam: VA-55 (A4C), May 1967 - Dec. 1967

Vietnam: VA-55 (A4F), May 1968 - Dec. 1968

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA-55, October 1967 - December 1968

CO, USS *Cleveland* (LPD-7), October 1972 - October 1973

CO, USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV-63), November 1973 - May 1975

Combat Awards:

Silver Star Medal

4 Distinguished Flying Crosses

Bronze Star Medal with combat "V"

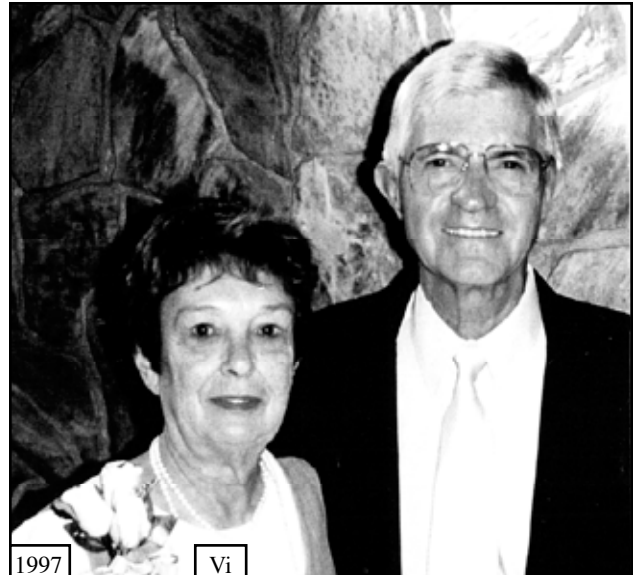
24 Air Medals (21 Strike/Flight and 4 Individual)

4 Navy Commendation Medals with combat "V"

Combat Action Ribbon

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

11/51-11/52 NABTC, NAS Pensacola, FL (Instrn).  
 11/52-3/53 NAATC, NAAS Cabiness Field, TX (Instrn).  
 6/53-6/53 NAATC, NAS Corpus Christi, TX (Instrn).  
 7/53-8/53 NAATC, NAAS Kingsville, TX (Instrn).  
 9/53-9/56 Fighter Squadron 61 (Communications & Ordnance Officer).  
 9/56-7/59 Naval Advanced Training Command Activity, NAS Memphis, TN (ATU-105/BTG-7) (Flight Instructor).



5/60-10/62 USS *Currituck* (AV-7) (Communications Officer).  
 10/62-4/63 Attack Squadron 125 (Instrn).  
 4/63-12/64 Attack Squadron 195 (Maintenance & Operations Officer).  
 12/64-7/66 USNPGS, Monterey, CA. (Instrn).  
 7/66-1/67 Attack Squadron 125 (Flight Instructor).  
 1/67-10/67 Attack Squadron 55 (Executive Officer).  
 10/67-12/68 Attack Squadron 55 (Commanding Officer).  
 12/68-7/70 Office of CNO (Head, Europe and NATO Branch, OP-614, of the Political/Military Policy and Current Plans Division, OP-61 National War College.  
 8/70-7/71 Commander Carrier Division 1 (ACOS Operations).  
 7/71-9/72  
 10/72-10/73 CO, USS *Cleveland* (LPD-7).  
 11/73-5/75 CO, USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV-63).  
 6/75-4/76 Office of CNO (Head, Aviations Plans and Program Branch, OP-508., of the Aviation Plans and Requirements Division, OP-50).  
 4/76-12/76 Office of CNO (Director., Aviation Manpower and Training Division, OP-59/Director, Carrier (CV) Programs Division, OP-55).  
 12/76-1/78 Office of CNO (Director, Carrier (CV) Program Division, OP-55).  
 1/78-6/78 NUC PWR Training Unit, Idaho Falls, ID (Instrn Senior Officers Ship Material Readiness Course).  
 6/78-8/79 Commander, Carrier Group THREE.  
 8/79-7/81 Commander, Carrier Strike Force SEVENTH Fleet/Commander, Carrier Group FIVE.  
 8/81-5/83 Office of CNO (Director, Strategy, Plans and Policy Division, OP-60).  
 6/83-6/84 Staff USCINCPAC (Director for Plans and Policy, J5).  
 8/84-9/86 Office of CNO (Director, Command and Control, OP-094).  
 10/1/86 Retired from active duty.

## Summary of Significant Career Events

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|---|---|---|
| (1) <u>COMCARDIV 1 (ACOS OPS)</u><br>When assigned Yankee Station Commander, exercised primary staff cognizance over execution and supervision of all Task Force 77 combat operations including mining of Haiphong Harbor. (Aug. 1971 - Sep. 1972).                 | 05 AUG 1930<br>01 MAY 1948<br>31 OCT 1951<br>20 MAY 1953<br>01 NOV 1954<br>07 MAR 1957<br>01 MAY 1957<br>01 OCT 1962<br>01 JUN 1967<br>01 AUG 1971<br>09 APR 1976 | Born in Atlanta Georgia<br>Enlisted, U. S. Naval Reserve<br>Reported for active duty<br>Appointed Ensign U. S. Naval Reserve<br>Lieutenant (junior grade)<br>Augmented in the U. S. Navy<br>Lieutenant<br>Lieutenant Commander<br>Commander<br>Captain<br>Designated Rear Admiral while serving in billets commensurate with that grade |
| (2) <u>Commander Task Force 77.</u><br>First Battle Force Commander for SEVENTHFLT (CTF 70) was joint TF Commander for rescue operations for hostages held in Tehran. Commander over 2-4 CVBG's; about 45 ships and 38,000 personnel. Mission failed at Desert ONE. | 01 JUL 1977<br>01 AUG 1984<br>01 OCT 1986   | Rear Admiral<br>Vice Admiral<br>Retired   |
| (3) As CO of USS <i>Cleveland</i> , was first ship to enter Haiphong Harbor to minesweep - ironic that I participated in the mining (VA-55); planning all gulf/river mining as CARDIV 1 AOCPS OPS and then CO of <i>Cleveland</i> to clean it up.                   |   |   |