



William R. McClendon, RADM, USN (Ret.)
 "Bill"

Date of Designation: 1 June 1942 NA # 12377

Dates of Active Duty: 1 July 1941 - 31 August 1977

Total Flight Hours: 3,500

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 230

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 300 Prop: 3,200 VF/VA: 1,500

Other: Miscellaneous to include SNB, TBM, SNJ

Combat Tours:

WW II: VF-29, USS *Santee*, Oct. - Nov. 1942. North Africa invasion - 20 combat missions

WW II: VC-10, May - Oct. 1944, Western Pacific/Landing Signal Officer (LSO) aboard USS *Gambier Bay* (CVE-73). Sunk off Leyte

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-173 (first FJ-3 squadron), Jul. 1954 - Jan. 1956.

CO, USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA-31), Nov. 1964 - Dec. 1965.

COMCARDIV NINE. Aug. 1969 to Sep. 1970.

CTF-77/COMCARDIV FIVE. Feb. 1973 - Jun. 1974

Combat Awards:

None for flying. Bronze Star and 3 Legion of Merit for Command Performance during Vietnam war.

Duty Assignment Chronology

7/41-6/42 Flight training NAS Dallas, NAS Jacksonville, and NAS Corpus Christi.
 6/42-8/42 Advanced VF training at ACTG Norfolk, VA.
 8/42-6/43 VF-29. Covered invasion of North Africa aboard USS *Santee*.



6/43-1/44 LSO training at NAS Jacksonville and NAS Green Cove Springs.
 1/44-10/44 LSO with VC-10 and aboard USS *Gambier Bay* (CVE-73).
 1/45-2/46 Fleet Air West Coast training staff as LSO.
 2/46-6/47 CVEG-1 as LSO.
 6/47-6/49 VF-11A. Operations Officer (1 year) and Executive Officer (1 year).
 6/49-6/50 Navy General Line School, Newport. RI. Student.
 6/50-2/53 OPNAV, (OP-53) Flight Safety Branch from Jun. 50-Dec. 51 and Naval Aviation Safety Activity, Norfolk, VA., Dec 51 - Feb 53. Same job, split location.
 2/53-6/54 USS *Wasp* (CVA-18). Air Operations Officer and Assistant Operations Officer.
 6/54-1/56 CO, VF-173. NAS Jacksonville and deployed in USS *Intrepid*.
 2/56-7/58 Office of Naval Intelligence, Estimates Branch, OPNAV.
 7/58-6/59 Naval War College. Student.
 7/59-10/60 USS *Bennington* (CVA-20). Air Officer. Staff, Commander Carrier Division SEVEN.
 10/60-6/62 Assistant Operations and Plans.
 6/62-6/63 U. S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA. Student
 7/63-6/64 CO, USS *Firedrake* (AE-14).
 7/64-11/64 TDY, COMNAVAIRPAC, San Diego, CA.
 11/64-12/65 CO, USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA-31).
 2/66-6/67 Chief of Staff, COMCARDIVE ONE.
 6/67-3/68 Deputy Director for Operations, National Military Command Center, Washington. Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff (OJCS).
 3/68-7/69 OJCS, Operations Directorate, J-34.
 8/69-9/70 Commander, Carrier DIVISION NINE.
 9/70-2/73 OPNAV, (OP-51) 3 months and (OP-05B) for 25 months.
 2/73-6/74 Commander Attack Carrier Striking Force/ Commander Carrier Division FIVE. Seventh Fleet.

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Duty Assignment Chronology continued.

6/74-8/77 CINCPAC. Director for Plans, J-5.

8/31/77 Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) As LSO and occasional pilot, helped introduce the Ryan Fireball (FR-1) to the fleet in 1945-46-47. One of a kind airplane, recip forward and small jet engine aft (I-16) and tricycle landing gear. Was a poor carrier aircraft and the Navy had only one such squadron equipped - VX-66 later VF-1E.

- (2) Commanded the first FJ-3 squadron (VF-173) and with nine other fleet pilots did some of the Service Test testing/evaluation at Test Pilot Center at NAS Patuxent. Made first deployment aboard USS *Intrepid* (CVA-11) which was to the Med.