



**Richard J. Schulte, Captain USN (Ret.)**  
 “Dick”

Date of Designation: 1 July 1950

Dates of Active Duty: 1 April 1949 - 1 April 1979

Total Flight Hours: 7,539

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 523

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 2,704 Prop: 3,250 VF/VA/VAH: 2,704  
 VU: 93 VT: 1,492

Combat Tours:

Korea: VP-6, 1950-1951, NAS Atsugi & Iwakuni  
 Vietnam VF-161, 1966-1967, USS *Constellation*  
 VF-161, 1967-1968, USS *Coral Sea*  
 USS *White Plains* 1971-1973  
 USS *Midway* 1973-1975

Total combat missions – 53 Korea / 216 Vietnam

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-161, Jan.1967-Feb. 1968  
 CO, VF-121, Sep.1969-Jul.1970  
 CO, USS *White Plains*, (AFS-4) Sep.1972-Aug.1973  
 CO, USS *Midway*, (CVA-41/CTG77.4), Sep.1973- Mar.1975

Combat Awards:

Silver Star  
 2 Distinguished Flying Crosses  
 2 Bronze Stars  
 21 Air Medals  
 2 Navy Commendation Medals  
 5 Navy Unit Commendations

### Duty Assignment Chronology

3/48-7/50 Flight Training, Pensacola, FL & Corpus Christi, TX.  
 8/50-11/50 FAW-4, NAS Whidbey, WA.  
 1/51-7/53 VP-6, NAS Barber’s Pt. HI, Japan & Alaska.



8/53-6/56 Flight Instructor, Pensacola, FL.  
 6/56-8/56 CIC School, NAS Glenview, IL.  
 9/56-10/56 Air Control School, NAS Glynco, GA.  
 11/56-9/58 CIC, Flight Deck & Assistant Air Operations, USS *Hancock*.  
 10/58-1/59 JTTU, NAS Olathe, KS (F9).  
 3/59-6/59 HATUPAC, NAS Whidbey Island, WA.  
 7/59-2/61 HATRON-4, USS *Ticonderoga*, WestPac (A3).  
 3/61-3/63 Post Graduate School, Monterey, CA.  
 4/63-2/66 VX-5, NAS China Lake, CA. (A3, A4 and F4 Projects).  
 3/66-4/66 VF-121, F-4 Replacement Crew Training. NAS Miramar, CA.  
 5/66-2/68 XO/CO VF-161, USS *Constellation*/ USS *Coral Sea*, Vietnam (F4).  
 3/68-9/69 Air Officer, USS *Ticonderoga*, Vietnam.  
 10/69-7/70 CO VF-121, F4 RAG NAS Miramar (F4, A4).  
 8/70-7/71 Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C.  
 7/71-8/72 NAVAIR PMA Sidewinder (AIM-9D,-9L).  
 9/72-8/73 CO USS *White Plains* (AFS-4), Sasebo, Japan.  
 9/73-3/75 CO USS *Midway* (CVA-41), Yokosuka, Japan.  
 4/75-3/79 COS COM3RDFLT, Ford Island, HI.  
 3/79 Retired from active duty.

### Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Naval Aviation is...*outstanding people...Superb flying.*
- (2) Our A3 crew scored a bullseye from 40k on Phoenix RBS to help win the 1959 Yuma Air Weapons meet for CNAP. Capt. “Jig Dog” Ramage USN, CNAL REP., personally bought the beer for all-hands.
- (3) Project Pilot for “All Services, F-4 Air-Ground Weapons Eval.” at VX-5 China Lake, Sep. 64-Aug.65. Wrote the F-4 NATOPS manual for USN/USMC. Conducted the first OST Weapon flight from *Constellation* (CVA-64) to an instrumented range drop at China Lake to complete the All-Weapons OPEVAL.

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### Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (4) When the NVN war broke out in 1965, deployed with with a 3 man team to USS *Constellation*/CVW-14 on Yankee Station to: a) conduct ready room ground school in 45 Degree Dive Delivery, and flew in the backseat with each F4 pilot making practice runs on a towed spar; b) Installed bomb racks and gun sights; c) bore sighted each F4 and checked out the bomb select wiring; and d) instructed the squadron ordnance men on loading bombs and installing new mechanical fuse.
  - We moved to USMC VMA-115 at El Toro to provide similar assistance. Then to Miramar to conduct assistance to CVG-9's, 2 F4 squadrons, prior to deployment.
  - In early 1966, set up an A/G training syllabus for VF-121, the F4 RAG.
- (5) In June 1966, was sent to VF-161/CVG15 embarked on USS *Constellation* as replacement for XO crew loss.
- (6) In 1967, as CO VF-161, was designated a major strike leader in Vietnam, by CAW-15. Planned and led Airwing strikes including the combined Navy strike on Phuc Yen Reventments (North) with no losses.
- (7) As CO VF-121, 1968-70, expanded RAG ACM Department into RAG Fighter Weapons Detachment named "TOPGUN". As a result of the: a) realistic ground school and in flight training at VF-121; b) the use of the 6 A4E's from VADM Bringle, CNAP providing realistic air opposition; c) strong support from CAPT Lou Paige, CAG-12 who not only used his wing assets to support "TOPGUN", but he also flew as one of the first opposition pilots; and d) the outstanding support by CAPT Jim Foster VX-4 who provided project pilots and results from HAVE DRILL and HAVE DONUT projects, then obtained the first Air Combat Range and sited it at Yuma. The Navy Kill Ratio climbed almost immediately from 1 to 1 in 1970, to 12 to 1, in favor of USN through the end of the war.
- (8) In 1971-72, as designated Sidewinder PMA, NAVAIR/China Lake helped develop first Joint Services Office for the, All-Aspect, AIM-9L. Introduced world-wide depot level maintenance.
- (9) In 1972, moved *White Plains* (AFS-4) with approximately 100 families from San Francisco to become the first ship to HOME PORT in Sasebo, JAPAN.
- (10) In 1973, moved *Midway* (CVA-41) and CVW-15 with approximately 800 families from Alameda to Home Port in Yokosuka, Japan. *Midway* was first CVA/CVW to Homeport outside CONUS.
- (11) In 1974, VADM Steele, Com7thFlt, invited the retired Imperial Japanese officers and current JSDF officers to lunch on *Midway*. It was interesting to meet face-to-face and talk with the men actually responsible for the planning of the air attacks on Pearl Harbor and the battle of Midway, especially since the Japanese had purged all their records of the Midway losses.
- (12) In 1974, Mr. Frank Sinatra, wife Barbara and band, gave a 4th of July concert on *Midway's* hanger deck for TG-77.4 (*Midway*, CG Worden and DESRON 15).
- (13) In October 1974, *Midway* operated in the Sea of Japan, during this period we intercepted 114 USSR Long Range Air over-flights in ninety-six hours of continuous air operations.
- (14) Retired from USN active duty in 1979 and joined American Greetings Corporation as an Executive Director. In 1985 he became Managing Director, Continental Europe. He retired from American Greetings in 1994