

William L. Bennett, Captain, USN (Ret.) "Bill"

Date of Designation: 20 November 1945 NA # P-23015

Dates of Active Duty: 8 August 1940 - 1 November 1972

Total Flight Hours: 3,582

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 55 Rotary: 648

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 45 Prop: 2,300 Helo: 1,200 VF/VA: 25 VR/VP: 2,050 HS/HC/HU: 1,200 VS: 110 VT: 200 LTA: 15 Other: 10 (Free air balloon)

## Combat Tours:

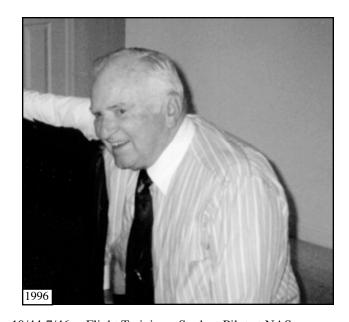
- WW II: USS *Baltimore*, Sky Plot Officer (credited with killing three Japanese "Bettys". Night firings. 14 month deployment.
- Vietnam: CO, USS *Winston* (AKA-94), Vietnam coast. CO, USS *Yorktown* (CVS-10), Sea of Japan and Vietnam

Aviation Commands:

- Officer-in-Charge, HS-2 Detachment "A". Aug. 1952 Dec. 1952.
- Officer-in-Charge, HS-2 Detachment "A". Aug. 1953 Jan. 1954.
- CO, HS-3, Mar. 1960 Mar. 1961.
- CO, HS-10 (RAG), Aug. 1961 Aug. 1962.
- CO, USS Yorktown (CVS-10), Jul. 1967 Jul. 1968.

## **Duty Assignment Chronology**

- 8/40-6/43 U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD.
- 6/43-8/43 NAS Jacksonville Flight Indoctrination.
- 8/43-10/44 USS *Baltimore*-Sky Plot Officer. Atlantic and Pacific ocean campaigns including; Tarawa, Gilbert and Marshall Islands, Truk, Saipan, Guam, Philippine Sea and Presidential cruise to Hawaii and Alaska.



10/44-7/46	Flight Training - Student Pilot at NAS
	Ottumwa, IA., NAS Pensacola, FL., and NAS
	Hutchinson, KS.
8/46-8/48	VP-102, VP (HL)-2 at NAS Agana, Guam.
	Co-Pilot and Patrol Plane Commander.
	Officer-in-Charge of Detachments at Pelilieu
	and Kwajalien.
9/48-11/48	VP (HL)-8 at NAS Kaneohe, HI.
12/48-7/49	COMFAIR West Coast at NAS San Diego, CA
	- Aide and Flag Lieutenant.
8/49-8/51	Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River MD.
	Test Pilot School, Electronics Test.
9/51-3/52	HU-1 at NAAS Ream Field. Rescue Pilot.
3/52-8/52	XO, HS-2 at NAAS Ream Field.
8/52-12/52	USS Rendova (CVE-114). Helicopter Pilot in
	support of Joint Task Force 2 (First Hydrogen
	Bomb Test).
1/53-8/53	HS-2 at NAAS Ream Field. ASW Helicopter
	Pilot.
8/53-1/54	Officer-in-Charge, HS-2 Detachment A in
	USS Sicily (CVE-118) and at NS Oppama,
	Japan (Evaluating Dipping Sonar-OP V 109).
2/54-6/54	Student, Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk,
	VA.
7/54-2/57	War Plans Officer, Chief, Naval Air Technical
	Training at NAS Memphis, TN.
3/57-2/58	Operations Officer, VP-11 at NAS Brunswick,
	ME., and RNAS Halfar, Malta.
2/58-3/60	Staff, Commander Naval Air Forces, Atlantic
	Fleet at NAS Norfolk, VA. Training Division.
3/60-3/61	CO, HS-3 at NAS Norfolk, VA., and USS
	Valley Forge (CVS-15) - Mediterranean
	deployment.
4/61-8/61	Staff, Commander Naval Air Forces, Pacific
	Fleet at NAS North Island, San Diego, CA.
	Training Division.
8/61-8/62	CO, HS-10 at NAAS Ream Field, San Ysidro,
	CA. Replacement Air Group Training.
8/62-1/63	U.S. Naval Academy Annapolis MD Flag

 8/62-1/63 U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD. Flag Lieutenant and Aide to the Superintendent.
Continued -

1/63-2/66	Chief of Naval Operations Staff, Office of the
	Deputy for Research and Development (OP-
	(OP-722) - aircraft, helicopters, missiles,
	bombs, air cushion vehicles, and hydrofoils.
2166 6167	CO USS Winston (AVA 04) Desifie

3/66-6/67 CO, USS *Winston* (AKA-94). Pacific deployment. (Moving US Army, US Marine Combat Engineers and ROK artillery along the coast of Vietnam).

7/67-7/68 CO, USS *Yorktown* (CVS-10). Pacific deployment (Vietnam, Sea of Japan Pueblo Incident).

768-5/69 Chief of Staff, ASW Group One. Pacific deployment.

- 7/69-10/72 Chief of Naval Material, Washington, D. C. Special Assistant to the Chief for Joint Matters.
- 11/1/72 Retired from active duty.

## **Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) First helicopter qualified pilot to graduate from Navy Test Pilot School. Assisted TPS Professor with writing Chapter in the Aerodynamics book dealing with the coefficient of lift of a helicopters blade.
- (2) Pilot of first helicopter to fly over "hole" left by Hydrogen Bomb test with Dr. Von Braum, receiving over 5,000 milli-roentgens ray exposure in 20 minutes.
- (3) First helicopter pilot to hold a Green Instrument rating. Led a flight of 16 helicopters on instruments from Norfolk, VA., to Quonset Point, RI.
- (4) First designated, helicopter pilot to command an *Essex* Class carrier.