



Jerry C. Breast, Rear Admiral USN (Ret.)
 "Felter"

Date of Designation: September 1949

Dates of Active Duty: June 4, 1958 - March 30, 1990

Total Flight Hours: 3,800

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 998

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,120 Prop: 630 VF/VA: 3,580

Rotary: 50 VT: 220

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VA-163, Aug 1967-Mar 1968, USS *Oriskany* (A-4C) 118 sorties NVN

Vietnam: VA-163, Aug. 1968-Mar 1969, USS *Hancock* (A-4E) 108 sorties NVN

Vietnam: VA-82, June 1972-May 1973, USS *America* (A-7C) 110 sorties NVN

Total Combat Missions: 336 (A-4C/E - 226, A-7C - 110)

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA-82, Sept. 1973 - Aug. 1974 (A-7C)

CO, USS *Savannah* (AOR-4), Dec. 1980 - June 1981

CO, USS *Independence* (CV-62), Aug. 1981 - June 1983

CO, Naval Safety Center, June 1983 - Aug. 1985

COMMANDER CARRIER GROUP TWO, Aug. 1985 - Feb. 1987

Combat Awards:

DSM, April 1986 Strike on Libya/Operations Vicinity Libya

Silver Star, Oct. 1967 Strike on Hanoi Thermal Power Plant

3 Distinguished Flying Crosses, Strikes over NVN

6 Air Medals, 21 Strike/Flight Awards

3 Navy Commendation Medals w/Combat "V" Strikes NVN



Non-Combat Awards

Defense Distinguished Service Medal, J-3 US Space Command

Legion of Merit, F/A-18 Program Sponsor (OP-506)

2 Meritorious Service Medals Test Pilot (VX-5 and Pax River)

Duty Assignment Chronology

6/58-9/59	Commissioned at Vanderbilt NROTC, began Naval Aviation Training, Designated Naval Aviator.
9/59-2/63	VA-66, two cruises in USS <i>Intrepid</i> , two in USS <i>Enterprise</i> (A4D).
3/63-4/64	U. S. Naval Postgraduate School (Engineering Science)
5/64-7/67	VX-5, NWTC China Lake. Testing Air-to-Ground Weapons (A4D, F4H-1).
8/67-3/68	VA-163, USS <i>Oriskany</i> (A-4C).
3/68-7/69	VA-163, USS <i>Hancock</i> (A-4E).
8/69-7/72	NATC Patuxent River, US Naval Test Pilot School, then Weapons Systems Test as WASM (all models A4, F4-J/M/K)
8/72-7/74	VA-82, USS <i>America</i> XO then CO (A-7C)
8/74-6/75	US Naval War College, Washington, D.C.
7/75-7/77	USS <i>America</i> Ops. Officer then XO.
8/77-7/79	OP-506 as F/A-18 Program Sponsor (MA Degree in Political Science).
8/79-7/81	CO, USS <i>Savannah</i> (AOR-4).
8/81-5/83	CO, USS <i>Independence</i> (CV-62).
6/83-7/85	Commander, Naval Safety Center.
8/85-3/87	Commander, Carrier Group Two.
4/87-3/90	Operations Officer (J-3) US Space Command
3/90	Retired U.S. Navy

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) First squadron tour (VA-66) made three Med cruises (CVA-11) and the Cuban Missile Crisis (CVN-65).

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- (2) First shore tour, after US Naval Postgraduate School, was as test pilot with VX-5 flying new weapons and systems from A4D and F4H
- (3) Did live drop testing with new Snakeye Series and developed tactics for new Walleye delivery.
- (4) Arrived at second A-4 squadron tour with VA-163 as Weapons Training Officer. 118 combat sorties in the A-4C. Planned first usage of Walleye in combat on Hanoi Thermal Power Plant. Successfully put the HTPP out of action for four months.
- (5) Completed second combat cruise with VA-163. Flew 108 combat sorties in the A-4E. VA-163 was the most heavily attrited U.S. Navy squadron since Torpedo Eight at the Battle of Midway.
- (6) After completion of US Naval Test Pilot School at Pax River, was selected to test the F4M weapons system for the RAF. Found the Ferranti system to be UNSAT for service use.
- (7) Assigned to VA-82 as XO, then CO. Flew 110 combat sorties in the A-7C on third combat cruise to Yankee Station.
- (8) After one year at the Naval War College, was assigned to USS *America* (CVA-66) as Operations Officer. Moved to XO after two year "deep select" for O-6.
- (9) After designation as Weapons System Acquisition Manager, was assigned as F/A-18 Program Sponsor in OP-506.
- (10) As CO of USS *Savannah* (AOR-4), sailed in four different oceans and three seas in 11 months at sea.
- (11) Commanded USS *Independence* (CV-62) during one extended Med cruise.

- (12) Ordered to the Naval Safety Center (1983); achieved the lowest aviation accident rate in history and expanded safety culture to surface warfare community.
- (13) Assigned Commander Carrier Group Two onboard USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43); took first F/A-18 squadrons to the Med; demonstrated the operational flexibility of the new machines in defense and attack during Operations in Vicinity of Libya and strikes against Libya in 1986.
- (14) Ordered to US Space Command as Operations Officer (J-3). Was able to convince strategic organization to develop communications to intercept tactical missiles in time for use by Israel in 1991.