



**James B. Busey, Admiral USN (Ret.)**  
"Jim"

Date of Designation: 6 August 1954

NA # 5081

Dates of Active Duty: 4 January 1952 - July 1989

Total Flight Hours: 4,467

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 407

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,691 Prop: 776

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: July 1967 – Jan. 1968, 115 missions

Dec. 1968 – Mar. 1969, 74 missions

Total combat missions: 189

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA-216, Dec. 1968 – Sept. 1969

CO, VA-125, May 1971 – Mar. 1972

CO, NAS Lemoore, Oct. 1975 – Jan. 1978

Commander Light Attack Wing Pacific, Oct. 1982 – July 1983

Commander Naval Air Systems Command, July 1983 - Aug. 1985

Commander in Chief U.S. Naval Forces Europe, Aug. 1987 – Aug. 1989

Commander in Chief NATO Southern Region, Aug. 1987- Jul. 1989

Combat Awards:

Navy Cross

3 Distinguished Flying Crosses

Bronze Star Medal with combat "V"

3 Air Medals (Individual)

Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V"

Navy Achievement Medal with combat "V"



Other Awards:

Defense Distinguished Service Medal

2 Navy Distinguished Service Medals

5 Legion of Merit

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

|             |                                                                                                                    |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1/52        | Entered Government service.                                                                                        |
| 1/52-3/52   | Naval Station Great Lakes, IL, Boot Camp.                                                                          |
| 4/52-2/5    | Memphis, TN, AT (A) school.                                                                                        |
| 3/53-8/54   | NAVCAD, Flight Training Pensacola, FL, Corpus Christi, Cabiness, Kingsville, TX (SNJ, SNB, F6F, TV-2, F9F-2).      |
| 8/54-9/58   | VF-103/VA-36 NAS Cecil Field, FL (F9F-5, F9F-8, F9F-8T, A4D-2).                                                    |
| 10/58-10/59 | JTTU Instructor (F9F-8, F9F-8T, F11F).                                                                             |
| 11/59-6/61  | VA-44, NAS Jacksonville, FL, Instructor, (F9F8T, A4D2, A4D2N).                                                     |
| 7/61-6/62   | USNPGS Monterey, CA, Line School Student (T2J-1).                                                                  |
| 7/62-6/64   | CARGRP-5 Afloat/San Diego Aide and Flag Lt (TV-2, F9F-8T, TF, C1A, T33B, C45J).                                    |
| 7/64-8/66   | USNPGS Monterey Student 5-term program and MBA program (TC45J, T-28B, T2A) received BS and MBA.                    |
| 9/66-1/67   | VA-125 NAS Lemoore, CA, RAG Student (TF9J, TA4F, A4C, A4E).                                                        |
| 1/67-4/68   | VA-163 Combat OPS Officer (A4E, TA4F).                                                                             |
| 5/68-11/68  | VA-125 NAS Lemoore OPS Officer (A4E, A4C, TA4F).                                                                   |
| 12/68-9/69  | VA-216 USS <i>Coral Sea</i> (CVA-43), CO (A4C, TA4F, A4E).                                                         |
| 10/69-10/70 | CTF-77 USS <i>Constellation</i> (CV-64)/USS <i>America</i> (CV-66), Strike Plans Staff Officer, (F4J, A4E, UC45J). |
| 10/70-5/71  | COMLATWINGPAC NAS Lemoore, CA Staff OPS Officer (T28, TA4F, A7E, A7B).                                             |
| 5/71-3/72   | VA-125 NAS Lemoore, CA, CO (A7A, A7B).                                                                             |
| 4/72-3/74   | OP-96 Systems Analysis Deputy Washington DC.                                                                       |

- Continued -

### Duty Assignment Chronology continued

4/74-9/75 COMCRUDESGRP-1 afloat/San Diego Chief of Staff.  
10/75-1/78 NAS Lemoore, CA, CO (C1A, US-2B, UH-1N, TA4J).  
4/78-7/80 Auditor General of the Navy, Washington DC.  
7/80-10/82 Comptroller Navy Material Command, Washington DC.  
10/82-7/83 COMLATWINGPAC NAS Lemoore, CA, Commander (F/A-18, TF/A-18, TA7C, TA4J, XV-15, F16, HAWK, VTXTS).  
7/83-8/85 COMNAVAIRSYSCOM, Washington, DC. Commander (CH53E, S76, UH-60, SH60B, TA7C, F/A-18B).  
8/85-3/87 VCNO, Washington DC.  
3/87-6/89 Commander in Chief Allied Forces Southern Region of NATO, Commander, Naples, IT  
Commander in Chief US Naval Forces Europe, Commander, London, UK (S3).  
6/89 Retired from Active Duty.  
6/89-12/91 Administrator FAA Washington DC (Gulfstream 4, Lear 60, Cessna Citation II, MD11)  
12/91-6/92 Department of Transportation, Deputy/Acting Secretary.  
6/92 Left Government service after 40.5 years.

### **Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) Enlisted and made AT3 after completing A school, then selected for Flight Training as a NAVCAD.
- (2) First Squadron tour in VF-102, that was re-designated as VA-36, we deployed to WESTPAC in USS *Bennington* (CVA-20), with first combination of angle deck and portable British mirror. We moved the mirror all over the deck and even routinely flew right hand patterns to landing.
- (3) Went to war in VA-163 with the greatest group or Naval Aviators anyone would want to serve with. There were countless "above and beyond" performances. Of our 8 losses 2 are still unaccounted for. Airwing 16 had a tough time of it in 1967.
- (4) Had some great jobs as Flag Officer. The most unusual was Auditor General of the Navy. Most interesting was as Commander of Naval Air System Command. Most challenging was as Vice Chief of Naval Operations. Most fun was as NATO Commander CinC South.
- (5) Accepting the Presidential appointments and serving as Administrator of the FAA and as Deputy/Acting Secretary of Transportation were two very interesting jobs and served as a transition out of government service after 40 years.

- (6) Serving AFCEA as President and CEO was an interesting transition to the public sector. AFCEA is an outstanding organization that brings government and industry together in a highly ethical way. I enjoyed my time there and learned that running an association and meeting a payroll is not a lot different than commanding organizations in our Navy.
- (7) I was privileged to have the experience of serving on corporate and non-profit Boards of Directors. Serving the stake-holders of Texas Instruments, Curtiss-Wright and MITRE were challenging and interesting times. I also value highly my time with the Flight Safety Foundation, The National Aeronautic Association and the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation.