



Richard W Butler RDML USN (Ret.)
 “Rhett”

Hometowns:

Born in the NAS Alameda Naval Hospital and lived in Alameda as a young child. Subsequently lived in Albuquerque, NM, Sanford, FL and Lexington, KY

High School and College Career:

Graduated Bates Creek HS in Lexington, KY (1977)
 Graduated University of Kentucky (1982)
 National War College (2009)

Dates on Active Duty: Oct 1983 – Feb 2016

Date Commissioned/Source: Oct 1983/AOCS

Date of Designation: Jul 1985

Total Flight Hours: 5664 Navy / 1500 Post Navy

Carrier/Ship Landings: 1066 Fixed Wing

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 5301 Prop: 329 VF/VA: 4080 VT: 322 HELO: 34
 Corporate Aviation Jet/Prop 1600

Combat tours:

DH VF-2 (F-14D), SOUTHERN WATCH, 1994-1995
 CO VFA-25, FA-18C, OEF/SOUTHRN WATCH, 2002-2003
 CVW-14, FA-18C/E/F, OIF 2006,

Total Combat Missions: 97 (F-14A/D - F/A-18C/E/F)

Commands:

VFA-25, 2001-2002
 TOPGUN, 2003-2004
 CVW-14, 2006-2008
 CCSG-4, 2014-2015



Combat/Other Flight Performance Awards:

Strike/Flight Air Medal (4)
 Navy Commendation

Duty Assignment Chronology

1983	Aviation Officer Candidate (AOCS)
1983-1985	Flight Training VT-27, VT-23, VT-21 (T-34, T-2, TA-4)
1985-1987	VT-23 (T-2) SERGRAD
1987-1988	VF-124 (F-14)
1988-1990	VF-51, USS <i>CARL VINSON</i> , (F-14A, LSO)
1990-1994	VF-124 IP, LSO (F-14A/B/D)
1994-1995	VF-2, USS <i>CONSTELLATION</i> , (F-14D)
1995-1997	TOPGUN (NFWS) OPS OFFICER (F-14A, FA/18C)
1997-1999	USEUCOM J-5S (Strategy, Resources, Congressional Affairs)
2000-2002	XO/CO VFA-25, USS <i>ABRAHAM LINCOLN</i> (FA-18C), Chairman CVW-14 Strike Warfare Board.
2003-2005	CO TOPGUN, NSAWC N7 (FA-18C, F-16A)
2005-2008	DCAG/CAG CVW-14, USS <i>RONALD REAGAN</i> , (FA-18C/E/F, E-2C, EA6B, SH-60B)
2008-2009	NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE, FT McNAIR, Washington, DC
2009-2011	CNAF COS, NAS NORTH ISLAND (FA-18C/E/F)
2011-2013	Director Aviation Plans and Requirements (OPNAV N98)
2013-2014	Commander, JTF GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba
2015-2016	Commander, CSG-4

Summary of Significant Career Events

(1) F-14 RAG Instructor Pilot and LSO at VF-124 (NAS MIRAMAR) during a period of significant change. During my tour we trained the initial cadre of F-14 women pilots and RIOs, introduced the F-14D to the fleet and developed the FRS syllabus for the first fleet F-14D squadrons.

(2) We also developed the initial A/G syllabus and tactics for the F-14 fleet. To do this we stood up the TOMCAT Strike Fighter Weapons School modeled after the Weapons Schools at OCEANA and LEMOORE. We were designated as a detachment assigned to VF-124 and as part of the initial cadre I served as the AOIC. We did all of this against the backdrop of the fallout from TAILHOOK 91.

(3) Awarded Navy COMM Medal for Heroic Achievement while serving as LSO aboard USS *RANGER*. Along with my fellow LSOs we responded to a flight deck fuel fire that had engulfed an A-6. We helped pull the aircrew and three deck personnel from the fire.

(4) As Maintenance Officer for VF-2, made the squadron's first deployment with the F-14D. We completed a successful WESTPAC/IO/ARABIAN GULF deployment participating in OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH. During that deployment I was the lead pilot for the CVW-14 Air Power Demo.

(5) 1995 COMFITWINGPAC TOMCAT Pilot of the Year

(6) Following my DH tour with VF-2 I reported to TOPGUN as the Operations Officer. It was about that time that the announcement was made that TOPGUN would move from MIRAMAR to NAS FALLON. As OPSO I facilitated the movement of the TOPGUN aircraft to NAS FALLON. As part of the move became a Plank Owner for the establishment of Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center (NSAWC). While it was painful leaving San Diego it was the right thing to do and led to significant improvements in strike warfare training Navy-wide.

(7) Led VFA-25 during deployment that included strike sorties over Afghanistan and Iraq. The squadron conducted several strikes leading up to OIF to include taking out a key SA-6 in Southern IRAQ.

(8) CAG/DCAG CVW-14. Three deployments in three years to include the maiden deployment of USS *RONALD REAGAN*. We spent the majority of those deployments in the IO/Arabian Gulf supporting OIF operations.

(9) As CCSG-4 we pushed to develop the C2X 2020 Roadmap which specifically stressed CVWs to operate in an all-domain threat environment.

Summary of Post Military Work

(1) Senior Corporate Pilot for Dollar Tree Corporation, Chesapeake, VA. (2016-present)

Personal

(1) Married to Lana since 1984. She is an incredible Navy Wife and extremely tolerant! We met in Corpus Christi, TX where she was teaching High School English.

(2) A second-generation Naval Aviator. Father was USNA Class of 53. He flew FJ-4 FURYs and RA-5C VIGALANTES. C.T. Butler gave his life for his country flying out of NAS Sanford, FL J

Associations/Membership/Boards:

(1) TOPGUN Association – Founding Board Member (2016-2021)

(2) Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation – Board Member (2020-present)

(3) TAILHOOK Association (1984-present)

(4) NAVAL Institute (1980-present)

(5) National Business Aviation Association (2016-present)

(6) Flight Safety Foundation (2021-present)