

CAPT Robert Gibson, USN (Ret.)
"Hoot"

Date of Designation: 29 January 1971

Active Duty: June 1969-August 1996

Total Flight Hours: 13,837

Carrier/Shipboard Landings: Fixed: 309

Approx. Flight Hours:

Jet: 11,563 Helo: 26 VF/VA: 1,005/220

Prop: 1,380 (including 706 Experimental) Rocket: 868

VT: 3,447 (predominantly NASA T-38)

Of total time, 6.899 hours as Southwest Airline pilot

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: USS Coral Sea, VF-111, April-Jun 1972,

56 combat missions

Vietnam: Apr 1975, VF-1 evacuation of Saigon,

1 combat mission Total Combat Missions: 57

Commands:

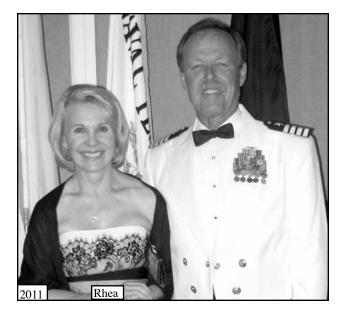
Commander, STS 61-C aboard Columbia, 1986 Commander, STS-27, aboard Atlantis, 1988 Commander, STS-47, aboard Endeavour, 1992 Commander, STS-71, aboard Atlantis, 1995 Chief of Astronaut Office, Dec 1992-Sep 1994

Combat Awards/Flight Performance Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross Medal 3 Air Medals

Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" Vietnam Service medal (One Bronze Star) Six Aviation & Three Space World Records Konstantin Tsiolkovsky Medal Yuri Gagarin Gold Medal

2 FAI Louis Bleriot Medals



Other Awards:

Defense Distinguished Service Medal Defense Superior Service Medal Legion of Merit

Defense Meritorious Service medal

Duty Assignment Chronology

6/69-1/71 Flight Training (T-34B, T-2, TA-4) 2/71-4/72 F-4 RAG VF-121/VF-126 (F-4J, TA-4)

4/72-10/73 VF-111 Weapons Training 10/73-12/73 F-14 RAG Student VF-124

1/74-8/75 VF-1 Personnel, Avionics, AME/PR

9/75-5/76 F-14 RAG Instructor VF-124 7/76-6/77 U.S. Naval Test Pilot School 7/77-6/78 Strike Aircraft Test Directorate

7/78-8/96 NASA Astronaut

8/96 Retired from the United States Navy

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) F-14 Fleet Project Team 1971.
- (2) Combat tour aboard USS *Coral Sea* during Operations Freedom Train and Linebacker in the F-4B, 1972.
- (3) Transferred from VF-111 after 2 cruises into VF-1 to make the first cruise of the F-14A.
- (4) Supported Saigon evacuation Operation Frequent Wind in F-14A, April 1975.
- (5) Made first flight, envelope expansion and structural clearance of F-14A TARPS.
- (6) Selected as one of 15 pilot astronauts in the first Space Shuttle Astronaut selection.
- (7) T-38A chase pilot for the first 2 Space Shuttle flights.

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Significant Career Events continued:

- (8) Flew as Pilot (Copilot) on the 10th Space Shuttle launch in 1984.
- (9) Flew as Mission Commander on 4 missions, 1986, 1988, 1992 and 1995.
- (10) First astronaut to command 4 Space Shuttle missions.
- (11) Trained in Russia on the "Mir" Space Station and "Soyuz" simulators to dock with "Mir".
- (12) Performed the first-ever docking by a Space Shuttle, in 1995 with "Mir".
- (13) My handshake with "Mir" Commander, Colonel Vladimir Dezurov has been described as marking the end of the Cold War.
- (14) NASA's Chief Astronaut 1992-1994.
- (15) Left NASA and retired from the United States Navy in 1996.