

Paul T. Gillcrist, Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.) "Paul"

Date of Designation: 18 December 1953 NA # T-4011

Dates of Active Duty: 6 June 1952 - 1 October 1985.

Total Flight Hours: 6,000+

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 966

Approximate Flight Hours: Jet: 5,200 Prop: 700 Helo: 100 VF/VA: 5,900

Combat Tours:

- Vietnam: VF-53, USS *Ticonderoga* (CVA-14), Tonkin Gulf, Mar. 66 - May 66. 44 combat missions.
 Vietnam: VF-53, USS *Hancock* (CVA-19), Tonkin Gulf,
- Jan. 67 Jun 67. 90 combat missions.
- Vietnam: VF-53, USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA-31), Tonkin Gulf, Jan 68 - Mar. 68. 33 combat missions. Total - 167 missions.

Aviation Commands:

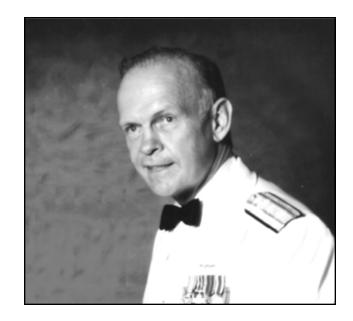
CO, VF-53, Mar. 67 - Mar. 68. Commander, Carrier Air Wing THREE, Apr. 71 - Feb. 72. CO, NAS Cecil Field, Oct. 75 - Feb. 77. COMFITAEWWINGS, PAC, Apr. 79 - May. 81.

<u>Combat Awards</u>: Distinguished Flying Cross Bronze Star 13 Air Medals Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross

Duty Assignment Chronology

12/18/53	Designated Naval Aviator.
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- 3/54-10/55 Fighter Squadron 191 (USS Oriskany).
- 11/55-2/58 Fleet Air Gunnery Unit, Pacific, NAAS El Centro, CA.



3/58-10/58	Navy Test Pilot School, NAS Patuxent River,
11/58-3/61	MD. Flight Test Division, Carrier Branch, NAS
11.000,000	Patuxent River, MD.
4/61-3/64	Fighter Squadron 62 (USS Shangri-La and
	USS Lexington).
4/64-8/65	American University, Washington, D. C.
9/65-3/68	Fighter Squadron 53 (USS Ticonderoga,
	Hancock and Bon Homme Richard).
4/68-10/69	OPNAV (Pentagon)
11/69-11/72	Carrier Air Wing 3, USS Saratoga (CV-60).
12/72-4/75	OPNAV (Pentagon)
3/75-5/77	NAS Cecil Field, FL.
6/77-8/79	CINCLANT, Norfolk, VA.
9/79-11/80	COMFITAEWWING, PAC, NAS Miramar,
	CA.
12/80-5/82	COMNAVBASE San Diego/COMNAVBASE
	San Francisco.
6/82-10/85	OPNAV(OP-50), Pentagon.
10/1/85	Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Flew early swept wing jet aircraft from straight deck carrier, USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34), 1955.
- (2) Selected as Weapons Delivery Instructor at Fleet Air Gunnery Unit Pacific (Oct 55 - Feb 58). Conducted first U. S. Navy air-to-air rocket firings.
- (3) As test pilot at Flight Test Division, 1958-1961, flew 34 different model test airplanes, including single and multi-engine jet and props.
- (4) MIG pilot, 1969 (10 flights).
- (5) First real life use of rocket powered ejection system (May 1959).

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Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (6) Flew contingency air defense flights versus Cuban aircraft from NAS Key West and McCalla Field at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- (7) Flew contingency flights against Cuban air defenses from the USS *Lexington* (CV-16) in 1962.
- (8) Commanded Air Wing THREE during first evaluation of "CV concept" during 6th Fleet deployment of USS *Saratoga*, 1971-72.
- (9) First Flag Officer to land in F-14 on a carrier, 1981, on USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63) at age 51.

- (10) First Navy pilot to fly the SH-2G.
- (11) Flew two missions in F-20 at age 55.
- (12) Selected "Tailhook Aviator of the Year" by the Tailhook Association, 1985.
- (13) Received Tailhook Association's Lifetime Achievement Award, 1966.