



**DENNIS M. GILLESPIE, Capt. USN(Ret)**  
 “Dizzy”

Hometown: Millis, Massachusetts

High School and College Career:

Millis High School  
 U.S. Naval Academy

Dates on Active Duty: 6 June 1973 - 1 May 1998

Date Commissioned/Source:

06 June 1973 - U.S. Naval Academy

Date of Designation: 4 October 1974

Total Flight Hours: 20,256

Jet: 5700 Prop: 50 VA/VF/VFA: 4970

Helo: 6 VT: 730 Civilian: 14,500

Carrier/Ship Landings: 1550+/- night 500+/- 980 *Saratoga* / 1 Helo Night

Commands:

Strike Fighter Squadron 83 September 1988 - April 1991

Carrier Air Wing 11 October 1994 - May 1996

Combat tours:

Desert Storm: January - Mar 1991 27 combat missions

Southern Watch: July 1993 - September 1995 76 combat missions

Awards:

Silver Star Medal

Bronze Star Medal

5 Air Medals with Combat V

2 Strike Flight Air Medals

4 Navy Commendation Medals with Combat V

Legion of Merit

Meritorious Service Medal

Navy League of the United States Leadership Award 1992



### Duty Assignment Chronology

06/69-06/73	U.S. Naval Academy
06/73-09/73	VT-1 NAS Saufley Field, FL, Primary Pilot training, T-34B
09/73-05/74	VT-26 NAS Beeville, TX, Basic Jet training, T-2B
5/74 – 10/74	VT-24 NAS Beeville, Advanced Jet training, TA-4J
10/74-11/75	VA-174 NAS Cecil Field, FL, A-7E Fleet Replacement training
11/75-02/78	VA-105 NAS Cecil Field and USS <i>Saratoga</i> , CAG-3, two Mediterranean deployments
02/78-07/79	COMTRAWING 2 NAS Kingsville, TX, TRAWING/CNATRA LSO, Advanced Jet instructor, Master of Arts Degree, Webster College.
07/79-12/79	VA-174 NAS Cecil Field, A-7E refresher training
12/79-11/81	CARRIERAIRWING 1, NAS Oceana, VA and USS <i>John F. Kennedy</i> , CAG LSO, Mediterranean deployment
11/81-07/83	USNAVYLSOSCHOOL, NAS Cecil Field, Officer in Charge, VA-174 IP, NARFJAX A-7 series PMCF test pilot
07/83-09/83	VA-174, NAS Cecil Field, A-7E refresher training
09/83-12/85	VA-81, NAS Cecil Field and USS <i>Saratoga</i> , Department Head (OPS, MAINT, ADMIN), two Mediterranean deployments
12/85-02/88	CARRIERAIRWING 17, NAS Cecil Field and USS <i>Saratoga</i> , CAG OPS, Mediterranean deployment
02/88-06/88	COMLATWING 1, NAS Cecil Field, Safety Officer, VA-174 IP
06/88-04/91	VFA-83, NAS Cecil Field and USS <i>Saratoga</i> , XO/CO, F/A-18C Transition training, Operations Desert Shield/Storm

- Continued -

### Duty Assignment Chronology continued

06/91-06/92 USNAVALWARCOLLEGE Newport, RI  
Senior Course/ Master of Arts Degree  
International Security Affairs

06/92-07/93 COMNAVAIRPAC, NAS Miramar, CA F/A-  
18 and F-14 refresher training

02/93-05/93 JOINTTASKFORCESOUTHWESTASIA  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, J3/OPS

07/93-08/96 CARRIERAIRWING 11, NAS Miramar/  
USS *Abraham Lincoln* and USS *Kitty Hawk*,  
DCAG/CAG, Battle Group Strike Warfare  
Commander, two WESTPAC/Indian Ocean  
deployments

08/96-05/98 USNAVALWARCOLLEGE Newport,  
RI, JointMilitary Operations Faculty, Dean  
of Students, Admiral Bull Halsey Chair for  
Strike Warfare.

05/98 Retired from Active Duty

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

- (1) VA105. Two deployments USS *Saratoga* to the Med. Wing Qualified LSO. Battle E, McClusky Award.
- (2) CAG 1. One Deployment USS *John F. Kennedy*. Air wing LSO. A7E and F14 NATOPS qualified.
- (3) VA81. Department Head. Two deployments USS *Saratoga*. Air Wing Strike Leader. Top Hook. Participated in NATO Special Forces SERE School, Stuttgart, Germany.
- (4) CAG 17 Operations Officer. Achille Lauro Operations. Night Decoy flight to draw Libyan SA5 SAM fire in response to missile firings on US Forces. Site destroyed by VA 83 HARM strike.
- (5) VFA 83 XO/CO. One deployment USS *Saratoga*. Operation Desert Shield and Storm Combat Operations. Battle E and Michael J. Estocin Awards.
- (6) CAG11. Two deployments USS *Abraham Lincoln*. Deputy CAG and CAG conducting combat operations in support of no-fly Zone. J3 (OPS) JTFSWA Riyadh, Saudi Arabia enforcing no fly zone. Flew both FA-18 and F-14 day/night.
- (7) US Naval War College. Faculty (JMO) Joint Military Operations, Dean of Students, Admiral Bull Halsey Chair for Strike Warfare.

### **Personal**

- (1) Married to the MOST beautiful Barbara (Fettig) 9 June 1973.
- (2) Children Derek Craig and Kristen Beth

(3) Nothing I ever did or accomplished was my effort alone. Throughout my Naval Aviation career, I was blessed to have the finest instructors as a Pudknocker, the absolute best flight leaders and mentors as a Nugget and throughout my Navy flying life I was surrounded by the most dedicated and honorable soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. In my 25 years as a Navy Carrier Pilot, by my count over 50,000 folks got me to the Cat, into the air, to the target and trapped safely...to go again.

(4) Hired on with American Airlines for fifteen years flying the Boeing 727 and 737 aircraft domestically and internationally.

### **Associations/Membership/Boards:**

- (1) Charter member of the local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association, flying a Vans RV6. Established with three other retired carrier attack pilots established the DREAMLAND SQUADRON at Haller Airfield in Green Cove Springs, Florida. They fly for fun and tribute flights for national veterans' events as well as Honor Flights at military funerals.
- (2) An active member of the Bald Eagle Squadron, the Jacksonville Chapter of the Association of Naval Aviation.