



Steve Hanvey, Col., USMCR (Ret.)
"Steve"

Hometown: Grew up in Anderson, SC

High School and College: Immediately after High School graduation left for the Naval Academy

Date Commissioned/Source: 4 June 1969 USNA

Date of Designation: 11 Sept 1970 NA# T-13360

Dates of Active Duty: June 69 - Aug 80
Reserves/MAWTS-1 Sept 80-June 97

Total Flight Hours: ~5700

Carrier/Ship Landings: Rotary (350 (LPH, LPD, LST, various DE, YRBM)

Approximate Flight Hours:
Jet: (140) Prop: (1700) VT: (100) Helo: (3560)

Combat Tours:
Vietnam: (HAL-3, Jan71-Jan72, Throughout the Delta, U Minh Forest, Cambodia, S. China Sea, UH-1B/M, K/L, AH-1G)

Combat Missions: 512 UH-1 B/M, K/L, AH-1G

Combat Awards:
Silver Star
Purple Heart
Distinguished Flying Cross
Air Medals (16)
Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (2)
Navy Commendation V
Combat Action Ribbon



Duty Assignment Chronology

- 06/65-06/69 US Naval Academy
- 08/69-09/70 VT-1, VT-2, VT-6, HT-8 (T-34, T-28, TH-57, UH-1D)
- 10/70-12/70 Gunnery Training (UH-1A/B)
- 01/71-01/72 HAL-3 Combat (UH-1B/M/K/L, AH-1G)
- 02/72-06/74 HT8/18 Flight Instructor (TH57, UH-1L)
- 07/74-05/75 Amphibious Warfare School, Quantico
- 06/75-06/76 HML-167 Maintenance Officer (UH-1N)
- 07/76-06/77 U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (All fixed wing and helo aircraft)
- 07/77-11/78 Rotary Wing Directorate (AH-1J/S/T, UH-1E/F/N/P, H46, SH-2F)
- 12/78-07/79 US Navy Test Pilot School Instructor (All fixed wing and helo aircraft)
- 08/79-08/80 MAG-36 Ops/NATOPS/Safety (AH-1J, UH-1N, CH-46, CH-53, OV-10, C130)
- 09/80-06/97 USMC Reserves (AH-1J/UH-1N)



Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Combat operations for 12 months in HAL-3, the most decorated Naval Aviation squadron in Naval history, flew off YRBM 21, various LSTs in S China Sea, conducted Cambodia Resupply Support, Riverine Ops Support, U Minh Forrest ops, support of numerous Seal operations inserts and extractions, outposts, training of RVN pilots for ship operations at night and in weather. PUC and NUC awards. Shot down at the mouth of the Mekong River and rescued by a HAL-3 gunship whose pilot was awarded a DFC for picking up my crew of 5 while under fire from the shore.
- (2) Standardization/NATOPS instructor HT 8/HT 18.
- (3) Honorably discharged as Navy Lt in 1974 and next day sworn in as a Marine Captain while at HT-18.
- (4) Distinguished Graduate from Amphibious Warfare School (AWS) in Quantico, VA.
- (5) Naval Air Test Center – Distinguished Graduate from USN TPS, Naval Air Test Center Test Pilot of the Year 1978 for AH-1T BIS Trials, Ship landing envelopes, all Naval ordnance that could be carried and jettisoned or fired clearances, hydraulics off landing on skids at 80 kts, initial night vision google training for USMC/USN in AH-1S. Flew all models of the UH/AH-1 from A-T. Model Manager for the UH-1/AH-1 for the USN/USMC. Instructor at USN TPS.
- (6) Ops Officer- planned and coordinated MAG36 Solid Shield Operations in S Korea.

Summary of Post Active Duty Activities/Career

- (1) Hughes /McDonnell Douglas Helicopters - Chief Test Pilot/Manager Engineering Flight Test AH64A First flight, YAH-64 first flights for Structural Demo including autorotation at max auto speed at 120% overspeed, and 3.5 g pull up with instability introduced into the rotor system, initial flights over 20,000 ft and 20,000 lb, all ordnance jettison clearances, Hellfire, 2.75 in, and 30mm gun clearance flights, composite rotor blade development, exceeding maximum gross weight, USMC Evaluation of YAH-64, deployed and flew YAH-64 for first international live fire demonstration in Israel, Paris and Farnborough Airshows.
- (2) Conducted first flights of NOTAR (no tail rotor) proof of Concept helicopter.
- (3) MD530F E.1.b World Climb Records (3 min 14 sec/ 6min 38sec to 3000m/6000m in MD 530F) in 1983 which are still current records. Tail rotor gear box came apart enroute to 9000m and resultant excessive vibration broke the radio and transponder from their dzus fasteners and twisted the T-tail and end plates and caused engine failure at 18,000 ft on PEL then a 10 min autorotation.

- (4) Conducted Helicopter Air-Air Tests at NATC Pax River with MAWTS-1 in the MD 530F with laser gun and included rearward flight at 50+ knots transitioning to forward flight in less than 1-2 seconds, an E ticket ride at a minimum.
- (5) Program Manager for AH-64 Black Programs which led to AH-64D, then Program Manager/Director for all AH64 programs.
- (6) Beechcraft/Raytheon Aircraft, VP, Engineering, for T-1A approval, and winning JPTAS (T-6). Conducted extensive JPATS out of control flights acting as the “stupid student” for unusual entries.
- (7) Founded Piaggio America as President/CEO for Piaggio Aero Industries.
- (8) Founded SATSair as President/CEO - an innovative air taxi operation of 26 SR22 airplanes operating out of 500 airports in the SE USA
- (9) Holds Patent # 7979192 for Aircraft Engine Trend Monitoring, qualified as a Part 135 Captain, type rated in the B300 King Air, flown more than 50 different aircraft.
- (10) Startup President/CEO of first hydrogen powered multicopter from 2018-2020 and flew the 4000 lb. prototype remotely while tethered, one of the most difficult flight tasks I ever tested.

Other Awards

- (1) Aviation Week Laurel Award 1994 for Fiber Optics for engine control on a business jet.
- (2) Aviation Week Laureate Nominee 2008 for startup and operation of an innovative air taxi operation.
- (3) Society of Experimental Test Pilots J H "Jimmy" Doolittle Award for T-6 Texan work 1995.
- (4) Society of Experimental Test Pilots Fellow 2015.
- (5) Aviation International News Top 10 Newsmakers, 1995 and 2002.
- (6) Business & Commercial Aviation Vision Award 2008.

Personal

- (1) Married to my best friend, Sara, for 53 years who has a brother, husband, and our son who are all combat Naval aviators. Her father, RADM Joe Rice, was the founder of the Naval Electronic Systems Command which was responsible for the first Automatic Carrier Landing System (ACLS) development with NavAir and NATC.

Association Membership Boards

- (1) Navy, Marine, Coast Guard Aircrew Roll of Honor Board.
- (2) Inaugural Board Chairman AGATE consortium in 1995, largest government/industry/academia collaboration group at that time.
- (3) Piaggio America Board Chairman and Piaggio Aero Industries Board as only non-Italian Consigliere.
- (3) SATSair Board Chairman
- (4) Kansas Enterprises Technology Board