

William D. Knutson, Captain, USN (Ret.)
"Bill"

Date of Designation: 3 February 1954 NA # T-4083

Dates of Active Duty: 6 June 1952 - 1 September 1976

Total Flight Hours: 5,560

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 966

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 4,437 Prop: 1,113 Helo: 10 VF/VA: 4,558

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VF-84 (F4B), USS Independence, Apr. 1965 -

Dec. 1965 - 119 missions, Cap and Strike.

Vietnam: VF-33 (F4J), USS America, May 1968 - Jun.

1968 - 11 missions, Cap and Strike.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-33, Jun. 1967 - Jun. 1968.

Commander, CVW-7, Dec. 1970 - Dec. 1971.

Commander, Fighter Wing One, Jan. 1972 - Aug. 1974. CO, NAS Oceana, Aug. 1974 - Aug. 1976.

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Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross

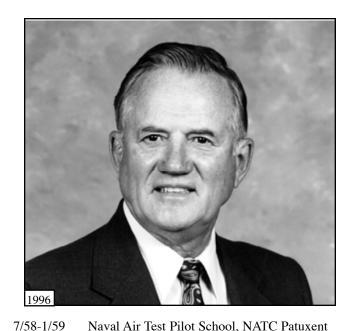
2 Bronze Stars, with Combat "V"

3 Air Medals

10 Strike flight Air Medals

Duty Assignment Chronology

7/40 (150	M' 1.1' II C N 1 A 1
7/48-6/52	Midshipman, U. S. Naval Academy.
6/52-8/52	Instructor, U. S. Naval Academy.
9/52-3/54	Flight training, Pensacola, FL., and Corpus
	Christi, TX.
4/54-6/56	VC-3, NAS Moffett Field, CA.
7/56-6/58	VF(AW)-3, NAS Moffett Field, CA.



7/58-1/59	Naval Air Test Pilot School, NATC Patuxent
	River, MD.
1/59-6/61	Service Test, NATC, Patuxent River, MD.
7/61-6/63	CVW-6 LSO, NAS Oceana, VA., USS
	Intrepid and USS Enterprise.
7/63-6/64	George Washington University, Student.
7/64-1/66	VF-84, NAS Oceana and USS Independence.
1/66-6/66	CVW-7 Operations Officer, NAS Oceana and
	USS Independence.
7/66-6/68	XO/CO, VF-33, NAS Oceana, USS America.
7/68-6/69	COMCARDIV-9, USS Hancock and NAS
	North Island, CA.
7/69-6/70	National War College, Student.
7/70-12/70	COMNAVAIRLANT Staff, Norfolk, VA
12/70-12/71	COMCVW-7, USS Independence, NAS
	Oceana, VA
1/72-7/74	COMFITWING ONE, NAS Oceana, VA.
8/74-8/76	CO, NAS Oceana, VA.
9/1/76	Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) First group of instructors in 1956-58 for the F3H Demon and F8U Crusader for transitional training (the forerunner of the RAG concept).
- (2) Test Pilot School and Test Pilot at NATC 1958-61.
- (3) Have flown 76 models of 46 different makes of aircraft.
- (4) Conducted water ingestion testing on the F3H-2/J71-A-2E, F8U-2/J57- P-16 and F4H-1/J79 to determine heavy supercooled water affects on engine performance. Conducted flying through thunderstorms.
- 5) Conducted testing of the F8U/J57 and F4H/J79 engines for high altitude operation and burner blowout. Developed and tested zoom tactics in the F8U and F4H to intercept and shoot down high altitude targets at 70,000-90,000 feet. (- Continued -)

Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (6) Member of the F8U-2N Navy Preliminary Evaluation (NPE).
- (7) Conducted Service Suitability trials and Board of Inspection and Survey (BIS) tests for the F8U-2, F8U-2N and F4H-1 aircraft.
- (8) Tested:
 - A. The final 4 pressure suits being considered by the Navy for high altitude flight in the F8U and F4H.
 - B. Safe approach angle of attack system for use in all carrier aircraft.
 - C. Dual fire warning system for jet aircraft.
 - D. Autopilot systems in the F8U aircraft.
 - E. Fusible Plugs for aircraft wheels so they will not explode in the wheel well.
 - F. The "T" cockpit instrument layout for the F4H to improve instrument flight and mission effectiveness.

- (9) CO of the first F4J squadron and first to deploy the F4J to combat.
- (10) Developed tactics to evade the Russian SA-2 missiles in Vietnam, based on a John Hopkins research project and was in the first division to successfully use the tactic.
- (11) Commanded Carrier Air Wing (CVW-7) having the first LCDR (Bobby Socks) squadron Commanding Officers.