



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.

Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross

2 Bronze Stars, with Combat “V”

3 Air Medals

10 Strike flight Air Medals

Duty Assignment Chronology

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 blow-out. 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.