



**James O'Hora, Capt., USN (Ret.)**  
 "Jimmy Jet"

Hometown: State College, Penna.

High School and College Career:  
 State College Senior / Penn State University

Dates on Active Duty: July 1968 - October 1994

Date Commissioned/Source:  
 October 1968/Aviation Officer Candidate School

Date of Designation: December 12, 1969. N/A # V29377

Total Flight Hours: 5,000

Carrier/Ship Landings: 1,038

Approximate Flight Hours:  
 Jet 4975 Prop 25. VF/VA 4220. VT 771. USN 4350

Commands:  
 CO VA 37. July 1987 (A-7E)—December 1989 (A-7E)  
 CO NAS Kingsville. June 1991—September 1993 (TA-4J)

Awards:  
 Legion of Merit  
 Meritorious Service Medal (2)  
 Various other Awards and Unit Citations

### **Duty Assignment Chronology**

11/68-12/69 Flight Training, Pensacola, Meridian,  
 Kingsville. (T-34,T-2,TA-4J)  
 01/70-07/70 VA-174, Fleet Replacement Pilot, NAS Cecil  
 (A-7B).  
 08/70-08/72 VA-87, Legal, PAO, Landing Signal Officer  
 NAS Cecil, USS *FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT*  
 (A-7B)



09/72-05/75 VA-174, Instructor Pilot/Landing Signal  
 Officer. NAS Cecil (A-7,A,B,CE)  
 06/75-10/77 CVW-3, CAG LSO/ Admin., USS  
*SARATOGA*, CVA-60. (A-7E)  
 12/77-11/80 CINCUSNAVEUR, Intelligence/Tactical  
 Support Requirement  
 12/80-09/81 VA-174, Fleet Replacement Pilot, NAS Cecil  
 (A-7E).  
 09/81-05/84 VA-81, Department Head, USS *FORRESTAL*/  
 USS *SARATOGA*, (A-7E).  
 06/84-06/85 CNATRA, T-2/TA-4J, Contracts Management  
 Officer, NAS Corpus Christi, (TA-4J).  
 07/85-12/85 VA-174, PCO Training, NAS Cecil, (A-7E).  
 12/85-12/89 VA-37, XO/CO, NAS Cecil, USS  
*FORRESTAL*, (A-7E).  
 01/89-05/91 USS *SARATOGA*, (CV-60), Air Officer  
 06/91-10/93 NAS Kingsville, CO, (TA-4J)

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

- (1) Two MED Deployments onboard USS *FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT*. Qualified as Air Wing Landing Signal Officer.
- (2) As RAG Instructor and LSO instructed and qualified Hellenic Air Force pilots in transition to A-7E. NATOPS Qualified in T-39 Saberliner used for low level navigation training. Planned and Developed first East Coast A-7 Departure Training Syllabus.
- (3) As CVW-3 LSO made two MED deployments onboard USS *SARATOGA* (CV-60). Flew with VA-105 during their McClusky Award year. LSO cross trained in RF-8 and F-4J. Finished as a Top Five Tailhooker for two Cruises.
- (4) As staff of CINCUSNAVEUR, London, England, Planned and successfully completed the first 6th Fleet War Game in the MED onboard USS *SARATOGA* (CV-60). Served as NAVY Interoperability Officer for integration of AWACS into Fleet Operations. Project Officer for French Procurement and Transition to the E-2 Hawkeye. Developed

test plan, coordinated and implemented USCINCUER first "Post Oak" exercise to assess the utility of reconnaissance assets to Commanders in implementing combat decisions.

(5) Department Head tour: made two Med deployments onboard USS *FORRESTAL*. Top Five Tailhooker in Airwing for Cruises. Won weapons detachment Airwing bombing derby. Successfully recovered my A-7 during night tanker landing on USS *FORRESTAL* after tail hook point separated after pulling out 75 feet of cable on trap. Was awarded a Letter of Commendation and designated AIRLANT "Pro of the Week" for saving the aircraft.

(6) First CNATRA Contract Requirements Officer for T-2/TA-4 aircraft maintenance. Designated a Contracting Officer Technical Representative (COTR). ADDU as TA-4J Flight Instructor with VT Squadrons.

(7) As XO/CO of VA37, made two North Atlantic Cruises, (Ocean Safari 87 and Team Work 88) and one MED / IO Cruise in 88. Made first field arrested landing at Varnes, Norway during contingency operations with Norway. Logged 1000th Carrier Arrested landing onboard USS *SARATOGA*. Finished Cruise as Airwing number Two Tailhooker.

(8) As Air Officer onboard USS *SARATOGA* (CV-60), participated in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Air Department recorded over 12,000 arrested landings (an AIRLANT record). Despite the challenges of our aging flight deck, we maintained a perfect safety record.

(9) As Commanding Officer of NAS Kingsville, participated critical Base Closure and Realignment studies. NAS Kingsville remained open and introduced the first T-45 Goshawk squadrons. Implemented futuristic concept in the processing of hazardous material/waste minimization.

### **Significant Post Career Events**

(1) Senior Flight Instructor for Royal Thai Navy (RTN) transition to the A-7E, Utapao, Thailand. (1995-2000). The RTN's first Jet Aircraft. Developed entire flight training syllabus for the RTN from Fam/ Form/ Instrument/Weapons including Bombs/ Rockets/ Strafe.

(2) Made five extremely challenging ferries of A-7E's from NAS JAX to Utapao, Thailand. (No inflight refueling). Logged my 4,000 flight hour in A-7 during RTN instruction training tour.

(3) Awarded Royal Thai Navy Honorary Wings for A-7E transition support and training at RTN Headquarters ceremony in Bangkok, Thailand. Led RTN four plane diamond formation during The KINGS 50 Year Reign parade at the KINGS palace Bangkok, Thailand.

(4) Developed Air Inflight Refueling syllabus for the Hellenic Air Force (HAF). Qualified HAF pilots from two squadrons in day and night air inflight refueling. (A-7E).

(5) Was designated the last NATOPS manager for the A-7E. Coordinated all NATOPS conferences for HAF. Incorporated changes into NATOPS manuals and Emergency Pocket Check lists. Developed FLIR manual procedures for HAF.

(6) Developed "Saturday's Scholars Program" to aid and assist local school children.

(7) Local sponsor, Boy Scouts of America

### **Personal**

(1) My most significant post-NAVY accomplishment was to rescue my wife Mary from a burning bedroom house electrical fire. We were both burned in the process but made it out and to safety. Mary has severe Alzheimer's and lives in a Memory Care facility. I visit twice a day to try and make her quality of life the best it can be.

(2) My son Davin followed in my footsteps and retired as a NAVY Commander from the E-2 community. He is now Senior Instructor at Providence High School, North Carolina, JNROTC program.

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

(1) Board of Directors, Kingsville Chamber of Commerce & Kingsville Rotary Club

(2) Board of Directors, Kingsville Association of Naval Aviation.