

H. Robert Pearl, CAPT USN (Ret.) "Bob"

Date of Designation: August 12, 1955 NA# V-7635

Dates of Active Duty: February, 1954 – September 1979

Total Flight Hours: 3,840

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 645

(Day: 546, Night: 99)

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,161 Prop: 679 VF/VA: 3,161

#### **Combat Tours:**

Vietnam VF-111, CVW-2, USS Midway, March 1965-

Nov. 1965, F8D's, 112 missions

VF-111, CVW-16, USS Oriskany, May 1966-Vietnam

Nov. 1966, F8E's, 78 missions

VF-111, CVW-8, USS Shangri-La, June 1970 Vietnam

- Dec. 1970, F8H's, 58 missions

VF-111, CVW-15, USS Coral Sea, Dec. 1971-Vietnam

June 1972, F4B's, 128 missions

Total combat missions: 376

## **Aviation Commands:**

CO VF-111, June 1971 – June 1972

#### Combat Awards:

2 Distinguished Flying Cross Medals

1 Bronze Star

28 Air Medals

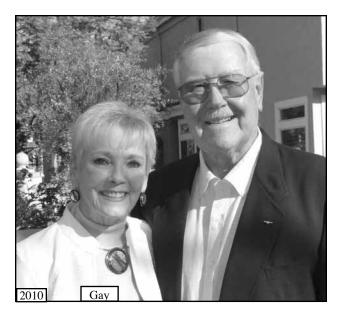
1 Navy Commendation Medal w/Combat "V" Armed Forces Expeditionary Medals with 1 star Gallantry Cross with Silver Star

## **Duty Assignment Chronology**

2/54-8/55 Naval Air Training Command (NAVCAD),

Pensacola FL/Beeville TX (SNJ, T-28, TV-2,

F9F-2).



9/55-10/57 FASRON 4, NAS North Island, CA. Communications Officer/Utility Pilot (SNB-5, TV-2, F9F-5, F9F-8, R4D-8, AD-4, AD-6, S2F-1).

10/57-10/58 VF-121, NAS Miramar, CA. RAG Flight Instructor/Asst Training Officer (FJ-3, F11F-1)

10/58-11/59 VF-111 Line Division Officer, NAS Miramar/ USS Shangri-La (F11F-1).

11/59-11/62 VF-124 Instrument Flight Instructor/RAG Flight Instructor NAS Moffett/NAS Miramar (F9F-8T, F8U-2N).

11/62-8/64 Patrol Force Seventh Fleet, Aide/Flag Lieutenant/Flag Pilot, embarked in USS Pine Island, USS Salisbury Sound and USS Currituck, Okinawa (HU-16).

9/64-2/65 VF-124 RAG Student, NAS Miramar (F8E). VF-111 Maintenance Officer, NAS Miramar, 2/65-2/67 USS Midway/USS Oriskany, (F8D/E)

2/67-11/67 NAF China Lake, Missile Test Pilot/AIMD

Officer (F8D/E).



12/67-12/69 USNPGS Monterey, Student (T-28B and US2-A/B).

1/70-6/70 VF-124 RAG Student, NAS Miramar (F8H).

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### Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- 6/70-6/72 VF-111 CO/XO, NAS Miramar, USS Shangri-La, USS Coral Sea (F8H, F4B).
  7/72-7/74 Commander Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet, Officer Personnel Officer, NAS North Island
  9/74-3/76 USS Constellation (CV-64) Operations Officer/Executive Officer, San Diego, CA/ Bremerton, WA.
- 3/76-10/79 Commander Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet, Ships Training Officer, NAS North Island, CA

# **Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) Completed 4 combat deployments during intense North Vietnam air war activity from 1965 to 1972 achieving a total of 376 combat missions primarily as section, division and strike lead.
- (2) Participated as one of three AIM-9 Missile Development test pilots at NAF China Lake to seek improvement, new developments and tactics in the F8 weapons system.
- (3) Participated in the planning and execution of a successful 22 plane (F8) TRANSPAC (Cubi Point to NAS Miramar) in 1970 to enable an expedient turnaround while CVS-38 returned to it's East Coast homeport.
- (4) Transitioned VF-111 from F8H aircraft to F4B aircraft and successfully combined a cadre of F8 and F4 pilots and maintenance personnel into a combat effective F-4 Squadron for combat operations in December 1971.
- (5) As Commanding Officer led numerous Airwing ALPHA Strikes over NVN. VF-111 became the first squadron to shoot down a MIG aircraft during the Coral Sea 1972 cruise.
- (6) During command tour in 1972 assumed position of CVW-15 for six weeks due to his combat loss. As CAG, led the Coral Sea component of a three Airwing ALPHA strike (Coral Sea, Constellation, Kitty Hawk) into Hanoi/Haiphong, the first strike subsequent to the lifting of President Johnson's 1968 bombing halt. The mission was highly successful against extremely strong SAM opposition.

#### POST NAVY CAREER EVENTS

- (1) After retiring from the Navy spent 18 years as a marketing Manager for Hughes Aircraft and Raytheon. The last seven of those years were at the Naval Weapons Center China Lake working programs such as AIM-9, AIM-9X, ESSM and AMRAAM.
- (2) Member of Tailhook, Past Commander of the Naval Order, Southwest Commandery (the aviation commandery), and a board member/treasurer of the Crusader Association.
- (3) Key member and fundraiser of the "F8 Ready Room Museum" committee of the Crusader Association. The committee conceived and constructed the F8 Ready Room which resides in the USS *Midway* Museum, San Diego, CA.