



EDWARD F. BRONSON, CAPT., USN (Ret.)
 "CASH"

Hometown: Wilmington, DE.

School and College Career:

Salesianum HS, 1950
 La Salle College, BS, 1954
 University of Chicago, MA, 1958

Date Commissioned/Source: 28 June 1957/AOC

Date of Designation: 16 NOV 1958

Dates of Active Duty: 10 March 1957 – 28 November 1985

Total Flight Hours: 5,400

Carrier/Ship Landings: 1,000/388 night

Approximate Flight Hours: 5357
 Jet 3000 (2000 A-4; 1000 A-7); Prop (2357 AD-6)

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VNAF 115th, March-October 1963, Bien Hoa, South Vietnam, AD-6
 VA-113, 1966, USS *Kitty Hawk*, A-4C
 VA-113, 1967, USS *Enterprise*, A-4C
 USS *Oriskany*, Flight Deck Officer/Handler, 1969/70/71, Yankee Station
 USS *Kitty Hawk*, CTF 72 Air Ops, 1972, Gulf of Tonkin

Combat Missions: 236

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA-46, July 1976/October 1977

Awards:

Legion of Merit
 Bronze Star (CTF-77)



Single Action Air Medal (2)
 19 Strike Flight Air Medals
 Navy Commendation Medal w/2 Gold Stars
 Navy Achievement Medal w/ Combat V
 Presidential Unit Citation
 Air Force Gallantry Cross
 Unit Citation for Exchange Tour w/ VNAF 514th Air Force
 Outstanding Unit Award for Exchange Tour w/ VNAF 514th Vietnam
 Vietnam Service Medal w/ 4 Bronze Stars
 Vietnam Cross of Gallantry
 Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal w/ Star

Duty Assignment Chronology

06/57	Commissioned/ Active Duty
07/57-11/58	Flight training/Corpus Christi
11/58-02/59	VA-105 (AD-6) squadron pilot
02/59-05/59	VA-44 Replacement Pilot Training (AD-6) NAS Jacksonville
05/59-02/61	VA-15 USS Roosevelt and NAS Jacksonville
02/61-02/63	VA-135 (AD-6) squadron pilot
03/63-10/63	VNAF 514 Bien Hoa, Vietnam with South Vietnamese Air Force
11/63-07/65	VA-45 Instructor Pilot (AD-6) NAS Cecil Field
08/65-01/66	VA-125 Replacement Pilot (A-4C) NAS Lemoore
01/66-12/67	VA-113 (A-4C) joined squadron at sea in Tonkin Gulf, NAS Lemoore, USS <i>Kitty Hawk</i> and USS <i>Enterprise</i> , Admin officer, division leader
07/67-01/69	VA-44 (A-4C), Instructor Pilot NAS Jacksonville
02/69-06/71	Ship's Company Flight Deck Officer/Handler, USS <i>Oriskany</i>
06/71-06/72	Naval War College, Student Newport, RI

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Duty Assignment Chronology continued:

06/72-07/73 CTF77 Air Ops, USS *Kitty Hawk* and
USS *Enterprise*, Gulf of Tonkin
08/73-02/74 VA-174 Replacement Pilot
Training (A-7B), NAS Cecil Field
03/74-10/76 XO/CO VA-46 NAS Cecil Field
USS *Kennedy*
11/76-08/79 Navy Office of Legislative Affairs,
Washington, DC
08/79-07/80 National War College, Student
Washington, DC
07/80-06/83 Executive Assistant to Navy Director
Command and Control, Washington, DC
06/83-10/84 Naval Space Command, Dahlgren
VA- stood up the command as Deputy
Commander.
10/84-11/85 Joint Chiefs of Staff (C3S) - to Retirement

Summary of Significant Career Events

1. First nugget ever assigned to a deployed AD-6 (SPAD) squadron VA-15.
2. Was part of the flights that completed a 12.1 hour sortie through Turkey and the Black Sea setting the flight endurance record at that time in 1959.
3. One of three pilots assigned as instructors for transitioning the Vietnam Air Force from T-28s to AD-6s. Operated from Bien Hoa with all flights flown over hostile areas often incurring heavy flack. The North Vietnamese set a bounty on the three USN instructor pilots.
4. Flew AD-6s with VA-135 from USS *Constellation* during Oct 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.
5. Flew 236 combat missions in A-4Cs from USS *Kitty Hawk* and USS *Enterprise* during the periods of time (Jan '66 through June '67) when the US lost the greatest number of aircraft during the Vietnam conflict. Served as one of the leading flight leaders in VA-113 he is credited with never losing a wingman despite flying as a division lead in some of the most dangerous alpha strikes in which the squadron participated.
6. As the Commanding Officer of the VA-46 Clansmen led all Atlantic Fleet A-7 squadrons in flight hours and carrier landings. Was told the squadron was the runner up for the McCloskey Award.
7. Became the 25th Naval Aviator to achieve 1000 carrier landings.
8. As CTF77 staff AIR OPS coordinated two successful B-52 SAR's in the Gulf of Tonkin in 1972 during the final bombing campaign of Hanoi.
9. In a 1979 FITREP for his tour in the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs RADM Tom Kilcline stated: "Bronson more responsible than any other OPNAV person for the Congressional approval for production of the F/A-18".
10. Was chosen to lead and successfully stood up the Naval Space Command in Dahlgren Va on Oct 1, 1983.

Post Military Work

1. After retirement from the Navy became ADM Halloway's aviation rep at the Navy Yard "Cold War Gallery." Working for more than seven years Captain Bronson participated fully in the design of the museum, as well as leading the sponsorship effort (\$\$\$) that resulted in the award winning production and display of 44 Navy and Marine Corps aircraft models used during the Cold War.
2. In 2007 he became involved in the effort to obtain Sainthood for Maryknoll Father Vincent R. Capadanno, a US Navy Chaplain who died September 4, 1967, ministering to US Marines. Father Capadanno was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1968. Captain Bronson traveled to Rome and Vietnam countless times in supporting this effort and there are already nine chapels around the world named for the Father.
3. Scholarship Chairman, Washington Chapter AFCEA 1989-2011.
4. Aviation Representative to Navy's "Cold War Gallery, Washington Navy Yard, 2007-2017.
5. Initiated the awarding of Navy Astronaut Wings to Neil Armstrong, 2010.
6. Coordinated a 2014 "Flight to Freedom" ceremony celebrating the April 1975 VNAF "Bird Dog" landing on USS *Midway*.
7. From 2007 to 2018, he made known the holiness of Servant of God, Fr. Vincent Capodanno, LT, CHC, USNR (Medal of Honor recipient) who died on the battlefield during 1967 USMC "Operation Swift". In 2014 completed fundraising to rebuild a chapel next to the battlefield in Vietnam where Fr. Capodanno was killed.

Personal

1. AFCEA
2. The Golden Eagles