



LCDR Matthew J. Connelly III USNR (Ret.)
"Caustic"

Hometown: Walnut Creek, Ca.

College:

University of California Berkeley BA Economics
September 1961 - June 1966

Dates on Active Duty: 15 June 1966 - 1 August 1972

Date Commissioned/Source:

15 June 1966 NROTC University of California Berkeley

Date of Designation: 15 September 1967 #V25489

Total Flight Hours: Military 2301.0 VF/VA: 1417.1/30.7
VS: 12.2 VT: 841.0 Civilian: Approximately 24,000

Carrier/Ship Landings: Day - 265 Night - 109

Combat tours:

USS *AMERICA* CVA-66 May 1970 - November 1970
USS *CONSTELLATION* CVA-64 November 1971 - July 1972

Combat missions: 267 CVA-66 - 91 CVA-64 - 176

Awards:

Navy Cross
Air Medal (17)
Navy Commendation Medal ("V", 2 stars)
Vietnam Service Medal (4 stars)
Vietnam Air Gallantry Cross with gold star
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea)
National Defense Service Medal
Meritorious Unit Commendation
Presidential Unit Citation



Duty Assignment Chronology

11/67-12/68	VT-23 Flight Instructor
01/69-08-69	VF-121 F4 Transition
08/69-08/72	VF-96 F4J
	ADM Clifton Award 1970 - 1971
	ADM Clifton Award 1971 - 1972
03/73-03/74	CAG-30
04/74-04/76	VF-301
05/76	Retired

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Selected by VT-23 CO, CDR W H Lowans, as one of two initial PlowBack instructors to the squadron.
- (2) One in the initial group of VF-121 transition pilots to move with the Tactics Detachment to the temporary TOPGUN trailer at NAS Miramar. 1969
- (3) Qualified, Landing Signal Officer (LSO) May 1970 Aboard CVA-66 during the 1970 around the World Cruise. SHELLBACK (24 April 1970)
- (4) The sole participant in initial night carrier CAT 3 ACLS tests aboard CVA-66 (1970). Perhaps selected for limited appreciation of the challenges involved.
- (5) Flight Lead, Target Combat Air Patrol (TARCAP) in the most significant and longest air engagement of the Vietnam War. Destroyed two MIG-17s on same flight 10 May 1972 This engagement changed the direction of Naval Aviation Fighter Pilot tactics for the future. 1972 was the most active period of North Vietnam's Air Force and air defenses toward US Forces of the war.

Summary of Post Military Work

- (1) Commercial Pilot 1973 - 2003. Pacific Southwest Airlines / USAIRWAYS
Boeing 727, 737, 757, 767
Douglas DC-9, MD-80
British Aerospace BAE-146
Airbus A330

Personal

- (1) Married: 16 October 1988 to Susan Connelly