



Alan "Al" Gorthy, Jr. Capt, USN
"Kneepad"

Hometown: Kansas City, KS

High School and College career:

Rosedale HS

University of Missouri-Kansas City, Biology – Pre Dental

Date Commissioned/Source: 1969 AOC

Date of Designation: 16 Oct 1970

Dates of Active Duty: Feb 1969 - Oct 1994

Total Flight Hours: 4,730

Carrier/Shipboard Landings: 520

Approximate Flight Hours: Jet: 4700 Prop: 30, VF/VA: 3450, VT: 1200

Combat Tours:

VA-25/USS Ranger (CV-61) Oct 72-Feb 73 Vietnam

Total Combat Missions: 38 (A7-E)

Commands:

VFA-161 Jul 87-Mar 88 (F/A-18)

VFA-127 Dec 88-Oct 89 (F-5/TA-4)

VFA-125 Dec 89-Mar 91 (F/A-18)

NAS Lemoore Jul 92-Oct 94

Awards:

Legion of Merit

Meritorious Service Medal (4)

Air Medal (2 individual)

Numerous other awards and unit citations



Duty Assignment Chronology

2/69-10/70 Flight training: Pensacola, Meridian, Kingsville (T-34B T-2, TF-9J)
 10/70-12/70 Naval Justice School, Newport, RI
 12/70-06/72 VA-122, NAS Lemoore, CA, FRP, Legal Off., (A-7E)
 6/72-11/74 VA-25, NAS Lemoore Division Officer *USS RANGER* (CV-61) Vietnam (A-7E),
 11/74-04/77 VT-7 & TRAWINGONE, Meridian, MS Instructor/Standardization Pilot (TA-4J)
 4/77-10/79 *USS CONSTELLATION* (CVA-64) Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer
 10/79-11/81 VA-122, NAS Lemoore, CA Instructor Pilot/A7-E Model Manager
 11/81-03/84 VA-195, NAS Lemoore CA, Department Head, *USS RANGER* (CVA-61), (A-7E)
 03/84-09/85 COMLATWINGPAC, NAS Lemoore, CA, Flag Secretary,
 09/85-01/86 NAS Lemoore, CA, VA-122, PCO training, (A7-E)
 01/86-05/86 *USS MIDWAY* (CVA-41), Atsugi, Japan XO VA-56
 05/86-11/86 NAS Lemoore, CA, PCO Training VFA-125, (F/A-18)
 07/87-03/88 *USS ENTERPRISE* (CVN-65), NAS Lemoore, CA, CO VFA-161, (F/A-18)
 03/88-12/88 NAS Lemoore, CA, Executive Officer
 12/88-10/89 VFA-127, NAS Fallon, NV, Direct input CO (TA-4, F-5)
 10/89-10/91 NAS Lemoore, CA, CO VFA-125 (F/A-18)
 10/91-07/92 CTF-70, Yokosuka, Japan, Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations, (CVA-41/CVA-63)
 07/92-10/94 NAS Lemoore, CA, Commanding Officer
 10/94 Retired

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- (1) 1972-1973- Flew numerous alpha strike missions in route package 6 in North Vietnam. Participated in Linebacker II with low level day/night mining missions into Haiphong Harbor. Conducted Iron Hand missions over Haiphong during the B-52 interdiction raids during the 11-day Christmas Blitz in December 1972.
- (2) 1973 - Top Tailhooker during WESTPAC deployment
- (3) 1978 - TRAWINGONE Instructor of the Year
- (4) 1983 - Top Tailhooker during WESTPAC deployment
- (5) 1990 - Recipient of the VADM James Bond Stockdale award for inspirational leadership.
- (6) 1991 - Served as Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations CTF-70 during the evacuation of dependents from Clark, AFB and Subic Naval Station following the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in June 1991. The joint operation with USN, USMC, and USAF assets embarked thousands of dependents on CVA-41 and CVN-72 for transfer to Cebu where a temporary tent city was constructed. USAF then further airlifted dependents to Guam.
- (7) 1992 - CTF-70 COS for Plans and Operations, coordinated the “deck swap” when USS Midway (CVA-41) and USS Independence (CVA-62) exchanged roles as the Navy’s forward-deployed aircraft carrier. USS Independence replaced USS Midway in Yokosuka, Japan, with Midway returning to the states to be decommissioned. The transfer involved swapping personnel, squadrons and aircraft between two ships at Pearl Harbor before the USS Independence proceeded to its new homeport in Yokosuka, Japan.

Significant Post Career Events:

1997-2000: Vice President Maintenance Vanguard Airlines
2000-2014: FAA- Office of Runway Safety
2000-2024: Aviation Safety Consultant. Presented to thousands of private, corporate, and commercial aviation professionals on matters of human error in aviation. Keynote speaker at multiple Safety Symposia. Traveled internationally to present on Runway Safety.

Association Membership/Boards

2012-2014: President of the Missouri/Kansas Chapter of Association of Naval Aviation. Sponsored five WWII Naval Aviators on the Honor Flight to DC.

2014-present: President of the *USS HARRY S. TRUMAN* (CVN-75) Foundation. To date, over 213 Distinguished Visitors have embarked for an overnight, at-sea visit and over \$180K has been provided to the ship’s Family Readiness Group to support the crew and her families.

Association Membership Boards (cont’)

2018-2026: President of Valor Partners Foundation

- Provides scholarships for dependents of the 100% disabled or deceased veteran
- Partners with colleges and universities with 100% matching contributions
- Since 2018, disbursements to colleges have increased annually from \$100K to over \$900K, partner schools have grown from 5 to 42, the footprint has expanded to 15 states and scholarships awarded have increased from 40 to over 800 in 2025.
- In March 2026, Valor Partners Foundation was absorbed by the Gary Sinise Foundation. The merger had been in the “works” for over a year with the final decision made during an in-person meeting with Gary and his executive staff in October of 2025 in Nashville. The Sinise Foundation will expand the current footprint to include more schools in more states. Additionally, first responders (police, fire and EMS) will be added to the scholarship recipient list.

Life Member: Fift of the Fleet Organization

Life Member: Tailhook

Life Member: A7 Corsair II Association

Personal

One of seven siblings.

Married Jo Anna in 1968 during my last semester of college and seven months before entering flight training.

Was part of a four plane (A-7E) flyover celebrating the opening of Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City in September 1972.

My oldest sister and I served at the same time during the Vietnam conflict. She was a USAF Captain flight nurse stationed at Clark AFB, Philippines while I was aboard *USS RANGER* (CV-61). She helped care for the 591 POWs following their release from Hanoi in February 1973.

We have two daughters, one granddaughter and one grandson.