



Thomas J. Kilcline, Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Date of Designation: 22 November 1950

Dates of Active Duty: 19 May 1943 - 1 August 1983.

Total Flight Hours: 6,000

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 500

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,500 Prop: 2,000 Helo: 500 VAH: 3,500
VR/VP: 1,800

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: USS *Forrestal*, Jul. - Aug. 1967 - 5 Missions.

Aviation Commands:

CO, RVAH-11, Jul. 1966 - Aug. 1967
NAVAIRLANT, Jul. 1981 - Aug. 1983
NAS Patuxent River, Aug. 1972 - May 1974

Combat Awards:

Air Medal (Jul. 67) - Strike.

1/65-7/67 VAH-11 USS *Forrestal*.
7/66-8/67 CO, VAH-11 deployed in Vietnam theatre.
8/67-8/68 Staff of Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.
1968-70 Operations Officer and XO, USS *Ticonderoga* (CVA-14) during operations off Vietnam. Naval Air Systems Command, Program Manager for acquisition and support of the RA-5C aircraft.
10/70 Navy Office of Legislative Affairs, Director of Liaison with House of Representatives.
8/72-5/74 CO, NAS Patuxent River, MD.
6/74-8/75 Director of Aviation Officer Distribution and Education, BUPERS.
8/75-2/78 Commander, Naval Base Subic Bay. Commander in Chief Pacific Representative in the Philippines and Commander, U. S. Naval Forces, Philippines.
2/78-7/81 Chief, Legislative Affairs.
7/81-8/83 Commander, Naval Air Forces, U. S. Atlantic Fleet.
8/1/83 Retired from active duty.
1968 President, The Retired Officers Association

Duty Assignment Chronology

1943 Enlisted in U. S. Navy.
1945 Appointed to U. S. Naval Academy.
1949 Commissioned Ensign.
11/50 Designated a naval aviator,
12/50-53 VR-5
1953-56 U. S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA., and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Earned Masters Degree in Aeronautical Engineering.
1956-59 VAH-9 on USS *Saratoga* and *Ranger*.
1959-61 Staff of Commander Sixth Fleet.
1962 Completed Command and Staff Course, Naval War College.
1962-65 Naval Air Test Center (NATC), Coordinator of test programs for all attack aircraft at NATC.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Test pilot: First Navy pilot of EA-6A. Responsible for BIS trials of A6A and RA5C. Final report in 1964 in both cases.
- (2) Won first A-3 Bombing Derby (1959), Sanford, FL.
- (3) Won first Reconnaissance Derby (1967), Sanford, FL.

Family: Married Dornell Thompson of Pensacola, whose father won his wings of gold in 1926. Son Tom, Captain USN, prospective Commander Air Wing 14. Son Patrick, lost in F-14. Daughter Kathleen, Navy doctor, lost in auto accident. Daughter Mary, wife of CDR Bob Novak, Deputy PMA, NAVAIRSYSCOM.