



Craig Langbehn, Capt., USN (Ret.)
 "Panda"

Hometown: Wolsley, South Dakota

High School and College Career:

Wolsley Independent High School – 1963
 South Dakota State University – 1967. BS
 University of West Florida – 1994. MPA

Dates on Active Duty: 1967 - 1994

Date Commissioned/Source: 19 January 1968/AOCS

Date of Designation: 11 April 1969 NA# V28116

Total Flight Hours: 5202

Carrier/Ship Landings: 802

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 5175 Prop: 27 VF/VA: 4582 VT: 1620

Combat tours:

Vietnam: USS *Oriskany* (CVA-34), VA-153 June 1972 – March 1973

Combat missions: 171

Commands:

VFA-113, February 1984 – September 1985

Awards:

Defense Superior Service Medal
 3 Meritorious Service Medals
 13 Strike Flight Air Medals
 2 Navy Commendation Medals with Combat "V"
 Vietnam Service Medal
 Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star
 Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal



Duty Assignment Chronology

01/68-04/69	Flight Training Pensacola, Meridian, & Kingsville T-34B, T-2A/B, TF-9J
04/69-05/71	VT-9 NAS Meridian, Flight Instructor T-2B/C
05/71-02/72	VA-125, NAS Lemoore, Fleet Replacement Pilot Training, (A-7A/B)
02/72-06/74	VA-153, USS <i>Oriskany</i> (CVA 34), JO, Vietnam and Westpac cruises (A-7A/B)
06/74-02/77	VA-125, NAS Lemoore, Flight Instructor (A-7A/B)
02/77-06/77	VA-122. NAS Lemoore, Fleet Replacement Pilot Training, (A-7E)
06/77-11/79	VA195, NAS Lemoore, USS <i>Kitty Hawk</i> (CV-63), USS <i>America</i> (CV-66), (A-7E)
11/79-11/80	F/A-18 Fleet Introduction Team, Asst. Project Officer, NAS Lemoore, (A-7E)
11/80-10/82	VFA-125, NAS Lemoore, Maintenance Officer and Flight Instructor, (A-7E, F-18A/B)
10/82-02/84	VFA – 113, NAS Lemoore, Executive Officer, (F/A-18)
02/84-09/85	VFA – 113, USS <i>Constellation</i> (CV-64), Commanding Officer, (F/A-18)
09/85-01/88	COMCARGRUFIVE, USS <i>Midway</i> (CV-41), AIROPS Officer, (F/A-18)
01/88-07/90	OP-05, F/A-18 Requirements Officer
07/90-05/91	OP-05, STRIKE/ASUW Branch Head
05/91-08/94	SEAD Sector, CONUS NORAD Region, Deputy Commander
08/94	Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

(1) As a SERGRAD instructor in the T-2C, I was selected to be one of the instructors when spin training was added to the syllabus. Not sure that attests to my flying skills or I was deemed expendable.

(2) First A-7 tour flying combat in Vietnam taught me so many things about my profession and the team I was now a part of. Leadership was outstanding and so impressive I augmented to a Regular commission and was committed to a Navy career from that point.

(3) Competed in the COMFAIRLEMOORE West Coast A-7 Squadrons Bombing Derby on a 4-member team 2 months after returning from combat cruise. Flying the A-7A, the team won the Golden bomb award for best squadron competing against all models of the A-7.

(4) First USN member of the F-18 Fleet Introduction Team that was charged with syllabus development and simulator integration in preparation for the stand up of VFA-125 as the FRS for Navy and Marine aviators.

(5) When VFA-125 was stood up for training, was a part of the initial cadre of instructors to check out and become flight instructors. Also was assigned as the Maintenance Officer meeting many challenges associated with a new aircraft to meet training requirements. Qualified post maintenance check pilot.

(6) As Commanding Officer of one of the first F/A-18 squadrons to deploy along with our sister squadron in USS *Constellation*, solved issues to smoothly integrate the Hornet into the airwing and cyclic ops while solving supply train issues. Great sailors doing a superb job resulting in a very successful initial deployment.

(7) Working in OPNAV as the F/A-18 Requirements Officer gave me an opportunity to advocate for fellow Hornet pilots. A major radar upgrade was funded and also funding was started for the follow-on F/A-18E/F.

(8) Concurrent with F/A-18 requirements while working in OPNAV, coordinated efforts for TACAIR Night Strike Working Group and served as USN representative on Joint Services Night Vision Goggle Conference Executive Committee. Air Board accepted recommendations on Night Attack and assets for multiple platforms were provided.

(9) Throughout my flying career I had 3 instructor tours (T-2 for basic jet training, A-7 FRS, and F/A-18 FRS). I always felt these tours to be very rewarding and enjoyable for the fellow aviators you meet and, in some way, contributed to their success.

(2) I then was hired and continued for 15 years with McDonnell Douglas/Boeing/Lockheed Martin as systems and tactics instructor in the classroom teaching F-15C pilots. We were responsible for instructing all simulator missions as well as flying lead on every multi-aircraft mission. When F-15-C training moved to the Air Guard, we became fully dedicated to flying 2 and 4 ship simulator missions for Weapons Controller Training.

(3) I took pride in being the only USN member in the F-15 instructor cadre that had as many as 20 instructors. I was selected as the lead instructor for all general F-15 systems and responsible for standardization as well as courseware content. In addition, using my night vision goggle background, I was able to assist the Air Force introduction for NVGs for F-15C pilots. After being certified as an NVG instructor, I wrote the courseware and built a night lab in the classroom for the pilot's training.

Personal

(1) After retiring from F-15 instructing in 2012, we moved from Lynn Haven, Fl to a retirement community in Griffin, Ga. Life now consists of traveling and a lot of golf.

(2) Married to the former Betty Thrash and we will celebrate our 55th Anniversary in July 2024. We have 3 children -two sons and a daughter and 4 grandchildren. Both boys are associated with military aviation - one having just retired as a USN pilot for 28 years and the other is serving in the Army as a crew chief for Apaches

Summary of Post Active Duty Activities/Career

(1) After retiring, worked for a resort on Panama City Beach in management for nearly two years trying something different. Enjoyable but missed the attitude of people knowing what they wanted to accomplish.