



Nicholas Mongillo, Capt., USN (Ret.)
 “Mongo”

Hometown: Bridgeport, CT

High School and College Career:

Graduated from Stratford High School in 1980.
 Attended Western Connecticut State University, graduating in May 1985 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Management Information Systems.
 Graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval War College with Master of Arts degree in Strategic Studies and National Security, May 2000.

Dates on Active Duty: Feb 1985 – 1 Nov 2013

Date Commissioned/Source: 6 Jun 1986 / AOCS

Date of Designation: 20 November 1987

Total Flight Hours: 5579.1

Carrier/Ship Landings: 684 (404 Day, 280 Night)

Flight Hours:

T-34C	74.2
T-2C	1103.3
A-4E/TA-4J	333.3
FA-18A-D	2546.1
FA-18E	816.2
F-16N	193.3
F-5	50.1
C26D	462.6
	5579.1

Combat tours:

Operation DESERT SHIELD/STORM, Aug 1990 – Mar 1991
 USS *Saratoga* (CV-60), CVW-17, VFA-81 Sunliners, FA-18C
 Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, Nov 1997 – Feb 1998
 USS *George Washington* (CVN-73), CVW-1, VFA-82 Marauders, FA-18C



Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, Feb 2006 – May 2006
 USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN-76), CVW-14, VFA-22 Redcocks, FA-18E

Combat missions: 71

Op Desert Storm	24
OSW (Southern Watch)	18
OIF (Op Iraqi Freedom)	29

Commands:

VFA-22 Redcocks, NAS Lemoore, CA: Sep. 2005 – Dec. 2006
 Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai, HI: Jun. 2010 – July. 2013

Awards:

- Silver Star Medal
- Legion of Merit Medal
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal – with two gold stars
- Air Medal – with Combat Gold “V” and the numerical gold “4”
- Navy Commendation Medal – with Combat Gold “V” and two large gold stars
- USAF Commendation Medal
- Navy Achievement Medal
- Joint Meritorious Unit Award – with one small Bronze star
- Navy Unit Commendation
- Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Navy Battle “E” Award with letter “E”
- National Defense Service Medal
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Southwest Asia Service Medal – with two small Bronze Stars
- Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Service Medal
- Armed Forces Service Medal
- Sea Service Ribbon – with three small Bronze Stars
- Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia)
- Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)

Duty Assignment Chronology

02/86 - 06/86 Aviation Officer Candidate School (AOCS), Pensacola, FL
07/86 - 12/86 VT-2 (T-34C) Student Naval Aviator (SNA) Whiting Field, Milton, FL
12/86 - 11/87 VT-9 (T-2C), VT-7 (TA-4J) SNA, NAS Meridian, Meridian, MS
12/87 - 12/89 VT-19 (T-2C) SERGRAD Flight Instructor, NAS Meridian, Meridian, MS
12/89 - 07/90 VFA-106 (FA-18C) Replacement Pilot, NAS Cecil Field, Jax, FL
07/90 - 03/93 VFA-81 (FA-18C) JO Pilot, Communications Officer, Schedules Officer, Assistant Administrative Officer, Nuclear Weapon Training Officer, NAS Cecil Field, Jax, FL
03/93 - 03/95 VF-45 (A-4E, F-5E, F-16N) Adversary Pilot, Schedules Officer, Asst Ops Officer, NAS Key West, Key West, FL
03/95 - 03/97 VFA-106 (FA-18C) FRS Instructor, Schedules Officer, Air-to-Air Phase Head, NAS Cecil Field, Jax, FL
03/97 - 07/99 VFA-82 (FA-18C) Dept Head, QA Officer, Ops Officer, NAS Cecil Field, FL
07/99 - 07/00 Naval War College, Newport, RI
08/00 - 08/03 TOPGUN / N7 NSAWC (Naval Strike Air Warfare Center – now called NAWDC – Naval Aviation Warfare Development Center), TOPGUN XO, TOPGUN Readiness Officer, Carrier Airwing Overall Instructor, NSAWC N9 Safety Officer, NAS Fallon, Fallon, NV
08/03 - 02/04 VFA-122 (FA-18E) FRS Super Hornet transition training. NAS Lemoore, Lemoore, CA
02/04 - 12/06 VFA-22 (FA-18E) Executive Officer & Commanding Officer, NAS Lemoore, Lemoore, CA
12/06 - 05/10 NORAD-USNORTHCOM Command Center Deputy Director, Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, CO
05/10 - 10/13 Pacific Missile Range Facility Commanding Officer, Kauai, HI

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) After completion of flight training in VT-7 in Meridian, MS and receiving my Wings of Gold on 20 Nov 1997, I was selected as a SEGRAD (Selectively Retained Graduate) flight instructor and assigned to VT-19 flying the T-2C Buckeye.
- (2) Reported to VFA-106 FA-18 FRS at NAS Cecil Field for CAT I FA-18 training. During training, I was designated a “must-pump” meaning I would receive a few extra traps and be eligible for immediate orders to a deploying/deployed FA-18 squadron. As my FRS training concluded in late July 1990, my 1st child was born, and I received orders to VFA-81 which were scheduled for their normal 6-month deployment on USS *Saratoga* (CV-60) on 7 Aug 1990.

(3) Reported to VFA-81 flying brand new Lot 10 FA-18Cs. During my check-in to the squadron in early Aug 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait. All of our peacetime port calls were cancelled and we departed NAS Mayport, FL as scheduled on 7 Aug 1990 and sailed at flank speed towards the Red Sea as part of Operation DESERT SHIELD. For the next six months we patrolled the Red Sea, deterred Iraqi aggression into Saudi Arabia, trained, and prepared for offensive operations to remove Iraq from Kuwait. On 17 Jan 1991, with a stubborn Iraq entrenched in Kuwait, Operation DESERT STORM commenced – to forcibly remove Iraqi forces from Kuwait. I found myself on the first daylight strike of the war as part of a combined USS *Saratoga* and USS *JFK* strike into southwest Iraq. During our flight, our Hornet 4-ship, carrying 4 MK-84s each plus 2 AIM-7 Sparrows and 2 AIM-9 Sidewinders for self-protection, were intercepted by two Iraqi MiG-21s while we were beginning our target acquisition. Alerted by the CVW-17 E-2C that we had “bandits on the nose at 15 miles” I was able to switch from A/G to A/A mode, detect the MiG with my Hornet radar, meet rules of engagement criteria, and down the trail MiG-21 with a 2.5NM Sparrow shot. LCDR Mark Fox downed the lead MiG. Our 4-ship then continued on and destroyed our targets, recovering safely back on USS *Saratoga*.

(4) Reported to VF-45 Blackbirds Adversary Squadron at NAS Key West, FL. It was an absolute blast living in paradise and dogfighting daily. We flew stripped down A-4E Skyhawks, F-5E Tiger II and F-16N Fighting Falcons. The F-16Ns were especially noteworthy since the Navy bought an absolute dogfighting monster. We flew totally slick F-16Ns, no gun installed, no external tanks, and enjoyed a 1:1 thrust-to-weight ratio at takeoff gross weight...which only improved as the hop progressed. The F-16N easily hit its NATOPS limits of 800KCAS at sea level, Mach 2.0 at altitude, 60K+ service ceiling and 9gs. During this assignment, I attended the TOPGUN Adversary course.

(5) Reported to VFA-106 as an FRS instructor, initially as a schedule’s writer, then as the Air-to-Air Phase Lead. I observed and learned new leadership skills from my boss, mentor and friend CAPT (Sel) William Gortney...who went on to 4-star rank. During this tour I was honored to be the peer-selected 1996 Instructor of the Year.

(6) Reported to VFA-82, as a Department Head, flying brand new Lot 18 FA-18Cs. During this tour both COs, first Steve Callaghan and then Greg Nosal, set a high bar and pushed our squadron to excel, culminating in the Battle E and Estocin awards in 1998 under Nosal’s command. During this tour, we successfully deployed on USS *George Washington* (CVN-73) and enforced four months of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH “no fly zone” operations. Post deployment, as Operations Officer, I conceptualized and sold CO Nosal on the idea for a training detachment to eastern Europe to fight German MiG-29 Fulcrums. Initially skeptical of my idea, CDR Nosal ultimately approved my pursuit. Then, after six months of planning, prepping and gaining senior leadership buy-in, we flew nine jets from NAS Cecil Field, and trailed two USAF KC-10s for the 10-hour

flight to Laage, Germany and executed our two-week dog-fighting detachment. During this tour, I became an improved ball flyer and earned two airwing TOP 10 awards. My DH tour culminated with my selection as the Commanding Officer's Junior Officer Leadership Award winner for 1998.

(7) My first out of the cockpit tour was for one year to attend the Naval War College in Newport, RI. During this assignment, I worked extremely hard to improve my strategic thinking and writing skills. The hard work paid off as I graduated with distinction earning a Master of Arts in National Defense and Strategic Studies.

(8) My next assignment was to TOPGUN at NAS Fallon, NV as a tactic's instructor. During this tour I was fortunate to earn every TOPGUN instructional qualification available, become the Combat Gunnery SME, become a fully qualified Airwing Overall Instructor, serve as the TOPGUN Executive Officer, and conceptualize and lead Exercise Agile Archer. Agile Archer brought together USAF F-15s, USN F-14 and FA-18s and the German Air Force MiG-29 Fulcrums for a month long BFM (Basic Fighter Maneuvering) detachment to beautiful NAS Key West, FL.

(9) During my TOPGUN tour, I screened for command and was assigned to VFA-22 at NAS Lemoore, which were transitioning from the FA-18C to brand new LOT 26 FA-18E aircraft. The highlight of this tour was leading the squadron on the maiden deployment of the USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN-76) to the Arabian Gulf and participating in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, supporting our troops on the ground. Compared to the Legacy Hornet, the Super Hornet provided increased range, payload, sensors, connectivity, and precision weapon capabilities – all significantly improving our combat effectiveness. Additionally, I was peer-selected as the 2006 Navy and Marine Association Commander Leadership Award.

(10) My joint tour occurred at NORAD-USNORTHCOM in Colorado Springs, CO. During this assignment I worked as a watch stander inside Cheyenne Mountain and in the basement of USNORTHCOM HQ at Peterson AFB. Our Team protected America and Canada from missile strike, aircraft attack and terrorist event.

(11) Final assignment was the Commanding Officer and Range Commander for the PMRF (Pacific Missile Range Facility) on Kauai, HI. My twilight tour provided three fabulous years living in paradise including residence in the beachside CO residence overlooking the beautiful Pacific Ocean and nightly sunsets. Additional highlights included three years flying the twin-engine turboprop C-26 Metroliner, executing 16 Ballistic Missile Defense standard missile tests, and hosting two biennial RIMPAC exercises.

Summary of Post Military Work

(1) Upon retirement from the US Navy in Nov 2013, I began my second career in the defense industry. My first post-Navy job was with Tactical Air Support (Tacair) as Director of Consulting. Tacair is comprised of 50 retired fighter pilots that support the US Navy and DoD with tactical aviation consulting services. In Aug 2015, I joined Lockheed Martin Aeronautics in Fort Worth, TX as part of their Strategic Studies Group (SSG). In the SSG, we developed company growth strategies and supported business development activities. In Aug 2017, I moved to L3Harris Technologies in Plano, TX as a corporate executive. During my time with L3Harris I served in a variety of senior executive positions including VP for Business Development and VP for Strategy. In March 2024, I joined RTX Corporation (comprised of Raytheon, Collins Aerospace & Pratt-Whitney) as an Associate Director for Business Development, focused on advanced autonomy systems.

Personal

(1) Currently reside in McKinney, TX with my wife of 36 years Jacqueline. We met in college when she was 18 and I was 20. We have two beautiful adult daughters – Lauren and Kellie. Kellie recently served 7 years as a Navy Supply Corp Officer.

Associations/Membership/Boards:

- (1) TOPGUN Association member (Lifetime)
- (2) Tailhook Association member (Lifetime)
- (3) Ready Room Project (Board of Directors)