



Thomas G. Otterbein, Capt. USN (Ret.)
"Otter"

Hometown: Bad Axe, Michigan

High School and College Career

Bad Axe High School, Bad Axe, MI 1966
BS, United States Naval Academy 1970
MS, USN Post-Graduate School 1971

Dates on Active Duty: June 1970 to July 2000

Date Commissioned/Source: 06/03/70 USNA

Date of Designation: 27 February 1973

Total Flight Hours: 4,027

Carrier Landings: 750

Approximate Flight Hours: Jet: 4,001, VT: 943, VF: 2,031,
VFA: 763

Carrier Landings: 750

Commands:

NFWS Acting (2/85 to 8/85)
VFA-195 F/A-18A
USS Nashville (LPD-13)
USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75)

Awards:

LOM (3)
MSM (2)
NAM

Duty Assignment Chronology

07/70—06/71 USPGS, Masters Degree
08/71—02/73 CNATRA, Student Naval Aviator
03/73—02/75 VT-21, Instructor/Legal Officer
05/75—11/75 VF-121, RAG Student
11/75—7/80 VF-111, F-4N/F-14A Transition, Safety Officer



Duty Assignment Chronology (cont')

08/80-7/82 VX-4, OpsO, Operational Test Director
08/82-11/82 VF-124, F-14 Refresh/CQ
11/82-12/83 VF-51, OpsO
01/84-01/86 NFWS, XO, Instructor Pilot, Acting CO
02/86-12/86 VFA-125, F/A-18 RAG Training
VFA-161, XO, F/A-18 Transition & sundown
12/86-07/89 VFA-195, XO/CO tour (Atsugi, Japan)
12/89-11/90 Nuc Power School, Orlando/Ballston Spa
12/90-10/91 AirLant, Safety Officer
11/91-05/93 CVN-71, XO
10/93-04/95 USS NASHVILLE, CO (LPD-13)
05/95-10/95 Nuc PCO Training, Orlando/Ballston Spa
12/95-04/96 CNO SSG, Newport
0/96-07/98 PCU HST, OINC Newport News
07/98-11/99 USS TRUMAN (CVN-75), CO
12/99-06/00 SUPSHIP Newport News
07/00 Retirement

Summary of Significant Career Events

Selection as Air Wing F-14 Demo Pilot

Several Top Hook awards in the F-14 (not so much in the F-4)

Executive Officer of Top Gun. Weathered a difficult 8 month period as Acting CO.

Selection to CNO Strategic Studies Group

By far the most rewarding tour was as OINC of CVN Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU-75) and eventually Commanding Officer of *USS HARRY S. TRUMAN* (CVN-75). To build an organization completely from scratch was the opportunity of a lifetime. I tried to give the Department Heads lots of rein to ensure that the bad things about previous commands did not recur on *TRUMAN*. One favorite memory is COMNAVAIRLANT visiting *TRUMAN* one day and remarking, "I never hear anything bad about *TRUMAN* during my morning meetings."

Summary of Post Active Duty Activities/Career

Worked 10 years for Sperry Marine/Northrop Grumman providing navigation software to Navy ships.

Personal Life

Happily married for 41 years to Kasia Palczynski Otterbein.
Enjoying life in Charlottesville, VA playing lots of golf.