



John C. Patton, Captain, USN, (Ret.)
"JP"

Hometown: Homer, Louisiana

High School and College Career:

Homer High School, '63
Bullis Prep, '64 (boosted my SAT score 300 points)
USNA, 1964-1968
Old Dominion University, Financial Planning Professional, 1992
San Juan College, - Business Associates Accounting, 2002

Dates on Active Duty: 5 June 1968 – 31 June 1994

Date Commissioned/Source:

5 June 1968/U.S. Naval Academy

Date of Designation: 7 Oct 1969 NA# V-28909

Total Flight Hours: 4865

Carrier/Ship Landings: 1115

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 4834; Prop 31; VF/VA 4580; VT 285.

Combat tours:

May 1972 – Feb 1973 USS *America* (CV66) Gulf of Tonkin (F4J)

Combat missions: 120 (F4J)

Command:

CO VF161, USS *Midway* (CV41) homeported Yokosuka, Japan

Awards:

2 Individual Air Medals
6 Stk/Flt Awards
2 Navy Commendation Medals w/combat V and the typical medals for a 26 yr career.



Duty Assignment Chronology

06/68	Commissioned USNA
07/68-10/69	Aviation Training Command
11/69-10/70	VF101, F-4 RAG
11/70-02/71	VF102, USS <i>Independence</i> , Med
03/71-12/71	VF101 Det 66, USS <i>America</i> , Med
01/72-06/73	VF74, USS <i>America</i> , Vietnam
07/73-10/73	VF101 det Key West, ACM instructor
11/73-11/76	Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, Pensacola
12/76-07/77	VF171, F4 RAG - CAT II
08/77-01/80	VF74, USS <i>Forrestal</i> , 2 Med cruises
02/80-06/82	VF171, F4 RAG – Dept Hd, XO
07/82-08/82	VF74 – USS <i>Forrestal</i> , Med, squadron needed a pilot.
09/82-11/82	VF171, abbreviated PXO/CO courses
12/82-04/86	VF161 – USS <i>Midway</i> – XO/CO
04/86-05/88	NMPC – Washington DC – OP130
06/88-06/89	ICAF – Washington DC
07/89-06/92	US Space Command – Colorado Springs
07/92-06/94	AIRLANT, Norfolk – Safety Officer
31 Jun 94	Retired

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Numerous MIGCAP missions in Vietnam. Only saw a MIG one time (on the radar) miles out of range and heading away.
- (2) Blue Angels – '74 -'76 – #7/3/4. Thought I was applying to fly F4s in '73. Blues transitioned from a team to a Navy A4 Squadron, commanded by CDR Tony Less. As narrator #7 in '74, put the first 380 flight hours on brand new TA4 (158722.) Had even more fun the next two years as 3/4 (left wing/slot.) For me, the most exciting job in Naval Aviation.

(3) As CO, VF161 received the Arleigh Burke Award for most improved squadron in 1985. Recorded two years of accident free flying, longest accident free period in the squadron's history.

(4) Of my 1115 arrested landings, have 1107 traps in the F4 Phantom. Could it be the top number?

Summary of Post Military Activities

(1) Civil Air Patrol – SW Colorado, senior check pilot & safety officer, located two downed aircraft. Trained several cadets from first flight to solo. 1995-2005.

(2) Certified Flight Instructor (VFR/IFR) – Durango, CO. 1995-2010.

(3) La Plata County Colorado Airport Commission, board member & President, 1996-2010.

(4) Pine River Valley Rotary, charter member & president, 2005 to present. Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army Service Extension Unit, Fort Lewis College Professional Associates.

(5) USNA Blue & Gold Officer, 5 years.

(6) Naval Aviation Museum Foundation & USS *Midway* Assoc. member

Personal

(1) My Dad, John Patton, was a Hellcat pilot in WWII. Recalled for Korea. He flew Corsairs, Banshees, and Demons. He was killed in 1958 flying an F3H-2N Demon at Cecil Field with VF-31. I always wanted to be a Navy fighter pilot. Grateful for him and all who led the way.

(2) Had I not followed my Dad to the Navy I would not have met VS-30's young Ensign AI, Pam Johnston, at NAS Cecil Field in Oct '75. Married in Nov '76, we made dual Navy careers work by going easy on our respective detailers. We both think we should have paid the Navy for all the fun we had.