



Walter M. Schirra, Captain, USN (Ret.)
 “Wally”

Date of Designation: 10 June 1948 NA # J-1362

Dates of Active Duty: June 1942 - 1 July 1969.

Total Flight Hours: 4,600

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 263

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,800 Prop: 800 Helo: 15 VF/VA: 4,400 VR/
 VP: 200 Other: Spacecraft 295

Combat Tours:

Korea: 154th Fighter Bomber Squadron , 136th Fighter
 Bomber Wing (National Guard/USAF), Jun. 1951
 - Dec. 1951. 91 Missions (two MIG-15's)

Space Program Missions:

Mercury 8 - “Sigma 7”, October 1962.
 Gemini 6 - December 1965.
 Apollo 7 - Oct. 1968 (awarded USN Deep Draft Insignia)

Combat Awards:

2 Distinguished Flying Crosses
 2 Air Medals
 (1 Distinguished Flying Cross - Space Flight)

Duty Assignment Chronology

6/42-6/45 U. S. Naval Academy - Midshipman.
 7/45-2/46 USS *Alaska* (CB-1).
 2/46-12/46 Seventh Fleet Staff, Tsingtao, China.
 1/47-6/48 Navy Flight Training.
 6/48-1/51 VF-7A/VF-71 (USS *Leyte*, USS *Philippine*
Sea, USS *Midway* and USS *F. D. Roosevelt*.
 Mediterranean deployments).
 2/51-12/51 136th Fighter Bomber Sqdn. (Korea F-84E).



2/52-2/54 Naval Ordnance Test Station (NOTS), China
 Lake, CA.
 3/54-10/54 Project Cutlass, NAS Miramar, CA. (Steam
 catapults off USS *Hancock*).
 10/54-4/56 VC-3 Transitional Training Unit (F7U-3,
 FJ-3 and F9F-6), NAS Moffett Field, CA.
 4/56-9/57 VF-124 (F3H-2N), Operations Officer. NAS
 Miramar and Westpac on USS *Lexington*.
 10/57-1/58 Naval Aviation Safety School, U.S.C.
 2/58-7/58 Test Pilot School, NAS Patuxent River, MD.
 8/58-4/59 Service Test, NAS Patuxent River, MD.
 5/59-7/69 NASA (Space Task Group, Project Mercury,
 Langley AFB, Virginia; Manned Spacecraft
 Center, Houston, TX).

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Carrier qualified on USS *Wright*: SNJ-5, October 1947;
 F6F June 1948; F9F-2 June 1950.
- (2) Second 1,000 hour Naval Jet Aviator. (Bud Sickle first,
 Duke Windsor third. Duke grounded me as XO of VC-
 3, but I sneaked in some extra time.)
- (3) Sidewinder missile project officer/pilot, China Lake,
 NOTS, 1952-53. Fired Sidewinder with first hit on a
 QB-17 (drone), 25 November 1953.
- (4) Second in F3H-2N air race from USS *Shangri La* (off
 Monterey, CA.) to Oklahoma City National Air Show,
 2 Sep. 1956. (Plain Jayne Mansfield, Miss OKC!)
- (5) As test pilot at Naval Air Test Center (Feb. 1958-Apr.
 1959), flew 20 different model test aircraft. (13th to fly
 XF4H-1, Buno 142259 - ship number one).
- (6) Mercury 8 “Sigma 7” - orbited Earth six times (9
 hours) with carrier “landing” on USS *Kearsarge*,
 Oct. 1962.

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Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (7) Gemini 6 "Gemini 6" - orbited Earth 17 times (26 hours) with worlds first rendezvous. Carrier "landing" on USS *Wasp*, Dec. 1965.
- (8) Apollo 7 "Apollo 7" - orbited Earth 173 times (260 hours). First Apollo launch, with carrier "landing" on USS *Essex*, Oct. 1968. First and only Deep Draft Command.