



VF-151 on USS Boxer (CVA-21) 1953

Roger E. Sheets, CAPT USN (Ret.)
 “Rog”

Date of Designation: 31 July 1952 NA# T-2368

Dates of Active Duty: February 1951 - January 1982

Total Flight Hours: 6,570

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 775

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 4,063 Prop: 2,507 VF/VA: 4,294 VT: 2,276

Combat Tours:

Korea: VF-151, Mar. 1953-Dec. 1953, USS *Boxer*
 Vietnam: VF-161, Dec. 1967-Apr. 1968, USS *Coral Sea*
 VF-161, Aug. 1968-Apr. 1969, USS *Coral Sea*
 CAG-15, Apr. 1972-Jul. 1972, USS *Coral Sea*

Total Combat Missions: 285

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-161, Jan. 1968-Apr. 1969 (F-4B “Phantom”)
 Commander CAG-15, Apr. 1972-Feb. 1973 (F-4B
 “Phantom” ; A-6A “Intruder”)
 USS *Wichita* (AOR-1) May 1975 – Sept. 1976

Combat Awards:

2 Legion of Merit
 9 Distinguished Flying Crosses
 3 Bronze Stars
 5 Air Medals
 21 Air Medals (Strikes/Flights)
 Navy Commendation Medal w/ Combat “V”
 Vietnamese Gallantry Cross



July 2007 Lynn in Alaska

Duty Assignment Chronology
 (* Combat Deployment)

- 02/51-07/53 NAVCAD Pensacola & Cabanas, TX (SNJ-5/6, F6F-5).
- 08/52-09/52 All Wx Flight School, Student, Corpus Christi, TX (SNB).
- 09/52-10/52 Jet Training, Student, Kingsville, TX (TV-1, TV-2).
- 11/52-05/55 *VF-653/VF-151, SLJO, Weapons Officer, Alameda, CA, USS *Boxer*; USS *Wasp* (F9F-2/5).
- 06/55-07/58 ATU-105, ATU-205-Flight Instructor, Memphis, TN (T-28B, TV-2).
- 08/58-05/59 General Line School, Student, Monterey, CA (SNB, JRB).
- 06/59-12/59 VF-124 F8 RAG, Student, Moffett Field, CA. Designated LSO.
- 01/60-08/62 VF-154, LSO, Ass't. Operations/Operations, Moffett Field, CA; USS *Coral Sea*; Miramar, CA, USS *Coral Sea* (F8U-1E, F8U-2N).
- 09/62-04/63 NATTC, Student, Glynco, GA, CIC, ASW, CATCC, AIC (F8U-1E, T-34B, T2V-1).
- 05/63-03/65 *USS *Constellation*, Ass't Air Operations, Air Operations, San Diego, CA (C-1A, WF-2, T-33B, RF-8A, F-8E).
- 04/65-06/65 VRF-32, TEMDU as Ferry Pilot, San Diego, CA (C-1A, T-28B, T-33B, S2F, UC-45J, F-8A/B/C/E, TF-9J, T-1A, E-1B).
- 07/65-06/66 Naval War College, Command & Staff, Student, Newport, R.I (F-8B/E, E-1B, T-1A, UC-45J).
- 07/66-06/67 VT-21, Flight Instructor, Training & Plans Officer, Kingsville TX (TF-9J, AF-9J).
- 07/67-12/67 VF-121, PCO Student, NAS Miramar, CA (F-4B/J).
- 12/67-05/69 *VF-161, XO (1 month), CO (16 months) NAS Miramar, CA; USS *Coral Sea* (F-4B).

Duty Assignment Chronology continued

05/69-12/70 *CARDIV NINE Staff, Plans & Staff Officer, Air Ops Officer, NAS North Island, CA, USS *Hancock*, USS *Ranger* (F-4B/J, T-28B, C-45, C-1A, US-2B).

01/71-11/71 BUPERS, Head, Fleet Staff and Carrier Placement Office, Arlington Annex (F-4B/J, T-28B).

12/71-03/72 Various West Coast RAGs, P-CAG refresher training (F-4J, E-2B, SH-3G, A-6A, A-7C).

04/72-02/73 *CVW-15, USS *Coral Sea*, NAS Miramar, CAG (F-4B, A-6A, RF-8, A-7E).

03/73-03/73 ComFairMiramar Staff, Stashed, NAS Miramar, CA (F4B).

04/73-12/73 Chapman College Extension, Student, NAS Miramar, CA (F-4B/J).

01/74-02/75 CTF-77 Staff, ACOS Ops and Plans, NAS Cubi Point, PI, Embarked various CV's (F-4B/N, US-2A, A-7B, C-1A).

03/75-04/75 NAVSURFPAC, PCO Training, San Diego, CA.

05/75-09/76 CO, USS *Wichita* (AOR-1), San Francisco, CA.

10/76-08/78 COMNAVAIRPAC Staff, Force Personnel Officer, NAS North Island, CA.

09/78-11/80 ComFairWestPac Det Cubi Point, OinC, NAS Cubi Point, PI.

12/80-01/82 CNO Area Representative, Deputy, New Orleans, LA.

- (6) Lead initial mining of Haiphong Harbor. Although official US (and Soviet) estimates were that we would suffer 30% loss of aircraft, none were. By prior arrangement with USS *Chicago*, aircraft above 500' were to be declared hostile. Mining aircraft remained below that altitude and a few minutes before TOT, USS *Chicago* shot down a MIG with a Talos missile, which significantly reduced the opposition. Timing was precise enough to encourage me to end the Mining Report with the following statement: "The overall reaction of the aircrews involved in the mining was one of pride, elation, and a gnawing feeling that we had somehow missed our TOT by seven years".
- (7) My final landing on January 14, 1975 in F-4N 151476 achieved the goal I set as a NAVCAD – to end my career with an equal number of take-offs and landings.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) As a LTJG earned a Special Instrument Rating (Green Card) without waivers for flight or instrument time.
- (2) An in-flight fire in an F9F-8T at 40,000' required engine shut down and a successful dead stick landing at Houston, which resulted in a great night at the bar with Gus Grissom.
- (3) While C.O. of VF-161 (F-4B) with technical help from VX-4 developed and installed a pilot dog fight radar lockup system in all squadron aircraft – two years before the Navy design and for less than 1/4th the cost of the approved system.
- (4) Made the Sparrow missile system the primary air-to-air weapon for VF-161 F-4B's. After ORI no aircraft launched less than full system, and during a standard 1968-69 WestPac deployment on Yankee Station, the squadron missed only two scheduled sorties. Deployed with 13 aircraft and 15 crews and returned home with the same aircraft and aircrews.
- (5) Completing the mission on which I became a quadruple centurion on USS *Coral Sea*, my B/N, then Marine Captain William "Charlie" Carr completed his 300th mission in North Vietnam (route packs V & VI).