



**Donald K. Simmons, Capt. USNR (Ret.)**  
 "Sickle"

Hometown: Goldsboro, N.C.,

High School and College Career:  
 Goldsboro Senior High School  
 East Carolina University

Dates on Active Duty: Jan. 1968 - Sep. 1989

Date Commissioned/Source: AOCS 1968

Date of Designation: May 10, 1969

Total Flight Hours: Military: 8826 Total 27,125

Carrier/Ship Landings: 695

Approximate Flight Hours:  
 F/A-18:(551) F-14:(490) A-7E:(3,400) A-4:(3,700) F-4:(300)

Combat tours:  
 Apr.1970 - Nov.1970 on USS *Bon Hom Richard* (Vietnam)  
 Dec. 1971 - Jun.1972 on USS *Coral Sea* (Vietnam)

Combat missions: 236

Commands:  
 OinC VA - 303 Feb 1985 - Mar. 1986  
 CO VA - 304 Mar. 1986 - Sep. 1987  
 CAG CVWR - 30 Feb. 1988 - Aug. 1989

Awards:  
 Distinguished Flying Cross (3)  
 Air Medal(3 Individual, 20 Strike Flight)  
 Navy Commendation Medal (5 with Combat V)  
 Navy Achievement Medal  
 Legion of Merit Medal  
 Letters of Commendation For Flight Performance (2)



### **Duty Assignment Chronology**

1968	Commissioned- NAS Pensacola, Fl.
1969	VA-44 NAS Cecil Field, Fl.
1969	VA-144 NAS LeMoore, Ca.
1971	VA-22 NAS Lemoore, Ca.
1972	VA-122 NAS Lemoore, Ca.
1975	CVW-9 NAS Lemoore, Ca.
1976	Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey, Ca.
1976	NFDS (Blue Angels), Pensacola, Fl
1980	VA-304 NAS Alameda, Ca.
1985	VA-303 NAS Alameda, Ca.
1985	CVWR-30 NAS Alameda, Ca.
1986	VA-304 NAS Alameda, Ca.
1987	CVWR-30, NAS Miramar, San Diego, Ca.

### **Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) As a junior in college, my Dad showed up at my house, unannounced, with an envelope. Inside the envelope was my draft notice. My home town had run out of able body men, and they started drafting "in good standing" college guys. I had taken a Navy recruiters aviation test, and had scored well. Needless to say, I hurriedly found the recruiters number and made the call. I was signed up for AOCS as a junior in college, and allowed to stay in school until graduation. Smartest move of my life.
- (2) 1973 was an interesting year for me. As an IP in the VA-122 RAG, I dead stuck two A-7E's, and one T-28C to safe landing, no damage. Letters of Commendation, and plaques were received from AIRPAC.
- (3) I was empowered to set up the Spin/Departure program for RAG instructors in VA-122.
- (4) Was one of nine pilots to drop MK-52 mines in Haiphong Harbor, North Vietnam, closing the harbor.

(5) Formation pilot, and Operations Officer for NFDS, Blue Angels.

(6) CO VA-304

(7) Commander, CVWR-30. First reservist to be selected to Command an Airwing.

### **Summary of Post Military Work**

(1) After retiring from the Navy in 1989, I returned to my airline position, flying for Western/Delta. Retired from that job at age 59.

(2) Soon after I was enlisted to set up a major corporation flight department, purchasing and flying a B-767ER, a B-757, four G-5's, two G-550's, and a Dornier Alpha Jet. The Alpha Jet was often used to fly research missions for NASA Ames, Moffet Field, Ca. After seven years at this job, I finally decided enough heavy metal and strange hotel rooms, and walked away.

(3) It all had been an interesting ride. I still own and fly a Bellanca Citabria.