



**Raymond (Ray) E. Thomas, CAPT USN (Ret.)**  
 “Grab”

Hometown: Oswego, NY

High School and College Career:

1963 Oswego Catholic High School  
 1968 SUNY Oswego: B.A. Psychology  
 1984 National War College  
 2002 The George Washington Univ.: M.S. Eng. Mgmt.

Dates on Active Duty: 28 September 1968 - 31 March 1992

Date Commissioned/Source: 28 September 1968/AVROC

Date of Designation: 24 February 1970

Total Flight Hours: 5,165

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 1,018

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 4,929 Prop: 233 VF/VA: 4,199 VT: 281 Other: 495  
 (USAF A-7D)

Combat tours:

Vietnam: Jul72 - Feb73 -Op. Linebacker One and Two, CVA-66, CVW-8, VA-82

Iraq: Aug90 - Sep90 - Op. Desert Shield, Red Sea, USS *Eisenhower*, CVW-7

Iraq: Jan91 - Apr91 - Op. Deseret Storm, JTF Proven Force, Incirlik, AB, Turkey

Combat missions: 125

Commands:

CO VFA-137, Jul85 - Sep87  
 DCAG CVW-7, Jan90 - Apr91



Awards:

2 Meritorious Service Medals  
 1 Air Medal with Combat "V"/10 Strike Flight  
 5 USN Commendation Medals with Combat "V"  
 1 Joint Service Commendation Medal  
 2 USAF Commendation Medals

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

1968-1970	Naval Aviation Training Command, Student
1970-1971	VA-174 A-7E RAG
1970-1973	VA-82, USS <i>America</i> , CVW-8 Med. & WestPac. Linebacker One and Two
1973-1975	353rd Tactical Fighter Sqdn., MBAFB, S.C.
1975-1977	USS <i>Forrestal</i> , V-2 Division Officer, Cats/AG.
1978-1980	VA-174 A-7E RAG. Weapons Training Off.
1980-1983	VA-82 Dept HD Ops (A-7E). CVW-8, CVN-68, Two Med. Cruises, 3,500 A-7 hrs.
1983-1984	National War College, Washington, DC.
1984-1985	VFA-125/VFA-106 F/A-18A Pilot Transition.
1985-1987	PCO/CO VFA-137, CV-43, CVW-13
1987-1989	ComNavAirLant, F/A-18 & A-7E Readiness
1990	DCAG, CVW-7, USS <i>Eisenhower</i>
1991	JTF Proven Force, Incirlik AB, Turkey
1991-1992	ComNavAirLant, Executive Assistant/Safety
1992	Retired from Active Duty

**Summary of Significant Career Events**

(1) Light Attack Wing One Professional Attack Aviator Award - August 1973. "Presented quarterly in recognition of the individual pilot within the Wing who demonstrates through his daily performance and in the rigors of a one-time head-to-head competition, that he is superior to all others in the Atlantic Fleet Light Attack Community of over 200 aviators."

(2) Awarded Air Force Commendation Medal for duty with 354th TFW at Myrtle Beach AFB Oct 1973 to Oct 1975.

(3) Awarded MSM in September 1987 for meritorious service as Commanding Officer of the first F/A fleet squadron on the east coast.

(4) Awarded Air Force Commendation Medal and Joint Service Commendation Medal for duty while deployed to Incirlik AB, Turkey as Senior Naval Representative with JTF Proven Force and the 7440th Composite Wing during Operation Desert Storm. 1991.

(5) Selected to Stand up Strike Fighter Squadron 137, the first F/A-18A fleet squadron based on the east coast.

a. CO from July 1985 to September 1987

b. 5,000+ accident-free hours

c. AIRLANT Silver Anchor Award winner for 1987

d. AIRLANT Battle Efficiency "E" Winner 1987

e. Awarded MSM in September 1987

f. From the MSM citation: "Under his astute guidance, his command excelled while meeting every operational commitment in an arduous training program. His superb leadership resulted in the squadron's impressive record of achievements, including over 5,000 accident-free flight hours, receipt of the CNAL Silver Anchor Award, for retention excellence, and the highest grade on the F/A-18 conventional weapons technical proficiency inspection. A superb tactician, he was the strike fighter community leader in developing innovative tactics to capitalize on the F/A-18 night strike capabilities."

(6) Strategy paper written at the National War College won the Navy League Writing Award, and Honorable Mention in the CJCS Strategy Essay Competition. Award presented by CJCS General Jack Vessey, and published by National Defense University Press.

(7) Advocate for A-7 to F/A-18 Transition - Cover story and lead article in October 1985 issue of Jacksonville Magazine – detailing positive impact to local economy from the addition of one F/A-18 squadron at NAS Cecil.

(8) Focal point of October 1986 Naval Institute Proceedings article detailing combat readiness enhancement achieved with Fleet introduction of the F/A-18; replacing the A-7E.

(9) Deputy CAG CVW-7 1990 - Oversaw fleet introduction of F-14A+ (F-14B) and S-3B. Planned long range strike packages to protect Dahrhan Oil Fields during Operation Desert Shield.

## **Post Military Career Events**

(1) 1992-2013 Army Future Combat Systems

(2) USAF C4I SPAWAR C4I Support

(3) FBI Gun Check System (NICS)

(4) DoD COOP

(5) NYC Leave Accounting System

## **Associations/Memberships**

(1) RETCAPSJAX - Retired Captains Club Position - SLJO