



**Joseph J. Capalbo, Capt USN (Ret.)**  
 “Condo”

Hometown: Worcester, MA

High School and College Career:  
 St Stephens Catholic School  
 Worcester State College

Dates on Active Duty: Jan 1976 - Nov 1997

Date Commissioned/Source: AVROC 1976

Date of Designation: April 1977

Total Flight Hours: 5,300

Carrier/Ship Landings: 1,103

Approximate Flight Hours:  
 Jet 5,000 Prop 25 VT 200

Combat tours:  
 USS *Coral Sea*/VFA-131: Operation Eldorado Canyon,  
 Libya Apr 1986  
 USS *Theodore Roosevelt*/CVW-8: Desert Storm, Iraq  
 Jan-Feb 1991  
 USS *Theodore Roosevelt*/CVW-8: Operation Deliberate  
 Force, Aug 1995

Combat missions: 45 FA-18

Commands:  
 CO, Strike-Fighter Squadron 15 May 1992-Oct 1993  
 CO, Strike-Fighter Squadron 125 Jan-Jun 1994  
 CO, Carrier Airwing 8 Jan 1996-Jul 1997

Combat Awards:  
 Bronze Star (V)  
 3 Air Medal (V)  
 3 Navy Commendation Medal (V)



Awards:

Legion of Merit  
 2 Meritorious Service Medal  
 Navy Commendation Medal  
 Navy Achievement Medal

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

06/74-08/74 AVROC Basic I, NAS Pensacola  
 01/76-03/76 AVROC Basic II, NAS Pensacola  
 03/76 VT-1 NAS Saufley Field, Aviation Cadet  
 (T-34B)  
 04/76-04/77 NAS Meridian, Student Naval Aviator,  
 VT-9 (T-2) VT-7 (TA-4J)  
 05/77-12/77 NAS Miramar VF-121 RAG Student, (F-4J)  
 01/78-07/80 USS *Midway* VF-161/Division Officer  
 (F-4J)  
 08/80-03/83 NAS Pt MUGU VX-4/Operational Test  
 Director, (F-4AJ, F-14A, FA-18A, TA-4J)  
 06/83-12/83 NAS Lemoore, VFA-125/RAG Student,  
 (FA-18A)  
 01/84-10/87 NAS Cecil Field /USS *Coral Sea*,  
 VFA-131/Department Head, FA-18A  
 10/87-10/88 NAS Cecil Field VFA-106 Instructor Pilot  
 10/88-06/90 Navy Annex, Arlington, VA NMPC/  
 FA-18 Placement, Asst Capt Detailer  
 06/90-12/90 NAS Cecil Field, VFA-106 RAG Student  
 01/91-05/91 USS *Theodore Roosevelt* CVW-8, Asst Ops  
 Officer (FA-18A)  
 05/91-12/93 NAS Cecil Field /USS *Theodore Roosevelt*  
 VFA-15 XO/CO (FA-18C)  
 01/94-06/94 NAS Lemoore VFA-125 CO (FA-18A/C)  
 06/94-07/97 NAS Oceana/USS *Theodore Roosevelt*/USS  
*John F Kennedy* CVW-8 DCAG/CAG

## Summary of Significant Career Events

### (1) VF-121

As an F-4J Ensign RAG student, my aircraft suffered a catastrophic engine turbine chunk failure during an intercept sortie. Successfully recovered at Nas North Island in a single engine/single hydraulic system configuration. Only flight controls available were rudder and stabilator with a 230 knot minimum approach speed.

### (2) VX-4

While attached to VX-4 was qualified and routinely operated four aircraft type; F-4J/S, TA-4J, F-14 and FA-18.

Participated in the Operational Evaluation of the FA-18A. Established and published baseline strike-fighter tactics and airing integration procedures.

Member of first Navy crew to complete TOPGUN course. Participated revamping the TOPGUN syllabus to accommodate the strike-fighter mission and optimize fighter tactics in support of strike operations.

### (3) VFA-131

As a Department Head participated in the establishment of one of the first two Atlantic Fleet FA-18 squadrons. Special focus was given to air wing integration, Marine Corps FA-18 squadron integration, tactics development and employment of new sensors and weapons; FLIR, DBS Radar and HARM.

### (4) VFA-15

As the XO/CO developed night attack tactics for the FA-18C employing FLIR/LASER, NAVFLIR, NVG and laser guided weapons.

Authored a Hazard report documenting the need for additional manning in support of the FA-18's extensive mission set, weapons capability and sortie generation.

### (5) CVW-8 DCAG/CAG

In coordination with CO CVN-71/ CO CV-67 established and published fully compatible Joint planning architecture in support of ATO execution and/or production. Airwing and ships company personnel were completely integrated in the planing process and tactical watch standing in support of Air Plan/ATO execution.

Functioned as strike leader for numerous air wing strikes during Operation Deliberate force (Bosnia-Herzegovina) August 1995. Completed the delivery of numerous FA-18 laser guide bombs and provided buddy-lasing for F-14 delivered laser guided bombs. In addition, along with my wingman, personally delivered the first FA-18C GBU-24 laser guided penetrating bombs against a harder Serbia target.

Established policy and procedures allowing FA-18 and F-14 sister squadrons to seamlessly fly each other's aircraft to maximize sortie generation and optimize aircraft deck handling.

As CAG, during the 1997 CV-67 deployment, in addition to the traditional assignment as the Strike Warfare Commander was also designated the Surface

Warfare Commander. Airwing flight crews, in conjunction with ships company personnel manned the CV-67 Surface Module.

As DCAG/CAG logged 195 traps (95 at night).

## Summary of Post Military Work

(1) 1997-2009: Pilot United Airlines.

(2) 1997-Present: Self-Employed with two small soleproprietor business. JJC Camp Services; maintenance and repair of local vacation homes. JJC Small Drone Services; drone and still photography in support of real estate sales/rentals.

## Personal

(1) Currently, my wife Sue and I reside summers in Saranac Lake, NY and winters we travel south with an Airstream travel trailer.

(2) Our son Joe (retired Naval Aviator) and family live in Virginia Beach.

(3) Our daughter Teresa lives inn Saranac Lake.

## Associations/Membership/Boards:

(1) Tailhook - Life Member