



CAPT Sterling G. Gilliam, USN (Ret.)
"Sterls"

Hometown: Henderson, NC

College:
East Carolina University '82

Dates on Active Duty: 01 Oct 1982 – 28 Feb 2013

Date Commissioned/Source:
18 Feb 1983 / AOCS (06/83)

Date of Designation: 07 Jun 1985

Total Flight Hours: 4736

Carrier/Ship Landings: 1307 arrested landings (846 day / 461 night)

Approximate Flight Hours:
Jet: 4656 Prop: 75 Rotary: 5 EA-6B: 4033
F/A-18A-F: 381 EA-18G: 1.4
Other
(A-6E/S-3/E-2/C-2/F-5): 48 VT: 273

Combat Deployments: (59 combat sorties total):
USS *Nimitz* – 1991 (CAG LSO Tour – CVW-9/EA-6B)
Operation Southern Watch

USS *Carl Vinson* – 1996 (DH Tour – VAQ-139/CVW-14/EA-6B)
Operation Southern Watch

USS *Theodore Roosevelt* – 1999 (XO Tour – VAQ-141/CVW-8/EA-6B)
Operation Allied Force
Operation Southern Watch

USS *Enterprise* – 2001 (CO Tour – VAQ-141/CVW-8/EA-6B)
Operation Southern Watch,
Operation Enduring Freedom



USS *Stennis* – 2007 (CAG Tour – CVW-9/F/A-18F/EA-6B)
Operation Enduring Freedom,
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Commands:
VAQ-141: August 2000 – November 2001
VAQ-129: October 2003 – October 2005
CVW-9: November 2006 – July 2008

Awards:
Legion of Merit (3)
Bronze Star
Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal (4)
Strike/Flight Air Medal (4)
Navy Commendation Medal w/ Combat V
Navy Commendation Medal (2)
Joint Service Achievement Medal
Navy Achievement Medal

Duty Assignment Chronology

08/83-02/84	VT-3, NAS Whiting Fld
03/84-11/84	VT-26 NAS Chase Fld
12/84-06/85	VT-24 NAS Chase Fld
07/85-03/86	VAQ-129 NAS Whidbey Island
04/86-05/89	VAQ-138 (JO Tour)
06/89-02/91	VAQ-129 (Instructor Pilot/LSO)
02/91-04/92	CVW-9 (CAG LSO)
04/92-06/94	CNAP (Force LSO)
07/94-10/94	VAQ-129 Refresher Training
11/94-01/97	VAQ-139 (Dept. Head)
02/97-01/99	J33 Joint Staff
01/99-06/99	VAQ-129 Refresher Training
06/99-11/01	VAQ-141 (XO/CO)
01/02-07/03	OPNAV N78 (AEA Requirements Officer)
08/03-10/05	VAQ-129 (FRS CO)
11/05-07/08	CVW-9 (DCAG/CAG)
08/08-06/09	National War College
06/09-07/10	OPNAV N8F (EA)
08/10-12/12	The George Washington Univ. (ROTC CO)

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) VT-3 Captain's List
- (2) VT-26 Commodore's List
- (3) VT-24 Top Hook (USS Saratoga CQ det – 1995)
- (4) VAQ-129 Student Pilot of the Year (1986)
- (5) VAQ-129 FRS Instructor Pilot of the Year (1990)
- (6) Navy & USMC Association Peer Leadership Award recipient (2000-2001)
- (7) 2002 Tailhook Association Tailhooker of the Year
- (8) 2004-2005 Theodore G. Ellyson Aviator Production Excellence Award

Other Notable Contributions to Naval Aviation

- (1) One of the first A/D Tailhook Association Board of Directors post-1991 incident.
- (2) Tailhook Association President (2011-2014)
- (3) THA Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient (2017)

Summary of Post Active Duty Work/Career

11/15 – Present:

- (1) Director, National Naval Aviation Museum (NNAM): Selected as the 4th Director of NNAM in summer of 2015. Humbled and honored to be able to continue to tell the Naval Aviation story albeit in a DIFDEN status.