



Paul Ilg, VADM USN (Ret)
 “Paul”

Date of Designation: 31 January 1962 NA # V-18384

Dates of Active Duty: June 1960 – September 1991

Total Flight Hours: 3,925

Carrier/Ship Landings: 843

Approximate Flight Hours: Jet 3775, Prop 100, Helo 30, Glider 5, Hot Air Balloon 15.

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: Mar-Oct 1965, USS *Midway*, Gulf of Tonkin, VA-22, 129 Combat Missions, shot down once, recovered in 47 hours.

Vietnam: Apr-Oct 1966, USS *Oriskany*, USS *Coral Sea*, USS *Enterprise* Gulf of Tonkin, Flag Lt flying with three A-4C squadrons, 10 Combat Missions.

Total Combat Missions: 139

Aviation Commands:

- CO, VA-176 1974-1975 .
- CO, USS *Wabash* 1980-1981.
- CO, USS *Nimitz* 1981-1984
- CO, COMCARGRU SIX 1986-1987
- CO, DEPCINCUSNVAVEUR 1989-1991

Military Awards:

- Defense Distinguished Service Medal
- Distinguished Service Medal
- Defense Superior Service Medal
- Legion of Merit w/2 gold stars
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Bronze Star w/combat V
- Purple Heart
- 10 Air Medals w/gold star
- Navy Commendation Medal w/combat V and 4 gold stars



14 other Navy and Defense decorations

Duty Assignment Chronology

- 06/56-09/60 USNA, wrestling team captain.
- 10/60-06/61 Primary Flight Training, Pensacola, FL.
- 07/61-01/62 Advanced Flight Training, Beeville, TX.
- 02/62-08/62 VA-125 NAS Lemoore, CA A-4 Training.
- 09/62-02/63 VA-22 NAS Lemoore, CA A-4, Training Officer.
- 03/63-01/64 VA-22, USS *Midway*, Indian Ocean.
- 01/64-02/65 VA-22, NAS Lemoore, CA A-4.
- 03/65-11/65 VA-22, USS *Midway*, Gulf of Tonkin.
- 12/65-03/66 COMCARGRU Seven, NAS Alameda, Flag Lt.
- 04/66-11/66 COMCARGRU Seven, USS *Oriskany*, USS *Coral Sea*, USS *Enterprise*, Flag Lt flying combat.
- 12/66-06/69 USNTPS, Patuxent, MD, School and Flight Test.
- 07/69-01/70 VA-42, NAS Oceana, A-6 Training.
- 02/70-03/72 VA-65, NAS Oceana, VA, Ops Officer.
- 03/72-11/72 VA-42, NAS Oceana, VA A-6/XO.
- 12/72-06/75 VA-176, NAS Oceana, VA, A-6 XO/CO, COMNAVAIRLANT Battle E. Screened for CAG but ADM Rickover had “trump” card.
- 07/75-01/77 Nuclear Power Training, Mare Island, CA, Idaho Falls, ID.
- 03/77-03/79 OPS/XO USS *Enterprise*, WestPac.
- 10/79-10/81 CO USS *Wabash*, WestPac.
- 12/82-06/85 CO USS *Nimitz*, COMNAVAIRLANT Battle E (Hosted Norwegian King Olaf).
- 06/85-10/85 SACLANT (NATO), Plans, Policy, & Intel (1 star).
- 10/85-9/86 OP 982 Pentagon, Air, Surface & EW R&D Programs (1 star).
- 9/86-12/87 COMCAR GRU Six, Mayport, FL/USS *Forrestal*, Med Battle Force Sixth Fleet (last flight-flew A-6 from USS *Forrestal* to Cecil Field) (2 star).

-Continued-

Duty Assignment Chronology continued

12/87-11/89 OP 05B, Pentagon (2 star).
12/89-05/91 DEPCINCUSNAVEUR, London, UK, Desert Shield-Desert Storm (3 star).
09/01/91 Retired from Active Duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Carrier arrested landings on 10 carriers .
- (2) April 1965 - Mid Air- First Tonkin Gulf fly-off to Cubi Point from USS *Midway*, number 11 in a 12 plane rendezvous, number 12 collided underneath with vertical stabilizer into my main fuel tank (A-4C), number 12 ejected and recovered, Lt Bill Newman A-4 tanker configured broke formation and streamed drogue, I plugged in indicating 200 lbs fuel that did not increase, unplugged on final, trapped, burst into flames, flamed out, saved combat asset. (DFC)
- (3) June 1965 - Shot Down- Volunteered for previously flown HO Chi Minh trail recce mission, over North Vietnam into Norther Laos near China border, previous mission with no enemy contact. Shot down with AAA over 300 miles from the carrier in A-4C. Evaded for two days while Navy, Air Force and Air America assets successfully rescued me after destroying the enemy bivouac, anti-air emplacement, truck park areas that I had discovered on the ground. (Bronze Star)
- (4) Battle E (VA 176, *Nimitz*)- As Commanding Officer of VA-176 and USS *Nimitz* was able to guide each to COMNAVAIRLANT Battle E Awards prior to the end of command tours.
- (5) SACLANT short tour (4 mo)- 1st Flag job, not having had a Washington tour, was determined I needed to check the Pentagon “block” for career “enhancement”.
- (6) Fly combat as Flag LT- Accepted Flag Lt job in order to go to Test Pilot School instead of PG School, as such was able to fly combat from three different carriers during one staff deployment. (1966).
- (7) Flight test- A7D/E Joint NPE with max weight take offs from Dallas Fort Worth airport , BIS A7A, flying the F-6 (F4D) and the only 2 seated F8 in operation, A7 flame out/restart, T28 spin tests, A-7 anti-skid brake tests at Pax.
- (8) USS *Midway* elevator lost into Indian Ocean during deployment (1963).
- (9) USS *Wabash*- assume/relinquish Command in Indian Ocean.
- (10) Birth of Zumwalt Class (stealth) while OP 982 (1985).
- (11) As COMCARGRUSIX hosted President and Mrs. Reagan at Mayport after the attack on USS *Stark* by two Iraqi Exocet missiles.

(12) As DEPCINCUSNAVEUR- taking the first ships into the Soviet Union (from Mediterranean to Sevastopol) after the “wall” came down.

(13) As DEPCINCUSNAVEUR- called to Whitehall for First Sea Lord to explain a steam generator leak in a British nuclear submarine (he was not a NUC).

(14) Post CO *Nimitz* tour, as new one star assigned to assess the feasibility of defensive carrier operations in the Norwegian fjords by on sight visits.

(15) Extremely fortunate throughout my career to be in the right place at the right time and to be surrounded by extremely capable superiors, contemporaries, and subordinates.

Summary of Significant Post Career Events

- (1) 09/91-01/92 Department of Energy, nuclear power consultant.
- (2) 01/92-04/92 General Atomic, prospective Site Manager for Tritium Production Plant in Savannah River, SC until program cancelled by Congress.
- (3) 04/92-04/93 Jupiter Corporation (8a), Program Manager and COO.
- (4) 04/93-2/99 Mele Associates (8a), Co-founder/ Executive VP.
- (5) 03/99-10/01 GRCI, Senior VP & Division Director.
- (6) 10/01-06/03 AT&T Government Solutions, General Manager of three companies that AT&T had bought.
- (7) 07/03-01/18 VPSI (8a), Executive VP then CEO/ Chairman when Founder/CEO was killed in auto accident, retired Jan 2018. Currently on VPSI Board of Directors.

Personal

- (1) Married to Elena Lugansky of Kiev, Ukraine. Combined have seven children, six grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.