



**Robert M. Knutzen, LtCol USMC (Ret.)**  
 “Boomer”

Date of Designation: 29 Sept. 1978.

Dates of Active Duty: 12 June 1976 – Dec. 31, 1996.

Total Flight Hours: 20,270

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 174

Military Flight Hours: 4910

Jet: 4869 Prop: 40 Helo: 1.5 VF/VA: 4765

Commercial Flight Hours: 15,360

Combat Tours:

Libya: April 1986:

Operation El Dorado Canyon  
 Airstrike against Libya (F/A-18A)

Desert Storm: January 1991-March 1991:  
 (FA-18A) 45 Combat Missions

Total Combat Missions: 46

Aviation Commands:

CO: VMFA-232, F/A-18s: Jun 1994 – Nov 1995, MCAS  
 El Toro & NAS Miramar.

Combat Awards:

Individual Air Medal with Combat V, 4th Award  
 Air Medal with Strike Flight Numeral 4  
 Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V (2)  
 Navy Achievement Medal

Non-Combat/Other Awards:

Meritorious Service Medal  
 4000 Hour Mishap-Free Flight Award



**Duty Assignment Chronology**

06/76-08/76 Officer Candidate School, Quantico, VA.  
 09/76-03/77 The Basic School, Quantico, VA  
 04/77-10/77 VT-6: T-28, Primary Flight Training,  
 Pensacola, FL  
 11/77-05/78 VT-26: T2C, Basic Jet Training, Beeville, TX  
 05/78-09/78 VT-25: TA-4J, Advanced Jet Training,  
 Beeville, TX.  
 10/78-08/79 VMFAT-101: F-4N/J Initial Training, Yuma,  
 AZ.  
 09/79-08/82 VMFA-232: Flight Line Officer, NATOPS  
 Officer TOPGUN Graduate: 04/81, MCAS  
 Kaneohe Bay.  
 09/82-07/86 VMFA-323: Aviation Safety Officer, DOSS,  
 Pilot Training Officer, MAWTS-1 Graduate,  
 MCAS El Toro.  
 USS *Coral Sea*: Operation El Dorado Canyon.  
 08/86-07/89 MAWTS-1: F/A-18 Staff Instructor, MCAS  
 Yuma.  
 08/89-06/91 VMFA-314: Operations Officer, MCAS  
 El Toro.  
 Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.  
 07/91-12/92 MAG-11: Training & Readiness Officer,  
 MCAS El Toro.  
 12/92-11/93 5th Marines: Air Officer, XO, Camp Pendleton  
 11/93-06/94 XO: VMFA-232, MCAS El Toro.  
 06/94-11/95 CO: VMFA-232, MCAS El Toro & NAS  
 Miramar.  
 11/95-02/96 XO: MAG-11, NAS Miramar.  
 02/96-08/96 3D MAW: Plans Officer, MCAS El Toro.  
 12/31/1996 Retired from active Duty.  
 08/96-06/18 United Airlines: Captain: B737 and A320.  
 First Officer: B757, B767, B777, B787  
 Retired: 06/01/2018  
 09/18-Present Trans-Exec Air Services: Gulfstream GV  
 Captain (3rd Career should be the charm).

## Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) At the age of 12, while watching the Blue Angels perform at NAS Whidbey Island, I decided to be a fighter pilot. Three years later I began flying and soon soloed and qualified for my private pilot license.
- (2) In September 1978, I received my Wings of Gold and was ordered to VMFAT-102 for training in the A-4 Skyhawk. Instead, I checked in to VMFAT-101 and achieved my dream of flying the F-4 Phantom.
- (3) While still a 1stLt, I flew the F-4 Phantom at "Topgun." After graduating NFWS with 1stLt "Oak" O'Connor, I was privileged to complete three full years in a "Gun Squadron" with VMFA-232.
- (4) Selected with the first cadre of fleet pilots to train in the new F/A-18 Hornet. Joined VMFA-323, the 2nd fleet squadron flying the F/A-18. Worked for Gazelle, Buff, and Jersey.
- (5) Selected as one of three pilots to attend the first F/A-18 Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) class. Introduced MAWTS-1 TACAIR to the advanced capabilities of the F/A-18.
- (6) Deployed on the USS *Coral Sea* with VMFA-323. During Operations in Vicinity Of Libya, flew multiple intercepts and ACM against Libyan MIGS. In April 1986, my first combat MIGCAP was a strike against Libya.
- (7) Joined MAWTS-1 as their third F/A-18 Instructor. Restructured the F-4 ACTI program to optimize the advanced capabilities of the F/A-18. Developed, flight-tested, and certified a new 3-Dimensional LAT program. Wrote new training programs for the F/A-18 FLIR, LDT, HARM, and ECM systems. Worked for Assassin and Shadow.
- (8) In 1989, I married the love of my life, Carolyn. We have four children: Natalie, Michael, Nicholas, and Daniel, and we enjoy helping them raise our four grandchildren.
- (9) Following MAWTS-1, I was able to join VMFA-314 as the Operations Officer. We deployed to Sheikh Isa, Bahrain for Desert Shield and Desert Storm where VMFA-314 delivered the most ordnance of any squadron.
- (10) Served a tour with 5th Marines as the Regimental Air Officer and Operations Officer. While on orders with 5th Marines, I continued to fly the F/A-18 and reached a milestone 4000 Mishap-Free flight hours.
- (11) Was privileged to Command VMFA-232. Led the Red Devils through a challenging West-Pac deployment and simultaneous move from MCAS El Toro to NAS Miramar. Achieved a record safety milestone: 60,000 Mishap-Free flight hours.

## Summary of Significant Post Career Events

- (1) After retiring from the Marine Corps, I joined United Airlines. Received Type Ratings on the B737, B757, B767, B777, B787 and A320. Flew more than 15,000 hours in domestic and international operations.
- (2) After 22 years, I retired from United Airlines. I trained in the Gulfstream GV and received my 7th Type Rating. Currently flying charter operations in the Gulfstream.