



**CDR John C Leslie, Jr, USN (Ret)**  
"Rat"

Hometown: Kerman, California

High School and College Career:

Kerman Union High School – 1963  
California State College, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) – 1967  
B.S. Aeronautical Engineering  
Dowling College, NY - 1993 MBA

Dates on Active Duty: 1967 - 1988

Date Commissioned/Source:

AOCS – 4 July 1967 NAS Pensacola, FL  
Commissioned 22 September 1967

Date of Designation: 17 February 1969

Total Flight Hours: 6310 hours

Carrier/Ship Landings: 666 total, 211 night (all fixed wing)

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 5600 Prop: 620 Helo: 20 VT: 1100 VF/VA 5000

Combat tours:

Vietnam: 1972/73 – VA-97, CVW-14, USS *Enterprise*.  
Operations Linebacker I, Linebacker 2, End Sweep, and Homecoming.

Combat missions: 105

Commands:

CO, VFA-25  
CO, VFA-125

Awards:

DFC  
Meritorious Service Medals (3)  
Air Medal with Strike/Flight Numeral 7  
Navy Commendation Medals with Combat V (2)



**Duty Assignment Chronology**

07/67-09/67	Aviation Officer Candidate School, NAS Pensacola, FL
10/67-02/69	Flight Training Pensacola, Meridian, Kingsville (T-34, T-2A/B, TF-9J)
03/69-03/71	VT-21, NAS Kingsville (TF-9J and TA-4J)
05/71-02/72	Flight Training NAS Lemoore (TA-4F, A-7C/E)
03/71-06/74	VA-97 NAS Lemoore and USS <i>Enterprise</i> (A-7E)
07/74-12/74	VA-122 Instructor Pilot, NAS Lemoore (A-7E)
01/75-12/75	US Navy Test Pilot School, Class 68, NAS Patuxent River
01/76-03/78	VX-5, NAWC China Lake, Operational Test Director for Strike Warfare, Plank Owner ComNavAirSysCom sponsored F-18 Aircrew Systems Advisory Panel (ASAP) (A-7E, A-4M, YF-17)
04-78-02/81	VA-25, NAS Lemoore and USS <i>Ranger</i> , Safety, Admin, Operations and Maintenance Officer (A-7E)
03/81-07/81	XO LAWSPAC, NAS Lemoore, (A-7E)
08/81-04/83	VFA-125, Student to IP, NAS Lemoore, (F/A-18, O-2)
04/83-11/84	XO, VFA-25, NAS Lemoore and USS <i>Constellation</i> , (F/A-18A)
11/84-02/86	CO, VFA-25, NAS Lemoore and USS <i>Constellation</i> , (F/A-18A)
03/86-05/87	Special Assistant to the CINCPAC for Strike Warfare, Pearl Harbor
06/87-08/88	CO, VFA-125, NAS Lemoore (F/A-18A,B,C,D)
08/88-10/88	Staff, LATWINGPAC, NAS Lemoore
10/31/88	Retired from active duty, NAS Lemoore

## **Summary of Significant Career Events**

1. VX-5 member of the initial F/A-18 Aircrew Systems Advisory Panel (ASAP) early in the pre-production phase of development of the Hornet. Highlight was three evaluation flights in the YF-17 at Edwards Air Force Test Center.
2. Privileged to stand up VFA-25 as XO and then CO to pair with VFA-113 to make the first F/A-18 extended deployment to the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean.
3. Hand-picked by CinCPacFlt ADM Ace Lyons as his Special Assistant for Strike Warfare. In that position I reviewed every Air Wing's contingency strike plans prior to their entry to 7th Fleet waters.

## **Summary of Post Military Work**

The Grumman Aerospace Corporation:

Hired on 15 November 1988 as an Experimental Test Pilot and Director of Flight Safety, based at the Calverton Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant, Long Island NY. In that capacity I flew A-6E, EA-6B, F-14D and the Siai Marchetti S211 entry for the Joint Primary Aircraft Trainer System (JPATS).

Grumman began closing production lines at Bethpage and Calverton in 1993-1994. As a result I was transferred to the Grumman modification and overhaul facility in St Augustine as the Chief Pilot. As such, I continued to fly the A-6E, EA-6B, and was qualified as a co-pilot in the E-2C. I continued as Chief Pilot until 2000 when the new contracts did not fund corporate aircrews for post-maintenance/modification check flights. A facility reorganization made me the Integrated Product Team (IPT) Manager for all programs other than new production of the E-2C. This included the mod/overhaul of E-2C, F-14A+, EA-6B, the modification of an F-5E into a Shaped Sonic Boom Demonstrator (NASA/Dryden), and components to enable F/A-18D to become EF-18Gs.

I retired from Northrop Grumman in June 2006.

## **Summary of Post Military Work**

1. Co-authored with my father our family memoir titled In My Father's Footsteps; A Story of Father and Son Naval Aviators. Altogether it was a 6-year project on and off but was not published until after my father's passing.
2. Serve as a Board Member for the A-7 Corsair II Association, Inc and for the Fist of the Fleet Association.
3. Serve as Mentor Coordinator for the Veterans Treatment Court, St Johns and Putnam County, FL. We have been at it since January 2017.

4. Past President of the Vietnam Veterans Association Chapter 1084, St Johns County, FL

5. Volunteer with Mayo Clinic and Community Hospice visiting hospitalized Veterans.

6. Inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2022.

## **Personal**

(1) Married to Patricia Ann Bailey from Hollywood, MD. Pat and I enjoy our growing and loving family with a daughter Jill, a son Jay, six grandchildren Bryce, Brandon, Brady Walker, and Nora, Naomi, and Violet Leslie. The most recent addition is our first great-grand son Milo Wave Walker, a pure bundle of joy.