



LCDR Snuffy Smith, VA-82 Marauders - 1971



1995 - Adm. Snuffy & Dottie, Naples, Italy

**Leighton W. Smith, ADM, USN (Ret.)**  
 "Snuffy"

Date of Designation: January 1964 NA # V-20663

Dates of Active Duty: June 1962 - October 1996

Total Flight Hours: 4,225

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 1,035+ Rotary: 25+

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,800 Prop: 350 Helo: 50 VF/VA: 3,800

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: Tonkin Gulf 1966, 1967, 1968, 1972 and 1973  
 A4C/A7C/A7E - 282 missions.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA-86  
 COMCVW-15  
 COMLATWING 1  
 CO, USS *America*  
 COMCARGRU-6

Awards:

2 Defense Distinguished Service Medals  
 Navy Distinguished Service Medal  
 3 Legions of Merit  
 2 Distinguished Flying Crosses  
 29 Air Medals ( 25 Strike/Flight and 4 Individual)

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

06/62-09/62 USS *Krishna* (ARL-38). TEMDU awaiting Flight School.  
 10/62-01/64 Flight School, Student.  
 01/64-01/65 Glynco, GA. Instructor, Air Intercept Control  
 01/65-07/65 VA-44, Replacement Pilot .  
 08/65-04/66 VA-81, First LT and Personnel Officer.

05/66-07/68 VA-22, Personnel Officer, Aircraft Division Officer.  
 08/68-08/70 NAVPRO Dallas. Production Test Pilot, A7C/D/E.  
 09/70-11/70 VA-174, Replacement Pilot.  
 12/70-07/73 VA-82, Maintenance Officer, Operations Officer.  
 08/73-07/74 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell, AFB. Student.  
 08/74-01/75 VA-174, Replacement Pilot.  
 02/75-05/77 VA-86, Executive Officer, Commanding Officer.  
 06/77-08/77 PCAG Training.  
 09/77-11/78 CVW-15, Commander (CAG).  
 12/78-02/80 Navy Military Personnel Command (Code 431), Head Aviation CDR. assignments.  
 02/80-04/81 Light Attack Wing ONE, Cecil Field, FL. Commander.  
 05/81-01/82 Training for Surface Ship Command.  
 01/82-08/83 USS *Kalamazoo* (AOR-6). Commanding Officer.  
 08/83-01/84 Staff COMNAVAIRLANT, Training and Readiness Officer.  
 02/84-07/85 USS *America* (CV-66). Commanding Officer  
 08/85-05/86 Strategic Studies Group, Newport, RI. CNO Fellow.  
 06/86-02/88 OPNAV Code 953, Director, Tactical Readiness.  
 03/88-07/89 Carrier Battle Group SIX. Commander.  
 08/89-05/91 CINCUSEUR Staff, Stuttgart, Germany. Director for Operations (J3).  
 06/91-03/94 OPNAV Code N3/N5. DCNO for Plans, Policy and Operations.  
 04/94-07/96 CINCUSNAVEUR/CINCAFSOUTH and COMIFOR.

## Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Was in the flight of four A7E's that dropped the Than Hoa bridge in October 1972.
- (2) Developed/edited Navy post cold war strategy "...From the Sea."



ADM Snuffy at Bosnia news conference.

- (3) Directed NATO air strikes in support of UN forces in Bosnia.
- (4) Planned and led NATO's first ever out of area ground operations as Commander Implementation Force (COMINFOR) from December 1995 - August 1996.

### Post Retirement

Admiral Smith retired from the US Navy on 1 Oct 1996. He served as a "Distinguished Fellow" at the Center for Naval Analysis, was President of Leighton Smith Associates and Vice President of Global Perspectives, Inc., both international consulting firms. He has served on the Boards of several major Corporations and was Chairman of both the US Naval Academy Alumni Association Board of Trustees and the Board of Trustees of the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation. In 2004, he was appointed by President George W. Bush to the US Naval Academy Board of Visitors. He was named "Tailhooker of the Year" in 1997 and, in 2007, was selected as a "Distinguished Graduate of the US Naval Academy."