

Stu and Mindy Ashton Update



Figure 1 Stu and Mindy with Grandchildren - Go Navy!

As an Ensign I reported to VC-8 on 2 January 1976 after winging in Beeville TX the previous September. Future spouse LTJG Mindy Chambers reported to the Naval Hospital in June. Remember clearly flying into San Juan on Eastern Airlines looking out the window during the approach at miles and miles of very unfamiliar and unattractive surroundings immediately depressed by what I saw. Three years later to the day we flew out depressed for having to leave. CDR's Modenda, Boatright, and Chandler as an A-4 pilot Don't have tell this audience, best flying of my Naval Career for three years!

I moved into the old BOQ, no AC and still hear the Coqui's calling all night long. Finally got the coveted spot in the Bundy Bachelor complex where party life went to a new level. Shared the apartment with Craig Grabeel. In July, I met a Navy Nurse named Mindy Chambers. A conspiracy of sort by the Bundy Bachelors led by Jim Barnosky sealed the deal and we were married on August 12th 1977. Off to Rainbow Hill we went.

After Roosey I went to S-3 Vikings to bag some traps and collect my multi-engine time for transfer to the airlines but a memorable CO and mentor in Vikings told me I should apply for Test Pilot School. I did and acceptance in 1982 set in motion a career that spanned back and forth from fleet to test flying up through the 90's. I held four commands one of which was VT-7 in Meridian MS which was equally memorable and returned me to A-4 duty full time. Finally landed at NAVAIR and retired as Captain in August of 2000. I worked for a government contractor for the next 15 years and put that away at the end of 2015.

Mindy completed 11 years active then went reserve and finished her 20 as Commander Nurse Corps. She retired from 20 years of Government Civil Service as a Nurse in 2014. Along the way, we had three children, Stuart, Sarah and Mary and lived in a series of locations from JAX, PAX, JAX, PAX, Yokosuka JA, Meridian and back to PAX. Stuart is a Navy pilot now in the reserve forces and does his regular job at United Airlines. Sarah is a Instructional Systems Designer with Sales Force and Mary is musician performing in Austin TX.

Mindy and I live on the Ashton Family farm along the Potomac River in Virginia. The farm has been in our family since 1653 and farmed continuously since then. But the best trip of all in this wonderful and rewarding life is three grandchildren that are the joy of our lives today.

Mindy and I transferred from Roosey on 2 January 1979, with a Puerto Rican dog, cat and pregnant with our first child!



Figure 2 Antigua 40th Anniversary



Figure 3 Naval Hospital Roosevelt 2013