

Phil Hamilton

Joined the Navy in 1968, initial assignments were at NAS Saufley Field, FL, HS-11 in Quonset Point, RI, and CVW-3 at NAS Cecil Field FL. Departing Cecil in March 1976, reported for my first VC-8 tour, serving as a PO1 and a CPO Maintenance Staffer and Maintenance Control Chief. Departed VC-8 in June 1978, completed Aviation Officer Candidate School (i.e. Knife and Fork School) in Pensacola, FL, transferred to RVAH-7 in Key West, FL and was the Maintenance/Material Control Officer. RVAH-7 made the last RA-5C Vigilante deployment, a WESTPAC, aboard USS Ranger (CV-61) in 1979.

Returned to VC-8 in January 1980 for my second engagement as a Redtail – I was one happy camper to be returning to Roosy Roads and VC-8. And with a little bit of luck and a sympathetic detailer, this three-year assignment was extended to almost four. Checked into the squadron as an Ensign, departed as a LT and served as the Aircraft Division Officer and Maintenance/Material Control Officer.

Transferred to NAS Lemoore, CA in December 1983, commissioned F/A-18 squadron VFA-132, serving as the Maintenance/Material Control Officer. Completed squadron stand-up after which the entire squadron was relocated to NAS Cecil Field, FL. In 1985-1986 made the first east coast Hornet deployment to the Mediterranean aboard USS Coral Sea (CV-43).

In October 1986 transferred to the Naval Air Systems Command in Arlington, VA as an Assistant Program Manager for Fleet Support (FA-18 Site Activation Manager). Leaving NAVAIR in December 1989, reported to Carrier Air Wing Eight (CVW-8) as Airwing Maintenance Officer (CAGMO). Deployed in 1991-1992 aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) participating in Operation Desert Storm. Last Navy duty station was as Aircraft Maintenance Officer at the NavalStrike Aircraft Test Squadron in Patuxent River, MD from February 1992 to June 1996, when I retired as an LDO Commander

After retirement, held a couple of short-term contractor and government jobs before settling in at Information Spectrum, Inc. (ISI) in October 1998 where I remained until December 2013. (Just for the record. In the early 2000s, ISI was bought by Anteon; then several years later Anteon was bought by General Dynamics). Held various logistics, engineering, and program management positions, all with the F/A-18. Since December 2013, I have been with Zenetex, LLC and am the Program Manager for Royal Australian Air Force F/A Hornet Logistics Program.

Since April 1968, I have been blessed to have had Carole by my side, providing love, support, adult guidance, and a swift kick in the behind when required. I would not have survived without her.

I've reached that age when perfect strangers call me "Sir" and friends inquire about when I plan to retire. I'm still having fun workingbut I do expect to pull the ejection handle soon.

My thanks to Bob and Pete for their efforts on the website. My time at VC-8 and Roosy were, hands down, the best years of my career and connecting with the past has been a real treat. I look forward to connecting with other Redtails in the future.