



**Michael B. O'Connor Jr. Capt. USN (Ret.)**  
 "Mike"

Date of Designation: 13 March 1964 NA # T 8739 R 7265

Dates of Active Duty: June 1962 – June 1992.

Total Flight Hours: 3667

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 8 Rotary: 451

Approximate Flight Hours: Fixed wing: 330 Rotary: 3337

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: 1966 – HC-2 – *USS Intrepid* – UH-2.  
 1970 – 71 Helicopter Attack Light Sqd.3  
 (HAL-3) In Country - H-1.

Total Combat Missions: 309

Aviation Commands:

CO, HS-L-32 – Dec 1978 – Oct 1979 (SH-2 F).  
 CO, HSL-41 - Mar 1982 - Jan 1985 (SH-60).  
 CO, Commander Helicopter Sea Control Wing -3  
 March 1985 – April 1987 (SH-60).  
 CO, Commander ASW Training Group Atlantic  
 April 1987 - April 1988.  
 CO, NAS Agana Guam - July 1988 - Sep 1990.  
 CO, FASOTRAGRUPAC - Dec 1990 - June 1992.

Combat Awards:

1 Silver Star  
 1 Distinguished Flying Cross  
 1 Bronze Star  
 14 Air Medals / 1 SS Air Medal  
 1 Navy Commendation Medal w/Gold Star  
 Combat Action Ribbon / Presidential Unit Citation  
 RVN Presidential Unit Citation / RVN Gallantry Cross



**Duty Assignment Chronology**

07/62-09/62 TAD *USS Saratoga*.  
 09/62-11/62 Pre-Flight NAS Pensacola.  
 11/62-03/63 VT-1 NAS Saufley Field (T-34).  
 03/63-06/63 VT-2 NAS Whiting Field (T-28).  
 06/63-08/63 VT-3 NAS Whiting Field (T-28).  
 08/63-09/63 VT-5 NAS Sherman Field (T-28).  
 09/63-12/63 BTG-10 NAS Whiting Field (TC-45 J).  
 12/63-04/64 HT-8 NAS Ellyson Field.  
 04/64-09/67 HC-2 NAS Lakehurst N.J. (UH-2).  
*USS Shangri-La* Feb - Oct 1965.  
*USS Intrepid* Feb - Nov 1966.  
*USS Forrestal* March – June 1967.  
*USS Shangri-La* July – Sept 1967.  
 09/67-08/70 Navy Plant Rep Sikorsky Aircraft  
 CH-53 (Marine) / CH-54 (Army Crane) /  
 HH-52 (Coast Guard) / HH-3 (Air Force) /  
 SH3A-D (Navy) / VH-3A (HMX-1).  
 08/70-12/70 TAD /SERE / Fort Rucker (H-1).  
 12/70-12/71 HAL-3 RVN (H-1).  
 12/71-08/74 HS-10 NAF Ream Field (SH-3).  
 08/74-04/75 HSL-31 (SH2-F).  
 04/75-01/77 HSL-37 NAS Barbers Pt. Hi. (SH-2).  
 OINC *USS Truxton* Aug 76 – Jan 77.  
 01/77-08/77 HSCW-1NAS Norfolk (SH-2).  
 08/77-10/79 HSL-32 NAS Norfolk (SH-2).  
 10/79-02/82 Crudes Group-3 San Diego.  
 03/82-01/85 HSL-41 NAS North Island (SH-60).  
 01/85-04/87 CHSCW-3 NS Mayport (SH-60).  
 04/87-04/88 ASW Trng Group Atlantic.  
 07/88-09/90 NAS Agana Guam.  
 12/90-06/92 FASOTRAGRUPAC.

## Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Detachment OINC / Tactics Dept. Head HAL-3
  - a. OINC Gunship Fire Team
  - b. 10 Pilots / 10 Combat Air Crew
  - c. 4 Months Sqd. Tactics Dept Head conducted:
    - i. Fire Team Leader Quals.
    - ii. Approved Tactical Operations.
  
- (2) Establishment OINC for HSL-37 NAS Barbers Pt. First HSL Squadron out of CONUS.
  
- (3) Initial Commanding Officer HSL-41 tasked with introduction of SH-60 into Pacific Fleet. Pilot and Aircrew training and Operational implementation completed on schedule with zero mishap rate. SH-60 was major step for Navy as it moved weapon system from analog to digital technology thereby significantly improving capabilities of Battle Groups.
  - a. Instructor Pilot in all facets of SH60 operations which included:
    - i. Day/ Night Shipboard Landings both Free deck and Recovery Assisted (Haul down).
    - ii. ASW
    - iii. Anti-Ship Surveillance and Targeting (ASST).
    - iv. NATOPS evaluations
    - v. Instrument Flights
  
- (4) Initial Wing Commander (CHSCW-3) for introduction of SH-60 and LAMPS Mk-3 into Atlantic Fleet. Tasking was completed on schedule with zero mishap rates.
  
- (5) As C.O. of ASWTRAGRULANT, provided training in advanced ASW to Battle Group Commanders and Staffs. Strong emphasis was on integration of all available assets to produce synergism in Battle Group.
  
- (6) On a subjective note, I strongly feel that my biggest contribution to Naval Aviation was in helping to raise the professionalism of the pilots to where they are aware of and familiar with all the warfare disciplines and can contribute to the overall betterment of the Navy. 35 years of sustained and evolving excellence for the LAMPK-3 program is a tribute to them, their ability and efforts.
  
- (7) My combat time is pretty much like most of you – probably in the wrong place at the right time or vice versa. I was very fortunate to work many operations with Navy Seals and consider myself a better person for it.
  
- (8) In retirement was partner in Small Business supplying maintenance related materials to local, state and federal entities. In addition spent ten years in working to promote Veteran Business Development in California.