CAPTAIN RONNIE B. BAKER, USN (RET)

Chronology of Key Assignments:

- Commanding Officer, Naval Air Facility Washington, DC (World's largest Naval Air Facility -- approx. 3,700 military and civilian personnel, 5 aircraft squadrons, and 45 smaller units.
- Commanding Officer, Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center, Washington, DC (Nation's largest Reserve Center – responsible for over 3,000 personnel and more than 95 units)
- Staff Director, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs
- Executive Assistant to Director of Naval Reserve/Commander, Naval Reserve Force
- Aircraft Modernization Coordinator for all Navy Aircraft on the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare) Staff (Responsible for a budget in excess of $2B)
- Assistant Navigator, USS America (CV-66)
- Naval Academy Branch (BuPers) – Handled Congressional Liaison, nominations, and appointments to the Naval Academy and the Naval Academy Preparatory School. Briefed members of Congress and their Staffs, conducted training for the Naval Academy's Blue and Gold Officers who helped with identifying the best applicants nationwide, and flew occasional VIP flights to take Navy and civilian dignitaries to meetings.

- Following pilot training in Pensacola, FL and Corpus Christi, TX, assigned to a squadron at the Naval Air Station in San Diego (Coronado, CA), and made two eight-month deployments to Southeast Asia aboard the USS HORNET (CVS-12).

Additional Information:

- Squadron assignments and aircraft carrier deployments to Southeast Asia, two for eight months and one for ten months, as well as to the Mediterranean. Shore deployments, as a P-3 Orio Plane Commander of a crew of twelve, to Iceland, Sicily, Bermuda, the Azores, and Spain. In charge of squadron detachments to NSA Souda Bay, Crete; Lima, Peru; Bermuda; the Azores; as well as flights into other locations too.
- "Resigned" for a short period of time before being one of only two individuals to receive a Secretary of the Navy waiver to return with a change in designator to that which was desired prior to resignation. Worked as a Nuclear Engineer at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard (Portsmouth, VA) for six months before returning to full time active duty.
- Although a Navy Pilot, also Qualified as a Fleet Officer of the Deck (OOD) and Command Duty Officer Underway, was the carrier's Sea and Anchor OOD and General Quarters OOD, and won the CNO Shiphandling Award. Received a two-year early promotion to Lieutenant Commander, as one of only six or seven in his class of 801 graduates. Only pilot on the carrier (USS America) who was "night" qualified to land the ship's C1 aircraft and flew all trips into/out of South Vietnam that required a night landing. Also, was given the honor of making the 100,000th landing on the carrier on 23 August of 1973 in the Gulf of Tonkin.
- Plane Commander and shore deployments to Iceland (6 months), Sicily (6 months) and Rota, Spain. In charge of squadron detachments to NSA Souda Bay, Crete; Lima, Peru; Bermuda; the Azores; and flew in and out of other locations.
- Officer-in Charge of a P-3 Orion Squadron in Willow Grove, PA.
- Selected for promotion to Captain (0-6) prior to having 20 years of Naval service. Passed required "Continuation Boards" for the designator, until reaching the mandatory 30-year retirement. Only six Captains were selected to continue to thirty years in the specialty area.

- TS Clearance throughout, and SCI (Sensitive Compartmented Information) in two jobs.

Education: Graduate of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD (1965); Master's Degree in Public Administration from George Washington University; graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at FT McNair in Washington, DC; completed the Senior Officials in National Security Course at Harvard, in Cambridge, MA.

Awards: The Legion of Merit (2 awards), Meritorious Service Medal (3 awards), Air Medal (4 awards), Navy Commendation Medal (2 awards), Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal (2 awards), Defense Service Medal (2 awards), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal "Korea", Vietnam Service Medal (7 awards), and other service awards.

Youth Development Programs:

Employment since leaving active duty service in 1995: Consultant, initially, for a Youth Development Program called the Young Marines, and worked at their National Headquarters in Washington DC for about a year and a half. Moved to another Youth Development Program in 1997 as the Deputy National Director for the US Naval Sea Cadet Program (Navy related Youth Development Program) at their Headquarters in Arlington, VA. The Naval Sea Cadet Program is a Congressionally Chartered non-profit, nautically-oriented, youth training and education organization, and it is dedicated to developing the principles of patriotism (love of family, community, and country), good citizenship, and self-confidence; and to instilling in young people a sense of duty, discipline and respect for self and others. Left the Headquarters in order to have more flexibility as to home location and became the Southeast Headquarters Representative for the program and responsible, for most of the next 21 + years, for ten states, Washington DC, and Puerto Rico. In charge of administration and training for over 800 volunteer adults, over 3,000 young people, and for the oversight of over 80 two-week trainings/year in the Southeast.

Awards:
- The Chairman's Medal (Highest Award that the Chairman can award).
- NSCC Hall of Fame Award (Approved by the Sea Cadet Board of Directors as the highest award that they approve).
- Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Award (Highest of five civilian Public Service Awards that can be approved by the Commandant of the Coast Guard).

Currently: He is married to the former Patricia Kruse of Lombard, IL and they live in Weaverville, NC (in the mountains about ten miles North of Asheville) where he worked and traveled from home as the Southeast Headquarters Representative for the Sea Cadet Program until final retirement as of 1 June of 2019. He has one daughter, a stepdaughter, a stepson, three grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.