

Robert F. Aumack  
Pre-Flight Class 18-48



Bob Aumack  
Bronson Field – FLT 8 and Instructor

May 6, 1950

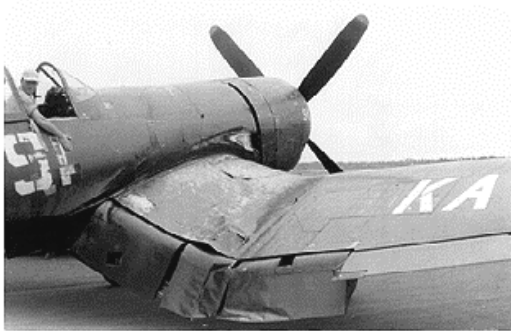
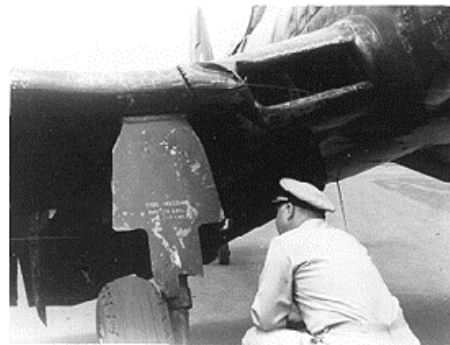
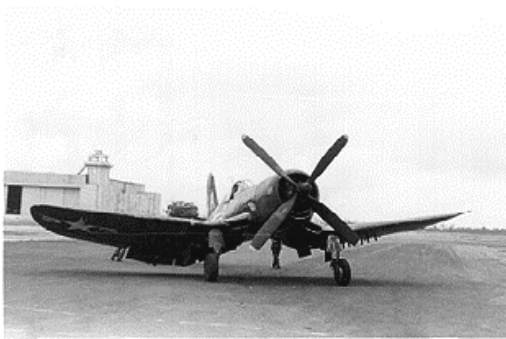
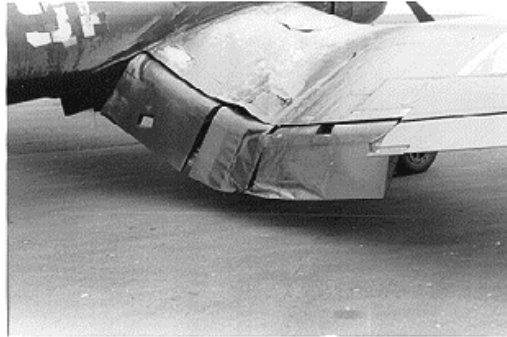


standing, left to right: Bob Aumack (Blue Angel), Ralph Tvede, CAPT B. J. Frankovic, Bob Ceremsak, and Bud Wilkerson.

kneeling, left to right: Dick Kaufman, Dick Kapp (killed in a Corsair while training in a fleet squadron on the east coast in 1950), and George Strickland (first Mid'n in battle since the War of 1812).

NAAS Cabannis Field

February 1950



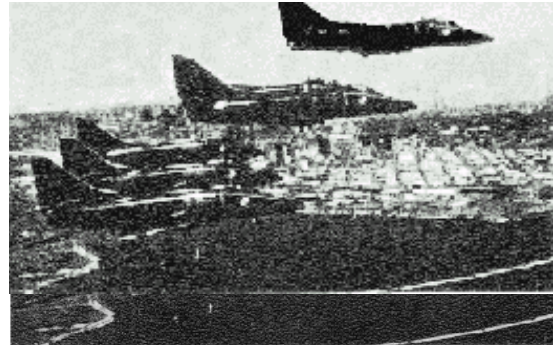
KA-91 after Bob Aumack got her in at Bronson Field, Florida. Note angle of attack starboard wing. Broken spar caused by fatigue. Estimated 5,400 FCLP landings by KA-91 (maximum number 1,800). Happened while Bob was practicing FCLP.

(note - a Commander inspects the damage - photograph #4)

(photograph from Ralph Tvede)

April 28, 1950

## Roster of Blue Angels Officers



### FLIGHT MEMBERS

\* Cdr Gil Rud 86  
 Capt Mark Bircher, USMC 85-86  
 LCdr Donnie Cochran 86  
 Lt Pat Walsh 85-86  
 LCdr Curt Watson 83-86  
 Lt David Anderson 85-86  
 Lt Wayne Molnar 86  
 Maj Bill Campbell, USMC 85-86  
 \* Cdr Larry Pearson 84-85  
 Lt Andy Caputi 84-85  
 LCdr Mike Gershon 84-85  
 Maj Mark Lauritzen, USMC 83-84  
 LCdr Scott Anderson 82-84  
 LCdr Chris Ives 83-84  
 LCdr John Vrden 83-84  
 \* Cdr Dave Carroll 82-83  
 LCdr Jim Ross 79-80/82-83  
 Maj Tim Dincen, USMC 81-82  
 Lt Kevin Miller 81-83  
 LCdr Bob Stephens 81-82  
 LCdr Stu Powrie 81  
 Lt Randy Clark 80/82  
 Lt Bud Hunsucker 81-82  
 \* Cdr Denny Wisely 80-81  
 LCdr Jim Horsley 80-81  
 LCdr Jack Ekl 79-81  
 Maj Fred Stankovich, USMC 79-80  
 LCdr Mike Nord 78-80  
 Lt Kent Horne 79-80  
 \* Cdr Bill Newman 78-79  
 LCdr Bruce Davey 77-79  
 LCdr Jerry Tucker 73-74/79  
 Capt Dan Keating, USMC 77-78  
 LCdr Don Simmons 77-78  
 LCdr John Miller 76-78  
 Lt Mike Curtin 78  
 Lt Ray Sandelli 77-78  
 \* Cdr Casey Jones 76-77  
 LCdr Vance Parker 74-75/77  
 Lt Al Cisneros 75-77  
 Lt Jim Bauer 75-77  
 Lt Nile Kraft 76  
 Capt Bill Holverstott, USMC 75-76  
 Lt John Patton 74-76  
 Lt Denny Sapp 75-76  
 \* Cdr Tony Less 74-75  
 Lt John Chchansky 73-75  
 \* Capt Ken Wallace 54-55/  
 61-63/74  
 LCdr Marlin Witte 73-74  
 Capt John Fogg, USMC 73-74  
 Lt Chuck Newcomb 72-74  
 \* LCdr Skip Umstead 70-73  
 Lt Steve Lambert 72-73  
 Capt Mike Murphy, USMC 72-73  
 \* LCdr Don Bently 72-73  
 Lt Bill Beardsley 71-72  
 Lt Bill Switzer 71-72

Lt Gary Smith 72  
 Lt Larry Watters 72  
 \* Cdr Harley Hall 70-71  
 LCdr J. D. Davis 70-71  
 Capt Kevin O'Mara, USMC 70-71  
 Lt Jim Maslowski 70-71  
 Lt Dick Schram 69-71  
 Lt Steve Shoemaker 69-70  
 Lt Ernie Christensen 69-70  
 \* Cdr Bill Wheat 67-69  
 Lt Rick Adams 68-69  
 Lt Rick Millson 68-69  
 Lt John Allen 67-69  
 Capt Vince Donile, USMC 67-69  
 Lt Smokey Tolbert 68  
 Lt Bill Worley 68  
 Lt Hal Loney 67-68  
 Lt Fred Wilson 66-68  
 Lt Norm Gandia 66-67  
 Lt Dave Rottgering 66-67  
 Lt Red Hubbard 65-67  
 Capt Fred Craig, USMC 65-67  
 Capt Ron Thompson, USMC 67  
 Lt Frank Gallagher 67  
 \* Cdr Bob Aumack 64-66  
 Lt Frank Mezzadri 64-66  
 LCdr Dick Oliver 64-66  
 Lt Mike Van Ort 66  
 Lt Bob McDonough 64-65  
 LCdr Bob Cowles 63-65  
 Capt John Kretsinger, USMC 63-64  
 Lt Dick Langford 62-64  
 Lt George Neale 62-64  
 Lt Dan MacIntyre 61-63  
 Lt Lew Chatham 61-63  
 Lt Hank Gtedzinski 61-62  
 Capt Doug McCaughey, USMC 60-62  
 \* Cdr Zeb Knott 59-61  
 Lt Bill Rennie 60-61  
 Lt Duke Ventigmiglia 60-61  
 Lt John Rademacher 60  
 Lt Chuck Elliott 60  
 Lt Bill Sherwood 59  
 Lt Bob Rasmussen 57-59  
 Lt Herb Hunter 57-59  
 LCdr Jack Dewenter 58-59  
 Lt John Damian 58-59  
 Capt Stoney Mayoock, USMC 58-59  
 Lt Don McKee 59  
 Lt Skip Campanella 59  
 Lt Mark Perrault 57-59  
 1st Lt Tom Jefferson, USMC 57  
 Cdr Nick Glasgow 58  
 \* Cdr Ed Holley 57-58  
 Lt Ed McKellar 53-56  
 \* Cdr Zeke Cormier 54-56  
 Lt Bruce Bagwell 55-57  
 Lt Nello Pterozzi 55-57  
 Lt Bill Gureck 55-56

Lt Lefty Schwartz 56-57  
 Capt Ed Ruddy, USMC 55  
 Capt Chuck Holloway, USMC 56  
 LCdr Dick Newhafer 49/54-55  
 Lt Dayl Crow 53-54  
 Lt Red Riedl 55  
 Capt Pete Olson, USMC 55  
 Capt Chuck Hiett, USMC 54  
 LCdr Frank Graham 49-40/52-53  
 \* LCdr Ray Hawkins 48-50/52-53  
 Lt Frank Jones 52-53  
 Lt Auz Aslund 53-54  
 Lt Buddy Rich 52-53  
 Lt Tom Jones 52  
 Lt Pat Murphy 52-53  
 Lt Mac MacKnight 48-49/52-53  
 LCdr Whitey Feightner 52  
 Lt Bud Wood 52  
 Lt Jake Robcke 48-50  
 \* LCdr Johnny Magda 49-50  
 LCdr Dusty Rhodes 47-50  
 Lt(jg) Fritz Roth 48-40  
 Lt George Hoskins 48-50  
 Lt Ralph Hanks 50  
 Lt Ed Oliphant 49-50  
 Lt Ed Mahood 49  
 Lt Bob Longworth 48-49  
 Lt Hal Heagerty 47-49  
 Lt(jg) Billy May 46-48  
 \* LCdr Bob Clarke 46-48  
 Lt Bob Thelen 47-48  
 Lt Chuck Knight 46-47  
 Lt Al Taddeo 46-47  
 Lt Wick Wickendoll 46-47  
 Lt(jg) Gale Stouse 46  
 Lt Mel Cassidy 46  
 Lt(jg) Robby Robinson 46  
 Lt J.W. Barnitz 46-47  
 \* Cdr Butch Voris 46-47/52

Lt Bob Belt 49-50/52  
**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**  
 Lt Hans Fett 84-86  
 Lt Jim Proctor 83  
 LCdr Leo Boor 74-77/80-82  
 Lt Bill Clark 77-80  
 Lt Mary Russell 69-70  
**SUPPLY OFFICERS**  
 Lt(jg) Samuel Walter 86  
 Lt Vance Moore 83-85  
 Lt Frank Grasso 80-82  
 Lt Dennis Shafer 78-79  
 Lt(jg) Robert Faulk 77-78  
 Lt(jg) Al Pulley 75-77  
 CWO-2 Clinton Swartz 73-75  
 CWO-2 Bill Thornhill 68-70

**FLIGHT SURGEONS**  
 Lt Wes Robinson 86  
 LCdr Dwight Fulton, MC 83-85  
 LCdr Kevin Wand, MC 81-82  
 LCdr Charles Thomason, MC 79-80  
 Lt Bernard Gipson, MC 77-79  
 LCdr Tim Peterson, MC 75-77  
 LCdr Bob Randolph, MC 74-75  
 LCdr R. E. Luehrs, MC 55-57

**TRANSPORT PILOTS**  
 Capt Peter Donato, USMC 83-86  
 Capt Stan Graham, USMC 85-86  
 Capt Mike Mullally, USMC 86  
 Capt Ben Wyatt, USMC 83-85  
 Capt "J" Joseph, USMC 82-84  
 Maj Ken Hines, USMC 80-82  
 Capt Charlie Meyer, USMC 80-82  
 Capt Chip Perrault, USMC 79-81  
 Capt Dan McConnell, USMC 78-80  
 Capt Bob Brandon, USMC 78-80  
 Capt Phil Brooks, USMC 76-78  
 Maj Steve Murray, USMC 76-78  
 Capt Steve Petit, USMC 75-77  
 Capt Ron Fleming, USMC 74-75  
 Maj Don Stieglman, USMC 72-74  
 Capt Al Colcy, USMC 72-74  
 1st Lt Joe Rodgers, USMC 72-74  
 Maj Anton Thertraut, USMC 70-72  
 Maj John Garratt, USMC 70-72  
 Capt Ted Doyle, USMC 70-72  
 Maj Lynn Jackson, USMC 54

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS**  
 Lt Doug Hocking 86  
 LCdr Douglas Schamp 83-85  
 Lt Morgan Smith 80-82  
 \* Team Leader

**MAINTENANCE OFFICERS**  
 Lt Jim Anderson 85-86  
 Lt Douglas Hill 83-84  
 LCdr Al Edmonson 81-82  
 LCdr Ben Woods 79-80  
 Lt Jack Johnson 77-78  
 Lt Mike Deeter 74-76  
 LCdr Fred Wiggins 72-74  
 LCdr Mac Prose 70-71  
 Cdr Bud Jourden 68-69  
 LCdr Jack Gougar 66-67  
 LCdr Scott Ross 63-65  
 Lt Ray Atherton 61-62  
 LCdr Jack Reavis 59-61  
 Lt(jg) Gus Kelley 58-59  
 LCdr Bill Oleson 57-58  
 LCdr Harry Sonner 54-57  
 Lt(jg) Bob Itner 55-56

Commander Robert F. Aumack, USN (Retired)

Joined the Navy under the HOLLOWAY PROGRAM (PUBLIC LAW #729), known as the Flying Midshipman Program, and designated Naval Aviator (#T-382) at NAS PENSACOLA on 8 May 1950. Remained a FLYING MID'N Naval Aviator flying with the fleet until commissioned ENSIGN in late August 1950 with date of rank 6/1/50. Assigned to VF-24 with temporary duty in VF-13 at NAS JACKSONVILLE; orders were cancelled when Korean War began and re-ordered to VF-43 when Air Group Four was recommissioned that September at NAAS CECIL FIELD.

Reported to VF-174, NAS JAX, 4/51 as replacement pilot when Air Group Seventeen was readying for deployment. Two Mediterranean cruises in USS *FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT* (CRV-42) flying F4U-5/F4U-4 through end of '52. Squadron transitioned to F9F-6 at that time. Dead stick landing in Corsair on *F.D.R.* 7/51.

Due for shore duty, in October was assigned to FASRON-6 Instrument Flight Training Detachment (IFTD) setting up and instructing in the unit which was the first formal instrument training detachment for fleet Naval Aviators. Received shore duty orders to the Advanced Training Command and reported to ATU-201, NAAS KINGSVILLE 5/54 with further transfer to ATU-204, NAAS CHASE FIELD (6/54) when recommissioned. Aircraft being used at that time was F9F-2. Ordered to the Jet Transition Training Unit (JTTU), NAAS OLATHE in January as part of cadre of F9F-6 fleet pilots to form and instruct in the first Navy unit whose sole mission was to transition fleet prop Naval Aviators into jets. Also provided syllabus for Senior Naval Aviator Officers. Departed JTTU Late August '57 for General Line School ten months curriculum.

After six weeks of Atomic Weapons School, San Diego (6-7/58) reported to USS *RANGER* (CVA-61) as Assistant Air Ops. First super carrier on West Coast and when deployed to FAR EAST was showboat for foreign dignitaries. Two cruises to WESTPAC. Second year/cruise was also senior air controller when CIC needed controller organization. Departed *RANGER* 10/60 to VF-124 F8 RAG at NAS MOFFETT FIELD and reported to VF-191, as Maintenance Officer, the Operations Officer, two WESTPAC deployments in USS *BON HOMME RICHARD* (CVA-31).

In April 1963 reported to COMFAIRMIRAMAR as VF Training Officer until September 1963 when I reported to the BLUE ANGELS. Officer-in-Charge of United States NAVY FLIGHT DEMONSTRATION TEAM 1964 THROUGH 1966. Out of the country to the Caribbean and Mexico in 1964. First European tour for

Team in 1965. Paris Air Show in June 1965 and recognized by being written into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Left the Team West Coast and fleet duty in March 1967.

After RAG (VF-124) F8 familiarization, joined VF-162 as XO while deployed in WESTPAC (Tonkin Gulf-YANKEE STATION). Day/night operations in USS *ORISKANY* (CVA-34) as fighter/bomber in F8E. End of cruise became CO of VF-162, 2/68-2/68. Received first F8Js on West Coast.

CARDIV TWO STAFF as Air Warfare Officer from January 1969 through August 1970. Two cruises to the Mediterranean.

Ordered to NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND in Late August 1970 as Long Range VF Planning and Design of Future Fighters desk. Deeply involved with other divisions of AIR 03 with missile development at NAS CHINA LAKE and civilian industry development of various simulators (Air Combat maneuvering, G Simulation machines/Devices and the Carrier Approach Simulator). Also worked on paper aircraft which would later become the F-16 and F-18 when Navy interested civilian contractors in light weight fighter designs (Air Force later picked up and completed these designs).

Attended the U.S. NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL Baccalaureate Program from January 1973 through April 1975 receiving a degree in International Relations (Government). Also completed Aviation Safety School. Became Operations Officer NAS MIRAMAR in April 1975. Last official Navy flight flown from NAS MIRAMAR 6/30/76 landing at 2350. Retired from U.S. NAVY 6/30/76 at midnight; still lauding the NAVY.

SQDNS/UNITS	VF-13, VF-43, VF-174, VF-124, VF-191, VF-162, FASRON-6 (IFTD), ATU-201, ATU-201, ATU-204, JTTU, BLUE ANGELS
A/C FLOWN	<u>Min. 1000 hrs/type:</u> F4U-4/5/5N, F9F-2/6/8/8T, F11A, F8A/C/D/E/H/J & RF8A, TV-2 <u>Other:</u> T-28, T-34, T-39, T-2J, T2V, TA4, SNJ, SNB, SBD, S2F, JRB, CIA, FG-1D, F6F, F4D, F-105, P-51
CV EMBARKED	<i>TICONDEROGA, BON HOMME RICHARD, ORISKANY, MIDWAY, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, SARATOGA, RANGER, INDEPENDENCE, AMERICA, JOHN F. KENNEDY, BLOCK ISLAND, PALAU</i>
FLIGHT HRS	7,200 PLUS
CV LANDINGS	512 (day and night)

DESIGNATED NAVAL AVIATOR # T-582 ON 8 MAY 1950

- 9/48-4/51 Flight training, designation and assignments as described on pgs 5-6. Joined the fleet 6/50 as a FLYING MIDSHIPMAN until commissioned ENSIGN in late August 1950 with date of rank 6/1/50.
- 4/51-10/53 VF-174. Two Mediterranean cruises in USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA-42) flying F4U-5/F4U-4 through end of '52 when transitioned to F9F-6. Dead stick landing in Corsair on F.D.R. 7/51.
- 10/53-4/54 FASRON-6 (IFTD) Due for shore duty, assigned in setting up and instructing in Instrument Flight Training Detachment for fleet aviators. (First formal instrument training detachments).
- 5/54-1/55 Flight instructor at ATU-201, NAAS KINGSVILLE 5/54 and ATU-204, NAAS CHASE FIELD (6/54) when recommissioned.
- 1/55-8/57 Formed and instructed at Jet Transition Training Unit (JTTU), NAAS OLATHE – the first Navy unit whose mission was to transition fleet prop Naval Aviators into jets. F9F-6 first experienced pilots were cadre of unit.
- 9/57-6/58 Attended General Line School at U.S. NAVAL POST-GRADUATE SCHOOL, Monterey, Ca.
- 7/58-10/60 USS *RANGER* (CVA-61) as Assistant Air Ops. First super carrier in FAR EAST and was showboat for foreign dignitaries. Two cruises to WESTPAC. Second year cruise was also senior air controller when CIC needed controller organization.
- 10/60-2/61 VF-124 F8 RAG at NAS MOFFETT FIELD.
- 3/61-3/63 VF-191 Maintenance Officer/Operations Officer. Two WEST-PAC deployments in USS *BON HOMME RICHARD* (CVA-31).
- 4/63-9/63 COMFAIRMIRAMAR as VF Training Officer.
- 9/63-3/67 BLUE ANGELS. Officer-in-Charge 1964 through 1966. Out of the country to the Caribbean and Mexico in 1964. First European tour for Team in 1965. Paris Air Show in June 1965 and recognized by being written into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

- 3/67-12/68 After RAG (VF-124) familiarization, joined VF-162 as XO while deployed WESTPAC (VIETNAM-YANKEE STATION). Day/night operations in USS *ORISKANY* (CVA-31) Commanding Officer VF-162 2/68-12/68 with first F8Js on West Coast.
- 1/69-8/70 CARDIV TWO STAFF as Air Warfare Officer. Two cruises to Mediterranean.
- 8/70-12/72 NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND (AIR 03). Long range VF Planning and Design of Future Fighters desk. Deeply involved with other divisions of AIR 03 with missile development at NAS CHINA LAKE and with civilian industry development of various simulators (Air Combat maneuvering/G Simulation machines/Devices/Carrier Approach Simulator). Also worked on paper with what would become the F-16 and F-18 when Navy sent letters of interest to contractors for ideas for lightweight fighter.
- 1/73-4/75 U. S. NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL Baccalaureate Degree Program.
- 4/75-7/76 Operations Officer NAS MIRAMAR. Retired from U.S. Navy 6/30/76.

letter to Pat Francis



*Bob Aumack*

21 June 2000

Here are the photographs and copies which you sent to me a couple of weeks ago. They do not belong to me though I do have a passing bit of knowledge about them.

You have all the names correct about the six of us posing at the SNJ. Once we finished F and G stages we were off to Corpus Christi and either single engine or multi-engine training. I'm sure you know that the multi-engine group received their wings at Corpus while those of us who went single engine finished up with CARQUALS back at Corry Field in the Pensacola area. We then went separate ways and for the most part the closeness was gone. I do have a small bit of information on two of the group.

BOB WORCHESEK flew ADs just about all of his Navy career and did quite well. He ended up at C.O. of NAS ALAMEDA and after retiring moved south to BONITA, CALIFORNIA where he still resides with his lovely wife, Joyce. I do see them from time to time, exchange Christmas cards and laugh a lot when we do manage to get together; whether it's for a few minutes or an evening.

THAT IS THE ONE AND ONLY CARLISLE STAFFORD standing 2<sup>nd</sup> from the right in the photo. Curley was doing FCLP in ADs at BRONSON FIELD one day and while bouncing managed a torque roll taking off after a cut. (A few weeks before a student was killed in the same situation and we all received a lecture on save yourself and don't worry about the airplane.) As the plane rolled Curley pulled off the throttle and managed to survive the ensuing crash without a scratch. Seemed like the thing to do according to the "how to" during the safety speech. Not so!!! Curley went through a Student Pilot Disposition Board and was washed out so there he was, outside looking at the rest of us becoming Naval Aviators.

“F” and “G” Stage  
Saufley Field, Florida  
1949



left to right: Fred Dunning, Ron Tinlin, Bob Worchesek, Bob Aumack,  
“Curley” Stafford, and Jim Long

... and now for the rest of the story ...

Curley went back to Bluefield, West Virginia and was gone from sight but not out of our minds. Several of us who knew Curley thought we should find him and see what he was up to as a civilian. The following Thanksgiving off we drove from NAAS CECIL FIELD on a long weekend trek to Bluefield and the Stafford family. This was a spur of the moment idea where we piled into a car and were off without a serious thought among us on where or how information. It turned out great. We hit Bluefield, found the Stafford home and there was Curley fit as a fiddle and doing fine. It was a great outing although the entire house came down with food poisoning ... but that's another story. We left Saturday in our car without a heater system and after a blizzard heading back to the sunny and warm southland. The ice and snow from

West "By God" Virginia still clung to the bottom of the car when we parked it on the streets of Jacksonville and those who saw us had to stop and stare with disbelief. There's a lot more to this part of the story but I'll skip that for now ...

Years pass, I complete my sea duty tour and become an instructor at NAAS CHASE FIELD, BEEVILLE, TEXAS. During a X-Country with a group of students we stopped for fuel at BROOKLEY AFB (MOBILE, ALABAMA). I was checking a hydraulic leak in the nose wheel well of an F9F-2 when I heard this southern drawl passing some disparaging remark about Navy Aviators. Exiting the wheel well there was Curley Stafford. He had tired of civilian life, joined the Air Force, got his wings and was flying (of all things) C-124s. When I asked him why the monsters he merely replied he'd had enough of the small stuff. It was the last time I saw Curley and I do hope he's alive and well.

As for your Blue Angels photo, I'll be brief. It is SAUFLEY FIELD and 1949 but the birds are F9F-2s, not F8Fs. These were the first of the jet aircraft the Blues flew. The Diamond (there were no solo pilot performance at that time) consisted of: Leader DUSTY RHODES, #2 George HOSKINS, #3 Fritz RUTH and #4 Jake ROBCKE. Dusty is a dear friend of mine, we get together several times a year and even play a few rounds of golf though I won't say how well.

Hope this has helped.

Keep Smilin',

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Aumack', with a stylized flourish at the end.

P.S.:

Some time ago I remember reading of the first Mid'n in combat since the Spanish American War was a George Strickland. (I think you wrote it.) His name is GORDON and we went through advanced flight training together. Just thought I'd let you know to keep the files correct.



Saufley Field Florida – the tower and Blue Angels

AMVETS



THESE ARE THE BLUES  
F9F-2 PANTHERS AFTER  
TRANSITION FROM F8Fs.  
Late July or early August. The  
first Blue Angels jet A/C.

O-in-C Dusty Rhodes.