

2. Captain Marland (Doc) Townsend, USN 5/7/1971 – 5/22/1972



Capt. Townsend entered the U.S. Navy flight training program in June 1945 and was designated a naval aviator in September 1948. His first operation experience was gained as an aviation midshipman fighter pilot flying F8F Bearcats in Fighter Squadron 91. He was commissioned an Ensign in 1949 and served in Fighter Squadron 53 flying F9F Panthers during the Korean War.

Subsequent assignments included the Naval Post Graduate School, duty as an instructor in the initial F8U Crusader RAG squadrons, duty as an aeronautical engineer on Commander Fleet Air Japan Staff and duty as a test pilot at the Naval Air Test Center. In July 1966 Capt. Townsend assumed command of Fighter Squadron 143 an F4B Phantom squadron, and in June 1967 he assumed command of Fighter Squadron 121, the F4 readiness training squadron. The following year he reported aboard the USS CONSTELLATION (CVA-64) as Operations and Executive Officer. He also commanded USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63).

Capt. Townsend has a Bachelor of Aeronautical Engineering Degree from Georgia Tech and a Master of Science in Aeronautical Engineering from Princeton University. He has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze, the Air Medal and the Navy Commendation Medal.

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Capt. Townsend was the guest speaker at USSSVA's 2010 reunion in Bremerton, WA.