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John received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Villanova University in 1971. He was commissioned in the U.S. Navy upon graduation and received Naval Aviator wings concurrently with a Master of Science degree in Aeronautical Systems from the University of West Florida in December 1972. He conducted two cruises aboard the USS Forrestal (CV-59) flying the A-7E, logging almost 300 carrier landings and was selected to the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School in 1976, graduating as a distinguished student in July, 1977. Following this tour, he spent one year as Assistant Strike Operations Officer aboard the USS Eisenhower (CVN-69) and completed active military service in May 1981. He joined General Dynamics, now the Lockheed Martin Corporation, as an Experimental Test Pilot in July 1981. He received a second Masters of Science degree in Engineering Management from Southern Methodist University early in 1987. For 26 ½ years he flew virtually all models of the F-16, and most of that time was spent in the conduct of flight testing. John spent two years as the F-16XL project pilot and conducted the first flights of the F-16 with the F-110-GE-100 engine, both in the F-16XL as well as in the F-16C. He conducted numerous other first flights in the pursuit of increasing the F-16's capabilities at Lockheed in Fort Worth, Texas as well as at Edwards AFB. He was assigned to the F-16 Combined Test Force at Edwards AFB from 1985 to 2002 and was also the Facility Manager for most of that time. He held the title Chief Test Pilot, F-16 (non-Block 60) Programs until late 2002 when he accepted a transfer to become an F/A-22A experimental test pilot.

John first flew the F/A-22A in April, 2003. From then until his (second) retirement in February 2007, he conducted many "firsts" with the F/A-22A in expanding the airplane's flight envelope and working with the F/A-22A Combined Test Force in increasing the airplane's combat capability.

John has logged over 6,400 flight hours; the vast majority of them were obtained in high performance fighter airplanes.

He is the Chairman of the SETP Scholarship Foundation, an organization that provides scholarships to children of deceased or disabled test pilot members.

He is a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve (Retired) and holds the rank of Captain.

He is a Past-President and Fellow with The Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP).

He served for two years as Chairman of the SETP Foundation, an organization dedicated to enhancing the safety, efficiency, education and historical aspects of the flight test profession.

He served as Treasurer for the SETP West Coast Section.

He was inducted into the Lancaster, CA Aerospace Walk of Honor in September 2009.

He is a Past President of The Antelope Valley Board of Trade and served as member of their Board of Directors for twenty-four years.

He is a Past President of the Edwards AFB Civilian-Military Support Group, an organization which raises funds to benefit Edwards AFB and is currently a member of their Board of Directors.

He is a past Director with the Antelope Valley Boys and Girls Clubs.

He was designated a Certified Professional Manager by the National Management Association in May 1994.

John is retired from both the Lockheed Martin Corporation and the U.S. Naval Reserve. He lives in Antelope Acres with his wife, Kathy. He has four children and three grandchildren. His hobbies include fishing, hunting, carpentry, reading and just enjoying every day. He failed retirement miserably in June 2016 when he agreed to accept the position as the Air Show Executive/Administrator for the Los Angeles County Air Show, a job he thoroughly enjoyed. Having overseen the Los Angeles County Air Shows in 2017 and 2018, he returned to being fully retired.