



## Chapter 96 Monthly Meeting and Program

### **Commander Robert A Johnson, USN, Retired** **Carrier Suitability Testing of Aircraft and Carriers**

Bob attended the University of Wisconsin on an NROTC Scholarship in 1952. In 1957 he graduated with a BS in Civil Engineering, a BS in Naval Science and a Commission in the US Navy. He went to Pensacola, Florida for flight training and received his wings at Beeville, Texas in 1958. He made two Cold War cruises to the Western Pacific flying the A-3D Skywarrior nuclear bomber, the largest aircraft to ever operate from an aircraft carrier. He received an MS in Aeronautical Engineering from the US Naval Post Graduate School in 1965. He next made two combat cruises flying the RA-5C Vigilante reconnaissance aircraft over North Viet Nam

After attending the US Naval Test Pilot School, Class 53, he was assigned to Carrier Suitability Branch as a test pilot and later became Branch Head. As a carrier suitability test pilot he flew experimental test flights in seven different types of aircraft from aircraft carriers including making a record 50 arrested landings in a C-2A in one day on the USS Kitty Hawk. He also participated in carrier certification trials following yard rework. Tests included catapults, arresting gear, visual landing systems and Automatic Carrier Landing Systems (ACLS)

Next he became the Commanding Officer of RVAH-7 again flying the RA-5C Vigilante and made a cruise to the Indian Ocean. In 1975 he became the 18<sup>th</sup> Director of the US Naval Test Pilot School, a junior Commander in a senior Captain's billet, the most junior ever up to that time. He retired in August 1977 and became Head of International Marketing for the new F/A-18 Hornet for McDonnell Aircraft in Saint Louis, Missouri. In 1979 he joined Northrop Corporation and became Head of Marketing for the B-2 Bomber when they won that contract. Bob retired from Northrop in 1989 and started a General Contracting company in Palos Verdes Estates, California. He is a Member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and the Golden Eagles.

**Saturday June 17, 2017 10:00 am**  
**EAA Chapter 96 Hangar Compton Airport**  
**1017 West Alondra Blvd, Compton CA 90220**

**Chapter Fundraising Hamburger Lunch after meeting (suggested \$5 donation)**

**ABOUT EAA:** The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) is a growing and diverse organization of members with a wide range of aviation interests and backgrounds. Founded in 1953 by a group of individuals in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who were interested in building their own airplanes, EAA expanded its mission of growing participation in aviation to include antiques, classics, warbirds, aerobatic aircraft, ultralights, helicopters, and contemporary manufactured aircraft. Membership in EAA enables you to share the spirit of aviation with the most passionate community of recreational pilots, builders, and restorers. EAA is the only association that offers the fun and camaraderie of participating in the flying, building, and restoring of recreational aircraft with the most passionate community of aviation enthusiasts.

**ABOUT CHAPTER 96:** Chapter 96 has been an active chapter for over 45 years, and as always, we love to have visitors at our meetings. Our members are based at the Compton, Torrance, Hawthorne and Long Beach airports. We get together the third Saturday of every month.

Visit [96.EAAChapter.org](http://96.EAAChapter.org) for additional details and directions