

THE VANALLEN GROUP - PERSONAL PROFILE

MYRDEN “MERT” J. PELLEGRIN

Operation Services

Mert Pellegrin brings a wealth of wisdom and experience to our clients’ projects. His early career achievements have created a wonderful foundation for the value that he brings to the business aviation industry.

Mert’s love affair with aviation began in earnest following his graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy (Bachelor of Science – Aerospace). He went on to serve as a fleet fighter pilot and completed Navy Fighter Weapons School (“Top Gun”). He next completed the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School and performed as an experimental test pilot and was deeply involved in the F-14 program. Mert has a full membership in the Society of Experimental Test Pilots.

Returning to civilian life in 1975, Mert established the multi-aircraft aviation department for a Louisiana-based company. In October 1984, Mert established the flight department at Entergy, a large New Orleans energy company, where he oversaw the domestic and international operations of a wide variety of aircraft.

While at Entergy, Mert was instrumental in the successful consolidation of the company’s remote flight operations into one service organization. He participated in the selection, acquisition and/or disposal of virtually all of Entergy’s aircraft during his 20 year tenure. In 1995, he was honored by Professional Pilot Magazine as Chief Pilot of the magazine’s “Flight Department of the Year”. Mert successfully led the *IS-BAO* certification of Entergy’s flight department; the first U.S. based flight department to do so.

Mert has been a valued member of the NASA/Flight Safety Foundation Fatigue Countermeasures Task Force and was instrumental in ground breaking publication of NASA/FSF’s “Principles and Guidelines for Duty and Rest Scheduling in Corporate and Business Aviation”, the acknowledged industry guideline for this sensitive subject. Mert was also the co-creator of the Alertness Solutions commercial training program “*AvAlert*”. He was a member of the Aviation Director’s Roundtable from 1998 to 2002. He has served as Publicity Chairman for all NBAA Annual Conventions held in New Orleans since 1994.

Mert retired from Entergy as their Chief Pilot/Manager in November 2004. Mert holds FAA Airline Transport Pilot and Certified Flight Instructor certificates and continues to add to his over 14,000 hours of flight experience. He completed his MBA at Nicholls State University and was a member of the first group to achieve the coveted designation as an NBAA *Certified Aviation Manager*.

