



John L. Adkinson, Jr. Colonel, USMC (Ret.)
 “Larry”

Date of Designation: 28 December 1963 NA# V-20646

Dates of Active Duty: June 1962 – August 1988

Total Flight Hours: 5,100+

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 38

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 4,400 Prop: 700 VF/VA: 4,000
 VT: 300 Other: 800 (Varga, Cessna, Citabria)

Combat Tours:

- Vietnam: VMA-211, Oct.-Dec. 1965, Chu Lai RVN (A-4E)
- Vietnam: VMA-224, Dec. 1965-May 1966, Chu Lai RVN (A-4E)
- Vietnam: VMA-211, Sep. 1968-Jan. 1969 Chu Lai RVN (A-4E)
- Vietnam: H&MS -11, Feb. 1969-Oct. 1969 Danang RVN (TA-4F, F-100F)

Total Combat Missions: 681 (1,117 Hours)
 (300 (A-4E), 376 (TA-4F), 5 (F-100F – “Misty FACs))

Aviation Commands:

CO, VMA-331, July 1981-Feb. 1983 (A-4M)

Combat Awards:

- Distinguished Flying Cross
- 2 Single Mission Air Medals
- 44 Strike/Flight Air Medals
- Navy Commendation Medal w/Combat “V”

Duty Assignment Chronology

- 6/62-12/63 Flight School.
- 1/64-2/64 VMT-3, MCAS El Toro.
- 3/64-12/65 VMA-211, El Toro/WP, Chu Lai (A-4E).
- 12/65-5/66 VMA-224, Chu Lai (A-4E).



- 7/66-8/67 1st ANGLICO, MCAS Kaneohe (T-1A).
- 9/67-6/68 VMF 212, MCAS Kaneohe (F-8B).
- 7/68-8/68 VMAT 203/VMA-331. A-4 Refresher.
- 9/68-2/69 VMA 211, Chu Lai (A-4E).
- 2/69-10/69 H&MS-11, Danang (T-A4F - Fast FAC).
- 11/69-2/70 VMA-331, MCAS Beaufort (A-4E).
- 3/70-2/71 H&MS-31, Beaufort (TA-4F) – Flt Officer.
- 3/71–5/72 VMA-331, (A-4E/M) Wep & Tac. Officer
- 2/72 Light Attack Wpns School- Lemoore (A-4M).
- 6/72-5/75 MARTD Atlanta (F-8K) Ops. Officer.
- 6/75-7/76 MWSG-17, Iwakuni S-3 (T/OA-4F/M).
- 8/76-5/77 Air University, Maxwell AFB – DIFDEN.
- 7/77-8/80 USNA Leadership Instructor – DIFDEN.
- Spring-Summer ‘80 VTNA Flt Prog at USNA – Flew Mid’n Orientations in Varga Kachina /Citabria.
- 9/80-6/81 2d MAW, MCAS Cherry Pt. G-1 (OA-4M).
- 7-81-2/83 CO, VMA-331, Cherry Pt /WestPac (A-4M).
- 3/83-7/84 HQMC, PP&O – Command Center and Operations Sec Head & Branch Head.
- 8/84-8/86 OPNAV-954, Strike and Amphibious Warfare – Non-nuclear Ordnance Rqmts.
- 8/86-8/88 Chief, Firepower Division, Marine Corps Development Center, Quantico, VA.
- 8/88-Present Employment in private sector; except for 15 months raising for Special Olympics International, I have been a DOD contractor.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) 1965-66. Flew 141 air-ground missions in A-4E with VMA-211 and VMA-224 from Chu Lai SATS field.
- (2) 1968-69. Flew 159 air-ground missions in A-4E from Chu Lai.
- (3) 1969 (Feb-Oct). Conceived and developed highly successful advanced tactics for use of the TA-4F as high speed, low level visual reconnaissance and strike control aircraft in Central Laos (Steel Tiger) in 1969. Flew 50-80 flight hours per month in the TA-4F as
 - Continued -

Summary of Significant Career Events continued

“Playboy” Fast FAC during this period. Flew five Fast FAC combat missions in F-100F with USAF “Misty” to cross fertilize effective tactics. Wrote the initial content in the A-4/TA-4 Tactical Manual on this subject. Many of these “SCAR” tactics still in use today by Navy and Marine TACAIR. LtGen Duane Wills and Gen Rich Hearnery were “Playboy” FastFACs – both are Golden Eagles.

- (4) 1972-75. As MARTD Atlanta Ops Officer led six and eight plane F-8K Dets to USAF College Dart (3x), Green Flag and many 2-4 plane ACM Dets to active duty USMC F-4 squadrons in CONUS.
- (5) 1980. While on the faculty of the US Naval Academy, and in response to a national fuel shortage and associated training overload in the Naval Air Training Command, was a prime mover to form and develop a hands-on flight orientation program called VTNA. It was comprised of leased aircraft, some full time civilian flight instructors and three Naval Aviators with their FAA pilot licenses we operated five aircraft from Fort Meade Air Field, in MD to provide hands-on familiarization flights to all midshipmen during their junior year/2nd class summer training. that would have not otherwise happened due to its cancellation by the Naval Training Command for that summer. As Ops Officer, personally flew 35-40 hours a week for 10 weeks, principally in the Varga Kachina 2150-A. This single engine plane proved effective for a military aviation orientation because it had tandem seating, a control stick (vice yoke) and tricycle landing gear. Flew 3-4 “acrobatic” flights a week in the Citabria with midshipmen volunteers who earned it through various drawings and competitions.
- (6) 1981. Recipient of the 4000 hours accident free military aviation safety certificate.
- (7) 1981 - 1983. As CO, VMA-331, MCAS Cherry Pt. Led a 20-plane A-4M squadron through successful operations on both coasts of the US and six-month deployment to the Western Pacific that: 1) was first in the entire Marine Corps in monthly fixed wing flight hours; 2) maintained a perfect safety record; and, 3) tested the original Family Readiness Program. Group CO was MajGen Dick Gustafson – Golden Eagle.
- (8) 1984 - 1986. Division of Strike and Amphibious Warfare/Directorate of Naval Warfare, Pentagon, Senior Military Requirements Officer. Assembled, coordinated and analyzed strategic and tactical factors constituting the Non-Nuclear Ordnance Requirements (NNOR) for the Navy and Marine Corps. Worked successively for RADM Tom Brown and RADM Jim Flatley – both Golden Eagles.

- (9) 1986 – 1988. Chief, Firepower Division, Marine Corps Development Center, Quantico, VA. Division Chief. Managed research and development of new Marine Corps ground combat systems.
- (10) 1988 – 1998. Program Support to various DOD and Marine Corps systems. Fifteen month hiatus in 1995/6 to raise funds for Special Olympics International.
- (11) 1998-Present (2007). Director, Synthesis Center, Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory, Quantico, VA. We gather, organize and synthesize knowledge from experiments and pre-experiment training to clearly describe tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs), and some enabling technologies that can help Marines fight and win battles. We write and publish all final experiment After Action Reports (AARs). We combine observed results, participant feedback and post experiment analysis to develop, write and publish focused, easy-to-read documents titled: X-Files. There are more than 250,000 copies of forty three (43) different X-Files delivered to the Operating Forces.
- (12) Assisted my wife, Karen, from my home town of Geneva, NY, in raising a daughter and two sons – one of whom is a Cobra pilot in the USMC. We have three grandchildren.

