



**Harold W. Blot, Lt. General, USMC, (Ret.)**  
 “Harry”

Date of Designation: 8 April 1964

Dates of Active Duty: 6 June 1962 - 1 September 1996

Total Flight Hours: 5,000

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 20 Rotary VSTOL: 50

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 4,500 Prop: 300 Helo: 200 VF/VA: 4,300

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VMF-232 (F8), 1965 - 1966. Danang, Phu Bai, Khe Sahn - 60 combat missions.

Aviation Commands:

CO, H&MS-32, Aug. 1980 - Jul. 1981.

CO, VMA-231, Jul. 1981 - Jun. 1983.

CG, 3rd MAW, Aug. 1991 - Aug. 1993.

CG, V MEF, Jan. 91 - Jun. 91.

Combat Awards:

4 Air Medals (Vietnam)

### **Duty Assignment Chronology**

General Blot was born on October 10, 1938, in Manhattan, N.Y. He graduated from Villanova University with a B. E. Degree in June 1962, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He also holds an M. S. Degree from George Washington University (1980).

After completing instruction at The Basic School, Quantico, VA., he underwent flight training at Pensacola, FL., and Beeville, TX. His first operational assignment was to VMF-232, where he flew the F-8 Crusader. This assignment included a combat tour at Danang, Vietnam. In February, 1967, General Blot reported to the 3d Marine Division in Phu



Bai and took command of the Communications Company, Headquarters Battalion.

Returning from overseas, he was selected to attend the Aerospace Research Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base in California. Then 1968, he was assigned to the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, MD., as a Project Test Pilot. These two assignments alone accounted for testing over 25 models of tactical airplanes including a NF-104 rocket assisted flight to over 100,000 feet and over 20 flame-out landings in various types of jet airplanes.

He joined VMA-513, the first Harrier Squadron, in May 1971. During this assignment he developed the use of thrust vectoring for Air Combat Maneuvering.

In August 1975, he became the AV-8 Class Desk Officer at the Naval Air Systems Command.

From August 1979 until August 1980, he attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces after which he assumed command of Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 32. In March 1981, he planned the operations of and was later assigned as Commanding Officer of the three squadron “Harrier Carrier” deployment aboard LHA-4 to the Mediterranean Sea from which the procedures for today’s tactical usage of large numbers of Harriers at sea was developed. Returning to the states in July 1981, General Blot took command of VMA-231.

Upon relinquishing the reins of VMA-231 in June 1983, he was assigned as the AV-8 Program Manager at the Naval Air Systems Command. He was promoted to colonel in February 1984. General Blot was selected by the Secretary of the Navy to be reassigned as the Program Manager of the V-22 Osprey. He was advanced to brigadier general on April 15, 1988. General Blot was assigned duty as Assistant Wing Commander, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing on Jan. 19, 1990.

### Duty Assignment Chronology continued

On Jan. 15, 1991, he became the Commanding General of V MEF. With the success of Desert Storm and the return of the I MEF, General Blot stood V MEF down and returned to his assignment as the Assistant Wing Commander of the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing.

On May 10, 1991, General Blot was additionally assigned as the Commander, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area and the Commanding General, Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro. He was advanced to major general on May 24, 1991 and took command of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing until July , 1993. He then assumed duties as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, DC. General Blot was promoted to lieutenant general in July 1994 and was assigned as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation until his retirement on 1 September, 1996.

Lieutenant General Blot is married to the former Marie Frasier of Atlantic City, New Jersey. They have four children: Harold Jr., Michael, Thomas and Caroline.

### **Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) Test pilot at both Edwards AFB and Patuxent River, MD. Flew 25 different models of aircraft.
- (2) Flew rocket powered NF-104 to 102,600 feet.
- (3) Dead stuck various jet aircraft over 200 times.
- (4) Flew first trials on both A-4M and AV-8A airplanes.
- (5) Developed "thrust vectoring" tactics for air combat.
- (6) Introduced "night attack" low light technology to FMF.
- (7) Program manager for both the AV-8B and the V-22.
  - a. First to incorporate color displays in tactical aircraft.
  - b. First to incorporate On Board Oxygen Generating System.
  - c. First to incorporate Digital moving map in tactical aircraft.
  - d. First to incorporate Night Vision Goggles in an ejection seat aircraft.