



**Donald P. Brown, LtCol USMC (Ret.)**  
 “Ranger”

Hometown: Glendale, California

High School and College Career:

Hoover High School  
 U. S. Naval Academy BS  
 University of Southern California MS

Dates on Active Duty: June 1965- 1 October 1985

Date Commissioned/Source: June 1965 USNA

Date of Designation: 26 May 1967

Total Flight Hours: 9,966

Carrier/Ship Landings: 52

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 9756 Prop: 125 VF/VA: 3985  
 Boeing Test Pilot: MD 80 Series 1426: DC/10/MD/11: 720:  
 C-17 2940 Various: 320

Combat tours:

Vietnam: VMFA-334, August 1968—September 1969  
 Danang, Chu Lai  
 TAD: October 1968-January 1969, ALO/FAC 1st ROK  
 Marine Brigade  
 Hoian Valley, RVN

Commands:

CO: MALS 15: 1981-1982  
 CO: VMFA-314: 1983-1985

Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross – 3 Awards  
 Air Medal (Single Mission) – 2 Awards  
 Air Medal (Strike Flight – 21 Awards  
 Order of the In Hun – Republic of Korea



Meritorious Service Medal  
 USAF Commendation Medal

### **Duty Assignment Chronology**

06/61-06/65	Midshipman, U.S. Naval Academy
07/65-12/65	The Basic School, Quantico, Va
02/66-05/67	NATC, NAS Pensacola, NAS Meridian MS, NAS Beeville TX
06/67-09/69	VMFA – 334, Mag 33, MCAS El Toro, NAS Miramar, MAG-11 Danang AB, MAG-13 Chulai RVN, MAG-15, MCAS Iwakuni
11/69-11/71	VMFAT-101, MAG33, MCAS El Toro CA, MCCRTG-10, MCAS Yuma AZ
12/71-11/73	48th Fighter Intercept Squadron (ADC) Langley AF VA, Homestead AFB Fla
12/73-03/74	VMFA-323, MAG-11, MCAS El Toro CA
03/74-03/75	1st Marine Air Wing (Staff), VMFA 115 Iwakuni Japan
03/75-06/78	VMFA-251 Mag-31, MCAS Beaufort SC
06/78-06/79	Student, command and Staff, Naval War College
06/79-06/81	Naval Air Test Center, Test Pilot School, F-18 Test Program, Others
06/81-06/82	Commanding Officer MALS 15 MCAS Iwakuni
06/82-06/83	MAG – 1 S-3 3rd MAW, MCAS El Toto
06/83-01/85	Commanding Officer VMFA-314, MAG -11
02/85-09/85	3rd MAW Staff
9/85	Retired from Active Duty

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

- (1) VMFA-334, 1967 -1969. F-4J
  - (a) The first F-4J Squadron in the Marine Corps
  - (b) Included training with the Navy FRS VF-121.

(c) Flew 325 Combat Missions from both Danang and Chu Lai performing: Close/Direct Air Support Photo Escort. Night A-6 escort, BARCAP, Recon extract support.

(d) Was awarded 3 Distinguished Flying Crosses and 2 Single Mission Air Medals for heroic action during aerial flight.

(2) ALO/FAC Korean Marine Brigade, Oct-Dec 1968: ALO/FAC KOREAN Marine Brigade: Ground Controlled air strikes for three months in the Hoian Valley.

(3) VMFAT-101 1969-1971: Initial cadre Instructor Pilot forming the first Marine Corps Phantom FRS.

(4) USAF Exchange Pilot, 48th Fighter Intercept Squadron, Air Defense Command(ADC)1971-1973

(a) Flew F-106 for two years, Assistant Operations Officer and Flight Commander of a 750 man F-106 Squadron with 26 aircraft.

(5) Naval Test Center/Navy Test Pilot School, 1979-1981:

(a) Assigned to fly the F-18 Hornet, became the 25th Pilot to fly the F-18.

(b) First Marine to flight test and fire the M-61 20 mm cannon and drop bombs off the F-18.

(c) Conducted numerous flight tests on flight control software, radar/avionics integration and weapons separation.

### **Summary of Post Military Work**

(1) Experimental Test Pilot for McDonnell Douglas/Boeing  
(a) Worked FAA Certification Programs for the MD-87, MD-88 and MD -11.

(b) Transferred to the C-17 Program two years before “first flight” due to his experience with F/A “fly by wire” flight controls (same major vendor as the Hornet), Navy style angle of attack, and A-4 sick grip (used in the C-17).

(c) Became the third Boeing pilot to fly the C-17.

(d) Worked for four years (1991-1995) from Edwards AFB flying the entire spectrum of experiments flight tests: Loads, Flutter, Flying Qualities Expansion, Stall Tests, Airdrop and Air Refueling.

(e) 1997 Promoted to Chief Pilot C-17.

(2) Director of Flight Operations for all Boeing Airlift and Tankers Programs, 1998-2008.

(a) Responsible for all aircrew and support personnel for the following programs: C-17, KC-10, KC-135, and C-130 avionics upgrade programs (locations: Seattle, Long Beach, Edwards AFB, Wichita and San Antonio)

(b) Provided world-wide ferry/Depot input for USAF after 9/11 to relieve Air Force Aircrew to concentrate on the War on Terror. This included providing aircrew for “in-theater” damaged aircraft recovery.

(c) Personally led an augmented crew to ferry a C-17 that landed at night 1600 feet short of the runway in a Soviet mine field at Kandahar. Flew 7800 miles nonstop, air refueling twice, to land at San Antonio, Texas. The aircraft had one landing left and had to touch down at no more than .5 feet per second.

### **Personal**

(1) Wife: Karen

(2) Children: Eric, Tiffany, Elizabeth

(3) Four Grandchildren

### **Associations/Membership/Boards:**

(1) Marine Corps Aviation Association

(2) Society of Experimental Test Pilots(SETP)

(3) Graduate Navy Fighter Weapons School(Topgun)

(4) Distinguished Graduate Naval War College Command and Staff Course

(5) Graduate Navy Test Pilot School

(6) Past Chairman/Member City of San Clemente Planning Commission

(7) Past Member City of San Clemente Coastal Advisory Committee

(8) Board Member/Past President San Clemente Boys and Girls Club

(9) President San Clemente Exchange Club

(10) President San Clemente PierPride Board