



J. D. Ward, Captain, USN (Ret.)
"Jake"

Date of Designation: 16 July 1947

Dates of Active Duty: 1 July 1944 - 1 October 1949;
1 October 1952 - 1 February 1978

Total Flight Hours: 5,720

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 801

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,320 Prop: 2,400 VF/VA: 4,024

Other: Navy trainer and Civilian light aircraft - 1,624

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VF-151 (F-4), USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43), Feb. 1965 - Nov. 1965. North Vietnam (Tonkin Gulf) - 121 missions.

Vietnam: COM CVW-15, USS *Constellation* (CVA-64), Jun. 1966 - Nov. 1966. North Vietnam (Tonkin Gulf) - 54 missions.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-151, Apr. 1965 - Apr. 1966

Commander, Attack Carrier Air Wing 15, Jun. 1966 - Mar. 1967

CO, USS *Mobile* (LKA-115), Aug. 1970 - Aug. 1971

CO, USS *Constellation* (CVA-64), Sep. 1971 - Apr. 1973

Combat Awards:

Silver Star

3 Legion of Merit (2 combat)

5 Distinguished Flying Crosses

Bronze Star

11 Air Medals

5 Navy Commendation Medal

Presidential Unit Citation

Navy Unit Commendation



Duty Assignment Chronology

7/44-7/45, V12A Program, Arkansas A & M College.
7/45-10/45 NAS Memphis, TN.
10/45-4/46 US Navy Pre-Flight School, St Mary's College
4/46-2/47 NAS Corpus Christi, NAVCAD.
2/47-8/47 NAS Pensacola, NAVCAD.
8/47-4/48 NAS Jacksonville, VF Operational training (F6F).
5/48-9/48, VF-1E, NAS North Island and USS *Badoeing Strait* (CVE-115).
9/48-5/49 FAWTULANT, NAS Key West, VFN Training (F6F-5N).
5/49-10/49 VC-4, NAS Atlantic City, (F6F-5N) VFN.
10/49-10/52 Inactive Duty, Student, LSU, Organized Reserve, NAS New Orleans, VF-823 (FG-1D)
10/52-12/52 NAS New Orleans, recalled to Active Duty.
12/52-12/55 VC-3 (F2H-3), NAS Moffett Field, VFN Pilot, USS *Oriskany*. Transitional Training Unit Instructor (F7U-3).
1/56-8/56 Student, Test Pilot School, NATC, Patuxent River, MD.
8/56-12/58, Test Pilot, Flight Test Division, NATC, Patuxent River.
1/59-3/59 VF-121, NAS Miramar, (F3H-2N).
3/59-7/62 VF-64/VF-21, NAS Alameda, USS *Midway* (CVA-41) (F3H-2N).
7/62-7/64 OPNAV, Strategic Plans Division, OP-602C, Pentagon.
7/64-10/64 VF-121, NAS Miramar, (F-4).
10/64-4/66 XO/CO, VF-151, NAS Miramar, USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43), USS *Constellation* (CVA-64).
4/66-6/66 COMNAVAIRPAC, TEMPDU, PCOMCVW-15.
6/66-4/67 COMCVW-15, USS *Constellation* (CVA-64), NAS Lemoore.
4/67-6/68 XO, USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43).
6/68-8/70 Readiness Officer, Staff, COMFIRSTFLT.
8/70-8/71 CO, USS *Mobile* (LKA-115).
8/71-4/73 CO, USS *Constellation* (CVA-64).

- Continued -

Duty Assignment Chronology continued

4/73-8/75 CINCUSNAVEUR, Deputy CoS Operations
9/75-2/78 CHNAVRESFOR, Deputy CoS Readiness
2/1/78 Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Early jet night fighter pilot. Deployed as junior officer with VFN team aboard USS *Oriskany* in 1953-1954. F2H-3 Banshee (straight deck)
- (2) Instructor in jet Transitional Training Unit (VC-3) in 1954, 1955 (F7U-3, FJ-3, F9F-6)
- (3) Participated in Project Steam aboard USS *Hancock* in 1954, flying F2H-3. Heavy weight catapult launches and recoveries (40).
- (4) Test Pilot School (Class 16) in 1956. Served with Flight Test Directorate. Performance evaluations of F4D, F3H and A4D. Stability and control evaluations of F4D, A4D, F11F. Spin evaluation F9F-8T. Rocket engine tests for FJ-4. Structural demonstrations of F11F, F4D, F3H, F8U-1. Navy preliminary evaluation of FJ-4B. JATO trials for A4D. Exchange visit to Royal Test Center, UK; flew 8 various models of RAF and RN aircraft.
- (5) Mar 59 - Jul 62, Operations Officer for VF-64/21 in F3H-2N. Three WESTPAC deployments aboard USS *Midway*. First pilot to achieve 300 total traps and 100 night landings aboard *Midway*. Invited to participate in competition for follow-on Project Mercury astronauts but subsequently ruled out due to age.
- (6) Aug 62 - Jun 64, served in OPNAV (OP-602 Plans and Policy). Deep selected for CDR in Oct 62.
- (7) Jul 64 - Apr 66, XO/CO tour with VF-151 (F4B) embarked in *Coral Sea* (Dec. 64 - Nov. 65). Flew 121 combat missions in Vietnam war. Completed extended (11 mo) combat deployment without combat loss or casualty. Employed F4 in both fighter and flak suppression roles. Made 200th night trap during CO tour.
- (8) Jun 66 - Mar 67, Commander Air Wing 15 embarked in *Constellation* in Tonkin Gulf. Strike leader for 23 major (ALFA) strikes in North Vietnam. Made maximum utilization of A6A in first WESTPAC deployment in terms of employment of the aircraft's unique capabilities. Success of squadron and aircraft in combat subsequently lauded in national media. As CAW flew 54 combat missions over North Vietnam. Major awards included Silver Star, Legion of Merit, 5 DFC's, 4 Air Medals.
- (9) Apr 67 - Jun 68, served as XO, USS *Coral Sea* during part of a yard period and a 7 month deployment to Tonkin Gulf. Selected for Captain.
- (10) Jun 68 - Aug 70, served as Readiness Officer for COMFIRSTFLT. Planned, implemented, and monitored major fleet training exercises; predeployment training for operations in Vietnam war.
- (11) Aug 70 - Aug 71, CO, USS *Mobile* (LKA-115). Made WESTPAC deployments with COMPHIBRON 5.
- (12) Sep 71 - Apr 73, CO, USS *Constellation*. Extended deployment in Vietnam war. CINCPACFLT declared *Constellation's* performance during the 71 - 72 WEST PAC deployment the best of any carrier during the Vietnam war. Ship and air wing were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.
- (13) Final duty assignments were with CINCUSNAVEUR (DCOS Operations) and CHNAVRESFOR (DCOS Readiness). Retired in Feb 78. Presently (1997) current in T6, N2S, Piper Cub, Piper Tomahawk, Beechcraft Travelaire and Cessna 152. Participated in restoration of FG1D Corsair.