



Drax Williams, Major General, USMC (Ret.)

Drax

Date of Designation: 21 October 1965 NA # V-22858

Dates of Active Duty: 4 October 1962 - 1 October 1997

Total Flight Hours: 5,200

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 220

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 5,000 Prop: 200 VF/VA: 5,000

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: Aug. 1967-Sep. 1968, Da Nang AB (F-8 Crusader).

Vietnam: Jun. 1972-Feb. 1973 Bien Hoa AB (A-4 Skyhawk)
300+ combat missions total.

Aviation Commands:

VMA-513 Det A, 1975-1977 (AV-8A Harrier)

VMA-542, 1980-1982 (AV-8 Harrier)

MAG-12, 1985-1987 (A-4, A-6, A-7, AV-8)

COMCABWEST, 1991-1995

Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross

22 Air Medals (Strike/Flight, Vietnam)

Duty Assignment Chronology

- 1965-1967 MCAS Kaneohe Bay, HI (F-8 Crusader).
- 1967-1968 Da Nang AB, RVN (F-8 Crusader).
- 1968-1970 NAAS Chase Field, TX (F-9 Cougar).
- 1971-1972 MCAS Yuma, AZ (A-4 Skyhawk).
- 1972-1973 Bien Hoa AB, RVN (A-4 Skyhawk).
- 1973-1977 MCAS Cherry Point, NC (AV-8 Harrier).
- 1977-1979 Head Aviation Branch, LFTC Little Creek, VA.
- 1980 Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA.



1980-1982 CO, VMA-542, MCAS Cherry Point, NC (AV-8 Harrier).

1982-1983 NATO Defense College, Rome.

1983-1985 Chief of Plans, HQFMF(EUR), London

1985-1987 CO, MAG-12, Iwakuni, Japan

1987-1989 Deputy Commander, Naval Space Command, Dahlgren, VA.

1989-1991 Legislative Assistant to CMC, HQMC.

1991-1995 Commander, Marine Air Bases, Western Area.

1995-1997 Inspector General of the Marine Corps.

Summary of Significant Career Events

Born in Geneva, New York, Drax Williams was raised in Bermuda where his father was Editor of the *Bermudian* magazine. He attended Cornell University and after graduation was commissioned in 1963.

Drax received his wings as a Naval Aviator in 1965. Stationed in Hawaii for two years flying the F-8 Crusader, He was eventually transferred to Vietnam where he joined VMF(AW)-2. There he flew F-8Es out of Da Nang. In April of 1968 General Williams reported to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines on the DMZ as Air Liaison Officer.

Drax returned to the States in September of 1968 following completion of his first combat tour. He served for two years as a flight instructor at Chase Field, Texas. He returned to Quantico where he attended the Amphibious Warfare School, and in early 1971 he received temporary duty as Special Project Officer (Harrier) Liaison to U. S. Government Accounting Office. In August of 1971, Drax was transferred to Yuma, Arizona as a Flight Instructor for the A-4 Skyhawk.

In September of 1972 General Williams began a second combat tour in Vietnam flying A-4s out of Ben Hoa with MAG-12. He served as Aviation Safety Officer with MAG-12, and later as Operations Officer with VMA-211, flying

- Continued -

Summary of Significant Career Events continued

over 300 combat missions. In August of 1973 Drax completed his second combat tour and returned to the States as Operations Officer of VMA-231 at Cherry Point, North Carolina.

In 1975 he was assigned as Officer in Charge of VMA-513 Detachment A. This unit was given the primary mission of demonstrating the combat capabilities of the Harrier to the public. Following an assignment as Head, Aviation Section, Supporting Arms Branch of the Landing Force Training Command, Gen. Williams commanded VMA-542 from 1980 to 1982 with 20 Harriers assigned. He then attended Armed Forces Staff College. Later he would attend the NATO Defense College in Italy, and would be assigned to Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force, Europe, as Chief of Plans.

In 1985 Drax was transferred to Japan where he Commanded Marine Aircraft Group-12. There he flew A-4s, A-6s, and A-7s. In 1987 he was made Deputy Commander of the Naval Space Command in Virginia. He also served as Director of Public Affairs for Marine Corps Headquarters prior to being made Commander, Marine Corps Air Bases, Western Area. Drax served in this capacity until 1995 when he was made The Inspector General of the Marine Corps.

Gen. Williams is married to the former Mary Hardie of Long Island New York, and, has two daughters.

His numerous decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, 22 Strike/Flight Air Medals, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V", Navy Achievement Medal with Combat "V", Combat Action Ribbon, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star.