



**Wynn F. Foster, Captain, USN (Ret.)**

Date of Designation: 15 December 1950 NA # T1242

Dates of Active Duty: July 1944 - May 1946  
August 1949 - July 1972.

Total Flight Hours: 3,484

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 658

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 1,940 Prop: 1,544 VF/VA: 1,940

Combat Tours:

Korea: Jul. 1952-Feb. 1953, F9F-2, 75 combat missions.  
Vietnam: May 1965-Jul 1966, A-4E, 163 combat missions.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA-163, Nov 1965-Jul 1966

Combat Awards:

Silver Star  
Distinguished Flying Cross  
19 Air Medals

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

- 6/44-6/45 V-12A Program, Teachers College, Dickinson, ND. Student.
- 7/45-10/45 Pre-Flight, Iowa City, IA. Student.
- 11/45-5/46 Corpus Christi, TX. Student (N-2S).
- 8/49-12/50 NavAirTraCom, Student (SNJ-5, F8F-2).
- 1/51-3/51 FASRON Seven, NAS North Island, CA. Pilot Pool (SNJ-5, SNB-5, JRB-5).
- 4/51-5/51 Aviation Ordnance Officer School, NAS Jacksonville, FL. Student.
- 5/51-10/51 VF-111, NAS Miramar, CA. (F9F-2).
- 10/51-3/53 VF-721/VF-141, NAS Miramar, CA. (F9F-2, F9F-5).
- 4/53-5/54 VX-4, NAS Pt. Mugu, CA. Missile Test (F3D-3M)



- 6/54-8/55 Corpus Christi, TX. Flight Instructor. (F6F-5, T-28B).
- 8/55-6/57 NAS Pensacola, FL. Flight Instructor (F9F-2).
- 7/57-6/58 Line School, Monterey, CA. Student (SNB-5).
- 7/58-11/58 CIC-Air Control , Air Control School, Glynco, CA. Student.
- 12/58-9/60 USS *Forrestal* (CVA-59), Asst. Operations Officer (TF-1).
- 11/60-4/61 VA-43, NAS Oceana, VA. FRP Training (A4C).
- 4/61-12/62 VA-76/LantFlt, Ops Officer/XO, (A-4C).
- 1/63-9/64 NavAirTechTraCom, Staff Personnel-Leadership Officer, (T-28B).
- 10/64-1/65 VA-125, FRP Training (A-4C).
- 1/65-8/66 XO/CO, VA-163 (A-4E).
- 8/66-6/67 NavHosp, Oakland, CA. Patient.
- 6/67-8/67 VA-125, NAS Lemoore, CA. TAD.
- 9/67-8/68 OPNAV, Washington, DC, Plans & Programs.
- 9/68-5/70 COMCARDIV ONE, Operations Officer.
- 5/70-8/72 COMFIRSTFLT, ACoS Operations & Training.

**Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) - Soloed N2S "Yellow Peril" 12 March 1946.
- Early jet pilot (1951).
- Sparrow missile test program, VX-4.
- Four Med, three WestPac deployments.
- Participant in 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.
- Flew 238 combat missions (75 Korean War, 163 Vietnam War).
- Lost right arm when A-4E struck by enemy anti-aircraft fire during Vietnam war combat mission. Following hospitalization and fitting with prosthesis (artificial arm), successfully maneuvered through Navy bureaucracy to remain on unrestricted active duty. Earned "Captain Hook" nickname. when selected for promotion to that grade.

- Continued -

## Summary of Significant Career Events continued

### Post-retirement:

- (8) Wrote book, "Captain Hook: A Pilot's Tragedy and Triumph in the Vietnam War," based on career experiences, published in 1992 by Naval Institute Press.
- (9) Wrote book, "Fire on the Hangar Deck," recounting a tragic fire that occurred on board the aircraft carrier *USS Oriskany* in October 1966, published in 2001 by Naval Institute Press.
- (10) Life Member of Tailhook Association.
- (11) Associate Editor of The Hook magazine, 1989 to 2006.
- (12) Received Tailhook Association "Lifetime Achievement Award," 1998.