



Marvin J. Franger, Captain, USN (Ret.)
 “Marv”

Date of Designation: 12 March 1942 NA # 11168

Dates of Active Duty: 30 June 1941 - 30 June 1972

Total Flight Hours: 3,690

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 351

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 985 Prop: 2,705 VF/VA: 2,638

VR/VP: 296 VO: 80 VS: 114

Combat Tours:

WW II: VF-9 (F4F) USS *Ranger*, 8 - 12 Nov. 1942. First combat invasion of Northwestern Africa (Operation Torch) - 8 Missions.

WW II: 1st Pacific Tour. VF-9, USS *Essex* (Pacific), Apr 1943-Feb 1944:

- 29 Aug. 43 - 1 Sept Raid on Marcus Island;
- 5 - 6 Oct. 43 - Raid on Wake;
- 11 - 12 Nov. 43 - Raid on Rabaul;
- 18 - 23 Nov. 43 - Battle of Tarawa;
- 4 Dec. 43 - Raid on Kwajalein;
- 29 Jan.- 5 Feb. 44 - Battle of the Marshalls;
- 16 - 17 Feb. 44 - First raid on Truk;
- 22 Feb. 44 - Saipan. End 1st Pacific tour. On USS *Essex* - 36 missions

WW II: 2nd Pacific Tour. 14 Feb. 45. - 8 Jun. 45

- 14 Feb -1 Mar 45 - First raid on Tokyo, strikes on Iwo Jima in support of landings.
- 6 Mar. 45 - Air Group Nine transferred to the USS *Yorktown*.
- 15 Mar.-8 Jun. 45 Strikes and support of Okinawa invasion VF-9 (F6F-5). Totals: 42 missions.

WW II air record 9 kills, 4 damaged and 9 destroyed on ground. 78 total combat missions.



Aviation Commands:

CO, Observation Squadron 2 (SC-1), May 1948 - Jan. 1949, NAS Norfolk, VA.

CO, VF-61 (F9F-8), Oct. 1955 - Sep. 1956.

O-in-C, ATU-212, Oct. 1956-Jan. 1959, NAS Kingsville, TX.

Commander Air Group 19, Jun. 1959 - May 1960.

Combat Awards:

Silver Star

5 Distinguished Flying Crosses

7 Air Medals

Duty Assignment Chronology

- 6/41-3/42 Flight Training (Dallas E Base - NAS Jacksonville for Primary and Basic - NAS Miami for advanced training).
- 3/42-6/45 Orders to VF-9 via Advanced Carrier training group, NAS Norfolk.
- 7/45-9/45 Training command, NAS Corpus Christi, TX.
- 10/45-1/48 Naval Air Test Center (Armament Test) NAS Patuxent River, MD.
- 2/48-4/48 Leave and travel to NAS Jacksonville for sea plane checkout in SC-1
- 5/48-1/49 Observation Squadron Two, NAS Norfolk, VA
- 2/49-9/51 Commander Second Fleet staff (Assistant Air Operations).
- 10/51-7/53 Navy Special Weapons Test Unit, later changed to Naval Air Special Weapons Facility, Kirkland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, NM.
- 8/53-1/54 Armed Forces Staff College (student)
- 2/54-9/55 VX-3, NAS Atlantic City, NJ. Project Officer.
- 10/55-9/56 VF-61, NAS Oceana, VA. Med Deployment March-September 1956, USS *Intrepid*.
- 10/56-1/59 Naval Air Training Command (ATU 212), Kingsville, TX.
- 2/59-5/60 CAG-19 via RAG training at Miramar and Moffit. PAC deployment November 1959 - May 1960. USS *Bon Homme Richard*.

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| 6/60-7/63 | Staff, Commander Fleet Air San Diego (Operations Officer and Chief of Staff). | (2) | As project officer at Naval Special Weapons Facility (Oct. 1951-Jul 1953), conducted compatibility tests of aircraft and special weapons on the AD, F3D and F2H-2/3. Modified weapons as necessary to attain a safe separation prior to the development of the ejection bomb racks for the F2H and F3D. Due to lack of equipment, started the development of the loft bombing delivery technique with a modified bomb sight to determine the proper weapon release angle and best escape maneuver for the AD, F3D and F2H. Conducted on instrumented ranges. |
| 7/63-6/66 | Naval Material Command/Navy Liaison Officer to the Air Force System Command at Andrews Air Force Base, MD. | | |
| 7/66-6/70 | Staff, Commander-in-Chief Naval Forces Europe, London, England. | | |
| 7/70-6/72 | Naval Material Command/Director, Navy Logistics/Program Management School at Anacostia. | | |
| 6/30/72 | Retired from active duty. | | |

Summary of Significant Career Events

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| (1) | <p>Test Pilot at Naval Air Test Center (Armament Test) Oct 1945-Jan 1948. As a project pilot, conducted armament tests on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - F8F-1C new 20MM installation. - SC-2 (new a/c) Gun and Rockets. - AM-1 (new a/c) Guns Rockets and Bombs. - Service Acceptance Armament Trials of the FD-1/FH-1 (Phantom Pilot #30) 50 caliber machine gun installation. | (3) | <p>Project Officer at VX-3, Feb 1954-Sep. 1955. Participated in the development project for the new TACAN and the Mirror Landing Systems. Conducted proof flights to attain at least a 1,000 mile radius delivery capability for the AD-6/AD-5N. Made one low level, 13 hour flight from the USS <i>Midway</i> on Oct 11, 1954, which was over 1,000 miles. Made the 3rd mirror landing on the USS <i>Bennington</i> on Aug. 22, 1955, the first US Navy carrier with an installed mirror landing system.</p> |
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