



Donald Gordon, Captain, USN (Ret.)
"Flash"

Date of Designation: 12 March 1942 NA # 11012

Dates of Active Duty: 7 July 1941 - 31 July 1967

Total Flight Hours: 3,950

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 252 Rotary:

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 700 Prop: 3,250 VF/VA: 2,700
VR/VP: 900 VT: 200 Other: Civil 150

Combat Tours:

WW II: (Aug. 1942-May 1943) South Pacific, VF-10 in the USS *Enterprise* (CV-6) flying the F4F-4 from the carrier and Guadalcanal for 35 combat missions; scored 3 Kills, 1 Probable and 2 Assists.

WW II: (Nov. 1943 - Jul. 1944) South Pacific, VF-10 again in USS *Enterprise* flying the F6F-3 for 60 combat missions; scored 4 Kills, 1 Probable and 2 Assists.

Aviation Commands:

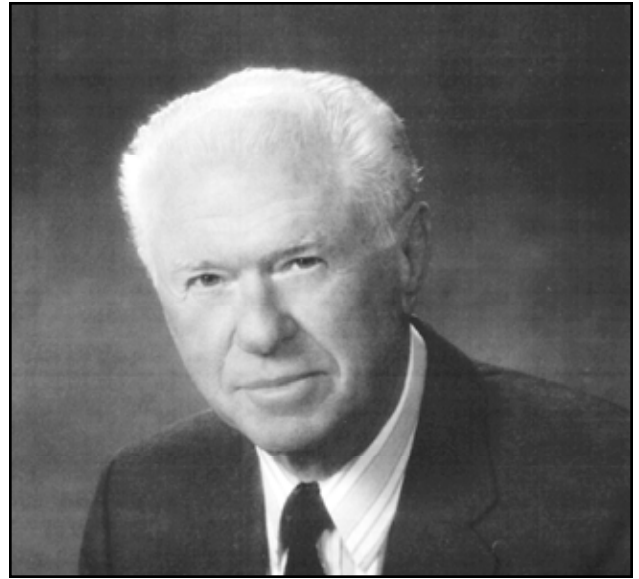
CO, VF-143, Jul. 1954 to Nov. 1955, flying the F9F-6 on a Western Pacific deployment in the USS *Philippine Sea*.

Combat Awards:

3 Distinguished Flying Crosses
4 Air Medals

Duty Assignment Chronology

7/41-3/42 With new civil wings from the Civil Pilot Training Program he joined the Navy at Fairfax Field, Kansas City, Kansas. After a brief Primary syllabus and Basic Training at Jacksonville, and Operational Training at Miami, he was commissioned an Ensign and winged on March 12, 1942.



6/42-6/43 After training with Aircraft Carrier Training Group at NAS, North Island in F4F's, he joined VF-10 and deployed in the USS *Enterprise* for a combat tour in the South Pacific.

7/43-7/44 After returning to the mainland from the first deployment, as a new Lieutenant Junior Grade he continued with VF-10 flying the new F6F Hellcat on another deployment to the South Pacific in the USS *Enterprise*.

7/44-8/46 Now a Lieutenant he returned from combat to be an Advanced Training Instructor in Daytona, Deland, and Jacksonville, FL. flying the F6F, FM-2, SBD, and SB2C.

8/46-7/47 Now a Lieutenant Commander and selected for regular navy, he was assigned to the NROTC, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas to further his formal education.

7/47-4/49 Assigned to VF-5A, later redesignated VF-51, flying the F8F. After carrier qualification in the F8F the squadron was designated to receive the new jet aircraft FJ-1 Fury, for operational evaluation in the fleet on carriers.

4/49-1/52 Flight Test Officer, Overhaul and Repair Department, NAS, Alameda. Among the aircraft he would fly over nearly three years included the FJ-1, F9F series, F6F, F8F, AD-1, PV-2, P2V, PBM-1 and R5D.

1/52-7/53 Assigned to the USS *Point Cruz* (CVE-119) with both an ASW and Attack Mission, as the designated Air Officer.

7/53-7/54 Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island for a learning experience.

7/54-11/55 Returned to West Coast as CO, VF-143 flying the F9F-6 on a deployment in the USS *Philippine Sea* (CVA-47). Promoted to Commander in December 1954.

11/55-8/57 Assigned to the staff, Naval Air Pacific Force, Pacific, as the Air Group Training Officer, the present Air Wing Training Officer.

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Duty Assignment Chronology continued

8/57-7/59 Assigned to the staff, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island as an instructor.

7/59-8/62 Reported to the staff, Commander in Chief, Pacific for duty in nuclear planning. A unit that created the Strategic Integrated Operational Plan (SIOP). Promoted to Captain in 1961.

8/62-6/65 Reported to the staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, J-3, General and Special Operations Planning Group.

6/65-7/67 Returned to the staff, Commander, Naval Air Force Pacific, NAS, North Island as Plans Officer.

7/31/67 Retired from the Navy active duty with over 26 years service at the rank of Captain.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) From 1947-1949, early jet pilot in first west coast jet squadron, VF-5 (later VF-51) flying the FJ-1 for the introduction of jets in carrier aviation. Operations were conducted on numerous carriers with great success.
- (2) On February 16, 1944, became an ACE over Truk Islands flying the F6F Hellcat. During WW II, he had seven recognized kills.
- (3) January 1952 - July 1953, Air Officer of USS *Point Cruz* (CVE-119) during first ever deployment of ASW helicopters with TBM's.
- (4) January 1949, the first and only jet pilot assigned to NAS, Alameda or fleet squadron for several months as flight test officer, Overhaul and Repair Department for acceptance of FJ-1, F9F series, and other fleet aircraft.
- (5) July 17, 1920, in Garland, Kansas born on a farm.