

Lewis Hoyt, CDR., USNR (Ret.)
"Jumper"

Hometown: San Marino, CA

High School and College Career:

San Marino High School: Student Body Officer, Captain of Football and Track Teams. Won the California Championship in High Jump at 6' 8". Graduated 1961.

University of Southern California (USC) on both a football and track scholarship.

Dean's Academic List all 4 years of college - graduated 1966.

Dates on Active Duty: USMC July 1967- Oct 1979.

US naval reserves - VF 302 Dec 1979-Sept 1984

Date Commissioned/Source:

AOC July 1967

Date of Designation: NA: 14 Nov 1969. # V-28911

Total Flight Hours: 21,000

Military Log Book: 4,441 Unlogged Military ACM: 1,500

Civilian: 15,000

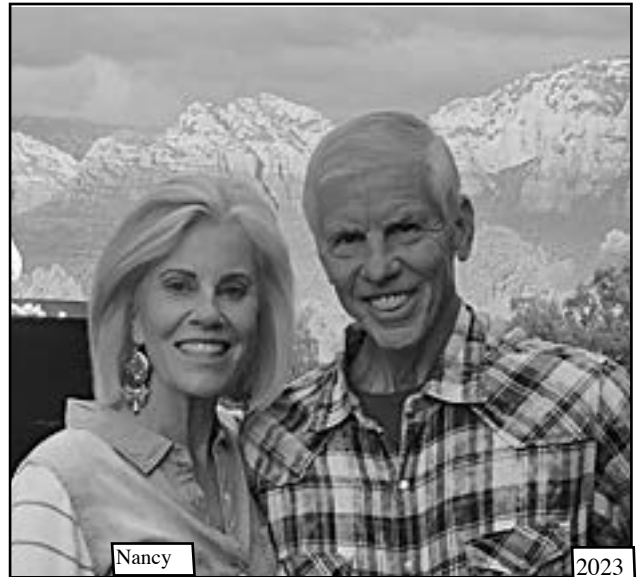
Additional unlogged ACM flight hours: flying and instructing with Dutch Air Force in F5's and F104's; flying MiG 17's and MiG 21's (Project Have Idea) in highly classified "Area 51" (now declassified); flying and instructing with Israeli Air Force (Mirage 3, Mirage 5, KFIR, F4), and Egyptian Air Force (F4, Mirage 5, MiG 21, F16, and Mirage 2000) and Kuwait Air Force (A4M, Hawker Hunter, Mirage F1); and Canadian Air Force (F5's, F104's, and F18's).

Carrier/Ship Landings: Approximately 30

Combat tours:

1 (1972 Vietnam/Thailand)

Combat missions: 30/ F-4



Awards:

Defense Service Medal

Armed Forces Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal

Vietnam Service Medal

Air Medals 5

Additional Campaign/Unit Awards

Duty Assignment Chronology

- 12/67 VT-1 Basic Pilot Training Pensacola. T34B,
- 03/68 NAS Meridian. Basic Jet Training. T2A and B
- 04/69 Pensacola VT 4 , Air to Air Gunnery and Carqual. T2B
- 06/69 NAS Beeville, Advanced Jet Training TAF 9J (graduated #1)
- 04/70 VMFAT 101, (F4 rag). MCAS. El Toro
- 08/70 VMFA 531 F4's, commanded by Lt Col John Thatcher.
- 08/71-06/72 VMFA 232 F4J. MCAS Iwakuni, Japan.
- 07/72-06/73 General's Aide to Brig. General Al Pomerenk, assist Wing Commander Third Marine Wing, El Toro, Ca.
- 07/73-07/75 VMFA 323, F4's, commanded by Lt Col Mike Sullivan.
- 07/75-08/78 Topgun Instructor. Commanded by CMDR Jim Ruliffson, and later by Lt. CMDR Monroe Smith. Instructing in T-38's, A4E's and F5E and F5F.
- 09/79-09/84 Naval Reserves: VF 302, NAS Miramar, F4N, F4S, commanded by CMDR Pete Pettigrew, followed by CMDR "Frenchy" Lecours, and CMDR J D Olson, and CMDR John Ed Kerr.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Won the 1963 National Collegiate Championships in the High Jump and was selected to be on the 'ALL AMERICAN COLLEGE TRACK AND FIELD TEAM'. Lew's best high jump was 7'2". Also a member (alternate) of two USA Olympic Teams, in 1964 and 1968.
- (2) Won the COMMANDANT'S TROPHY as #1 graduate from USMC Officer Candidate School, setting new records in the PFT and the Obstacle Course.
- (3) LtCol Thatcher, CO of VMFA 531, was "well ahead of his time" in his support and belief in the value of Topgun. Because of that, at that time, VMFA 531 had more graduates from Topgun than any other fighter squadron in the USMC or the USN. I had two of the best pilots in the USMC teaching me (Manfred Rietsch and Larry Richard), and two of the best RIO's in the USMC flying with me and helping me (Verne Maddux and Dick Kindsfater.)
- (4) In April 1972, VMFA 232 was deployed to DaNang, VietNam, for combat, and soon after, were redeployed to Nam Phong, Thailand (affectionately known as Rose Garden).
- (5) LtCol Sullivan, CO of VMFA 323, developed the "best ACM pilots in America" by flying more ACM than any other fighter squadrons. He did this by flying clean Phantoms (no centerline fuel tanks) against every adversary he could find. The squadron pilots regularly flew more monthly hours than any other USMC fighter squadrons. VMFA 323 won every award for excellence that the USMC had including twice the 'HANSON AWARD'. And, LtCol Sullivan was awarded "Marine Aviator of the year."
- (6) Topgun Instructor for 3 years, teaching the top 1% of USN/USMC fighter pilots. Selected as one of 4 USN pilots to fly and instruct in Mig17's and Mig21's at the highly classified Top Secret, Area 51 (now declassified).
- (7) Assigned to Topgun as the Training Officer tasked with Department Head Level planning, coordination, and execution of entire Topgun syllabus including the development of the ACM Range. Taught 1v1 proficiency and Middle East ACM war updates between Israel and the Arabs.
- (8) Personally paid own airfare to Israel, with coordination from Israeli embassy in Washington DC to visit Israel to acquire first-hand knowledge of Israeli fighter pilot training and flying with the IAF. Hosted two Israeli fighter pilots at my home in San Diego, throughout their five week Topgun exchange syllabus.
- (9) Spearheaded six weekend ACM detachments to various Marine bases in support of USMC ACM training. Shot his way to Number One "top gunner" during Topgun ten day air to air gunnery deployment to NAS El Centro.

Summary of Post Military Work

- (1) Acquired (Off Duty) Masters degree from USC.
- (2) After 23 years as a military fighter pilot, also enjoyed another 25 year career as a commercial airline pilot with both Western Airlines and Delta Airlines. Acquired approximately 15,000 flying hours, retiring as a Captain at age 60 with DAL in 2003
- (3) Founder and chairman of the first "Sedona Miracle" Charity event in 2006, raising \$741,000 which was distributed to the Verde Valley Sanctuary, the Sedona Boys and Girls Club, and the Sedona Community Foundation.
- (4) Sedona's 2006 "Citizen of the Year"
- (5) Guest "speaker" to numerous groups of students, athletes, pilots, and veterans throughout the United States. Still coach student athletes in many sports at the local high school, with a focus on Track and Field, to motivate them into "excellence".

Personal

- (1) I consider when I accepted Jesus Christ into my life as my Lord and Savior, to be the single most "significant event" that has occurred in my life. Also, I was blessed to have had exceptional people in my life, who were more talented than me, who taught me.
- (2) My wife Nancy and I have established two Endowment Funds for the teachers and students at the local high school. Also created the "Empowering Kids" fund with the Arizona Community Foundation, thru which we have donated for the past 10 years approximately 40 different \$1000 "scholarships" to high school graduates to use in their future educational expenses.
- (3) Throat and Tongue Cancer survivor, after surgery at Mayo Clinic in 2005.

Associations/Membership/Boards:

- (1) One of the original members of the Topgun Association Board of Directors
- (2) Formerly on Board of Directors to Sedona International Film Festival
- (3) A member of the Sedona 30 men's organization and the Church of the Red Rocks.