



Homer G. Hutchinson, Jr., BGen, USMC (Ret.)
 “Homer”

Date of Designation: 16 May 1940 NA # 6416

Dates of Active Duty: May 1940 - June 1969.

Total Flight Hours: 6,100

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 15

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 1,600 Prop: 4,500 VF/VA: 3,900

VR/VP: 900 VT: 1,300

Combat Tours:

WW II: England, RAF night fighter squadron, Jan. 1943 - Jun. 1943- 30 missions.

WW II: Central Pacific, USMC night fighter squadron, Apr. 1944 - Dec. 1944 - 90 Combat Air Patrols.

Korea: Jet night fighter squadron, Aug. 1952 - Mar. 1953 - 45 missions.

Aviation Commands:

USMC night fighter training detachment, Vero Beach, FL., Jan. 45 - Mar. 46, (flying F7F-3N Tigercat).

CO, VMF-322 (Midway and Ewa), Mar. 47-Dec. 48, (flying F4U-4 Corsair).

CO, VMF(N)-513, Korea, Aug. 52-Mar. 53 (F3D-2, F7F-3N Marine Air Group 24, MCAS Cherry Point, Jun.58-Jul. 59.

Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross (Korea).

3 Air Medals (Korea).

Legion of Merit with combat “V” (Korea).

Duty Assignment Chronology

1939 Received BS degree in Mechanical Engr. from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Was a four-year member of the Naval ROTC unit at Georgia Tech. Upon graduation, entered Naval Reserve as Aviation Cadet.

5/40

Completed flight training at the NAS Pensacola, Florida. Designated a Naval Aviator and commissioned in the Marine Corps Reserve.

7/40-8/42

Appointed 2nd Lt. in the regular Marine Corps and assigned to Marine Officers Basic School at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. As a 1st Lt. at the outset of World War II, he performed aviation duty at Pensacola and Cherry Point, NC. Promoted to captain in August of 1942.

1943

Assigned to a Royal Air Force night fighter squadron in England for training in night fighter operations. Participated in night combat air operations. Promoted to major in May 1943. That October, assigned as XO of newly-formed Marine Night Fighter Squadron 533 (VMF(N)-533), which took part in pioneering Marine night-fighter techniques. Deployed to Central Pacific with this squadron the following spring.

1/45-5/46

Commanded Marine Night Fighter Operational Training Detachment, Naval Air Station, Vero Beach, Florida. During this period, promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

5/46-8/48

Served briefly at Cherry Point and San Diego. In February 1947, ordered to Hawaii as CO, VMF-322, Marine Aircraft Group 15.

8/48-3/49

MAG-15 Operations Officer.

4/49-8/52

Electronics Officer, Division of Aviation, Headquarters Marine Corps. Completed the Senior Course, Marine Corps School, Quantico, VA.

8/52-1/53

CO, VMF(N)-513, MAG-33, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Korea. Unit was the first jet night fighter squadron of all the U.S. Armed Forces to enter active combat and registered the first night kill of an enemy jet aircraft.

1/53-5/53

Assistant Operations Officer of the First Wing.

6/53-3/57 Instructor in the Air Section, Marine Corps Educational Center, Quantico. Next assigned to Hawaii for two years, initially as XO and later as CO, Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay. During this assignment, was promoted to Colonel in March 1957.

6/57-6/58 Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL.

6/58-12/59 CO, MAG-24; Acting Chief of Staff and Communications-Electronics Officer, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Cherry Point, NC.

1/60-5/61 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Japan, Communication Electronics Officer, then as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations (G-3).

6/61-6/63 Headquarters Marine Corps as Head of the Aviation Plans and Readiness Branch, and Executive Officer, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Air.

6/63-2/64 Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff (Air).
2/64 Completed off-duty courses of study at George Washington University. Awarded Master of Arts (International Affairs).

3/65-3/69 Promoted to Brigadier General and transferred to CINCPAC Staff as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations. Instrumental in the development of the targeting programs and both the strategic and tactical concepts for the SEASIA air war.

6/69 Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) 1943: One of two USMC pilots ordered to duty with an RAF nightfighter squadron (#256) for training in night air intercept operations. Flew 30 night combat air patrols in Beaufighter aircraft from RAF Station Ford on SE coast of England against intruding German aircraft. Returned to Cherry Point in July 1943, and conducted operational training for Marine Corps night fighter pilots deploying to the Pacific theater.
- (2) 1952: As CO, VMF(N)-513, commanded the first jet night fighter squadron (F3D-2) deployed into combat in Korea. Utilizing the F3Ds' search/surveillance radar, tactics were developed to provide night cover/escort against Chinese MIGs attacking B-29s on missions along the Yalu River. In the course of these operations, the F3D shot down 5 MIGs and no B-29s were ever damaged while under escort.
- (3) 1959: While CO of Marine Air Group 24, organized and flew the first A4D-2 non-stop crossing of the Atlantic Ocean from Cherry Point, NC., to Rota, Spain, via Argentina, New Foundland. Utilized the "Buddy" system of inflight refueling wherein one A-4 with external fuel tank transfer equipment refuels a "Buddy" A-4 which then proceeds to his long range destination and the refueler returns to base.