



**James B. Linder, Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)**  
 “Jim”

Date of Designation: 25 October 1950

Dates of Active Duty: 5 May 1943 - 1 September 1979

Total Flight Hours: 4,920

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 930 Rotary: 20

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 4,500 Prop: 400 Helo: 20 VF/VA: 4,295  
 VR/VP: 140 HS/HU: 20 VS: 30 VT: 435

Combat Tours:

Korea: VF-112, USS *Philippine Sea*, Dec. 1951-Jul. 1952;  
 VF-112, USS *Kearsarge*, Jun. 1953-Dec. 1953.  
 Vietnam: VA-76, USS *Enterprise*, Dec. 1965-Jul. 1966;  
 CVW-15, USS *Coral Sea*, Aug. 1967-Feb. 1968  
 Total combat missions flown: 455

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA76, Oct. 1965-Oct. 1966  
 COMCVG-15, Feb. 1967-May 1968  
 CO, USS *Sylvania* (AFS-2), Jun. 1971-Sep. 1972  
 CO, USS *Forrestal* (CVA-59), Oct. 1972-May 1974  
 COMCARGRU-4, Jul. 1975-Jul. 1977  
 Commander, U.S. Taiwan Defense Command, Jul. 1977-  
 Apr. 1979

Combat Awards:

Navy Cross  
 Distinguished Service Medal  
 4 Silver Stars  
 4 Legion of Merit  
 7 Distinguished Flying Crosses  
 Bronze Star  
 24 Air Medals  
 2 Navy Commendation Medals  
 Navy Unit Commendation (CAG 15)



**Duty Assignment Chronology**

6/49-9/49 USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (E Division Junior Officer).  
 9/49-12/50 Flight Training, Pensacola & Corpus Christi.  
 1/51-5/51 FASRON-7, San Diego, (Duty Involving Flying).  
 5/51-4/54 VF-112, (Navigation Officer, Av. Equip Survival Officer, Legal Officer, Asst. Admin.)  
 4/54-3/57 NAS Willow Grove, PA. (Comm. Officer, Av. Safety Officer, Flight Training Officer).  
 4/57-9/57 NAS Glynco, GA. (Student).  
 9/57-7/59 CVA-42 (CCA (23), Asst CICA and Operations Department Assistant).  
 8/59-6/60 Naval War College (Student).  
 7/60-12/60 VA-44, NAS Jacksonville, FL. (RAG Training).  
 12/60-6/62 VA-172, NAS Cecil Field, FL. (Operations Officer and XO).  
 7/62-8/63 BUPERS (A22), Legislative Branch.  
 8/63-7/64 BUPERS (Aide to Chief of Naval Personnel).  
 8/64-12/64 VA-43, NAS Oceana, VA. (RP/RAG Training)  
 12/64-10/66 VA-76, (XO and CO from 10/65-10/66).  
 10/66-2/67, CVW-12 (RAG Training).  
 2/67-5/68 CVW-15 (Air Wing Commander).  
 7/68-9/69 BUPERS (Pers-B1), Pers DST Officer and Aviation Captain Detailer.  
 9/69-3/71 Asst. Secretary of Navy, Manpower & Reserve Affairs (Executive Assistant, Senior Naval Aide).  
 6/71-9/72 CO, USS *Sylvania* (AFS-2).  
 10/72-5/74 CO, USS *Forrestal* (CVA59).  
 5/74-6/75 OPNAV (Asst VCNO/Dir of Naval Admin.)  
 7/75-7/77 Commander, Carrier Group FOUR.  
 7/77-4/79 COMUSTDC (Commander).  
 5/79-7/79 CINCPAC (Asst to CINC)  
 9/1/79 Retired from active duty.

## Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Married Miss Patricia Weir from Mt. Pleasant, Iowa on 9 June 1949. Our daughter lives in Las Vegas, NV and our son hails from Houston, TX.
- (2) Designated Naval Aviator October 1950 then to duty in VF-112.
- (3) Flew 68 strike/escort missions over North Korea from the decks on USS *Philippine Sea* (1952-53). Combat sorties included strikes on the Chosin hydroelectric power complex, truck parks, rail yards and troop concentrations .
- (4) In 1953, while deployed on USS *Kearsarge*, participated in a scheduled team aerial gunnery "shoot out" between Pacific Theatre Navy and Air Force fighter pilots at Meho AFB in western Japan. The event was canceled by the Air Force command when the Navy team's high gunnery scores were reported during the workup phase. We had to pack our bags and fly back to the carrier without the trophy.
- (5) Assigned to NAS Willow Grove to conduct jet transition training for WW II fighter pilots in four squadrons. This tour was exciting and challenging! (1954-1957).
- (6) Carrier duty on USS FDR as CATTC officer and Assistant Operations Officer. (1957-1959).
- (7) Naval War College, Newport. (1960).
- (8) Operations Officer in VA-172 with Med deployment on board FDR. Participated in recovery operations involving John Glenn's Mercury space flight in 1962. Leader of flight assigned to return all information and data associated with the recovery to Patrick AF base. (1960-1962).
- (9) Participated in shakedown cruise of the Navy's first nuclear carrier USS *Enterprise* off Guantanamo, Cuba. (1962)
- (10) Deployed as CO, VA 76 on USS *Enterprise*, Tonkin Gulf ('65/'66). Flew 145 combat sorties from her decks.
- (11) Returned as CAG-15 on board USS *Coral Sea* ('67/'68) to complete 232 additional combat sorties in Vietnam. Targets included SAM sites, bridges, rail terminals, power plants, truck parks and joint Air Force/Navy combined strikes against Phuc Yen airfield.
- (12) Assumed command USS *Forrestal* (CVA-59) in 1972. Awarded Admiral Flatley safety award for years 1973 and 1974.
- (13) While deployed in the Med, *Forrestal* and CVW-17 conducted extensive rescue and logistic support operations in Tunisia, North Africa. During their severe flood in 1973, the ship and air wing rescued over 700 civilians who were stranded and in grave danger.
- (14) Assumed command of CARGRU4. While embarked in USS *America*, played a significant role in planning and conducting the evacuation of Americans from Lebanon during a crisis in the mid seventies. The numerous Soviet guided missile ships surrounding our forces posed a serious threat but they did not intervene in the operation.
- (15) As Commander, US Taiwan Defense Command, my role included the evaluation of the military posture of the Republic of China and submitting recommendations to their high command regarding their air and sea defense posture. My command also supervised and executed the withdrawal of all US military personnel and their dependents from the island in 1979.