



James W. Ryan, Captain USN (Ret.)
"Jim"

Date of Designation: 16 August 1955 NA# V-7864

Dates of Active Duty: March 1954 - January 1985

Total Flight Hours: 4,700

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 710

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 4,300 Prop: 400 VF/VA: 4,300

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: 1965 VF-21 USS *Midway* (F4B).

Vietnam: 1969-1971 Three deployments, VF-194, USS *Oriskany* (F8J).

Total Missions: 221

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-194, July 1970-July 1971

CO, USS *Wabash*, August 1978-January 1980

CO, USS *Lexington*, December 1981-June 1983

CO, Naval Aviation Schools Command, Jun. 1983-Feb 1985

Combat Awards:

2 Legion of Merit

Bronze Star

Meritorious Service Medal

9 Air Medals

2 Navy Commendation Medals with combat "V"

Navy Unit Citation

5 Vietnam Service Medals

Duty Assignment Chronology

1954-1955 Flight student (NAVCAD), NAS Pensacola/
NAAS Kingsville (SNJ, T-28, TV-2, F9F-2).
1955-1957 VF-123, NAS Miramar. Westpac deployment
USS *Lexington*. (F9F-2, 6, 8).



1957-1958 VF-53, NAS Miramar. Transitioned to F3H. (F9F-8, F3H).
1959-1960 VF-151, NAS Moffet (F3H). Transferred with four other pilots from VF-53 to form VF 151. Westpac deployment on USS *Hancock*.
1960-1963 VF-121, NAS Miramar (F3H, F3D, F4H, F9F-8T).
1963-1965 VF-21, NAS Miramar. Two Westpac deployments. One combat deployment (F4B).
1965-1966 Junior War College, Newport, RI (T1A).
1966-1967 Saigon Det Charlie coordinated USAF/Navy air strikes in North Vietnam (C1A).
1967-1969 CAG-12, NAS Miramar (A6, F4, T4-F).
1969-1969 VF-124, F8 Crusader fleet replacement training. Flew TA4F aggressor flights during this period.
1969-1971 XO/CO VF-194, USS *Oriskany*/NAS Miramar. Three combat Westpac deployments to Vietnam.
1971-1972 Completed "Boot Strap" program at San Diego State. In spare time flew with VF-124 instructing Fleet Replacement Pilots.
1972-1974 Air Boss, USS *Constellation*. Two more Westpac deployments. Checked out in A-7E.
1974-1975 Industrial College of Armed Forces (T1A).
1975-1978 OP-506, Pentagon. Air-to-Air Weapons Coordinator for AIM-7F AIM-9L, AMRAM.
1978-1980 CO, USS *Wabash*/NAS Alameda. Won the DOD National Defense Transportation Award. One Westpac deployment (H-46).
1980-1981 War Plans and Policy Section staff CINCPACFLT.
1981-1981 Attended Senior Officer Readiness course at the Naval Reactor Facility, Idaho Falls.
1981-1983 Commanding Officer, USS *Lexington* (C1A). Carqualled in TA4F.
1983-1985 Commanding Officer, Naval Aviation Schools Command. (TA4F, T-2B/C).

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Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) During tour with VF-123, when on a F9F-2 gunnery flight over Chocolate Mountains, the throttle stuck at 100 percent. Slowed down with speed brakes, gear and flaps and managed to get back over NAF El Centro keeping the airplane slow with tight turns. Set up for high straight in final and shut off engine master switch for safe, deadstick landing.
- (2) Later in VF-123 flying the F9F-6 coming home from cross country at 38,000 feet over Sacramento engine started to rumble and temp was going through 1,000. Shut down and shot a flame out approach into Travis AFB. Engine was trashed.
- (3) While assigned to VF-121 the F4 was introduced to the fleet, was selected as one of the first six West coast Phantom instructors. Joined a group of instructors to fly the T-38 at Northrup for Navy evaluation. The Navy at that time was considering the T-38 for aggressor training.
- (4) Tour in Pentagon OP-506 was rewarding. Introduced the AIM-9L into the fleet. Was selected as the OPNAV rep at Nellis AFB during ACEVAL/AIMVAL (Air Combat Evaluation/Air Intercept Evaluation). Out of that program came the requirement for the AMRAAM (Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile). Member of Air Force/Navy team which wrote the requirements for the new missile.
- (5) On USS *Wabash* during our Westpac deployment the ship was scheduled for a port call at Phattaya Beach Thailand. Upon leaving Subic Bay we were directed to stop all Boat People, give them fuel, food and water, but not to pick them up. 500 miles off the coast of Vietnam, the task group ran across a small boat with 19 refugees on board. Contrary to orders, we picked them up. Refusing to do so in that environment would have been stupid. That small vessel had an entire family aboard -- aunts, uncles, small children and one woman who was pregnant. Later on we picked up 95 more survivors. All were turned over to Embassies.

Post Military Aviation Highlight

- (1) During 1990-1998, joined Sabreliner Corporation managing the Undergraduate Naval Flight Officer (UNFO) Program at NAS Pensacola. Operated 17 T-39s modified with air-to-air and air-to-ground radars flown by former Navy, USAF and Marine pilots.
- (2) Permanently retired in 1998.