



James A. Lair, RADM USN (Ret.)
"Jim"

Date of Designation: December 1961 NA# V-8493

Dates of Active Duty: June 1960 - September 1995

Total Flight Hours: 8,000

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 1,410

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 6,000 Prop: 2000

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: CVW-16 (A-4) 1969, 1970, 1975,
USS *Ticonderoga*.
CVW-11 (A-7 Corsair) USS *Kitty Hawk*
VA-22, (A-7) 1975 USS *Coral Sea*

Lebanon: CVW-6, (A-7, A-6, EA-6) USS *Independence*
Total of 220 combat missions.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA-146, 1978-1980 (A-7)
COMCVW-6, 1981 (F-14, A-6, A-7, S-3, EA-6B)
CO, USS *America* (CV-66), 1987-1988 (F-14A)
Battle Group Commander, Carrier Group 2, 1991-1993
(A-6E)

Combat Awards:

2 Individual Air Medals
22 Air Medals (Strike Flight)
4 Navy Commendation Medals with combat "V"

Duty Assignment Chronology

Admiral Lair is a native of Los Angeles, California. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1957, then entered the Navy through the Naval Aviation Cadet Program and earned his Wings and Commission in December 1961. He made three Western Pacific deployments flying from the USS *Bennington*. He next attended the Naval Postgraduate School



and graduated in June 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations.

Flying the A4 Skyhawk and A7 Corsair II, Admiral Lair made two combat cruises aboard the USS *Ticonderoga*, and USS *Kitty Hawk* flying over 200 combat missions over Vietnam.

He then attended the School of Command and Staff at the Naval War College and received a MS in International Relations from the George Washington University. He then, made a third combat cruise aboard the USS *Coral Sea* and participated in the evacuation of South Vietnam and was one of the flight leaders in the recovery of the Merchant Ship *Mayaguez*.

He commanded Attack Squadron 146, Carrier Air Wing Six during the 1991 Lebanon Crisis, the USS *Caloosahatchee* and the USS *America* (CV-66).

Following his tour as Chief of Staff for Commander U.S. Sixth Fleet he was promoted to Rear Admiral. He then commanded Carrier Striking Force Sixth Fleet deployed to the Mediterranean during the Bosnian Crisis.

Rear Admiral Lair's last active duty tour was as Director of Operations, U.S. European Command, Stuttgart, Germany. He was responsible for the training and deployment of U.S. Forces in Europe, Northern Iraq and most of Africa.

Admiral Lair has over 8,000 flight hours and 1,410 carrier landings. His personal awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, 4 Legions of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, 2 Individual Air Medals, 22 Strike Flight Air Medals, 4 Navy Commendation Medals with the Combat "V" and various campaign awards.

Retiring in 1995, he then went to Texas and worked for Lockheed Martin on the Navy variant of the Joint Strike Fighter. For five years he was Manager of The Flight Safety

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Duty Assignment Chronology continued

Learning Center at the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Airport.
Currently the Department of Homeland Security Acting
Federal Security Director of the DFW Airport.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) 20 combat missions over Vietnam.
- (2) CO of VA-146.
- (3) COMCVW-6 - Lebanon Crisis.
- (4) CO, USS *Caloosahatchee* (AO- 98), Urgent Fury.
- (5) CO, USS *America* (CV-66).
- (6) COMCAR Strike Group 2 deployed to Med during
Bosnian crisis.