



John L. Adkinson, Jr. Colonel, USMC (Ret.)
"Larry"

Date of Designation: 28 December 1963 NA# V-20646

Dates of Active Duty: June 1962 – August 1988

Total Flight Hours: 5,100+

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 38

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 4,200 Prop: 50 VF/VA: 4,100 VT: 300

Other: 800 (Varga, Cessna, Citabria)

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VMA-211, Oct.-Dec. 1965, Chu Lai RVN (A-4E).

Vietnam: VMA-224, Dec. 1965-May 1966, Chu Lai RVN (A-4E).

Vietnam: VMA-211, Sep. 1968-Jan. 1969 Chu Lai RVN (A-4E).

Vietnam: H&MS-11, Feb. 1969-Oct. 1969 Danang RVN (TA-4F, F-100F).

Total Combat Missions: 681 (317 (A-4E), 359 (TA-4F), and 5 (F-100F) - "Misty" FACs.

Commands:

CO, VMA-331, July 1981-Feb. 1983 (A-4M).

Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross

2 Single Mission Air Medals

44 Strike/Flight Air Medals

Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V"

Duty Assignment Chronology

- 6/62-12/63 Flight School.
- 1/64-2/64 VMT-3, MCAS El Toro, CA.
- 3/64-12/65 VMA-211, El Toro, CA/WP, Chu Lai (A-4E).
- 12/65-5/66 VMA-224, Chu Lai (A-4E).
- 7/66-8/67 1st ANGLICO, MCAS Kaneohe, HI (T-1A).



28 June 1969 - Capt. Larry Adkinson flies 600th combat mission w/CG 1stMAW MajGen "Smoke" Spanjer in the Back Seat of a Playboy FastFAC mission over Laos. LtCol Dick Hebert, the Playboy CO meets them on landing.

- 9/67-6/68 VMF 212, MCAS Kaneohe (F-8B).
- 7/68-8/68 VMAT 203/VMA-331. A-4 Refresher.
- 9/68-2/69 VMA 211, Chu Lai (A-4E).
- 2/69-10/69 H&MS-11, Danang (TA-4F - Fast FAC).
- 11/69-2/70 VMA-331, MCAS Beaufort, SC (A-4E).
- 3/70-2/71 H&MS-31, Beaufort (TA-4F) – Flight Officer.
- 3/71–5/72 VMA-331, (A-4E/M) Wep & Tac. Officer.
- 2/72 Light Attack Weapons School- NAS Lemoore, CA (A-4M).
- 6/72-5/75 MARTD Atlanta (F-8K) Operations Officer.
- 6/75-7/76 MWSG-17, Iwakuni S-3 (T/OA-4F/M).
- 8/76-5/77 Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL – DIFDEN.
- 7/77-8/80 USNA Leadership Instructor – DIFDEN.
- Spring-Summer '80 VTNA Flight Program at USNA – Flew Mid'n Orientations in Varga Kachina /Citabria airaft.
- 9/80-6/81 2d MAW, MCAS Cherry Pt. G-1 (OA-4M).
- 7/81-2/83 CO, VMA-331, Cherry Pt /WestPac (A-4M).
- 3/83-7/84 HQMC, PP&O – Command Center and Operations Sec Head & Branch Head.
- 8/84-8/86 OPNAV-954, Strike and Amphibious Warfare – Non-nuclear Ordnance Requirements.
- 8/86-8/88 Chief, Firepower Division, Marine Corps Development Center, Quantico, VA.
- 8/88-Present Employment in private sector as DOD contractor; except for 15 months raising funds for Special Olympics International.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) 1965-66. Flew 164 air-ground missions in A-4E with VMA-211 and VMA-224 from Chu Lai SATS field.
- (2) 1968-69. Flew 153 air-ground missions in A-4E from Chu Lai.
- (3) 1969 (Feb-Oct). Conceived and developed highly successful advanced tactics for use of the TA-4F as high-speed, low-level Strike Control and Visual Reconnaissance (SCAR) and strike aircraft in Central Laos (Steel Tiger) in 1969. Flew 50+ flight hours per month

- Continued -

Summary of Significant Career Events continued

in the TA-4F as “Playboy” Fast FAC during this period. Flew five Fast FAC combat missions in F-100F with USAF “Misty” to cross fertilize effective tactics. Wrote the initial content in the A-4/TA-4 Tactical Manual on this subject. Many of these “SCAR” tactics still in use today by Navy and Marine TACAIR. *Golden Eagles* General Rich Hearney, LtGen Duane Wills, Col Jack Gagen, Col Bob Hickerson and Col Dave Seder were also “Playboy” FastFACs.

- (4) 1972-75. As MARTD Atlanta Operations Officer led six and eight plane F-8K Dets to USAF College Dart, Green Flag 2-4 plane ACM Dets to active duty USMC F-4 squadrons in CONUS.
- (5) While on the faculty of US Naval Academy, helped form and develop a midshipmen flight orientation program (VTNA) with leased aircraft, civilian flight instructors and staff Naval Aviators with FAA pilot licenses to operate five aircraft from Fort Meade Air Field, in MD. Provided hands-on familiarization flights to midshipmen during their junior year/2nd class summer training. As Operations Officer, flew 35-40 hours a week for 10 weeks in the Varga Kachina 2150A. Flew 3-4 additional acrobatic flights per week in the Citabria with midshipmen who earned additional flights through various drawings and competitions.
- (6) 1981-1983. CO, VMA-331, MCAS Cherry Pt. Led a 20-plane A-4M squadron thru successful operations on both coasts of the US and six-month deployment to the Western Pacific that was first in the Marine Corps in fixed wing flight hours with a perfect safety record. Implemented the original USMC Family Readiness Program. Group CO was MajGen Dick Gustafson – a *Golden Eagle*.
- (7) 1984-1986. Division of Strike and Amphibious Warfare/Directorate of Naval Warfare, OPNAV, Pentagon. As Senior Military Requirements Officer, assembled, coordinated and analyzed strategic and tactical factors constituting the Non-Nuclear Ordnance Requirements (NNOR) for the Navy and Marine Corps. Worked successively for RADM Tom Brown and RADM Jim Flatley – both *Golden Eagles*.
- (8) 1986-1988. Chief, Firepower Division, Marine Corps Development Managed R&D of all new Marine Corps ground combat systems and some anti-air defense systems.
- (9) 1988-1998. Program Support to various DOD and Marine Corps systems. Fifteen month hiatus in 1995/6 to raise funds for Special Olympics International.
- (10) 1998-2012). Director, Synthesis Center, Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory. Synthesized knowledge from experiments to identify proven tactics, techniques and

procedures (TTPs). Published TTPs in focused, easy-to-read *X-Files* for the Operating Forces in hard copy and digital formats.

- (11) 1 December 2012. Retired from DOD contractor job to play golf and join my wife, Karen—from my hometown of Geneva, NY— in enjoying our daughter, two sons and four lively, athletic grandchildren.