



**John L Adkinson, Jr. Colonel, USMC (Ret)
“Larry”**

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

Active Duty: June 1962 – August 1988

Total Flight Hours: 5100+

Carrier/Shipboard Landings: Fixed Wing 38

Approx. Flight Hours: Jet: 4200 Prop: 50
VF/VA: 4100 VT: 300
Other: 800 (Varga, Cessna, Citabria)

Combat Tours:

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

Dec 1965-May 1966 VMA-224 Chu Lai RVN (A-4E)

Sept 1968-Jan 1969 VMA-211 Chu Lai RVN (A-4E)

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

Total Combat Missions: 681
317 (A-4E)
359 (TA-4F)
5 (F-100F) – “Misty” FACs)

Commands:

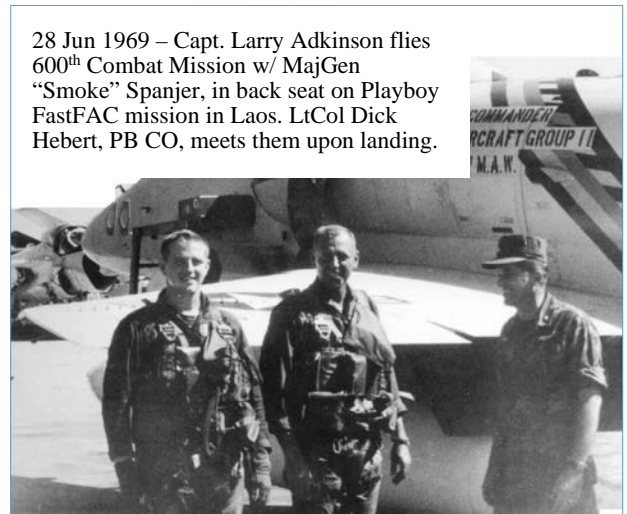
CO VMA-331 July 1981-Feb 1983 (A-4M)

Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross
2 Single Mission Air Medals
44 Strike/Flight Air Medals
Navy Commendation Medal w/Combat “V”

Duty Assignment Chronology

6/62-12/63 Flight School
1/64-2/64 VMT-3 – MCAS El Toro
3/64-12/65 VMA-211 –El Toro/WP, Chu Lai (A-4E)
12/65-5/66 VMA-224 – Chu Lai (A-4E)
7/66-8/67 1st ANGLICO – MCAS Kaneohe (T-1A)
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 (T-A4F - Fast FAC)
11/69-2/70 VMA-331 MCAS Beaufort (A-4E)
3/70-2/71 H&MS-31 Beaufort (TA-4F) – Flt O
3/71–5/72 VMA-331 (A-4E/M) Wep & Tac O
- 2/72 Light Attack Weapons School - Lemoore (A-4M)
6/72-5/75 MARTD Atlanta (F-8K) Ops O
6/75-7/76 MWSG-17 – Iwakuni S-3 (OA-4F/M)
8/76-5/77 Air University, Maxwell AFB – DIFDEN
7/77-8/80 USNA – Leadership Instructor – DIFDEN
Spring-Summer ‘80 VTNA Flt Prog at USNA – Mid’n Orientations in Varga Kachina / Citabria
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 Rqmts
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

1962 Commissioned 2ndLt through the USMC Platoon Leaders Class upon graduation from Hobart College.

1965-66. Flew 164 air-ground missions in A-4E with VMA-211 and VMA-224 from Chu Lai SATS field.

1966-1967 Forward Controller in First Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

1967-68 Flew F-8B/D in Marine Fighter Squadron 212, MCAS Kaneohe, Hawaii.

1968-69. Flew 153 air-ground missions in A-4E with VMA-211 from Chu Lai.

1969 (Feb-Oct). Developed and implemented highly successful advanced tactics for use of the TA-4F as high speed, low level Strike Control and Visual Reconnaissance (SCAR) aircraft in Central Laos (Steel Tiger) in 1969. Flew 50+ flight hours per month in the TA-4F as “Playboy” Fast FAC. Flew five Fast FAC combat missions in F-100F with USAF “Misty” to cross fertilize effective tactics. Wrote initial content in A-4/TA-4 Tactical Manual on this subject. Many of these SCAR tactics still in use by Navy and Marine TACAIR. *Golden Eagles* Gen Rich Hearney, LtGen Duane Wills, Col Jack Gagen, Col Bob Hickerson and Col Dave Seder were also “Playboy” FastFACs.

1972-75. As MARTD Atlanta Ops 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.

1977-1980. While on the faculty of US Naval Academy in the Leadership and Law Department, helped form and develop a midshipmen flight orientation program (VTNA) with leased aircraft, civilian flight instructors and staff Naval Aviators with FAA pilot licenses. Operated five aircraft from Fort Meade, MD Airfield. Flew hands-on familiarization flights w/ midshipmen during their junior year/2nd class summer training in lieu of their cancelled Flight Orientations in Pensacola due to the national fuel shortage. As Ops Officer, flew 35-40 hours a week for 10 weeks in the Varga Kachina 2150-A. Flew 3-4 additional acrobatic flights per week in the Citabria w/ midshipmen who earned additional flights through various drawings and competitions. Was Assistant Coach (Defense) of the USNA Varsity Lacrosse team.

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 w/ a perfect safety record. Implemented the original USMC Family Readiness Program. Group CO was MajGen Dick Gustafson – *Golden Eagle*.

1983 - 1984. Operations Division, Plans, Policy and Operations (PP&O) Div, HQMC, Wash, DC. Section Head & Branch Head, Command Center and Operations Branch.

1984 - 1986. Strike & Amphibious Warfare Division Directorate of Naval Warfare, OPNAV, Pentagon upon promotion to Colonel in June 1984. As Senior Military Requirements Officer, assembled, coordinated, and analyzed strategic and tactical factors constituting the Non-Nuclear Requirements (NNOR) for the Navy and Marine Corps. Worked successively for RADM Tom Brown and RADM Jim Flatley – both *Golden Eagles*.

1986 – 1988. Chief, Firepower Division, Marine Corps Development Center, Quantico, VA. Managed R&D of all new Marine Corps ground combat systems and some anti-air defense systems.

1988 (30 Aug) - Retired from Marine Corps.

1988 – 1998. Program Support to various DOD and Marine Corps systems. Fifteen-month hiatus in 1995/6 to raise funds for Special Olympics International.

1998-2012. Director, Synthesis Center, Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory. Gathered, organized and 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.

2012 (Aug) Retired from DOD contractor job to play golf and join my wife, Karen—from my home town of Geneva, NY—in enjoying our daughter Amy, two sons Jason and Justin, and four lively, athletic grandchildren Katie, John, Michael and Jett.