



James Roger Foster, Captain, USN (Ret.)
 “Jim”

Date of Designation: November 1950

Dates of Active Duty: 30 June 1945 - 30 June 1980

Total Flight Hours: 8,000+

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 868

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 5,800 Prop: 2,500 Helo: 10 VF/VA: 6,000+
 VR/VP: 200 VT: 200 Other: Lt Planes/Gliders: 200+

Combat Tours:

Korea: VF-53 (F4U), USS *Essex*, (CVA-9), Dec. 1950 - May 1953, and VF-53 (F9F-2/5), USS *Valley Forge* (CVA-45), 187 missions.

Vietnam: USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA-45, Air Boss), 1967 - 1968, 2-F8 missions.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-13 (F8E), Apr. 1965 - Jun. 1966.

CO, VX-4 (All Fighters, T-33, F4, F8, Migs.), Apr. 1969 - Apr. 1971.

CO, NAS Dallas (VF, VR, Helo.), Jun. 1976 - Jun. 1978.

Combat Awards:

2 Legion of Merit

5 Air Medals

9 Air Medals (Strike/Flight)

Navy Commendation Medal

Duty Assignment Chronology

6/45-6/49 U.S. Naval Academy (Midshipman).

6/49-9/49 USS *Midway* (CVB-41), Gunnery Dept.

10/49-11/50 Navy flight training.

12/50-6/53 VF-53 (F4U and F9F-2/5). Two Korean deployments.

6/53-6/56 U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey,



CA., and CALTECH.
 6/56-6/58 VF-33 (FJ-3M,F11-F), USS *Intrepid*, *Saratoga* and others.
 6/58-6/60 COMFAIRJAX Staff (Maintenance and /Flag Lieutenant).
 6/60-6/63 VX-4 (many VF/VA types)
 6/63-4/65 CVW-10 (Operations Officer).
 4/65-4/66 CO, VF-13 (F8E).
 4/66-4/68 USS *Bon Homme Richard* (Air Boss).
 4/68-6/69 COMOPTEVFOR Staff (Head of Fighter Air Warfare Section), Norfolk, VA.
 6/69-6/71 CO, VX-4, Point Mugu, CA.
 6/71-4/76 OPNAV (OP-506/OP-50W).
 4/76-4/78 CO, NAS Dallas, TX.
 4/78-6/80 CNAVRES Staff (Chief of Staff/Director Naval Air Logistics).
 7/1/80 Retired from active duty.
 7/80-9/92 Planning Research Corporation/Computer Sciences Corporation.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Early Jet Pilot and MIG-Pilot.
- (2) Pioneered developments of aerial towed targets
- (3) Test Pilot (Altitude and Speed Records)
- (4) Five years in OP-05 supporting TACAIR (1st Program Coordinator for F-18).
- (5) Flown 52 aircraft models (including all fighters, Naval and USAF, from FM-2 thru F-14.
- (6) Retained "Duty Involving Flying" status from start of flight training thru 31-years until retirement.
- (7) First to survive an underwater ejection.