



Thomas J. Ross, Colonel, USMC, (Ret.)
 "Tom"

Date of Designation: 1 April 1943 NA # C-4584

Dates of Active Duty: 11 May 1942 - 1 December 1970.

Total Flight Hours: 5,730

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 12 Rotary: 300+

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 2,500 Prop: 2,100 Helo: 1,100 VF/VA: 4,000
 VR/VP: 400 VS: 200

Combat Tours:

WW II: Gilbert & Marshalls (SBD & F4U), 1943 - 1944, 120 combat missions.
 WW II: Philippine Islands/Okinawa, 1945 - 1945, 45 combat missions.
 Korea: 1952 - 1953, 93 combat missions.
 Vietnam: HMM-361 (H-34), 1963-64, 141 combat missions

Aviation Commands:

OinC, ATU-201 (F9F/T-33), NAS Corpus Christi, 1954 - 55.
 CO, HMM-361 (H-34), Sep. 1962 - Sep. 1964.
 CO, SLF (LPH-8), 1964.

Combat Awards:

2 Legion of Merit with Combat "V"
 5 Distinguished Flying Crosses
 26 Air Medals
 Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V"
 2 Purple Hearts

Duty Assignment Chronology

1943 Designated Naval Aviator. Joined VMSB-331 flying SBDs - participated in Gilberts & Marshalls operations - transitioned to F4Us.
 1944 Returned CONUS Nov. 44 to MCAS Cherry Point and trained in SB2C.

1945 Returned to Pacific for operations in Philippines and Okinawa, thence to North China after Japanese surrender.
 1946 Flight Instructor, F4U operational training at Miami & Cecil Field, FL.
 1947 VMP-254 at El Toro, CA., flying F4U and F7F aircraft.
 1948 Navy Flight Test Pilot School, Patuxent River, MD. At Pax , flew F4U, F6F, F8F, F7F, XF9F, XF2H, XBT2D, XAM, XNQ, XOSE, C-45, PB4Y-2 and P2V.
 1949 MCAS Cherry Point O&R as Chief, Inspection Dept., and production test pilot for FH, F2H, F7F & R4D. In October, joined 77th Sqdn, 20th Fighter Group USAF as exchange pilot flying F-84D. Deployed to England for 6 months.
 1951 Fighter Maintenance Desk, BUAER. Flew evaluation flights in XF7U and was on mock-up team for FJ, A2J, A4D & Convair "Sea Dart".
 1952 Korea in VMF-115, MAG-33 at K-3 flying combat in F9F.
 1954 Flight Instructor, NAS Corpus. OinC of ATU-201, F9F & T-33.
 1957-58 Operations Officer, MARTCOM, NAS Glenview, IL. TDY to NAS Pensacola for helo training. Flew C-45, F9F, HR2S, H-19 and HUS.
 1959-60 Headquarters FAA as Aircraft Noise Abatement Project Officer.
 1961-62 MAG-36, MCAF Santa Ana, CA. Became CO of HMM-361 embarked in LPH-2. Deployed to Caribbean during Cuban missile crisis.
 1963-64 Deployed HMM-361 to Danang, Vietnam with H-34s in support of ARVN. Later embarked in Valley Forge with HM-361 and BLT as Commander, Special Landing Force.

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Duty Assignment Chronology continued

1965-66 Chief, Air Support Division, Marine Corps Development Center, then to MarCorps Command & Staff College as Asst. Director.

1967-68 U. S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA. - Student.

1968-70 Staff Officer U.S. Southern Command, Canal Zone.

1970 Retired from active duty.

1970-88 University of Oklahoma as Director of FAA Training Programs. Formed and directed a staff of more than 300 to conduct Air Traffic Controller training following the ATC strike of 1981.

1988 Retired January 1 from the University as Associate Professor.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Marine Corps Aviator of the Year, 1964 (Cunningham Trophy).
- (2) In the first class of U.S. Navy Test Pilot School, 1948-49. While at Pax, flew the F4U, F6F, F8F, F7F, XF9F, XF2H, XBT2D, XAM, XNQ, XOSE, C-45, PB4Y-6A, PB4Y-2 and P2V aircraft.
- (3) First Marine exchange pilot with USAF 20th Fighter Group (F-84, T-33), 1949 - 1950.
- (4) FAA Award for Extraordinary Service.
- (5) Flight time (5,730 hours) in 38 models.
- (6) Three hundred ninety-nine (399) combat missions.