



**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: 4400 Prop: 700
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
- 300 (A-4E)
- 376 (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 (T/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 – Flew 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

- (1) 1965-66. Flew 141 air-ground missions in A-4E with VMA-211 and VMA-224 from Chu Lai SATS field.
- (2) 1968-69. Flew 159 air-ground missions in A-4E from Chu Lai.
- (3) 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 50-80 flight hours per month 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 by Navy and Marine TACAIR. *Golden Eagles* Gen Rich Hearney, LtGen Duane Wills, Col Jack Gagen and Col Bob Hickerson were also “Playboy” FastFACs.

- (4) 1972-75. As MARTD Atlanta Ops Officer led six- and eight-plane F-8K Dets to USAF College Dart (3x), Green Flag and many 2-4 plane ACM Dets to active duty USMC F-4 squadrons in CONUS.
- (5) 1980. While on the faculty of the US Naval Academy, and in response to a national fuel shortage and associated training overload in the Naval Air Training Command, was a prime mover to form and develop a hands-on flight orientation program called VTNA. It comprised leased aircraft, some full time civilian flight instructors and three Naval Aviators with FAA pilot licenses that operated five aircraft from Fort Meade Air Field, in MD to provide hands-on familiarization flights to all midshipmen during their junior year/2nd class summer training. This would have not otherwise happened due to the Training Command cancellation of orientation flights for that summer. As VTNA Ops Officer, personally flew 35-40 hours a week for 10 weeks – principally in the Varga Kachina 2150-A. This single engine plane proved effective for a military aviation orientation because it had tandem seating, a control stick (vice yoke) and tricycle landing gear. Flew 3-4 additional acrobatic flights a week in the Citabria with midshipmen volunteers who earned it through various drawings and competitions.
- (6) 1981 - 1983. CO.VMA-331, MCAS Cherry Pt. Led a 20-plane A-4M squadron through successful operations on both coasts of the US and six-month deployment to the Western Pacific that: 1) was first in the entire Marine Corps in monthly fixed wing flight hours; 2) maintained a perfect safety record; and, 3) tested the original Family Readiness Program. Group CO was MajGen Dick Gustafson – *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 Center, Quantico, VA. Division Chief. Managed research and development 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, Quantico, VA. Gathered, organized and synthesized knowledge from experiments and pre-experiment training to clearly describe tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs), and some enabling technologies that can help Marines fight and win battles. Wrote and published selected experiment After Action Reports (AARs). Principal focus was to combine observed results, participant feedback and post experiment analysis to develop, write and publish focused, easy-to-read documents titled: *X-Files*. More than 400,000 digital and hard copies of forty three (85) different *X-Files* delivered to the Operating Forces during this period.
- (11) 1 December 2012 – Retired from DOD contractor job to play golf and join my wife, Karen—from my home town of Geneva, NY— in enjoying our daughter, two sons and four lively, athletic grandchildren Katie, John, Michael and Jett.

