



**Richard L. Bianchino, LtCol USMC (Ret.)**  
 “Rich”

Date of Designation: September 1968

Dates of Active Duty: 1 July 1963 - 1 July 1987.

Total Flight Hours: 2900

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 5 Rotary: 200

Approximate Flight Hours: Fixed wing: 250 Rotary: 2650

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: January to April 1969 - Marble Mountain, RVN (HMM - 364).

Total Combat Missions: 200

Aviation Commands:

CO, H&MS 36, Okinawa - July 1974 - March 1975.  
 CO, HMM-268, Tustin, CA and Okinawa - Feb.79 - Oct.80.

Combat/Other Flight Performance Awards:

Silver Star Medal  
 Purple Heart Medal  
 Defense Meritorious Service Medal  
 Meritorious Service Medal  
 2 Single Mission Air Medal W/V and Gold  
 10 Strike /Flight Air Medal W/V and bronze  
 Navy Commendation Medal W/V  
 Boeing Vertol Life Saving Award (four awards)  
 HAC, Flt Ldr, Maint Test Pilot, Special Inst Rating, NVG Qual.

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

06/63-12/63 Commissioned via PLC Program and attended The Basic School.



01/64-04/65 3rd Mar Div, Okinawa and Vietnam. Platoon Commander.

05/65-10/66 3rd Mar Div and 1st Mar Div, California and Vietnam.

11/66-04/67 Staff Platoon Commander and Instructor, The Basic School, Quantico.

05/67-09/68 Student, Flight Training, Pensacola.

10/68-01/69 Transition Training (H-46) MHTG - 30, Tustin, CA.

02/69-04-69 HMM - 364, Vietnam, Asst. Ops and Sqdn. Pilot.

05/69-10/69 Patient USNH (Oak Knoll and St. Albins).

11/69-06/71 Marine Corps Air Station, Ewa, HI. (HMMT 302, 3rd MAW, Tustin CA. Flight Instructor and Admin Officer.

07/71-02/72 Amphibious Warfare School, Quantico, Student.

03/72-12/73 Flight Instructor, Ellison Field, Pensacola.

01/74-06/74 HMM - 165, MAG 36, Okinawa, Maintenance Officer.

07/74-03/75 CO H&MS 36, MAG 36, Okinawa.

04/75-04/78 HQMC, Head, Sports Unit MSMS 13 (Director of Athletics).

05/78-01/79 XO, HMM-163, MAG-16, 3rd MAW, Tustin, CA.

02/79-10/80 CO, HMM-268, MAG-16, 3rd MAW, Tustin, CA.

11/80-06/81 MWSG-37, 3rd MAW, S-4 Logistics Officer, El Toro, CA.

11/80-03/81 TAD 15th MEU, XO, Camp Pendleton and Afloat.

07/81-07/83 CINCPAC, Executive Assistant to Chief of Staff, Hawaii.

07/83-12/83 FMF Pac, G-3 Air, Hawaii.

01/84-06/87 XO, NROTC and Associate Professor Naval Science, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

07/87 Retired from active duty.

## Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) January 1964 thru October 1966 – Having the opportunity and privilege to lead Marines in Combat.
- (2) June 2, 1968 Carrier Qualification, USS *Wasp*.
- (3) January 1969 Assigned to fly as a member of HMM-364, The Purple Foxes under the command of Golden Eagle LtCol E.R. Brady. His strong leadership style influenced me throughout my career.
- (4) February 26, 1969 Flying as copilot on a resupply mission that was diverted to a medevac. Having walked the ground we were flying over as an infantry officer, I was able to direct the HAC in the best route to the site. We landed under heavy small arms and mortar fire, made the pick-up and lifted off to safety.
- (5) February 28, 1969 Medevac pickup under heavy fire.
- (6) March 4, 1969 Flying copilot in lead helo of a 30 a/c mission with Golden Eagle Gene Brady.
- (7) March 6, 1969 Recon team insert and return immediately for extraction of the team under heavy fire.
- (8) April 11, 1969 Flying night emergency medevac mission under fire which ultimately required fixed wing bomb and smoke runs so we could land for the pickup. Subsequently in late April, I arrived as a patient at USNH Oak Knoll and met the Marine evacuated (and his mother).
- (9) April 14, 1969 Medevac mission under heavy automatic weapons fire that resulted in our helicopter crashing through triple canopy, and the ensuing time on the ground.
- (10) April 1975 Assuming the duties of Head, Marine Corps Sports (Director of Athletics) I represented the Marine Corps and often the Armed Forces at high level sport governing body meetings, implementing thoroughly the provisions of Title IX, and supporting Marines at the elite level in any sport.
- (11) August 1976 Serving as a member of the United States Olympic Delegation at the Olympic Games held in Montreal, Canada.
- (12) March 1, 1979 Taking Command of the newly formed HMM-268, after a short period of preparation. Then, developing a plan to have the squadron deployment ready before 1 March 1980, which was accomplished. During 1980, the squadron deployed and experienced a period of 30 days with all 20 aircraft full systems up. The squadron is now known as the World Famous Red Dragons.

(13) November 1980 As Executive Officer and chief staff officer of the 15th MEU, I worked with the Navy squadron Chief of Staff to plan for and conduct a joint exercise consisting of seven ships with more than 2000 Marines, tanks, trucks, Amtracs and 60 aircraft embarked, for an assault on the Camp Pendleton coast.

(14) January 1984 thru June 1987 As XO of a NROTC Unit with 350 Mid Shipman, I was able to mentor and direct the professional development of these students lighting the fire in their spirits to excel as Naval and Marine Officers. Subsequent to my retirement, some students endowed a scholarship in my name.

(15) Education: BS, Education, State University of New York at Cortland. MA, Human Resources, Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA.

## Summary of Post Career Events

- (1) Currently live in Anaheim Hills, CA. with my wife Brenda. Our two daughters and their families live nearby and visit often.
- (2) In 2010 I was inducted into the State U of NY “C” Club (sports) Hall of Fame.