



**John R. Dailey, General, USMC (Ret.)**  
 “Jack”

Date of Designation: 1 July 1958 NA # V-14302

Dates of Active Duty: 1 June 1956 - 1 September 1992

Total Flight Hours: 6,300

Carrier/Ship Landings: 12

Approximate Flight Hours:  
 VF/VA: 4,000 VR: 2,300

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VM CJ-1 (RF-4B, EA-6A, EF-10B), Danang RVN  
 Mar. 1967 - Apr. 1968 and Apr. 1972 - Jan. 1973.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VM CJ-1, Jul. 1972 - May 1973  
 CO, CTU 77.0.6, Jul. 1972 - Feb. 1973  
 CO, MAG-11, Mar. 1979 - Jun. 1980  
 CG, 1st Marine Amphibious Brigade, Jun. 1985- Jun. 1986  
 CG, 2nd MAW, Jun. 1986 - Jun. 1987

Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross  
 Bronze Star  
 24 Air Medals (23 Strike Flight and 1 Single Mission)  
 Navy Commendation Medal

**Summary of Significant Career Events**

Jack Dailey was commissioned through the NROTC Program at the University of California at Los Angeles in June 1956. He attended the Officer's Basic Course at Quantico and upon completion reported to Pensacola for flight training in April of 1957. He completed training and was designated a Naval Aviator on 1 July 1958 at NAS Kingsville, Texas. In the years that followed he completed standard Fleet Marine Force assignments and qualified in the A-4C, F-8C, RF-4B,



F-4N/J/S, EF-10B, T-1A, T-33, T-39, C-131, R5D, R4Q and SNB aircraft.

His first combat tour was in VM CJ-1 as a photo pilot; however, he had received his Combat Qualification training in the F-8C, so he arrived in Danang with no experience in the RF-4B. This situation arose from some confusion caused by his promotion to Major. He was assigned as Assistant Operations Officer of the squadron and checked out in the RF-4B and the EF-10B, which was the EW version of the F3D. He flew 300 missions during his tour and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Single Mission Air Medal and the Navy Commendation Medal for actions during this period. Upon completion of his combat tour he was reassigned to the Aeronautical Systems Division at Wright Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, as the Joint Test Director of an advanced reconnaissance system. During this tour he flew the RF-4C and the T-39A and was designated an IP. From there he was transferred to MCAS Cherry Point to refresh in the RF-4B.

He was then reassigned to 1st MAW as CO, VM CJ-1 and CO, CTU 77.0.6 which were operating from Danang in support of Task Force 77. He flew 50 combat missions in the EA-6A during this tour, including support of Linebacker Operations. The EA-6A's were the last fixed wing aircraft out of Danang. During these final days, the outer wing panel broke off one of the EA-6's as it was folding. Dailey directed the Squadron Detachment in Cubi Point to take the wing off one of their other aircraft and send it to Danang in their KC-130. The wing arrived late that night and was installed in time for a day break launch back to Cubi just ahead of the advancing North Vietnamese. This is the first time that activity has been documented.

Upon completion of his Command Tour he was ordered to Headquarters Marine Corps to work in the Aviation Weapons Branch where he served as Mods coordinator. In 1975 he attended the National War College and then back to Headquarters as the Aviation Programmer.

- Continued -

In 1978 he was transferred to the 3rd MAW, MCAS El Toro where he assumed command of MAG-11. During this tour, MAG-11 provided all of the fighter squadrons for USS *Coral Sea* which was configured to support F-4N's. Dailey worked-up with the squadrons and became the Pacific Fleet Overrotation Champ during a heavy weight cat shot. This event is the subject of comments to this day. Upon completion of his tour, it was back to Headquarters as Head, Aviation Plans and Policy Branch. He was promoted to Brigadier General and assumed the position of Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation. At this time he completed helo transition at Whiting Field. He was the first General Officer to complete this course which has become a standard for non-helo qualified General Officers.

In 1985, he assumed command of the 1st Marine Amphibious Brigade at MCAS Kaneohe Bay where he flew the F-4S, the CH-46E, the CH- 53D and the UH-1N. A year later he was promoted to Major General and assumed command of the 2nd MAW at Cherry Point where he qualified in the F/A-18A Hornet and the AV-8B while continuing his flight activity in the helicopters. One year later he assumed command of the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia. He maintained his currency in the F/A-18 A/C and AV-8B during this assignment. In 1989 he was promoted to Lieutenant General and assumed command of the Marine Corps Research, Development and Acquisition Command at Quantico, Virginia. A year later he was promoted to General and assigned as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, the position he held until his retirement in September 1992. He maintained currency in the Hornet until his retirement.

Since that time he has served as the Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration where he has been able to continue his flight activity in the F/A-18, the T-38 and the SR-71.