



**David G. Drewelow, LtCol. USMC (Ret.)**  
"Dave"

Date of Designation: 28 Apr 1961 NA# V17641

Dates of Active Duty: Jan 52-Jan 55, Jun 59-Feb 79  
Feb 55-Jun 59 Active Reserve

Total Flight Hours: 4710

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed Wing 44

Approximate Flight Hours:  
Jet 4200 Prop 290, Helo 220

Combat Tours:

Korea: A Co, 1st Plt, 1stSqd, BARMAN, (Browning Automatic Rifleman, Jan 53-Jan 54.  
VN: VMFA-323, Chu Lai, Jul 67-Dec 67, F-4, F-9  
VN: 7thAF Staff desk, ALO, Saigon, Jan-Apr 68, F-4, L-19 (USA), C-1A (USN)  
VN: VMFA-122, Danang, May/June 68, F-4  
Thailand: VMFA-232, Nan Phong: Ops O, XO, Acting CO, Mar -Sep 73, F-4, DAS/Road Recce into Cambodia.

Total Combat Missions:

F-4 379  
F-9 14  
C-1 15  
L-19 (53) (USA files destroyed in TET offensive)

Commands:

Acting Squad Leader, Apr 53, Korea  
CO (acting) VMFA-232, Jun/Jul 73 Nam Phong, Thailand, F-4  
CO MABS-11 Jan 75-Jun 76, El Toro, F-4  
CO HMS-11, Jul 76-Sep 77, El Toro, F-4  
Chief, Aviation Instruction Division, Jan 78-Feb 79, Quantico



Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross  
Air Medals  
Purple Heart

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

Fall 51 Quit HS, changed birth certificate to enlist in USMC, got caught, had to wait for parents approval.

Jan 52 Joined USMC with 3 bud's to fight in Korea after our Q/B was killed. Sent to Barstow instead. Requested Mast with CO to Change orders. No luck, so went back to being a cowboy. Later, picked up by Sheriff/MP's, RTB, disciplinary action and orders to Korea.

Jan 53 Arrived in Korea. Assigned as a Browning Auto Rifleman in A Co, 1st Marines. On outpost Bunker hill, wounded in ambush on night patrol. Plt Leader was later killed so we all moved up and I became Fire team leader.

Feb 54 Assigned to Guard duty on Indian Island Naval Ammo depot near Bremerton WA close to the USNH for surgery/treatment for wounds.

Jan 55 Discharged - stayed in active reserve for the \$50 a month and back to the ranch riding in rodeos. Broke my neck, could not work, so kept my promise to parents and found a college that would accept me without a HS diploma.

May 58 Awarded the Commandants Leadership trophy for skills displayed in Officers training based on peer ratings. Class standing was 3rd of 659.

June 59 Graduated/Commissioned and married in Aug. Started flight training. Flew T-34, T-28, F-9 and F-11.

Apr 61 Low alt ejection from F-11. Earned my wings in May and reported to my first squadron in June, VMF(AW)114 and

- Continued -

## Duty Assignment Chronology continued

the F-4D Skyray at Cherry Point. After a year of training and CQ's we spent a year at Atsugi.

Aug 63 Assigned to VT-23, Kingsville as a flight instructor in the F-11, later switched to the F-9 where I flew 111 hours one month. Volunteered for duty in VN.

May 66 assigned as student at Quantico. Ferried Aircraft for VRF-31 on my own time, to stay current.

Apr 67 Transitioned to F-4 and in June checked into VMFA-323 at Iwakuni and deployed to Chu Lai as the AAMO. One mission in NVN with CO, he was shot down/POW. Also flew F-9's for Taca/Faca missions.

Dec 67 Sent TAD to HQ 7th AF a desk job, in Saigon because I had too many msn's. I was P/O'd. Vol to fly backseat in USA Birddogs on FACA msn's and the right seat of C-1A for COD/flare drops for USA. On Jan 30 the night TET started, I volunteered for a C-1 msn to pick up a VIP at Chu Lai and take him to the *Kitty Hawk*, considered the safest place in SEA at the time.

Apr 68 With the help of Lopp, I reported to VMFA-122 at Danang and had the pleasure of sharing a cockpit with him one Monsoon night on a combat msn. Another CO shot down on a CAS msn, with troops in contact. The crew was rescued and I got the DFC.

Jul 68 Trans to Kaneohe, joined Loop, with VMF-235 as AMO flying F-4s.

Nov 69 Unwillingly trans to Air Station staff as ASO & Assist OpsO where I flew F-4, C-45 and checked out in UH-34 due to a shortage of SAR pilots, so became one. Made a night rescue during a storm, off a sailboat that ran aground, near Kaneohe, as Pilot in comand.

Nov 71 Trans to Camp Lejeune 6th Marines as ALO/FAC. No flying on company time, so volunteered for USA jump school to be the ALO to the 82nd Airborne, in a SP/OP JTF/QRF to protect the convention in Miami. Flew F-4 with VMFAT-201 on weekends.

Nov 72 Back to SEA with a stop at Iwakuni, assigned to The Wing staff. With the war raging again, I wanted to be part of it so requested Mast with CG twice, about a transfer. The 2nd time he called in The Ch of Staff and said, "send this fxxxx Major to where the hell he wants, as long as I never see him again". Flew F/RF-4, TA-4.

Mar 73 Reported to VMFA-232, Nam Phong Thailand, (Rose Garden) as Ops O flying msn's into Cambodia for the next 6 months. Became XO and Acting CO. Was runner up, behind Lopp, for Marine Aviator of the year.

Nov 73 rotated back to El Toro and was assigned as XO, VMFA-531 during which time I was nominated again for

Aviator of the year in 74 and was selected for Top Gun but orders were cnx by CG who felt that as a Major, I was too senior for enough payback to the fighter community. I was denied an appeal.

Jan 75-June 76, CO MABS-11. Flew F-4's as IP with all the squadrons, especially since I was willing to fly in the back seat when needed. Set record for F-4 refueling with 60 plugs in 20 minutes with no misses.

Jul 76-Sep 77, CO HMS-11. Promoted to LtCol and promised a Fighter Squadron in the Fall which never happened. My flying continued as above.

Jan 78 Trans to MC Schools Quantico, VA, assigned as Chief, Aviation Instruction Division, a Col's billet. Initiated gradual shift in the focus of instruction to fighting the next war rather than the last.

FEB 79 My CG, a former Plt Leader in Korea advised that I would be recommended for early promotion to Col, I decided the chances of returning to flying were slim so decided to retire.

80/81 Tried something besides Aviation as a Manager in the telecom industry. Paid a lot and promoted but not my cup of tea.

82/91 Lopp called needing a Fighter Pilot to design an ACM defensive syllabus for the RF-4, which I had flown. I started a few days later. Worked over decade on Fighter/Attack Projects for the USN, USMC, USAF, RAF Harrier, F-20, MAWTS and STRIKE U. 1990 Volunteered for active duty in Gulf War that ended before I could be processed.

1991-92 My final flying billet was PRES/CEO of QuickSilver Ent, Inc, the world's largest manufacturer and distributor of Ultralite A/C. The transition from 500 knots to 50 was a challenge.

## **Personal**

Dave and Alice met at Lewis & Clark in College in Portland OR. Alice is from MT. and Dave from a ranch in Central Or. We have been married 60 years, and lived in La Jolla for 33. We have 4 children: 3 sons, one daughter. and 4 Granddaughters.

Our eldest son founded and operates an Environmental Engineering Company, (DRE, Inc) . Our 2nd son, a former Yacht Captain, founded a yacht support company, (C2C) with clients through-out the world. Our third son is VP of sales for a software company based in Irvine, CA. Our daughter is a retired teacher and lives in Tahoe.

Dave and Alice, a retired teacher, also enjoyed 5 years leading tours to Mexico and Alaska for Tracks to Adventure That was followed by 5 years crewing for our son, Capt Mark, aboard the Motor Yacht, Dorothea, owned by the US Ambassador to Singapore. Dave served as the Last Mate, and together they stood the 4 to 8 watch on the bridge.

They continue to enjoy hiking, camping, sailing and bridge. Dave also skis, plays tennis, and is in his 16th year of patrolling with the SDPD as a senior volunteer.