



Paul A. Fratarangelo, MGEN, USMC (Ret.)
 "Frat"

Date of Designation: 5 January 1969 NA# V-27607

Dates of Active Duty: 4 August 1964 - 1 July 1997

Total Flight Hours: 5,926

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 263

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 5,653 Prop: 203 Helo: 70 VF/VA: 5,410

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VMFA-542 (F-4B, TF-9J), Chu Lai, Nov. 1966-Dec. 1967, 378 combat missions as F-4B RIO.

Vietnam: VMFA-333 (F-4J), CVW-8, USS *America* (CVA-66), Tonkin Gulf, Jul. 1972-Feb. 1973, 93 combat missions

Gulf War: Inspector General/Cmdr Forward Headquarters Element, U. S. Central Command, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1990-1991

Aviation Commands:

CO, H&MS-15 (F-4J/S, TA-4F, OA-4M), 1980-1981

CO, MAG-41 Det A (F-4S, F/A-18, UC-12B), 1984-1986

CO, MAG-11 (F/A-18A/B/C/D, F-4B, A-6E, OA-4M, KC-130), 1988-1990

CG, 3d MAW (F/A-18A/C/D, AH-1W/UH-1N, CH-46E,

CH-53D/E, TH-57, KC-130, TAV-8D), 1993-1995

COMCABWEST (UC-12B, UH-1N), 1995-1997

Combat Awards:

35 Air Medals (2 individual and 33 strike/flight)

Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V"

Vietnam Gallantry Cross with gold star



Duty Assignment Chronology

- 1964-1965 Marine Corps Basic School and Radar Intercept School.
- 1966 VMFA-251, MCAS Beaufort, SC.
- 1967 VMFA-542, Chu Lai, RVN.
- 1968 Flight Training (Pensacola, Meridian, Kingsville).
- 1969-1971 Pilot Training Officer, VMFA-251, MCAS Beaufort, SC.
- 1971-1973 Asst. Operations Officer, VMFA-333, CVW-8 USS *America* (CVA-66) Med and West Pac Cruises.
- 1973 Navy Fighter Weapons School, NAS Miramar, CA.
- 1973-1975 Operations Officer, MAG-31, MCAS Beaufort, SC.
- 1975-1977 Operations Officer and Maintenance Officer, VF-124, NAS Miramar, CA.
- 1978-1979 Maintenance Officer, VMFAT-101, MCAS Yuma, AZ.
- 1979-1980 XO, VMFAT-101, MCAS Yuma, AZ.
- 1980-1981 CO, H&MS-15, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan.
- 1981-1983 Ops Research Analyst, Tactical Air Division, OASD (PA&E).
- 1983-1984 Naval War College.
- 1984-1986 CO, MAG-41 Det A, NAF Andrews AFB.
- 1986-1988 Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, 3d MAW, MCAS El Toro, CA.
- 1988-1990 CO, MAG-11, MCAS El Toro, CA.
- 1990-1992 Commander Forward Headquarters Element/Inspector General, U. S. Central Command, MacDill AFB, FL.
- 1992-1993 Deputy CG, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.
- 1993-1995 CG, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, MCAS El Toro, CA.
- 1995-1997 Commander Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area, MCAS El Toro, CA.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Accepted for Naval Aviator training while assigned as a Radar Intercept Officer with VMFA-542 at Chu Lai, RVN 1967. Completed flight school in 12 months and received my Naval Aviator wings on 5 January 1969.
- (2) Selected to join VMFA-333 for the first Marine F-4 squadron carrier deployment with Carrier Airwing Eight aboard USS *America* (CVA-66). Privileged to learn fighter tactics under "Bear" Lasseter and "Lil John" Cummings. Completed Med Cruise with 6th Fleet during 1971 than joined 7th Fleet for West Pac/Combat tour 1972-1973. Developed successful MIGCAP tactics during West Pac tour.
- (3) Despite being pulled up to the MAG-31 staff following two carrier cruises, CO, VMFA-333, LtCol "Bear" Lasseter sent me to Navy Fighter Weapons School with three F-4Js and a full maintenance crew. I never forgot this lesson and supported TOPGUN and MAWTS-1 "aircraft and maintenance crew overhead requirements" throughout my career.
- (4) Qualified as an Aerial Combat Tactics Instructor ACT(I) in the F-4J/S and TA-4F, and as a TA-4J Adversary Pilot.
- (5) Selected to be a F-14 Fleet Replacement Squadron instructor with VF-124 at NAS Miramar, CA. Earned designations as F-14 Advanced Tactics Instructor and Air-Air Gunnery Instructor with VF-124.
- (6) Made 'career move' from operations to maintenance with VMFAT-101. At direction of my CO, John "Fox" Clark, launched and recovered all 33 squadron aircraft TWICE in one day. Learned key role of quality aircraft maintenance in supporting aircrew training and aircraft mishap prevention.
- (7) Assigned command of MAG-41 Det A and discovered the tremendous capabilities and contributions of Marine Reserve Forces.
- (8) As CO, MAG-11, commanded nine squadrons with five different model aircraft (F/A-18A/B/C/D, F-4B, A-6E, KC-130, OA-4M). MAG-11 squadrons flew 45K+ hours annually for two years mishap free. Designated F/A-18 ACT(I).
- (9) As CG, 3d MAW, addressed mutual aircrew training and aircraft safety concerns with CNAP under formal MOA.