



**Marvin T. Garrison, Col. USMC (Ret)**  
 "Marv"

Date of Designation: 12 March 1954 V-4224

Dates of Active Duty: 4 January 1949 - 1 August 1981

Total Flight Hours: 6,286

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 115 Rotary 12

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,900 Prop: 2,386 VF/VA: 5,174

Helo: 212 VR/VP: 600 VS: 300

Combat Tours:

Korea: VS-25, 1952

Vietnam: 1966-67 VMF(AW)-232, 235, and 312. (F-8s),  
 HHS-11, (TF-9J), 188 Combat Missions.

Vietnam: 1972-73 7th Air Force.

Aviation Commands:

CO, Flight Alfa of VF(AW)-235, Dec. 1954-Dec. 1965.

CO, VMT-103, Mar. 1968-Feb. 1969.

CO, MCCRTG-10, Feb. 1969-Jul. 1969.

CO, VMT-103, Jul. 1969-Feb. 1970.

CO, MAG-49, Jun. 1974-Sep. 1077.

Commander, MARTD Willow Grove, PA. Jun. 74-Sep. 77.

Combat Awards:

Bronze Star with Combat "V".

9 Air Medals.

Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V".

Republic of Vietnam Air Force Medal.

Aircrewman Wings

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

1/49-3/49 USN Boot Camp, San Diego, CA.  
 4/49-5/60 AT/AL School, NATTC Memphis, TN.  
 6/60-7/50 Combat Aircrewman Training - NAS  
 Corpus Christi, TX.



8/50-1/52 VP(ATU)-12 Air-crewman on P2V and  
 PB4Y-2 aircraft.  
 1/52-7/52 VS-25 Air-crewman on AF-2S/AF-2W.  
 7/52-8/53 Basic Flight Training Pensacola, FL (SNJ).  
 8/53-10/63 Navy School All Weather Flight, NAS Corpus,  
 Christi, TX (SNB).  
 10/53-3/54 VA ATU-301 NAAS Cabiness Field, TX  
 (AD-1).  
 4/54-3/56 VMAT-20, MTG-20, MCAS Cherry Point, NC.  
 (AD-1, 2, & 4). Completed attack training and  
 retained as Instructor Pilot.  
 4/66-2/57 First Marine Aircraft Wing, K-3, Korea, and  
 NAS Iwakuni, Japan. Aide-de-Camp to  
 Commanding General. Flew AD type aircraft  
 with VMA-121, VMA-251, and H&HS-1  
 3/57-7/58 VMF-333 (FJ) MCAS Miami FL. Also con-  
 tinued to fly AD with VMA-324, 331, and  
 H&MS-31.  
 8/58-9/61 VMFT-10 (F9F-8) MCAS El Toro, CA.  
 Completed fighter training and was retained as  
 Instructor Pilot.  
 9/61-6/62 College degree program. Flew U-20A and  
 L-19E with US Army and T-33B with USAF.  
 6/62-6/64 Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington,  
 D. C. (T-28/U11).  
 6/64-12/65 VMF (AW)-235 (F-8E) MAG-31, MCAS  
 Beaufort, SC.  
 1/66-2/67 VMF (AW)-235 (F-8E) MAG-11, Danang  
 AB, RVN. Flew (F-8) and (TF-9J) as  
 FASTFAC and TACA. While on MAG-11  
 staff continued to fly combat missions with  
 VMF (AW)-232.  
 3/67-4/68 3d MAW MCAS El Toro, CA. NATOPS  
 Supervisor. Flew (TA-4) with VMT-103,  
 (A-4) with VMA-214, (F-4J) with VMFA-  
 334, (RF-4B) with VMCJ-3, (F-4B) with  
 VMFA-122, and the (T-1A, U11A)  
 with H&MS-37.  
 4/68-2/69 CO, VMT-103 (TA-4F) MCAS Yuma, AZ.

### Duty Assignment Chronology continued

2/69-6/69 CO, MCCRTG-10 (West Coast RAG) consisting of VMFAT-101 (F-4), VMAT-102 (A-4), VMT-103 (TA-4), and H&MS-10.

6/69-4/70 CO, VMT-103, (TA-4F) MCAS Yuma, AZ.

4/70-4/72 4 th MAW, NAS Glenview, IL. NATOPS supervisor. Flew (F-8, RF-8, A-4, OV-10, and the U-11A).

4/72-4/73 7 th AIR FORCE (USAF in Republic of Vietnam) Chief, Fighter Section.

4/73-8/77 XO/CO MAG-49, NAS Willow Grove, PA. (A-4, F-8, and CH-53).

8/77-8/79 Joint Chiefs of Staff - Crisis Manager. Flew (T-39) on trips.

8/79-8/81 Office of the Secretary of Defense. Assistant to the Director of Test and Evaluation of Air and Ground Warfare Systems. Flew (T-39) on trips.

### **Summary of Significant Career Events**

1. Joined the US Navy while awaiting assignment to flight school as Naval Aviation Cadet (Class V-5). Flew as aircrewman in PB4Y-2, P2V and AF2S type aircraft after boot camp and electronics school. VP at NAS Corpus Christi, TX. VS was in Korean theater aboard three different carriers.
2. After flight school was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. USMCR and assigned to VMAT-20 (AD-1,2,3 and 4) as a replacement pilot (student). Completed attack training and was retained as Instructor Pilot for two years. Flew 500 hours in AD type aircraft in twelve months following flight training. Qualified as Special Weapons Delivery pilot. Back to Korea at K-3 flying ADs. One of forty-three officers selected for regular commission.
3. Assigned to VMFT-10 (F9F-8) as replacement pilot (student) following staff tours. Completed fighter training and was retained as Instructor Pilot for three years. Also served as instrument check pilot in F9F-8T. Earned Special instrument rating as 1st Lt with all minimums waived.
4. Lead Captain in the Marine Corps project in evaluating the USAFs "Flight System". System modified so that I was assigned seven F8E aircraft, ten pilots, a portion of the maintenance, operations, logistics, and administrative personnel. Demonstrated the ability to deploy flight independent of squadron to places such as NAS, Key West, FL for active air defense (hot pad alert) against Cuban Air Force; Roosevelt Roads, PR for crisis, and flight demonstrations at various locations.
5. After promotion to Major, was selected to lead the advanced party for introduction of the F-8E into combat operations. Full squadron followed one month later. While on this tour, was designated a TACA for MAG-11, flying F-8 and TF-9 type aircraft. Also designated as Controller for Specified Combat Strike Zones. When assigned to MAG-11 continued to fly combat mission with VMF(AW)-235 and 232.

6. After combat tour, was assigned to 3 rd MAW at El Toro for duty as NATOPS supervisor. Flew as flight evaluator in A-4, TA-4, F-4, RF-4 T-1A, and F-8 type aircraft. Evaluated OV-10, AH-1, Lockheed Rigid Rotar Testbed, Beech King Air and Queen Air types of aircraft for commanding general. As a major, was selected to command Marine Training Squadron 103 at MCAS Yuma, AZ., reporting directly to CG Fleet Marine Forces, Pacific in Hawaii. Control of 103 passed to CG 3 rd MAW, El Toro and RAG group was formed designated as MCCRTG-10. Promoted early to Lt. Col and selected to command the new group which consisted of VMFAT-101 (F-4), VMAT-102 (A-4), VMT-103 (TA-4F), and H&MS-10. After a colonel (O6) was located and trained to assume command, reassumed command of VMT-103 for an additional year.

7. Assigned to 4 th MAW Marine Air Reserve Training Command as NATOPS supervisor. Flew as flight evaluator in A-4, F-8 and OV-10 type aircraft. Traveled to and flew with every 4 th MAW fixed wing squadron in the USA. Also conceived, planned, and participated in the Marine Corps Reserve's first jet carrier qualifications.

8. Chief Fighter Section, 7 th Air Force in Vietnam. Not permitted to fly because of security clearance. Planned the daily 135 USAF aircraft strike on North Viet Nam including target selection and ordnance. Selected to be 7 th Air Force project officer for introduction of the F-111A and F-4E (Rivet Haste) into combat operations. Selected to represent the Marine Corps for the exchange of POWs in Homecoming.

9. When Vietnam conflict ended, was selected as XO/CO of MAG-49, NAS Willow Grove, PA. Flew A-4, TA-4, F-8, and CH-53 aircraft. Commanded all air elements of annual West Coast Air/Ground exercise- "Lucky Gregory." A-4 squadron earned CNO safety award. Formed an ACM team using fighter pilots in clean A-4/TA-4. Flew to fighter bases to conduct dissimilar ACM with other than A-4 aircraft.

10. Presently an active member of the following organizations:

RED RIVER VALLEY FIGHTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION. (River Rats).  
ASSOCIATION OF NAVAL AVIATION (past squadron Commander and National Trustee).  
MARINE CORPS AVIATION ASSOCIATION (past squadron Commander).  
TAILHOOK ASSOCIATION (past Board of Directors member and presently Vice President, Marine Corps Affairs).  
ANCIENT ORDER OF QUIET BIRDMEN (QBs).  
ORDER OF DEWALEONS.  
AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION.  
TRUSTEE NOV 10TH ASSOCIATION  
and unfortunately, the CATERPILLAR CLUB.

11. To borrow a phrase from General Jimmy Doolittle, USAF: "I could never be so lucky again".