



Ronald L. Gatewood, Col., USMC (Ret.)
 “Ron”

Date of Designation: 20 July 1966 NA # T-9954

Dates of Active Duty: July 1964 to October 1991.

Total Flight Hours: Rotary 1712 Prop 2213
 Marine Attack 950

Carrier/Ship Landings: Rotary 174.

Approximate Flight Hours: 4875.

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: 1967-1968 Danang Marble Mountain/ USS *Valley Forge*/USS *Tripoli*/Quang Tri, RVN.
 1971 – 1972 Bien Hoa.

Aviation Commands:

CO, Marine Air Base Squadron 12 1982.
 CO, Joint Task Force Commander Fuertes Unites Peru 1987.

Combat Awards:

4 Distinguished Flying Crosses
 Air Medal - 48 Strike Flight Awards
 Single Mission Air Medal
 Combat Action Ribbon
 Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry

Non-Combat Awards:

Legion of Merit
 Defense Meritorious Service Medal
 Joint Service Commendation Medal - 2 Awards
 Navy Commendation Medal
 Navy Achievement Medal

Duty Assignment Chronology

1959-1963 Purdue University - Platoon Leader Class



1964 USMCR 80th Rifle Company Machine Gun Section Leader.
 Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant – The Basic School - Marine Air Control Squadron Two at Cherry Point.

1965-1966 Flight Training at NAS Pensacola FL and HT8 - Naval Aviator Wings in 1966.

1966-1967 Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 365 at MCAS New River NC and in the Caribbean aboard the USS *Boxer* – HMM 161 Transition from Sikorsky UH-34G to the Boeing Vertol CH46A.

1967-1968 Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 Danang Marble Mountain/ USS *Valley Forge*/USS *Tripoli*/Quang Tri, RVN.

1968-1969 Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 302 -Instructor Pilot- Executive Officer of Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 30 at Santa Ana, CA. One of three initial pilots trained by Boeing Vertol to develop procedures and train other pilots to conduct post maintenance test flights on the CH46. Transitioned to CH53A/D.

1969-1971 Amphibious Warfare School (AWS).

1971-1972 Transitioned to the McDonnell Douglas TA4 and A4E Skyhawk in Marine Attack Training Squadron 101/102 in Yuma, AZ.

1972-1973 Marine Air Group (MAG) 12 and Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 211 in Iwakuni, Japan. While in VMA 211 was the Aircraft Maintenance Officer. When the peace negotiations with North Vietnam failed and bombing in North Vietnam resumed in 1972, MAG 12 and VMA 211 deployed to Bien Hoa Air Base near Saigon, South Vietnam.

1973-1974 Landing Force Training Command - Pacific, Coronado, CA - Instructor in Amphibious Warfare Planning - Chief instructor for the Marine Tactical Air Control Party Course –

Duty Assignment Chronology continued

training pilots to become forward air controllers instructing them in the planning for and techniques of controlling supporting arms fire of air, artillery, and naval gun fire. Worked with China Lake developing tactics and techniques for the Handheld Laser Spot Tracker.

1974-1975 Defense Intelligence School and Defense Language Institute (Afrikaans Language Training).

1976-1979 Assistant Naval Attaché later to become the Acting Naval Attaché with the Defense Attaché Office Cape Town and Pretoria, Republic of South Africa with flying duties in Cape Town and Pretoria involved flying the Ambassadors from the United States, England, France, Canada and West Germany throughout Southern African countries to negotiate the transition to majority rule the African Nation of Rhodesia to Zimbabwe. Destinations included Cuban backed hostile countries born from the Cold War of Angola and Mozambique. The Defense Attaché Office in South Africa had a mission of monitoring some of the most sensitive highest classified missions of the intelligence community of the “Cold War” era.

1980-1981 Command and Staff at the Naval War College in Newport Rhode Island and served as Class President.

1981 Marine Air Group (MAG) 12 CO Marine Air Base Squadron 12 also Acting Group Executive Officer; in combat flying billet as Fast Forward Air controller in the OA4M flying training missions on the border with North Korea. At the same time flew training missions with the rotational “Gun Squadrons” of the Group.

1982-1984 Executive Officer of Marine Air Station Yuma while flying with VMAT 102 training first tour pilots, Search and Rescue Helicopter, and C12 providing executive transportation for West Coast Military Executives.

1985 Defense Language Institute Monterey CA for Spanish Language Training and the Top-Level School Inter-American Defense College at Fort McNair, Washington DC.

1985-1988 US Southern Command at Quarry Heights Panama as Director of Logistics (J4).

1988-1991 HQMC Plans, Policies, and Operations Department – Plans Division Western Division, Plans Deputy Director, Acting Director.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Caribbean Cruise Aboard the USS *Boxer* LPH-7 conducting hurricane relief for Haiti and Dominican Republic.

- (2) Participated in the launch of Voyage II into deep space.
- (3) Flew a light civil aircraft from South Africa to Indianapolis, Indiana.
- (4) Earned Master of Arts Degree in Business Administration.
- (5) Help plan Just Cause Invasion of Panama – Participated in the execution at HQMC and NMCC.
- (6) Received the brief from CJCS at the side of CMC at the beginning of “Perestroika”.
- (7) Planning and deployment of US Forces for Desert Storm.
- (8) Represented the Marine Corps as CMC in JCS NATO Exercise Reforger – Reinforcement of Europe - President Bush debriefed by JCS J3 with all exercise staff present.

Summary of Significant Post Career Events

- (1) Founder and President of SkyWorld Aviation Inc., a successful General Aviation aircraft management and maintenance service firm. President of Tracey Corporation, an airport development, management and fixed base operation firm. President and founder of Midland Development Corporation a hangar construction firm.
- (2) Managed Warrenton Fauquier Airport in Northern Virginia for more than 18 years. Participated in the planning and execution of bringing the airport out of bankruptcy to an all-weather reliever airport to take its place in the National Airspace System.
- (3) Earned FAA Ratings – Flight Instructor (Airplanes/ Multi-engine/Instrument Ratings) Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic with Inspector Authorization. FAA Repair Station with Limited Airframe, Radio, and Instrument Ratings.
- (4) Approximately 8159 Civilian General Aviation flight hours. Flew approximately 200 hours in two months during 2010 Haiti Earthquake Disaster Relief effort in Support of World Vision.
- (5) Developed a domestic On-demand Part 135 Charter Operation.
- (6) Became Director of Aviation for AirServe International providing last mile humanitarian airlift in Africa and other parts of the world including the Caribbean, Iraq during natural disasters and for the UN, Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders, and World Vision.

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Summary of Significant Post Career Events continued

- (7) Participated as the actual helicopter aircraft commander that rescued "Dallas Girl" - a Second Reconnaissance Battalion Team when they became surrounded in a North Vietnam Army observation post as portrayed in the History Channel documentary "An Ocean Away".
- (8) Member Boards of Directors – Virginia Aviation Business Association and EarthWalk Communications.