



**Richard G. Hanecak, Captain, USN (Ret.)**  
 "Dick"

Date of Designation: 1 July 1943      NA # C-7780

Dates of Active Duty: 1 June 1942 - 30 June 1974

Total Flight Hours: 7,600

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 760

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,000   Prop: 4,060   VF: 6,000   VA: 1,000  
 VFP: 850

Combat Tours:

WW II: VF-7 (F6F-5), USS *Hancock* (CV-19), Sep. 1944  
 - Feb. 1945. 67 missions .

Korea: VC-11 (AD-3), USS *Valley Forge* (CV-45), Jun.  
 1950 - Dec. 1950. 41 missions.

Vietnam: VA-146 (FJ-4B), USS *Lexington* (CVA-16), Dec.  
 1961 -May 1962. No combat missions

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA-146 (FJ4-B/A-4C), Oct. 1961 - Mar. 1963.

CO, Navy Photo Center, Anacostia, 1955 - 1957.

CO, NAS Cubi Point, PI., 1970 - 1972.

CO, USS *Haleakala* (AE-25), 1957 - 1958. Yankee Station,  
 Vietnam.

Combat Awards:

2 Distinguished Flying Cross (WW II)

2 Air Medals (WW II)

2 Meritorious Unit Commendations

### **Duty Assignment Chronology**

In World War II he was a fighter pilot in Fighter Squadron Seven deployed to the Western Pacific in USS *Hancock* (CV-19) flying the F6F Hellcat. While Serving with VF-7 he fought in many naval air and sea engagements in the



Philippine area of operations and during this tour shot down his first Japanese A6M5 ZERO. During the second battle of the Philippine Sea he participated in attacks against the combined fleet of the Japanese Imperial Navy. He also participated in the first fighter sweeps against the Japanese held islands of Okinawa, Formosa, Hong Kong, and later the coast of French Indo China.

After an extended tour of combat duty he returned to the states and was assigned to Fighter Squadron Forty-Four. At the completion of hostilities of World War II, VF-44 was deactivated and he was assigned to Fighter Squadron Eleven. After a year of duty with the "SUNDOWNERS" he was detached and ordered to the University of California at Los Angeles for duty under instruction. At the completion of this duty, he was ordered to the Naval Air Basic Training Command in Pensacola, Florida, as an air-to-air gunnery instructor. Completing this tour, he was ordered to NAS Glenview, Illinois, for duty under instruction. From there, he was assigned to Composite Squadron Eleven located at NAS North Island, California. While serving with VC-11 flying the AD-3 Skyraider, he deployed to the Western Pacific with Air Wing FIVE in USS *Valley Forge* (CV-45). While visiting in Hong Kong, the Korean conflict broke out and a week later the *Valley Forge* and its Air Wing were again in combat in the Yellow Sea conducting strikes against the North Korean invasion forces in support of the United Nations' air campaign.

After an eight-month deployment with the Seventh Fleet and upon return to the United States, he was ordered to the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. At the completion of the course of instruction he was assigned to NAS Atlantic City, New Jersey for duty as the Assistant Operations Officer. In January of 1954 he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander and in June was ordered to the Officers' Photographic Reconnaissance course at NAS Pensacola, Florida. Completing this training, he was ordered to Light Photographic Squadron Sixty-Two at NAS Jacksonville, Florida, where he flew the F2H-2P, F9F-6P

#### Duty Assignment Chronology continued

and F9F-8P photo reconnaissance aircraft. He deployed to the Sixth Fleet as O-in-C Det. Eleven with Air Wing Four in USS *Intrepid* (CV-11). He was detached from VFP-62 in February 1957 and reported to the USS *Leyte* for duty in the Operations Department. He was selected for Commander, and in February 1959 he reported to the Staff of Chief of Naval Air Basic Training in the Flight Training Branch. After a two year tour, he was detached and reported to Attack Squadron One Hundred Forty-Six, NAS Miramar, as Commanding Officer. Flying the FJ-4B Fury, VA-146 deployed in USS *Lexington* (CVA-16) as part of Air Wing Fourteen. After eighteen months with the "BLUE DIAMONDS" of VA-146, he was detached and reported to the Staff Commander Carrier Division ONE as Assistant Operations and Plans Officer. While on the staff of COM-CARDIV ONE (CTF-77), he assisted in the plans and execution of the first retaliatory air strikes against the Dong Hoi Military installations in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam on 7 February 1965. After two years on the Staff of COMCARDIV ONE (CTF-77), he was promoted to Captain and ordered to the U. S. Naval Photographic Center as the Commanding Officer. In May of 1967, he was detached and ordered to the USS *Haleakala* (AE-25) as Commanding Officer. USS *Haleakala* made two deployments to South East Asia in support of the U. S. SEVENTH FLEET while Captain Hanecak was in Command. On 22 September 1968, he was detached and ordered to the Staff Commander Fleet Air Miramar as Chief Staff Officer. While on the staff of COMFAIRMIRAMAR, he received orders as Commanding Officer Naval Air Station, Cubi Point, RP. He was detached in June of 1972 and ordered to the Chief of Naval Air Reserve Training, as Chief of Staff. In January 1974 he was detached and ordered to the Staff Commander Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet.

For actions in World War II, Korea, and South Vietnam operations he was awarded The Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Air Medals, two Navy Commendations Medals and is also entitled to wear the Presidential Unit, Navy Unit Citation and various area medals.