



Denis J. Kiely, Colonel USMC (Ret.)
"DEEJ"

Date of Designation: July 1961

Dates of Active Duty: June 1959 - July 1989

Total Flight Hours: 5,000+

Combat Tours:

Yankee Team, USS *Kitty Hawk*, May-June 1964;
Danang, South Vietnam, VMF(AW)-235, '67-'68;
3d Marine Regiment, 1968;
Linebacker II, MAG-15, Nam Phong, RTAFB '72 - '53.
Total combat missions: 182

Aviation Commands:

CO, MAB-5
CO, VMFA-312 Jan. 1978-Jan. 1980, Beaufort, SC & Japan

Combat Awards:

Silver Star
Defense Superior Service Medal (2)
Legion of Merit.
Distinguished Flying Cross
Strike/Flight Air Medals (11)
RVN Gallantry Cross w/silver star

Duty Assignment Chronology

A 1959 graduate of the Naval Academy, Colonel Kiely entered flight training in March 1960, and was designated a Naval Aviator in July 1961. During his 30-year career, he logged more than 5,000 hours as a fighter pilot in eight different tactical squadrons, flying both the F-8 Crusader and the F-4 Phantom II. He also served tours as a photo pilot and an advanced training flight instructor. During the Vietnam War, Colonel Kiely first was involved with Yankee Team operations in May-June 1964, flying from USS *Kitty Hawk*, then served with VMF (AW)-235, operating from Danang Air Base, RVN, and with 3d Marine Regiment in Northern I



Corps in 1967-68. During 1972 he returned to combat, participating in Linebacker II operations, flying missions from Nam Phong RTAFB, Thailand, with VMFA-232 and VMFA-115, while commanding Marine Air Base Squadron 15. From January 1978 to January 1980, he commanded VMFA-312, during which time, the squadron deployed from Beaufort, South Carolina to Japan.

A graduate of the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, Colonel Kiely joined the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as an action officer with Joint Operations Division, J-3 in February 1980. In 1984 he was assigned to overseas duty as AC/S, G-3, 1st Marine Air Wing. Returning to the United States in May 1985, He was ordered to exchange duty with the Department of State, where he served as liaison between JCS and State in crisis operations and in concluding basing and other agreements with Arabian Gulf states. He retired from the Marine Corps in July 1989.

A historian and writer, he served as Editor for the Marine Corps Aviation Association from 1993 to 2004, and is currently Editor Emeritus. In 1994, he joined the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation and served as Director of Membership and Public Relations until December 2006. After a brief retirement, he rejoined the Foundation as Senior Editor in October 2008.

Colonel Kiely's awards include the Silver Star Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal (2), Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Strike Flight Air Medals (11) and the RVN Gallantry Cross with Silver Star.

Judy, wife of 43 years, passed away in 2004. Two daughters, two sons. Both sons Marine officers.

