



Dean S. Laird, CDR, USN (Ret.)
 “Diz”

Date of Designation: 21 October 1942

Dates of Active Duty: 2 January 1942 - 30 June 1971

Total Flight Hours: 8,285

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 520

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,662 Prop: 4,623 VF/VA: 5,225
 VR/VP: 1,240 VT: 590 Other (Civilian): 1,230

Combat Tours:

WW II: VF-4, USS *Ranger*, Jul. 1943 - Nov. 1943 (F4F)
 European theater of operations.
 WW II: VF-4, USS *Bunker Hill*/USS *Essex*, Oct. 1944-
 Mar. 1945 (F6F-3/5). Pacific theater of operations.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-213, March 1960 - November 1960

Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross
 5 Air Medals

Duty Assignment Chronology

1/42-10/42 Flight training, student (N3N, SNV. OS2U, SNJ. F2F).
 11/42-4/45 VF-4, Pilot and Assistant Gunnery (F4F. F6F).
 5/45-6/45 CASU-6, Utility test pilot (F4U, SNB, SB2C, GB, GH, Various other).
 7/45-8/47 VF-200/(VF-1L), Operations Officer (F6F, F4U, F8F).
 8/47-9/49 VF-171, Flight Officer (FH-1, F2H, P-80, F8F).
 10/49-10/50 84th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, USAF. Flight Leader (F-84, C-47, T-33).



11/50-7/51 ATU-2, NAAS Cabaniss Field. Safety Officer (F8F, SNJ, SNB).
 7/51-12/52 JTU-1, NAAS Kingsville Field, TX. Training Officer (TV-1, TV-2).
 12/52-7/53 Navy Line School, Student (F6F, SNB, SNJ).
 7/53-1/55 XO, VF-51 (F9F-6, TV-2).
 1/55-4/56 USS *Yorktown*, Assistant Air Boss (F9F-5/6/8, FJ-3, JR-3).
 5/56-8/58 85th NORAD Division. Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (T-33, C-41, C-47, L-20, L-27).
 9/58-1/59 VFR-32, Training Officer (A4D, F4D, F9F, F11F, F8U, TV-2, SNB).
 1/59-3/60 XO, VF-121 (F3H, F11F, F9F).
 3/60-11/60 CO, VF-213 (F2H, F9F).
 12/60-1/63 CARDIV ONE, Air Operations (TF, SNB, F3H, F9F, A3D, TV-2).
 2/63-1/65 NAS Miramar, CA, Aircraft Maintenance Officer (C1A, T2A, F3H, F4H, F8U, F9F, C-45).
 1/65-1/68 RCVW-12, C.S.O. (F8, F9, T1, F5, A4, T28, F4, A6, A7, F8).
 1/68-6/71 XO, VRF-32 (A4, A6, A7, F4, F8, T1, T33, S2, C47, T39, P3, C130, C1, T28, C54, C118).
 7/71 Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) WW II Ace (Only Navy Ace to shoot down both German and Japanese aircraft).
- (2) 1947 - Navy's first jet squadron (VF-171) at Quonset Point, RI.
- (3) 1948 - First jet squadron to qualify aboard ship (May 1948), USS *Saipan* (CVL-48).
- (4) 1949 - As part of National Air Races, won a race flying an F2H Banshee from USS *Midway* in the Atlantic to Cleveland, OH. Fastest speed recorded at National Air Races at that time (549 mph).

- Continued -

Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (5) 1949 - One of the first seven naval aviators to be selected to go on Exchange Duty with USAF. Was one of three principal pilots in movie "Tora, Tora, Tora." Flew 164 hours in making this film.

- (6) Ran the Tailhook Association for several years during the 60's and 70's and also incorporated it in California as an educational and professional organization in 1968. My signature is on the papers of incorporation.