



Walter R. Ledbetter, Colonel USMC (Ret.)
 "Walt"

Date of Designation: 21 October 1955 NA# V8193

Dates of Active Duty: 1 October 1953 - 1 October 1981

Total Flight Hours: 3,222

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 6 Rotary: 98

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 589 Prop: 1,064 Helo: 1,569 VF/VA: 725
 VT: 445 VR: 1,570 VU: 482

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: HMM-162, Jul. 62, TAD Soc Trang (HUS-1)
 HMM-364, May 64, TAD Danang, (CH-34)
 Command Task Element, Danang, Dec. 64-
 May 65 (CH-34, O-1B)
 HMM-263, Aug. 69-Feb. 70, Marble Mountain
 (CH-46)
 Wing Staff, Danang, Feb. 70-Aug. 70 (CH-46/
 53, Huey, Cobra, OV-10)

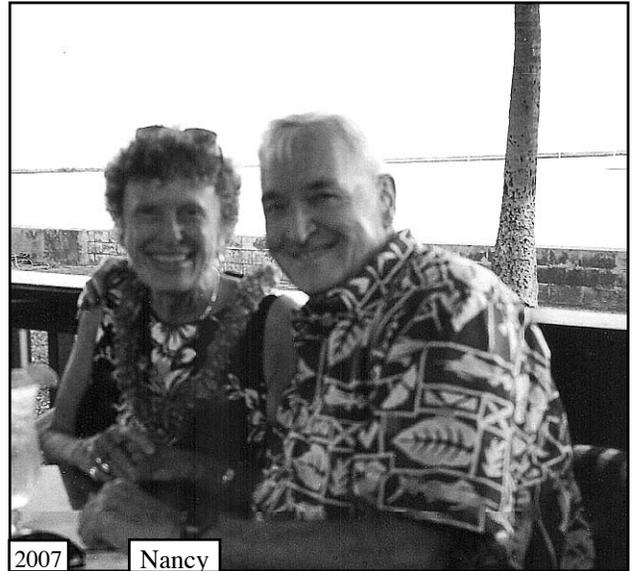
Total Combat Missions -515 (CH-46/53, Huey, Cobra, OV-
 10, O1B)

Commands:

CO, HMS-16, 4/64- 11/ 64 (CH-34, C-117)
 CO, HMM-162, 11/68 – 7/69 (CH-46)
 CO, HMM-263, 8/69 – 2/70 (CH-46)
 CO, MABS-24, 9/70-8/71 (CH-46, OV-10)
 CO, HMM-463, 9/71-9/72 (CH-53)
 CO, MAG-16 (6/77-6/78 (CH-46, CH-53, Huey, Cobra,
 OV-10)

Combat Awards:

Navy Cross
 2 Legion of Merit w/Combat "V"
 Distinguished Flying Cross
 26 Air Medals (1 Single Mission, 25 Strike/Flight awards)
 10 Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry



Duty Assignment Chronology

10/53-6/54 OCS and Basic School, Quantico, VA.
 6/54-10/55 Flight School (SNJ, T-28, T-33).
 11/55-1/57 VMA 212, Kaneohe, Hawaii (AD-4/5/6).
 1/57-2/58 1st Anglico, Camp Smith, Hawaii (T2V,
 SNB).
 3/58-5/60 Instructor Advanced Training Command,
 Beeville, TX (F9F-8/8T).
 6/60-6/63 AIRFMFPAC Staff G-3/G-2, El Toro,
 CA (F9F-8, T2V, SNB).
 6/63-9/63 HMM-262 Helicopter Transition, Tustin,
 CA (CH-34).
 10/63-3/64 HMM-365, Tustin (H-34).
 4/64-11/64 CO, HMS-169, Okinawa (H-34, C-117).
 (5/64 TAD to Vietnam HMM-365 (H-
 34)).
 12/64-5/65 CTE Staff, Danang, Vietnam, (H-34, O-1B,
 C-117).
 6/65-7/65 HMM-362 Tustin, CA (H-34).
 8/65-9/65 3rd Wing Staff, G-3 (H-34, CH-46).
 9/65-11/66 HMM-165 (CH-46).
 11/66-11/68 Headquarters Marine Corps, intelligence
 briefer for the Commandant (T-1A, T-28,
 SNB).
 11/68-7/69 CO, HMM-162, MCAS New River (CH-46).
 8/69-2/70 CO, HMM-263, Marble Mountain, Vietnam
 (CH-46).
 2/70-8/70 1st Wing Staff, Danang, Vietnam, G-3
 (CH-46, CH-53 Huey, Cobra, OV-10).
 9/70-8/71 CO, MABS-24, Kaneohe, Hawaii (CH-46,
 OV-10).
 9/71-9/72 CO, HMM-463, Kaneohe, Hawaii (CH-53D).
 9/72-7/73 XO, MCAS Kaneohe, Hawaii (CH-46,
 CH-53, T-28, OV-10).
 8/73-7/74 Air Force War College, Maxwell AFB, AL.
 8/74-6/77 Headquarters Marine Corps, Deputy in
 Charge of enlisted assignments. Branch head
 in charge of long range studies in Aviation
 (CH-46, Huey, CH-53).

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Duty Assignment Chronology continued

- 6/77-6/78 CO, MAG-16, Okinawa (CH-46, CH-53, OV-10, Huey, Cobra).
- 7/78-1/80 MCB Quantico, in charge of leadership training for the Marine Corps,.
- 2/80-10/ 81 Headquarters. Marine Corps, Military Secretary to the Commandant, Chief of Staff for DCS Air.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) C.O. of a Helicopter Squadron in Combat
- (2) Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism under enemy fire piloting aircraft into and out of craters caused by exploded enemy mines and rescuing wounded and trapped Marines caught in the middle of the enemy mine field during an assault of an enemy combat position. The crew chief received the Medal of Honor.
- (3) 1978. Awarded the Cunningham Award as the Marine Corps Aviator of the Year.
- (4) While with the Wing G-3 in Danang developed a system to drop napalm through the triple canopy jungle from CH-53, using used 55 Gal drums. Made a bombsight so that at 1000 ft. above the terrain and at 100 knots they could deliver on target. On one mission using his system a NV Regiment was destroyed.
- (5) Before night vision goggles, mounted a spot light on a pallet and coaxed a star light scope on top of the spot light. Mounted it in the back of a Huey with an operator. Flew the Huey with Cobras following. When the operator spotted enemy movement through the star light scope he turned on the spot light and the Cobras fired rockets into the enemy.