



**John E. Paganelli, Captain, USN (Ret)**  
"Pigmy"

Date of Designation: 5 May 1955 V-6919

Dates of Active Duty: 1 Dec. 1953 - 15 Sept. 1985

Total Flight Hours: 11,200

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 731

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 8500 Prop: 2650 VF/VA: 6,000  
VR/VP: 450 VT: 2,300 HS/HC/HU: 50  
VU/VFP: 100 Other (Civilian): 2,400

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: Apr. 1965-Dec. 1965 (A4E) - 87 missions.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA-45, May 1971 - June 1972  
CO, Fleet Tactical Support Wing One, Aug. 1977 - Jul. 1980  
CO, Training Wing One, Aug. 1980 - Aug. 1982

Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross  
10 Air Medals  
Defense Superior Service Medal (Non Combat)  
2 Legions of Merit (Non Combat)

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

12/53-5/55 Flight Training, Pensacola/Corpus Christi, TX. (SNJ,SNB,AD).  
5/55-4/57 ATU-101, NAAS Cabaniss, Instructor (AD, T28).  
5/57-8/60 VA-42 NAS Oceana Maint., LSO, (AD).  
9/60-5/63 VA-43 NAS Oceana, Instructor, Nav, LSO (F9, A4).  
5/63-7/63 VF-101, NAS Key West, Student (F4).  
7/63-1/65 CAG-7, NAS Oceana, Admin. & LSO. (A4, F4).



1/65-3/66 VA-86, NAS Oceana. Operations. (A4).  
4/66-5/68 COMFAIRNORFOLK, Attack Training. (A4, F4, A6).  
6/68-6/70 Naval Post Graduate School, Student (T1).  
6/70-6/72 VA-45, NAS Cecil Field, XO/CO (A4).  
6/72-6/74 USS Forestal, Norfolk, VA. Air Boss.  
7/74-6/75 US Army War College, Carlisle. Student.  
7/75-7/77 COMNAVAIRLANT, Norfolk, Flag Sec. (A4).  
8/77-7/80 Fleet Tactical Support Wing One, NAS Norfolk, CO. (A4, A6, F14).  
8/80-8/82 Training Air Wing One, NAS Meridian, CO. (A4,T2).  
8/82-6/83 DIA, Washington, D.C. Student (Attache Training) (C12).  
7/83-7/85 USDAO, Brasilia, Brazil. Naval Attache (C12).  
7/85-9/85 TACWINGSLANT, NAS Qceana. Special Projects, (C12).

**Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) In the late 1950's was involved in converting VA-42, a fleet AD squadron, to the AD RAG as RCAG-4 was forming as the Replacement Air Wing.
- (2) Was assigned TAD as the LSO to VMA-533 at MCAS Cherry Point for several months to ready the squadron for shipboard deployment.
- (3) Carried qualified in a VMA-533 A4 (Buno 142116) aboard the USS Shangri La on 10 August 1960 with 12 hours in the A4 and only 41 total hours jet time.
- (4) As CVG-7 LSO, carrier qualified, day and night, the Navy's first A6 squadron (VA-75) aboard the USS Saratoga.
- (5) Early in the Vietnam War flew strikes against some of the first SAM sites as North Vietnam was developing their surface to air missile capability.