



Raymond R. Powell, COL, USMC (Ret)
"Ray"

Date of Designation: 8 March 1957 NA #: T-6018

Dates of Active Duty: March 1954 - May 19982

Total Flight Hours: 4,800

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 113 Rotary: 27

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,000 Prop: 1,700 Helo: 100 VF/VA: 2,500
Other: Cessna 150, 172, 210

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: January 1966 - December 1966. 115 combat missions (F-4B and UH-1N gunship).

Aviation Commands:

CO, VMFA-115, March 1971 - December 1971
CO, MAG-41, June 1977 - June 1980

Combat Awards:

6 Air Medals

Duty Assignment Chronology

3/54-8/54 Basic School.
8/54-12/54 Amphibious Warfare School/Football Team.
1/55-10/55 Platoon Leader 5th Marines.
10/55-7/57 Flight School.
8/57-5/61 VMA-331, Opa Locka, WestPac, MCAS Beaufort SC (AD-5/6, A-4s).
5/61-12/61 Weapons Officer, MAG 31, MCAS Beaufort SC.
1/62-5/62 Attended the USAF Fighter Weapons (Top Gun) School at Nellis AFB (F-100 C/Ds).
5/62-2/65 Project test pilot at Air Development Squadron FIVE (VX-5).



2/65-12/65 VMFA-122, Maintenance/Operations Officer (F-8s, F-4Bs).
1/66-12/66 WestPac Tour, Task Force 79, 1st MAW G-3, Assistant Operations, Operations Officer VMFA-115.
1/67-2/67 Temporary Duty, Naval Weapons Center.
2/67-6/70 Instructor, Aviation Branch, Senior School, MCB Quantico.
6/70-12/70 Assistant Operations Officer, MAG 32, MCAS Beaufort, SC.
1/71-3/71 XO, MAG-12, Iwakuni.
3/71-12/71 CO, VMFA -115, WestPac (F-4Ns).
1/72-8/76 HQMC, AAW-31. Head of Fighter Aircraft & Missiles Section and member of Navy Fighter Study III.
8/76-6/77 Attended The Industrial College For the Armed Forces.
7/77-6/80 CO, MAG-41, NAS Dallas (F-4Ns, CH-53s).
7/80-6/81 G-3, First Marine Aircraft Wing, WestPac.
6/81-5/82 OP-50, Senior Marine Liaison Officer on the OP-05 Staff.
5/02/82 Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Spent four plus years in VMA-331 which included being Nuclear Weapons Delivery Qualified in the AD-5/6 and A-4, a 14 month WestPac tour, carquals /short deployments on the *Forestal*, *Midway*, *Shangri-La* and *Intrepid*.
- (2) Competitively selected to be the third Marine to attend the USAF Fighter Weapons (Top Gun) School at Nellis AFB flying the F-100 C/Ds.
- (3) As a Project Test Pilot in Air Development Squadron FIVE (VX-5): Assisted in the OPEVAL and development of delivery tactics for the MK-28 & MK-41 nuclear weapons from the A-4E and F4B aircraft. Participated in the early testing and delivery tactics

- Continued -

Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- development of the new Eye Series weapons to include Snakeye, Walleye, a new Fire Bomb and Fuze, MK-4 20 mm Gun Pod and the Shrike Anti-Radar Msl. First to drop the live Snakeye retarded bomb from 100 feet. Flew the OPEVAL on the new MER/TER-7 bomb racks developed by my Marine predecessors at VX-5, then Major W. H. Fitch and Major H. Vincent, both Golden Eagles. Participated in a live Snakeye drop demonstration for President Kennedy. Selected as the Navy/Marine Corps Representative on the initial Steering Committee or the development of the Joint Munitions Manuals for each type of tactical aircraft. Was technical director and pilot on two 30 minute, "how to bomb" movies. Was assisted in this effort by then Lt. J. M. Seely USN, Golden Eagle. Received Navy Commendation for above.
- (4) Assigned as the Operations and Maintenance Officer of VMFA-122 (F-8 to F-4s). 1965
 - (5) Selected as Marine Aviator of the Year Number Four in 1965.
 - (6) Combat Tour Vietnam, 1966. Special Planning Staff Task Force 79. Worked in Wing G-3 operations as Weapons Officer. Operations Officer of VMFA-115.
 - (7) Instructor, Aviation Branch, Senior School Quantico, VA (1966-1970). Taught classes in Aviation Force Employment/Deployment, Air-to-surface weapons effectiveness and logistics requirements. Member of the Flight Demonstration Team for Basic and Officer Candidate Schools. Was temporarily assigned to The Development Center on the Kestrel (AV-8) Study for DCS Aviation. Assigned as a weapons effectiveness consultant to Stanford Research Institute who had won a contract to conduct a major Marine Corps Force Mix Study. My boss was MGen. Alan Armstrong, Golden Eagle.
 - (8) Commanding Officer VMFA-115, WestPac. In 1971, reformed squadron from scratch coming out of Vietnam. First F-4 squadron to conduct a live missile shoot on the Okinawa Ranges flying out of Iwakuni, Japan. Squadron won the Hanson Award as Fighter Squadron of The Year.
 - (9) HQMC, AAW-31, Head of Fighter Aircraft & Missiles Section. Primary action officer on Marine fighter and air to weapons requirements. My bosses during this period were MGen V. Armstrong and LtGen Thomas Miller, both Golden Eagles. Marine representative on Navy Fighter Study for 3 1/2 years which resulted in getting Marines out of the F-14 and the development of the F/A-18. My boss was RADM Whitey Feightner, Golden Eagle.
 - (10) Commanding Officer, MAG-41, NAS Dallas, TX. VMFA-112 our F-4 squadron was the first F-4 squadron, regular or reserve to fully deploy and operate out of the SATS site in 29 Palms. Our MAG-41 helicopter and fixed wing aircraft in conjunction with the 25th Marines was the first reserve unit to conduct a battalion size air-ground ship to shore landing at night. VMFA-112 was the first Marine Reserve Squadron to win the Hanson Award as The Fighter Squadron of The Year. My Reserve General Officer was MGen. Ken Weir, Golden Eagle.
 - (11) G-3, First Marine Air Wing. Developed a wing directed training and deployment plan so that rotating squadrons could maintain and/or improve readiness while deployed to WestPac. Developed a program to sell FMFPAC on using the Air Force KC-135 Tankers in lieu of USMC KC-130s to transpac squadrons for their unit rotations. Worked out a program to increase joint training exercises with USN and USAF and increased USMC participation in the USAF Cope Thunder Exercises. Helped direct a full First Wing Deployment from Okinawa and Iwakuni to South Korea for a TEAM Spirit Exercise. My boss was then MGen William Fitch, Golden Eagle.
 - (12) OP-50, Senior Marine Liaison Officer on the OP-05 Staff, 1981-1982. Maintained interface with OP-05 and OP-50 on all Navy/Marine Corps aircraft and aviation weapons programs. At the direction of OP-50, conducted a detailed, objective but unpopular study on the capabilities, limitations, safety, combat vulnerability and logistical supportability of the AV-8 in the close air support role versus the F/A-18, the AH-1 and the AH-64. Flew two hops in the FA-18 and retired after 28.5 years of fun filled and satisfying years in the Corps.
 - (13) Assisted my dear wife Bev in raising five children and 18 grand kids.