



Alexander C. Rucker, CDR USN (Ret)
 “Rattler”

Date of Designation: 12 March 1967 N/A # V-24558

Dates of Active Duty: 23 June 1965 to 01 December 1985.

Total Flight Hours: 4,200 Total Carrier Landings: 944

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VF-111 Det 11, Jun 1968-Jan. 1969, USS *Intrepid*,
 CVS-11 (F-8)
 VF-211, Aug. 1969-Apr. 1970, USS *Hancock*,
 CVA -19 (F-8)
 VF-194, Jun. 1972-Mar. 1973, USS *Oriskany*,
 CVA-34 (F-8)

Total Combat Missions: 245

Combat Awards:

1 Individual Air Medal
 15 Strike Flight Air Medals

Duty Assignment Chronology

6/65-10/65	US Naval School of Preflight (AOCS).
10/65-3/67	Flight School T-34, T-2, F-9, F-11
4/67-5/68	VF-124 - F-8 RAG.
5/68-1/69	VF-111 Det 11 – Line Div., F-8.
1/69-4/70	VF-211 – Asst. Maint., F-8.
5/70-12/71	VF-124 – Flt Instructor – tactics, F-8.
1/72-7/74	VF-194 – Ops, F-8.
8/74-12/76	TOPGUN – Ops/Tactics/Gunnery Instructor A-4, T-38, F-5E.
1/77-6/77	VF-124 - F-14 Transition.
7/77-3/80	VF-142 – Admin/Ops, F-14.
4/80-11/80	Com. Fighter Wing One, Ops/Fleet Oversight
11/80–12/80	VF-101 Refresher Training, F-14.
1/81-8/83	XO/CO VF-14 Tophatters, F-14.
8/83-12/85	ComCruDesGru 8 – Air Ops (CTF 60.2).
12/1/85	Retired from active duty.



Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Three combat tours in Vietnam flying the coolest fighter ever built, the F-8 Crusader, from 27 Charlie class carriers in support of Rolling Thunder and Linebacker II operations. Assisted (wingman) in a successful Mig engagement on 19 Sep 1968 when Lt Tony Nargi (lead) bagged a Mig-21.
- (2) TOPGUN instructor – Advanced air combat tactics. Anticipating fleet introduction of the gun equipped F-14, introduced air-to-air gunnery (In the F-5E) to the all F-4 staff who had no such prior training. Spearheaded breakthrough camouflage paint schemes for TOPGUN aircraft. Developed first ever One-V-Many air combat exercise for west coast fleet participation.
- (3) Selected as Fighter Wing One Fighter Pilot of the Year for 1979.
- (4) Fighter Wing One F-14 air demo pilot for 1980 airshow season.
- (5) When CO of VF-14 Tophatters, squadron received the Fleet Fighter ACM Refresher Program (FFARP) award for best fighter squadron in air combat tactics.
- (6) As Air Ops Officer at CCDG 8, was instrumental in on-scene planning and execution of air operations for the invasion of Grenada in Oct 1984.
- (7) As Air Ops Officer at CCDG 8, planned the successful intercept (by 6th Fleet fighters) of the Egyptian airliner carrying the Achille Lauro hijackers, forcing them to land at Sigonella Sicily, Oct 1985.
- (8) Somehow managed to keep the bride of my youth, Deanie, interested enough to stick around through all the above with a minimum of complaining. Where do we get such women !

Summary of Post Significant Career Events

- (1) Retired in 2003 as Captain from American Airlines.

- (2) Artwork and painting have been a lifelong hobby/pursuit and I have always enjoyed integrating my artwork with Naval Aviation. In May of 2015 I was honored to receive the R.G. Smith Award for Excellence in Naval Aviation Art by the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation in Pensacola.