



David G. Vest, LtCol, USMC(Ret.)
 "Yuma"

Date of Designation: 10 November 1959

Dates of Active Duty: 22 March 1958 – 30 June 1978

Total Flight Hours: 4,350

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 214

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,800 VF/VA: 2,400 Prop: 400
 VT: 1,600 Helo: 50 Other: 300

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VMFA-122, Danang AB, RVN, Aug 1967 - Jan, 1968

Vietnam: Resident OIC, Dong Ha, Khe Sanh, and Quang Tri Combat Air Bases, RVN. Jan, 1968 – July, 1968

Vietnam: VMFA-122, Danang AB, RVN. July 1968-Aug., 1968

Total Combat Missions: 200 {TF-9J-(8 missions), F-4B-(140 missions), UH-1E-(52 missions)}

Aviation Commands:

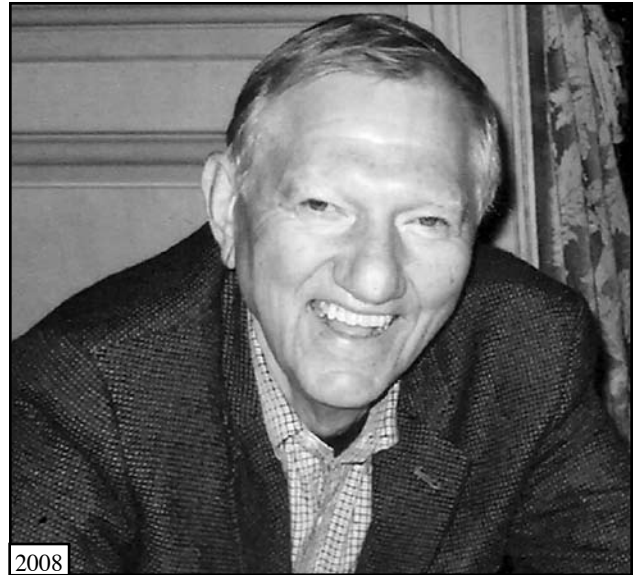
VMFA-531: July, 1976 – July, 1978

Combat Awards:

Bronze Star w Combat "V"
 Purple Heart
 Air Medal w/Numeral 12
 Combat Action Ribbon

Duty Assignment Chronology

6/58-11/59 Flight Training (T-34B, T-28C, T-2V, F-9F-8T).
 11/59-1/61 VMF-451 (F-9F, F-8U-2).
 1/61-1/62 VMF-334/VMF(AW)-334 (F-8U1, F-8U2N).
 1/62-8/63 OIC, 1ST MAW NBC Defense School



(F-9F-8T, F-8U-2N).
 8/63-8/66 VT-4 (T-2A/B) (Gunnery & CQ).
 8/66-2/67 Student, Amphibious Warfare School (T-28 proficiency flying).
 2/67-1/68 VMFA-122 (F-4B, Asst AMO, Advance Party OIC. Transpac to Danang AB, RVN).
 1/68-8/68 Air Bases Staff, 1st MAW as Resident OIC, Marine Corps Combat Air Bases, Dong Ha, Khe Sanh, and QuangTri, RVN (F-4B,w/ VMFA-122; UH-1E VMO6).
 9/68-11/68 VMFA-122 (Ops. Officer, F-4B)(MCAS Iwakuni, Japan).
 1/69-1/71 F-4 Supervisor, Marine Air Weapons Training Unit, Pacific, FMFPac. (F-4B/J, MiG-17, F-86H, T-A4).
 1/71-5/72 VMFA-531, MAG-11, MCAS El Toro (Sqdn OpsO), (F-4B/J).
 5/72-7/73 VMFA-531, CVW-17, USS *Forrestal* (Sqdn XO) (F-4B).
 8/73-1/74 VMFA-531, MAG-11, MCAS El Toro, (Sqdn XO) (F-4B).
 1/74-5/74 Staff Sec'y to CG, 3d MAW (F-4B, TA- 4F).
 6/74-8/75 Marine Aviation Det, Miramar (XO), Sr. Marine Flt Inst. VF-124. (F-14A & TA-4F).
 9/75-6/76 Staff, CO, MAG-11, 3d MAW (Logistics Officer) (F-4N).
 6/76-6/78 VMFA-531 (CO), (F-4N).

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Commissioned a 2/Lt, USMCR and began flight training, (June, 1958).
- (2) Designated F-8U-2N section and division leader as First Lieutenant.
- (3) Combat operations as member of VMFA-122 , Danang AB, RVN (F-4B).

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Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (4) OIC of expeditionary combat air bases (runways, crash crew, tower, GCA, wx, TAFDS) in Northern I Corps of RVN during Tet Offensive and Siege of Khe Sanh. (UH-IE and F-4B)
- (5) First Marine selected to attend Top Gun.
- (6) As F-4 Supervisor, MAWTUPAC, conceived, developed, and implemented academic and flight syllabi for air combat tactics for USMC fighter crews in FMFPac. (F-4B/J, TA-4F).
Cunningham Award, Marine Aviator of the Year, 1971.
- (7) Armed escort missions from Forrestal in response to Libya's partition of the Mediterranean in 1973.
- (8) Awarded MS, Systems Mgmt., University of Southern California, 1976.
- (7) CO, Gray Ghosts of VMFA-531. Thirty Red Flag missions. Hanson Award, Marine Corps Fighter/Attack Squadron of the Year, 1978