



James G. Daniels, III, Captain, USN (Ret.)
 “Jim”

Date of Designation: 31 August 1939 NA # 6045

Dates of Active Duty: 1 May 1939 - 1 July 1970.

Total Flight Hours: 4,226

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 382

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 314 Prop: 3,500 VF: 3,000 VP: 300 VT: 50
 Other: 60 misc.

Combat Tours: Total 110 missions

WW II: Pearl Harbor, Eastern Marshalls, Santa Cruz,
 Western Pacific One and one-half aircraft downed.
 - 52 combat missions.

Korea: Dec. 52-Feb. 53, (F9F-2/5) - 58 combat missions

Vietnam: Tonkin Gulf, at the beginning, COS CARDIV 5

Aviation Commands:

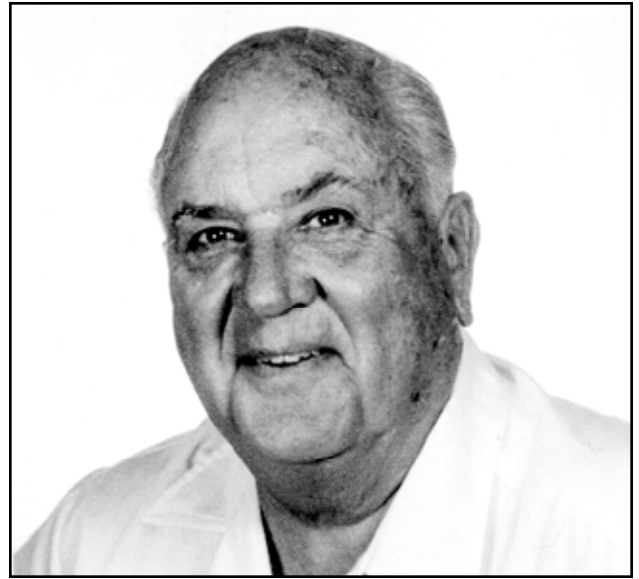
CO, VBF-2 (Corsair 4's), Jan .1945 - Dec. 1945 (WW II).
 CO, Air Task Group Two (ATG-2), Aug. 1951 - Feb. 1953,
 CAG-2, USS *Essex* (CVA-9) (Korea).
 CO, USS *Navasota* (AO-106), Pacific, May 1961-Jun. 1962
 CO, USS *Ticonderoga* (CVA-14), Pacific, Jul. 1962-Jul
 1963

Combat Awards:

Legion of Merit, Second Legion of Merit with Combat “V”.
 Distinguished Flying Cross.
 6 Air Medals.
 Letter of Commendation with Combat “V”.

Duty Assignment Chronology

4/38-5/38 N.A.R.B., Kansas City, Kansas. Elimination
 Training.
 5/38-9/39 NAS Pensacola, FL. Flight Training.
 10/39-2/42 USS *Enterprise* (CV-6), VF-6 Pilot, F4F-3 and



F4F-4.

2/42-6/43 USS *Enterprise* CV-6), Air Group Ten,
 Landing Signal Officer (LSO).
 6/43-1/45 COMNAVAIRPAC Staff LSO.
 1/45-12/45 CO, VBF-2 (Corsair 4's), USS *Shangri La*.
 1/46-6/46 XO, USS *St. George* (AV-16).
 7/46-7/47 Line School, Newport, Rhode Island-Student.
 7/47-7/49 NAF Honolulu, HI., Operations Officer and
 CO.
 7/49-6/51 NAF Annapolis, MD, Operations Officer.
 6/51-2/53 Air Task Group 2, CAG, Korea, F9F-2/5.
 2/53-6/54 COMNAVAIRPAC Staff, Personnel Officer.
 6/54-7/56 Bureau of Naval Personnel.
 8/56-10/57 XO, USS *Essex* (CV-9).
 10/57-6/58 COMNAVAIRPAC - Staff Personnel Officer.
 7/58-7/59 National War College - Student.
 7/59-7/61 CNO, OP-05 Staff.
 7/61-6/62 CO, USS *Navasota* (AO-106).
 7/62-7/63 CO, USS *Ticonderoga* (CVA-14).
 7/63-11/64 Chief of Staff, COMCARDIV FIVE.
 12/64-6/65 JCS, OP-03.
 7/67-6/70 COMFAIRHAWAII - Chief of Staff and CO.
 7/70 Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Daniels reported to VF-6 in USS *Enterprise*, September 1939, and flew the F3F-2 biplane with fabric covered wings, and later, the F4F, an all metal mid-wing monoplane with 4 guns, the top Navy fighter aircraft at the beginning of WW II.
- (2) 12th pilot to complete 100 arrested landings on the same carrier, August 21, 1941, VF-6.
- (3) On December 7, 1941, Daniels was launched at 0830 with three other VF-6 pilots, the first Combat Air Patrol (CAP) of WW II. Also on Dec. 7, 1941, the USS *Enterprise*, some 150 miles SW of Pearl Harbor, in the late afternoon, launched an attack/search group
 - Continued -

Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- made up of 18 VT, 6 VS/VB, and 6 VF to look for the enemy fleet. Daniels was #2 in the Fighter Group. The Group returned to the Carrier, the VF arriving first. Admiral Halsey, not knowing the location of enemy subs, would not "light" ship to permit landing, so sent the six VF air-craft to Pearl Harbor where friendly fire shot down five of the of the six aircraft, killing three of the pilots. Daniels was the only one to get down safely with his aircraft. In a speech by Pres. Clinton on Sept. 2, 1995, at the National Cemetery of the Pacific he mentioned that "Daniels was the only U.S. Pilot (Army or Navy) in the air at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, when war was declared against the Japanese and also in the air off Tokyo Bay when WW II ended, the war's last CAP on August 15, 1945."
- (4) Only two months after the war began, on February 1, 1942, the first Battle of the Marshalls, he is credited with destroying 1 and 1/2 enemy aircraft. During the Battle of Santa Cruz, Oct. 1942, he was also credited with downing a "Val" (enemy VT) from the rear seat of an SBD parked on the flight deck near the LSO platform.
- (5) In late 1945, Daniels commanded the first F4U-4, (Corsair-4) squadron in the Pacific aboard *Shangri La*, returning to the U.S. upon completion of deployment without loss of a pilot or an aircraft.
- (6) During Korea, 1952/1953, another first was to form Air Task Group Two, the first Carrier Air Wing in the Pacific with a nuclear strike capability.
- (7) As CO, USS *Ticonderoga* in 1962-1963, AG-5 embarked, flew over 10,000 hours without an operational loss.
- (8) Daniels was Chief of Staff CARDIV 5, on the Flag bridge of the *Ticonderoga* in the Tonkin Gulf when three Vietnamese PT boats attacked the USS *Maddox* in late July 1964, starting the Vietnamese conflict.
- (9) After serving in a Flag billet as Commander, Fleet Air Hawaii, Daniels retired after 33 1/2 years' service in 1970.