



James A. Homyak, Captain, USN (Ret.)
"Jim"

Date of Designation: 28 August 1943 NA # C-9715

Dates of Active Duty: 23 December 1942 - 1 July 1974

Total Flight Hours: 5,500

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 406

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 2,000 Prop: 3,500 VF/VA: 3,000

Combat Tours:

WW II: VC-85, Leyte, Luzon, Iwo Jima, Okinawa. USS *Lunga Point*. 1 aerial kill - 70 combat missions.

Korea: USS *Sicily* Jan. 1951 - Oct. 1951

Vietnam: CO, USS *Monticello* (LSD-35), Oct 1868-Oct. 1969

Aviation Commands:

CO, VA-56, Jan. 1962 - Mar. 1963

CO, NAS Pensacola, Jun. 1970 - Mar. 1972

Commander Training Wing 6, NAS Pensacola, Mar. 1972 - Jul. 1972.

Commander, ComFair Lemoore/Commander, Light Attack Wing, U. S. Pacific Fleet, Jul. 1972 - Jul. 1974

Combat Awards:

Legion of Merit (non-combat)

Bronze Star with combat "V"

4 Air Medals

2 Presidential Unit Commendations

Navy Unit Commendation



Duty Assignment Chronology

- 1942-1943 Aviation Cadet.
- 1/44-8/45 VC-85 (Pilot and Asst. Communications).
- 9/45-2/46 NAAS Ream Field (Asst. Operations).
- 7/46-8/47 NAS Puuene Maui & NAS Kaluli Maui, T.H. (Operations, Ship Service and Personnel Officer)
- 9/47-8/48 NAS Midway Island (Asst. Operations).
- 9/48-1/50 USC Los Angeles. (Student, 5-term program2/ Line School, Monterey (Student).
- 50-12/50 USS *Sicily* (CVE-118) (Asst. Air Operations, Nuclear Weapons).
- 1/51-10/51 USS *Point Cruz* (CVE-119) (Air Operations, Operations Officer).
- 11/51-12/52
- 1/53-2/54 CNABATRA, Flight Instructor.
- 3/54-12/54 BUAER Maintenance Representative, Central District, NAS Pensacola, FL. (Field Maint).
- 1/55-3/55 Naval Aviation Safety Course, USC (Student).
- 4/55-6/57 VA-104 (Operations, Executive Officer).
- 7/57-3/59 VA-44 (Executive Officer, Training Officer).
- 4/59-5/60 ATU-222, NAAS, Kingsville, TX, (Asst. O-in-C).
- 5/60-8/61 VT-23, NAAS Kingsville, TX (Executive Officer).
- 9/61-1/62 VA-125, Replacement Pilot.
- 1/62-3/63 VA-56, (Commanding Officer)
- 5/63-1/64 USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA-42) (Operations Officer).
- 1/64-1/65 USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA-42) (Executive Officer).
- 2/65-9/66 OPNAV 03 (Executive Assistant & Senior Aide).
- 9/66-9/67 George Washington University (Student).
- 9/67-9/68 Industrial College of the Armed Forces (Student).
- 10/68-10/69
- 12/69-6/70 USS *Monticello* (LSD-35) (Commanding Officer).
- COMPHIBPAC (Staff).

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Duty Assignment Chronology continued

7/70-3/72 NAS Pensacola, FL (Commanding Officer).
4/72-6/72 Training Wing 6, NAS Pensacola, FL.
(Commander).
7/72-7/74 ComFair Lemoore/Light Attack Wing, U. S.
Pacific Fleet (Commander).
7/1/74 Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Combat experience as a Fighter Pilot in WW II flying Wildcats. Shot down a Jap Zeke in Okinawa.
- (2) As Commander, Light Attack Wing, U. S. Pacific Fleet was privileged to welcome home the Light Attack POW's returning from Vietnam to be with their families.

James Alex Homyak was born in Denver, Colorado, on December 17, 1923, son of Alex James and Vera Fern (Hartwell) Homyak. He attended Huntington Park (California) High School, prior to enlisting in the U. S. Naval Reserve on August 8, 1942. He was appointed Aviation Cadet, USNR in December 1942 and after pre-flight training he completed flight training at the Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas. He was commissioned Ensign and designated Naval Aviator on August 28, 1943 and subsequently progressed in rank to that of Captain, to date from August 1, 1964, having transferred from the Naval Reserve to the U. S. Navy on June 10, 1946.

After receiving his "Wings" in 1943, he had further training at the Naval Air Station, Miami, Florida and with the Carrier Qualification Training Unit at the Naval Air Station, Glenview, Illinois. In January 1944 he joined Composite Squadron EIGHTY-FIVE and while attached to that squadron participated in operations at Leyte, Luzon, Iwo Jimi, and Okinawa. He was awarded the Air Medal with Gold Stars in lieu of the Third and Fourth Air Medals for completing five missions each during the period February 16 to April 25, 1945. The citation for the Gold Star in lieu of the Second Air Medal follows in part:

Gold Star in lieu of the Second Air Medal: "For meritorious achievement...as a Pilot in Composite Squadron EIGHTY-FIVE, attached to the USS *Lunga Point*, in action against enemy Japanese forces in the Okinawa Area, April 6, 1945. Displaying outstanding courage and skill, in shooting down an enemy plane in aerial combat, (he) contributed materially to the success of his squadron.

He is also entitled to the Ribbon for and a facsimile of the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the USS *Lunga Point*.

In September 1945 he was assigned to the Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Ream Field, Imperial Beach, California, where he served as Assistant Operations Officer.

From July 1946 he had duty as Operations Officer, and Personnel Officer at the Naval Air Stations, Puuene Maui and Kaluli Maui, Territory of Hawaii. In September 1947

he reported as Assistant Operations Officer at the Naval Air Station, Midway Island and in August 1948 was detached to attend (under the five-term program) the University of Southern California at Los Angeles. Between February and December 1950 he was a student at the General Line School, Monterey, California, after which he served as Assistant Air Operations Officer on board the USS *Sicily* (CVE-118), which was operating in the Korean area of hostilities. From November 1951 to December 1952 he continued duty afloat as Air Operations Officer and Operations Officer of the USS *Point Cruz* (CVE-119).

In January 1953 he reported as a Flight Instructor at the Naval Air Basic Training Command, Pensacola, Florida, where he remained until February 1954. The next month he became Field Maintenance Officer in the Office of the Bureau of Aeronautics Maintenance Representative, Central District, with headquarters at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, and during the period January to March 1955 attended the Naval Aviation Safety Course at the University of Southern California. He next served as Operations Officer and Executive Officer of Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FOUR and in July 1957 joined Attack Squadron FORTY-FOUR for duty as Executive Officer and Training Officer.

He was Assistant Officer in Charge of Advanced Training Unit TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO at the Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Kingsville, Texas, from April 1959 until May 1960, then continued duty at the Kingsville Station, serving as Executive Officer of Training Squadron TWENTY-THREE. In September 1961 he joined Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE as a Replacement Pilot and in January 1962 assumed command of Attack Squadron FIFTY-SIX. In May 1963 he reported as Operations Officer on board the USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* and in January 1964 became Executive Officer of that attack aircraft carrier. Detached in January 1965, he next headed the Fleet Operations Branch in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., and in July that year was designated Executive Assistant and Senior Aide to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Fleet Operations and Readiness).

Awarded Bronze Star with combat "V" for duty as Commanding Officer, USS *Monticello* (LSD-35) on combat tour in Vietnam, and awarded Legion of Merit as Commander Light Attack Wing, U. S. Pacific Fleet. In addition to the Air Medal with three Gold Stars, the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon with star, and the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, Captain Homyak has the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with four operations stars; American Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Navy Occupation Service Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Korean Service Medal; United Nations Service Medal; and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. He also has the Korean Presidential Unit Citation Badge.

He is married to the former Mary Jo Anderson of Huntington Park, California, and they have three children, Linda Louise, William Alex, and James Donald Homyak.