



Robert P. Keller, Lt. General, USMC (Ret.)

“Bob”

Date of Designation: 5 July 1941 NA # 7830
 October 1958 Helo Pilot # 4383

Dates of Active Duty: 15 July 1940 - 13 August 1940;
 30 December 1940 - 31 August 1974

Total Flight Hours: 6,260

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed: 111 Rotary: 28

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 475 Prop: 5,400 Helo: 385 VF/VA: 2,000
 VT: 1,500

Combat Tours:

WW II: VMF-223, Nov. 1943 - Jun. 1944, Northern
 Solomon Islands - 110 missions.
 Korea: VMF-214, Aug. 1950 - Dec. 1950, USS *Sicily* and
 Wonsan - 65 missions.
 Vietnam: Asst. Commanding General, 1st MAW, Apr. 1967-
 Apr. 1968 - 28 missions.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VMF-223, Feb. 1944-Jun. 1944
 CO, VMF-214, 16 May-Jul. 1950 and Sep-Nov. 1950
 CO, VMF(N)-531, Apr. 1945 - Jun. 1945
 CO, VMF(N)-533, Aug. 1945 - May 1946
 Commander, Air Amphibious Troops, Exercise “Saddle-
 Up”, British North Borneo, Jun. 1959
 CO, MAG-15, Jul. 1964-Jun. 1965
 Asst. CG 1st MAW, Mar. 1967-Apr. 1968
 CG, Air-Ground Task Force “KILO”, Vietnam, Aug. 1967
 CG, 4th MAW-MARTC, Apr. 1968-Feb. 1971
 CG, MCDEC, Jul. 1972-Aug. 1974



Editors note: Lucille passed away on 2/25/03

Combat Awards:

Legion of Merit with combat “V”
 Silver Star
 3 Distinguished Flying Crosses
 10 Air Medals
 Purple Heart (for wounds from Japanese fire in 1944)

Duty Assignment Chronology

7/40-8/40 Flight Training, USNRAB, Oakland, CA.
 12/40-5/41 Flight training, NAS, Jacksonville, FL.
 5/41-7/41 Fighter training, NAS, Miami, FL.
 7/41-3/43 Instructor, NAS, Pensacola, FL.
 4/43-7/43 Pilot, VMF-212, MCAS, El Toro, CA.
 7/43-8/43 Pilot, VMF-212, Midway Island.
 8/43-6/44 XO, then CO, VMF-223, Midway Island and
 then South Pacific.
 9/44-11/44 Headquarters Squadron, MAG-53, MCAS,
 Cherry Point, NC.
 10/44-2/45 Night fighter training, NAS, Vero Beach, FL.
 2/45-6/45 XO, then CO, VMF(N)-531 (F7F-2N's)
 MCAS, Eagle Mountain Lake, TX.
 8/45-5/46 CO, VMF(N)-533, Okinawa and North China.
 7/46-11/46 Headquarters Squadron, MAG-53, MCAS,
 Cherry Point, NC.
 11/46-1/47 XO, VMF(N)-531, Cherry Point, NC.
 2/47-7/47 Student, Amphibious Warfare School,
 Quantico, VA
 7/47-12/48 Aviation Safety Officer, CNATRA, Pensacola.
 1/49-6/49 Student, Air Command and Staff School,
 Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, AL.
 8/49-11/50 XO, then CO, VMF-214, El Toro, then
 Korea aboard USS *Sicily*, and later Wonsan.
 11/50-12/50 1st MAW Liaison Officer, 8th Army-5th Air
 Force JOC, Seoul, Korea
 12/50-6/52 Air Support and Helicopter Operations
 Officer, Tactics and Techniques Board, Marine
 Corps Development Center, Quantico, VA.
 6/52-6/53 Close Air Support and Helicopter Operations
 Officer, Joint Landing Force Board, Camp
 LeJeune, NC. (- Continued -)

Duty Assignment Chronology continued

6/53-1/56 Organization Plans Officer, Division of Aviation, HQMC, Washington, D.C.
1/56-7/56 Student, Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA.
7/56-8/58 Maneuver and Exercises Officer, Staff, Allied Forces Southern Europe, Naples, Italy.
8/58-10/58 Helicopter training, Ellyson Field, Pensacola.
11/58-11/59 XO, MAG-16, Oppama, Japan (Helicopters).
11/59-2/60 Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, 3d MAW, Iwakuni, Japan.
3/60-6/63 Faculty Advisor, Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA.
7/63-6/64 Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5 (Plans), AIRFMFPAC, El Toro, CA.
7/64-6/65 CO, MAG-15, MCAS, El Toro (F-4 and A-4)
7/65-2/67 Head, Joint and Special Plans Team, Office of Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Programs, then to Director, Joint Planning Group, HQMC.
4/67-4/68 Assistant Wing Commander, 1st MAW, Vietnam.
5/68-2/71 CG, 4th MAW/MARTC, NAS, Glenview, IL.
2/71-6/72 Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations (J-3) CINCPAC, Honolulu, HI.
7/72-8/74 CG, Marine Corps Development and Education Command, Quantico, VA.



Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Member of initial AVCAD class to commence program at NAS Jacksonville, on 30 Dec. 1940. Became first fighter trained naval aviator to have graduated from that source.
- (2) Assumed command of Marine Fighter Squadron in South Pacific at age 23. Shot down one Japanese Zero and damaged two others over Rabaul, New Guinea.
- (3) Led first Marine air strike of Korean War from CVE-118 (USS *Sicily*) on 3 August 1950, which also constituted initial expenditure of ordnance by any Marine unit in that conflict.
- (4) Flew with elder son in Vietnam war on two occasions (Both sons became Marine officers and Naval Aviators, and flew in combat there - one in helos and the other in F-4's).
- (5) Flew the 1930's Boeing "F4B-4" at NAS Miami as AVCAD in 1941. Flew McDonnell Phantom jet "F4B" as Colonel in 1964-65.
- (6) Amongst many other aircraft, have flown Grumman's F2F, F3F, F4F, F6F, F7F, F8F and F9F (the F5F was experimental only).
- (7) Deployed first F7F2(N)'s to Pacific theater in 1945 to participate in planned invasion of Japan. Wound up in Beijing area of North China in Oct. 1945 to cover operations to ensure swift and complete re-deployment of Japanese forces to their home islands.
- (8) Charles Lindbergh flew three combat missions with my squadron VMF-223 from Green Island, Northern Solomons in Corsairs, 22 and 24 May 1944 and 7 Jun. 1944. He emptied his gun pans!