



**Harold A. Langstaff, Lt. Colonel, USMC (Ret.)**  
 “Hap”

Date of Designation: 23 July, 1942 NA # 14532

Dates of Active Duty: 1 June, 1941 - 30 June, 1962

Total Flight Hours: 6,464

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 103

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 1,350 Prop: 5,114 VF/VA: 5,364  
 VR/VP: 1,100

Combat Tours:

WW II: VMF-215, 1st MAW, Apr. 1943-Apr. 1944, Guadalcanal Campaign (F4F, F4U) -113 Missions.  
 WW II: VMF-321, Aug. 1945-Feb. 1946, USS *Puget Sound*, Japanese Occupation (F6F).  
 Korea: VMF-311, MAG-33, Aug. 1952-Mar. 1953 (F9F-5) - 75 missions.

Aviation Commands:

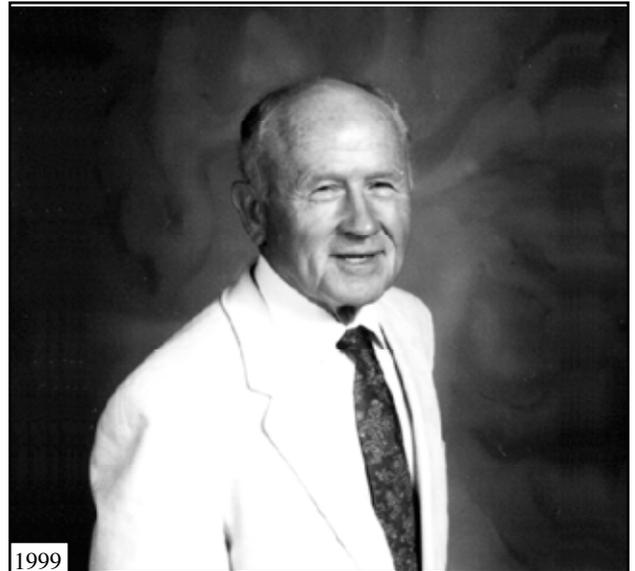
CO, VMF-314, July 1956 - May 1957  
 CO, VMF-115, May 1957 - May 1959

Combat Awards:

Distinguished Flying Cross  
 8 Air Medals

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

9/41-7/42 NAS Squantum, Boston, MA., NAS Jacksonville, FL., NAS Miami, FL. Flight Training (N3N, SNJ, OS2U, F3F).  
 7/42-1/43 NAS San Diego, CA. Carrier Qual. and Fighter Training (F4F).  
 1/43-2/43 VMF-215, MAG-24, MCAS Santa Barbara, CA. Eng. Officer (F4F, F4U).



2/43-3/44 VMF-215, 1st MAW, Hawaii, Midway, Guadalcanal, Bougainville. Flight Leader and Eng. Officer (F4U).  
 4/44-6/44 VMF-481, MAG-46, MCAS El Toro, CA. Fighter Instructor (F4U).  
 6/44-8/44 Pratt & Whitney Army/Navy Engine Training School, Hartford, CT. Student.  
 9/44-10/44 VMF-462, MCAS El Toro, CA. Fighter Instructor (F4U).  
 10/44 North American Aviation Corp., El Segundo, CA. Engineering Project. Design Change of P-51 for carrier operation (F4U, P-51).  
 11/44-3/45 VMF-215, MCAS El Toro, CA. Fighter Instructor (F4U).  
 3/45-1/46 VMF-321, Carrier Air Group 6, USS *Puget Sound*. Deployed to Pacific. Fighter Pilot/Japanese Occupation Forces (F6F).  
 1/46-6/46 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI . Student completing education.  
 6/46-9/46 AES-41, MCAS Cherry Point, NC. Test Pilot and Production Control Manager. (Many different aircraft).  
 9/46-3/47 Engr. and Maintenance Course, Aviation Tech School, Quantico, VA. Student (F4U, F6F, R4D).  
 3/47-9/49 AES-41, MCAS Cherry Pt., NC. Test Pilot and Production Officer (Many different acft).  
 9/49-9/50 VMF-114, MCAS Cherry Pt., NC. Operations Officer (F6F5N).  
 9/50-12/50 Amphibious Warfare School, Quantico, VA. Student.  
 12/50-6/51 Headquarters, MCAS Quantico, VA. Staff Officer (F4U, F6F, R4D).  
 6/51-6/52 Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA. Graduate Student - Masters Degree.  
 7/52-8/52 VMF(N)-542, MCAS El Toro, CA. Pilot Refresher (F7F(N)) and Night Fighter (F3D(N)).  
 8/52-12/52 VMF-311, MAG-33, KOREA. Operations Officer (F9F).

- Continued -

### Duty Assignment Chronology continued

12/52-3/53 MWSS-1, Iwakuni, Japan. Engr. Officer  
(Many different aircraft).  
3/53-8/55 AIRFMFLANT, HDQTRS, Norfolk, VA. Asst.  
G-1 (Many different aircraft).  
8/55-2/56 Armed Forces Staff College, Naval Base,  
Norfolk, VA. Student (F6F, SNB).  
3/56-7/56 MAG-33, MCAS El Toro, CA. Group  
Operations Officer. (F9F, F4D, R4D).  
7/56-5/57 Commanding Officer, VMF-314, MAG-33,  
MCAS El Toro, CA. (F9F)  
5/57-2/58 Commanding Officer, VMF-115, MAG-33  
MCAS, El Toro, CA. (F4D).  
3/58-5/59 Commanding Officer, VMF-115, MAG-11  
NAS Atsugi, Japan, and Pingtung, Formosa  
(F4D, R4D).  
5/59-6/62 Division of Aviation, HDQTRS, USMC,  
Washington, D. C. Director Aviation  
Technical Training (Many different aircraft).  
6/30/62 Retired from active duty.

### **Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) I survived two wars as a Marine Fighter Pilot. On my first combat mission in Guadalcanal, I returned with 47 holes in my F4U. I was credited with shooting down 3 Japanese Zeros while serving with VMF-215 in the Solomons.
- (2) On my first combat mission in Korea, with only five hours of jet time, I was diverted to an Air Force field for an instrument approach, the approach being delayed because radar had lost five F9F's from VMF-115 who flew into the side of a mountain. I shut down my engine with less than 100 lbs. of fuel.
- (3) When I was Commanding Officer of VMF-314, and flying as a member of our aerial gunnery team, we won the All Navy/Marine Weapons Meet in April 1957 at NAS El Centro, CA. As a result of our squadron's overall performance, we were awarded the 1957 Commandant's Trophy.
- (4) I flew 6,464 accident-free hours in 37 different military aircraft. I survived an inverted flight as a passenger in a DC-3 coming out of Guadalcanal on an R&R flight to Australia. The Army Air Corps pilot ran into a thunderstorm which caused the inverted flight. The Warrant Officer managed to pull the plane out at about 400 feet above the water. The plane was a strike upon landing.
- (5) In 1958, while serving as Commanding Officer of VMF-115, the Quemoy Incident occurred. Our squadron was deployed to Formosa for six months, where we provided night and all-weather patrols along the Chinese coast. We often locked on to Chinese MIG's, but we were forbidden to enter over Communist China. For our effort, I was awarded the Chinese Pao Ting (Order of the Precious Tripod), the top Chinese Nationalist Medal.