



**James L. Lucas, Colonel, USMC (Ret.)**  
 Luke/"Black"

Date of Designation: 4 June 1965      NA # V22269

Dates of Active Duty: 8 January 1963 - 1 February 1990.

Total Flight Hours: 4,537

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 12

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 4,363    Prop: 116    Helo: 58

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: VMF(AW)-235 & 1st MAW HQ - Danang 67/68.

Total Combat Missions: 155

Aviation Commands:

CO, VMFA-531; MCAS El Toro (F-4N's - transitioned to F/A-18's).

CO, MATSG, NAS Cecil Field.

Combat/Other Flight Performance Awards:

Legion of Merit (non-combat)

Air Medals: 11

Meritorious Service Medal (non-combat)

### **Duty Assignment Chronology**

11/62 1/63	Enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve. Boot Camp, MCRD San Diego & Infantry Co. Camp Pendleton.
1/64-6/65	Marine Aviation Cadet (MARCAD) Naval Air Training Command (T-34/T-2/F-9/F-11).
7/65-6/66	VMF-334 (F-8C); MCAS El Toro.
7/66-11/66	MCAS Iwakuni, Assistant Special Services (C-45).
12/66-6/67	VMF(AW)-235, MCAS Iwakuni & Danang, RVN (F-8E).



7/67-2/68	G-5 Plans, 1st MAW HQ Danang, RVN (F-8E & O-2 Skymaster).
3/68-4/71	VMF-212 (F-8B) & VMFA-212 (F-4J), MCAS Kaneohe Bay.
6/71-5/72	H&MS-15, MCAS Iwakuni (TA-4).
6/72- 2/73	Amphibious Warfare School, MCB Quantico, VA.
3/73-3/75	VMFAT-101 OpsO, F-4N/J FRS, MCAS Yuma.
4/75-11/76	MAWTUPAC, (F-4 Branch Head), MCAS El Toro (F-4/A-4).
11/76-5/77	H&MS-11 XO, MCAS El Toro (F-4N).
5/77-5/78	VMFA-323 XO, MCAS El Toro (F-4N).
6/78-6/81	MAWTS-1 XO, MCAS Yuma (numerous fixed & rotary wing).
7/81-6/82	3rd Marine Division, G-3 Plans, MCB Camp Courtney, Okinawa.
7/82-6/84	VMFA-531 CO, MCAS El Toro (F-4N & F/A-18).
7/84-6/86	HQMC, Arlington, VA (Head, MCCRES).
7/86- 2/90	CO, MATSG, NAS Cecil Field (Augment IP with VFA-106; Hornet FRS).

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

- (1) Topgun, Class 4/74.
- (2) 76-78 Plank Owner, NAVAIRSYSCOM sponsored  
F-18 Aircrew Systems Advisory Panel  
(cockpit/systems development)
- (3) November 1977, performed ACM Evaluation of YF-17  
at Edwards AFB.
- (4) March 1978, testified before Senate Armed Services  
Committee for RADM Corky Lenox, PMA-265 as a  
result of the above evaluation.

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### Duty Assignment Chronology continued

- (5) Plank Owner, MAWTS-1 6/78-6-81; XO for Howard DeCastro and Bobby Butcher.
- (6) Designated WTI; WeaponsTacticsInstructor.
- (7) Designated helicopter pilot at HT-8, NAS Whiting Field, FL.
- (8) CO, VMFA-531; the Fleet's 3rd F/A-18 squadron at MCAS El Toro; received Hornets commencing in 5/83 following completion of FRS training with VFA-125 at NAS Lemoore.

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

- (1) Restored mostly WWII and Korean War vintage aircraft at Black Shadow Aviation, Inc. at Herlong Field, Jacksonville for museums and private parties. Many are resident at the Navy museum in Pensacola.
- (2) Volunteered as docent at a small air museum in Vancouver, WA for several years.