



**David F. Underwood, COL., USMC (Ret)**  
 “Dog”

Hometown: Waynesville, NC

High School and College Career:  
 North Carolina State in Engineering

Dates on Active Duty: Sept 1963 - Sept 1990

Date Commissioned/Source: December 1963/OCS

Date of Designation: April 1965 NA# T-9314

Total Flight Hours: 5000+

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fx Wing: 12 Helo: 600+

Approximate Flight Hours:  
 Jet: 3000+ Prop: 300+ Helo: 1500+ Commercial: 8000+

Military Aircraft flown: T-34, T-28, H-13, H-34, UH-1E, AH-1J, H-53, H-46, T-1, A-4, F-4(5 Models), F-18, F-15, F-16, C-12, C-45, C-47, U-11

Combat tours:

Dominican Republic 1966  
 Vietnam '67-'68  
 Lebanon '82-'84  
 Vietnam/Laos/Cambodia '72-'73

Combat missions: 500+

Awards:

Navy Cross  
 4 Distinguished Flying Crosses  
 30+ Air Medals

Commands:

VMFA-122  
 MAG-46



**Duty Assignment Chronology**

09/63-12/63	OCS Quantico, VA
12/63-04/65	Flight School
04/65-07/67	HMM-162, New River, NC
08/67-09/68	HMM-163/VMO-6 Vietnam
10/68-08/71	H&HS/VMFA-235 MCAS Kaneohe, HA
08/71-06/72	Amphibious Warfare School, Quantico, VA
07/72-11/72	F-4 refresher training MCAS El Toro, CA
11/72-11/73	H&MS 15/VMFA-232 Nam Phong, Thailand/ NAS Cubi Pt, Phillipines
11/73-08/76	VMFA-323/ Staff Secretary, 3d MAW MCAS El Toro, CA
09/76-08/78	MARTD Andrews AFB. MD
09/78-04/79	Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA
05/79-06/82	CO, VMFA-122/ Staff, MCAS Beaufort, SC
07/82-08/84	Staff, 6th Fleet, MED
08/84-03/85	NATO Defense College, Rome, Italy
05/85-06/88	Director of Operations, 4th MAW. New Orleans, LA
07/88-09/90	CO, MAG-46, El Toro, CA
09/90	Retired

**Summary of Significant Career Events**

(1) Enlisted in the Marine Corps to avoid being drafted into the Army. Marine Corps sent me to OCS. Graduated from OCS in December of 1963. Didn't want to be a grunt so I applied for Flight School. Was first in my class at Saufley; however, Meridian was shut down because they had all the students out searching the swamps for the missing "freedom riders". Was told that I could wait for the next opening at Meridian or go to Whiting Field to fly the T-28 and then go to advanced jets in Kingsville. Upon finishing at Whiting, I received orders to Ellison Field to fly helos. Vietnam was getting hot and the Marine Corps decided that it needed more helo pilots. First time that I heard the term, "needs of the service". I was designated a Naval Aviator in April of 1965.

## Personal

(2) Flew helos for the next three years with HMM-162, HMM-163, and VMO-6 including two Carib cruises and 13 months in Vietnam. In Vietnam I flew mostly recon inserts and extracts, medevacs and resupply missions. Usually under fire. The grunts put me in for the Medal of Honor and 4 DFC's. Flew hundreds of combat missions that tour in Vietnam. Was awarded the Navy Cross, 4 DFC's and lots of Air Medals.

(3) Was stationed at MCAS Kaneohe Bay after that tour in Vietnam. Selected for jet transition in 1969 and flew F-4J's with VMFA-235 until I was transferred to Amphibious Warfare School at Quantico, VA in 1971.

(4) After AWS and a brief refresher training in the F-4, I was sent to Nam Phong, Thailand (The Rose Garden) as XO of H&MS-15. There I flew combat missions into North and South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia with VMFA's 232 and 115. I was later Operations Officer of VMFA-232 and flew the last Marine fighter out of Indochina.

(5) Returning to CONUS in 1973, I was assigned to VMFA-323 at El Toro as Operations Officer. It was commanded by some guy called "Lancer". That year I was OpsO of the squadron that was runner-up for the Hanson Award and the squadron that got it. '232 got it, '323 should have.

(6) In 1975 I was selected to be the Staff Secretary of the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing replacing a guy called "Lopp". After that, I was offered a chance to fly with the Marine Corps Reserve outfit at Andrews AFB. Many "firsts" there. Red Flag, flying against the first F-15's, ADC; lots of great flying. Completing that tour in 1978, I was selected for the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA.

(7) After AFSC, I was transferred to MAG-31 at Beaufort, SC and took over command of VMFA-122, the Marine Corps first slatted F-4S squadron. '122 was the IG's top rated squadron in 1980.

(8) In 1982, in lieu of yet another unaccompanied overseas tour, I accepted a non-flying tour, with family, on the 6th Fleet staff in the Med. Following that tour, I was selected for, and attended, the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy.

(9) In 1985 I was transferred back to the states to take command of MCAS Beaufort. Those orders were changed at the last minute and I was sent to New Orleans to be Director of Operations (G3) of the 4th Maw. During that tour I flew F-4s, H-1s, AH-1s, and H-53s with the Reserves. I also oversaw the establishment of the Marine Corps first aggressor squadron featuring Israeli Kfirs flown by reservists.

(10) Following New Orleans, I was sent to El Toro to take command of MAG-46, a composite air group of fighters and helos. While at MAG-46 we transitioned to F-18, the first Reserve unit to do so. I relinquished command of MAG-46 in September of 1990, and, knowing that it was the last flying job I would have in the Marine Corps, retired the same day.

(1) After retiring, Joan and I moved to the mountains of Colorado to ski until we died. Made it for 22 years and then the knees gave out. I also flew with Continental for 10 of those years. Snow is great if you can play in it so we now live on the water in beautiful Punta Gordo, FL. We are very involved in the Isles Yacht Club where I was a Director for 5 years.