



Donald C. Davis, Admiral, USN (Ret.)
 “Red Dog”

Date of Designation: 24 October 1945 NA # C-28089

Dates of Active Duty: 9 June 1943 - 1 August 1981

Total Flight Hours: 5,000+

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 550

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 3,000 Prop: 1,500 VF/VA: 5,000+

Combat Tours:

WW II: USS *Mobile* (CL-63), 5” Gunnery Officer, Sep. 1943 - Oct. 1944 - 9 battle stars.

Korea: VF-31 (F9F-2), USS *Leyte* (CV-32), Aug. 1950 - Apr. 1951 - 51 combat missions.

Vietnam: CO, USS *Montrose* (APA-212), 1966-1967
 CO, USS *Kitty Hawk* (CVA-63), 1967-1968.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-211, USS *Midway* (CVA-41), Jan. 1957- Mar. 1958
 Commander, CAG-5, USS *Constellation* (CVA-64), Jun. 1961 - Jan. 1963

CO, USS *Kitty Hawk* (CVA 63) Jun. 1967 - Oct. 1968

Commander, CARDIV ONE, May 1973 - May 1974

Commander, CARDIV FIVE (CTF-77), Jun. 1974 - May 1975

Commander, Pacific Recovery Force (Apollo 11, 12 and 13), Jun. 1969 - Nov. 1969

Combat Awards:

3 Air Medals

Duty Assignment Chronology

7/40-6/43 Midshipman, U. S. Naval Academy.
 6/43-9/43 Naval Air Operational Training Command,
 NAS, Jacksonville, FL.
 9/43-10/44 USS *Mobile* (CL-63).
 10/44-4/45 NAS, Ottumwa, IA.



4/45-10/45 Naval Air Training Base, Corpus Christi TX.
 10/45-12/45 NAS Jacksonville, FL.
 12/45-4/46 NAS Miami, FL.
 4/46-5/46 NAAS Cecil Field, Jacksonville, FL.
 5/46-8/46 Bombing Fighting Squadron 81.
 9/46-4/47 Fighter Squadron 14A.
 4/47-2/48 Fighter Squadron 5A.
 3/48-8/49 Fighter Squadron 51.
 8/49-3/51 Fighter Squadron 31.
 3/51-7/51 NAAS, Cabaniss Field, Corpus Christi, TX.
 7/51-9/52 NAAS, Kingsville, TX.
 9/52-11/53 Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, NV (Fighter
 Gunnery Instructor Pilot).
 11/53-6/55 Fleet Air Air Gunnery Training Unit, NAAS,
 El Centro, CA (Naval Aviator/Ops. Officer/
 Training Officer).
 7/55-2/57 XO, VF-211.
 2/57-6/58 CO, VF-211.
 6/58-6/59 Office of CNO (Asst. for Airborne Defense
 Weapons Systems Sect., Air Warfare Div.).
 6/59-8/60 Office of Under Secretary of the Navy
 (Special Assistant and Aide).
 8/60-6/61 Naval War College (Student).
 6/61-2/62 Commander, CAG-12 (Prospective Comman-
 der, CAG-5).
 2/62-1/63 Commander, CAG-5.
 1/63-4/66 Aeronautical Systems Division, Wright-
 Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH. (Asst. Director
 for Navy Program).
 4/66-5/66 Naval Amphibious School (Student),
 Coronado, CA.
 5/66-6/67 CO, USS *Montrose* (APA-212)
 6/67-9/68 CO, USS *Kitty Hawk* (CVA-63)
 10/68-6/69 CINCPACFLT (Fleet Operations Officer)
 6/69-8/70 Commander Hawaiian Sea Frontier/
 Commander, 14th Naval District /ADDU:
 COMFAIRHAWAII/COMNAB Pearl Harbor.
 8/70-5/73 Office of the CNO (Director, Aviation Plans
 and Requirements Division).

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Duty Assignment Chronology continued

5/73-4/74 Commander, Carrier Group ONE.
4/74-4/75 Commander, Attack Carrier Striking Force SEVENTH Fleet/Commander, Carrier Group FIVE.
4/75-3/78 Office of the CNO (Director, Navy Program Planning).
3/78-5/78 Commander SEVENTH Fleet.
5/78-8/81 CINCPACFLT/ADDU: Naval Component Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command.
8/1/81 Retired from active duty

Summary of Career Events

Donald Cooke Davis was born in New Boston, Missouri, on January 24, 1921, son of Randal N. and Alice Isabel (Cooke) Davis. He attended the University of Missouri prior to entering the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, on appointment from his native state in July 1940. Graduated with the Class of 1944 on June 9, 1943, he was commissioned Ensign and subsequently advanced in rank to that of Admiral, to date from May 9, 1978.

Following graduation from the Naval Academy in 1943, he reported on board the USS *Mobile* (CL-63) and while so serving, participated in nine major campaigns in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

In November 1944 he entered flight training at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, and in May 1946 he was designated a Naval Aviator at NAS Miami, Florida.

He was then assigned to Bombing-Fighting Squadron 81 flying F4U-4 Corsairs off the USS *Princeton*. In October 1947 he was transferred to VF-51, which became the Navy's first operational jet squadron when it transitioned from F8F-1 Bearcats to FJ-1 Furys in the spring of 1948.

In September 1949 he was assigned to VF-31, flying F9F-2 Panthers. Operating from the USS *Leyte*, he flew fifty-one combat missions in the Korean area of hostilities. He was awarded the Air Medal for personally destroying or damaging several locomotives and two active military trains while leading armed reconnaissance and target area patrols deep in enemy territory. He also received a Gold Star in lieu of a Second Air Medal for leading "...his division in attacks against enemy troop movements... (and) contributing to the successful withdrawal of beleaguered friendly forces near Hungman..."

In January 1951 he joined Jet Training Unit ONE at the NAAS Kingsville, Texas, as Operations Officer, and in September 1952 he reported, under the Exchange Officer Program, to the 3595th Fighter Training flying at Nellis AFB, Nevada. While serving in the 3595th, he was engaged in training Air Force F-86 pilots for combat missions in Korea.

He was assigned as Operations Officer with the Fleet Air Gunnery Unit at the NAS El Centro, California, from November 1953 until June 1955. He was then assigned as Executive Officer of VF-211, which operated in the Western Pacific flying the FJ-3 Fury. He assumed command of that squadron in January 1957 and led it through transition to the F8U-1 Crusader.

From June 1958 to July 1959 he had duty in connection with Military Requirements for Fighter Aircraft in the Office

of the CNO, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. While in Washington he subsequently became Aide and Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of the Navy until August 1960 when he reported to the Naval War College, Newport, RI., for instruction in the Senior Course in Naval Warfare.

In February 1962 he assumed command of Carrier Air Group FIVE aboard USS *Constellation* (CVA-64).

In January 1963 he reported as Assistant Director for Navy Programs, Air Force Systems Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. During this tour he became the first Naval Aviator to fly in the F-111A. He was awarded the Legion of Merit by the Department of the Air Force for his contributions in the development of the F-111A.

During May 1966, he took command of USS *Montrose* (APA-212) and supported the in-country Vietnam Riverene Support Base Vung Tau, Vietnam from February 1967 until April 1967.

In June 1967 he assumed command of the USS *Kitty Hawk* (CVA-63) and "...for exceptionally meritorious conduct as CTG 77.4, Commanding Officer, USS *Kitty Hawk* (CVA-63), and CTF 77...while directing air strikes against significant military targets and lines of communications in North Vietnam..." was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Second Legion of Merit. He is also entitled to the ribbon for a facsimile of the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the USS *Kitty Hawk*.

In October 1968 he joined the Staff of CINCPACFLT as Fleet Operations Officer. In June 1969 he was promoted to Rear Admiral and assigned as Commander Hawaiian Sea Frontier/Commandant of the Fourteenth Naval District, Commander Fleet Air, Hawaii, and Commander Naval Base, Pearl Harbor. He was awarded Gold Stars in lieu of the third and fourth Legion of Merit for his performance in these commands.

Ordered to the Office of the CNO, Navy Department, he served as Director of the Aviation Programs Division from September to December 1970, then as Director of the Aviation Plans and Requirements Division.

In April 1973 he was designated Commander Carrier Division ONE, and in May 1974 he moved to command of Attack Carrier Striking Force SEVENTH Fleet/Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN/Carrier Group FIVE.

In May 1975 he reported to the CNO and assumed the duties of Director, Navy Program Planning He was awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal for his performance of duty during this tour.

On May 9, 1978, Admiral Davis assumed the duties as CINCPACFLT, with headquarters at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

In addition to the Distinguished Service Medal (2 awards) the Legion of Merit with three Gold Stars, the Air Medal with Gold Star, the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, and the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, Admiral Davis has the American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, World and other U.S. and foreign awards.

He is married to the former Elaine McAuvic of Scranton, Pennsylvania, and has one daughter, Mrs. David McLaughlin, Columbus, Nebraska.