



Lt. Gourley in China 1946, with his dog Cum Shaw. He came all the way to the States.



1973

**Norman W. Gourley, MGEN , USMC (Ret.)**  
 “Norm”

Date of Designation: 16 June 1943 NA # C-6670

Dates of Active Duty: 2 June 1942 - 1 April 1978

Total Flight Hours: 8,050

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 22

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 1,136 Prop: (F4U - 784.6, F7F - 301.8, F4U - 784.3, F8U - 513.7, F4 - 357.8, F3D - 264.8)

Combat Tours:

WW II: VMF-115 (F4U), South Pacific Feb. 1944 - Mar. 1945 - 86 Missions

Korea: VMF (AW)-513 (F3D/F7F), Jun. 1952 - Mar. 1953 - 50 Missions

Vietnam: CO, MAG-13 (F4B) and G-4, 1st MAW, Jul. 1968 - Aug. 1969 - 83 Missions

Aviation Commands:

CO, VMFA-323, Jul. 1963 - Jul. 1964

CO, MAG-13, Sep. 1968 - Mar. 1969

CG, 1st. Marine Aircraft Wing Jan. 1975 - Jan. 1976

Combat Awards:

2 Legion of Merit

4 Distinguished Flying Crosses

12 Air Medals

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

7/42-8/42 University of New Hampshire - CPT.  
 10/42-12/42 University of North Carolina - Pre Flight.  
 12/42-6/43 Flight Training at Hutchinson, KS., and Corpus Christi, TX. (Aviator # C-6670)  
 6/43-8/43 Operational Training (F2A), Miami, FL.

8/43-4/45 VMF-115 (F4U), Santa Barbara & South Pacific.  
 4/45-12/45 Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, MD - F8F Test Pilot.  
 12/45-3/45 VMF-911 (F4U) MCAS Cherry Point, NC.  
 8/45-12/46 VMF-(AW)533 (F7F) - Peiping, China.  
 1/47-6/47 VMF (AW)-533 Ewa, Hawaii.  
 7/47-6/48 VMF-223/VMF-323 (F4U).  
 VMF-311 (TO1/F4U), El Toro, CA.  
 6/48-7/50 Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, FAC.  
 7/50-12/50 Amphibious Warfare School, Quantico, VA.  
 1/51- 6/52 VMF (AW)-531 (F3D/F7F) MCAS Cherry Point, NC.  
 7/52-3/53 VMF (AW)-513 (F3D/F7F), Korea.  
 4/53-6/54 Special Weapons Officer, MCAS Cherry Point, NC.  
 7/54-7/57 Marine Corp. Development Center, Quantico, VA.  
 8/57-2/58 VMF (AW)-542 (F3D), MCAS El Toro, CA.  
 3/58-1/61 VMF (AW)-251, West Pac, Atsugi, Philippines  
 1/61-1/64 Headquarters Marine Corps (DC/S AIR) Washington, D. C.  
 1/64-6/65 Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA.  
 7/64-7/65 VMFA-323 (F4), MCAS Cherry Point, NC.  
 7/65-8/67 G-3, 2nd Marine Air Wing Cherry Point, NC.  
 8/67-6/68 U. S. Army War College, Carlisle, PA.  
 8/68-9/69 Vietnam - CO, MAG-13 and G-4, 1st Marine Air Wing.  
 9/69-9/70 Assistant G-3, FMFPAC, Hawaii.  
 9/70-9/72 Assistant Director of Operations - European Command, Germany (J-3).  
 9/72-9/73 Director, Marine Corp Development Center, Quantico, VA.  
 9/73-1/75 Headquarters Marine Corps - Director of Plans, Washington D. C.  
 1/75-1/76 CG, 1st Marine Air Wing, Iwakuni, Japan.  
 1/76-4/78 J-3, CINCPAC Headquarters, Hawaii.  
 4/1/78 Retired from active duty.

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## **Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) 1945 - Test Pilot (Patuxent River) F8F Aircraft.
  
- (2) Personally involved in forming tactics in Korea flying F3D aircraft in support of B-29 aircraft. B-29 tried to conduct daylight operations in North Korea. The MIG's were too much for them and they reverted to night operations. The F3D's were always on the north of the B-29 approach (touchy were close to Yalu River). Mig's would launch above the Yalu River and come south. Our radar at Choto Island would give us vectors we would use with at least 3 F3D's at various altitudes. (30K, 20K, 15K) and to cover the area and chase the Mig's home. (We had the J34 engine in our F3D's instead of J46. Not too swift.) Our reward was we never lost a B-29.