



Edwin W. Harper, Col, USMC, (Ret)
"Ed"

Date of Designation: February 1942

Dates of Active Duty: 10 Feb. 1942 - 10 Sept. 1969

Total Flight Hours: 4,245

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 123

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 457 Prop: 3,400

Combat Tours:

WW II: VMA-214, May 1942 - May 1944, Solomon Islands, 97 combat missions, twice wounded.

Korea: Assigned to 1st Marine Division, Sept. 1951 to Sept. 1952, flew 21 combat missions.

Vietnam: Assigned to 2nd Air Division, Saigon, Oct. 1965 - Mar. 1966, 14 combat missions.

Aviation Commands:

CO MA-225, Jun. 1962 - May 1963.

CO MAG-13, Apr. 1966 - Aug. 1966.

Combat Awards:

3 Distinguished Flying Crosses

7 Air Medals

1 Bronze Star

2 Purple Hearts

Duty Assignment Chronology

2/42-1/43 Naval Aviation Cadet.

1943-1944 Marine Attack Squadron VMA-214 (Blacksheep Squadron), Solomon Islands, 87 combat missions.

1945-1952 Various operational duties, including leading evaluation of a radar bombing system during the Korean War; and Project Officer, Naval Air Missile Test Center, Point Mugu.



- 1952-1955 Project Engineer, Bureau of Aeronautics. Responsible for the development and production of the MPQ-14 Radar Bombing System.
- 1955-1957 Executive Officer VMA-332, Miami, Florida and Iwakuni, Japan.
- 1957-1960 Marine Corps Liaison Officer, Litton Industries, Beverly Hills, CA. Responsible for a major development program, (Marine Tactical Data System).
- 1960-1961 Student, Amphibious Warfare College.
- 1961-1962 Air Group Operations Officer, MAG-14.
- 1962-1963 CO VMA-225.
- 1963-1965 Chief, Command Center, U.S. European Command.
- 1965-1966 1965 Senior Marine Corps Liaison Officer for Air to MACV Staff, and 2nd Air Division, Saigon, Vietnam. CO MAG-13, Second Half of Vietnam Tour.
- 1966-1969 Project Manager for the A-4 Skyhawk, and AV-8A Harrier at the Naval Air Systems Command.
- 1969-1987 VP General Manager, AV-8 Harrier Program, McDonnell Aircraft Co.
- 1987-1997 Non Executive Director - Smith Industries, England.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Member of Pappy Boyington's Black Sheep Squadron.
- (2) Major role in the development of the MPQ-14 Radar Bombing System.
- (3) Major role in development of the Marine Tactical Data System.
- (4) Led the First Marine tactical Translant from Cherry Point to Rota, Spain.
- (5) Received CMC Award for Attack Squadron of the Year while serving as CO, VMA-225.
- (6) Developed the design criteria for a New Command Center for the U.S. European Command.

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Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (7) Deputy Director of a special 2nd Air Division Task Force, charged with North Vietnam route interdiction.
- (8) At the Naval Air Systems Command, developed the A4-M Skyhawk and the TA-4 Skyhawk.
- (9) Initiated initial procurement of the AV-8A Harrier by the USMC.
- (10) Managed the McDonnell Douglas Harrier program from the concept to full production (1969 to 1987).