



**Arthur Ray Hawkins, Captain, USN (Ret.)**  
 "Hawk"

Date of Designation: 1 January 1943      NA # C-2389

Dates of Active Duty: 15 May 1942 - 1 June 1973

Total Flight Hours: 4,500

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 618

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 2,000 Prop: 2,500 VF/VA: 2,000

VS: 200 Other: 300

Combat Tours:

WW II: VF-31, USS *Cabot* (CVL-28), Dec. 1943 - Dec. 1944. Marshall Island Campaign with strikes on Roi and Namour Islands. First strikes on Truk Island with strikes on Eaten, Dublon and Moen Islands. First strikes on Palau Island with strikes on Anguar, Pelliellu and Babobulthup Islands. Strikes on Woleai Island. Second strikes on Truk. First strikes on Marianas including Saipan, Tenian, Rota and Guam. Battle of the Eastern Philippines including the "Turkey Shoot" and chasing the Jap Fleet. First strikes on the Bonins Islands including Iwo Jima, Chichi Jima and Ha Ha Jima. Second strikes on the Marianas Islands with the landings on Guam. Strikes on Yap, Fais and Ulithi Islands. Second strikes on the Bonins Islands with the landings on Iwo Jima. Second strikes on Palau Island with landings on Palau. Strikes on the Philippines including Mindanao, Luzon, Negros and Cebo.

WW II: VF-31, USS *Belleau Wood* (CVL-24), Mar. 1945 - Sep. 1945. Strikes on Japan including Tokyo, Kumuguya, Hokkaido, Rumoi, Kure Naval Base, Nogoya, Osaya, Kagamahara, Osoka, Sendi, Matsuyama, Tsukuba, Prisoner of War hops and flying over the *Missouri* during the signing of the truce.



Combat Tours (continued):

Korea: VF-191, Aug. 1950 - Oct. 1951. Recco, Tarcap, Strike, Ground Support and Suppression flights.  
 Vietnam: COMFAIRWESTPAC, CO, Atsugi, Aug. 1968 - Oct. 1970.

Aviation Commands:

CO, Blue Angels, Oct. 1951 - Apr. 1954  
 CO, VA-46, Mar. 1957 - Oct. 1958  
 Commander, Carrier Air Group ONE, Jun. 1960 - Oct. 1961  
 CO, USS Caloosahatchee (AO-98), Jun. 1965 - Apr. 1966  
 CO, NAS Atsugi, Japan, Jul. 1968 - Oct. 1970.

Combat Awards:

3 Navy Crosses  
 3 Distinguished Flying Crosses  
 4 Air Medals  
 2 Legion of Merit

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

5/42-1/43 Flight Training at NAS Dallas and Corpus Christi, TX.  
 1/43-4/43 Pre-operation Training at Opa Loca, FL.  
 4/43-4/43 Carrier Qualification - USS *Charger* at Norfolk, VA.  
 4/43-9/43 VF-31 forming at NAS Atlantic City, NJ.  
 9/43-12/43 VF-31, USS *Cabot* (CVL-28) - Stateside.  
 12/43-12/44 VF-31, USS *Cabot* (CVL-28) - Combat operations in Pacific.  
 12/44-3/45 VF-31, reforming at Hollister, CA.  
 3/45-10/45 VF-31, USS *Belleau Wood* (CVL-24).  
 3/46-2/47 VOVCS training at NAS Jacksonville, FL.  
 2/47-4/48 Senior Aviator, USS *Portsmouth* (CL-102) (Med deployment).  
 4/48-8/50 Blue Angels at Jacksonville, Corpus & Whiting Field.  
 8/50-10/51 VF-191, NAS Moffett Field and Korea.  
 10/51-4/54 Commanding Officer Blue Angels at Corpus Christi, TX.

- Continued -

4/54-9/54 General Line School , Monterey, CA.  
 9/54-9/56 VX-5, NAS Moffett Field and NAS China Lake, CA.  
 9/56-3/57 OPNAV (OP-09B) - Special Projects.  
 3/57-10/58 CO, VA-46, NAS Cecil Field and USS *FDR* (CVA-42).  
 10/58-1/60 Air Boss, USS *FDR* (CVA-42).  
 1/60-6/60 Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA.  
 6/60-10/61 Commander, Carrier Air Group One (CAG-1).  
 10/61-7/64 OPNAV(OP-90) - Program Planning.  
 7/64-6/65 Naval War College.  
 6/65-4/66 CO, USS *Caloosahatchee* (AO-98).  
 4/66-7/68 OPNAV (OP-090).  
 7/68-10/70 CO, NAS Atsugi, Japan.  
 10/70-6/73 DOD, Director of Community Relations (Deputy Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs).  
 6/1/73 Retired from active duty.

### Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Captain Arthur Ray Hawkins, USN, (Ret) was born in Zavalla, Texas on 12 December 1922. He finished his schooling at Lon Morris College and Lamar University gaining an LL.B degree. He entered the Navy in May 1942 as a Sea 2c in the V-5 program. He received his Commission and designation as a Naval Aviator on 1 January 1943. His flight training was accomplished at NAS Dallas (primary), NAS Corpus Christi (basic and advanced) and NAS Miami (operational). He joined Fighter Squadron 31, and flying from the USS *Cabot* and USS *Beleau Wood*, he took part in all combat operations from the Marshall's Campaign to the surrender of Japan.
- (2) Captain Hawkins is credited with shooting down 14 enemy aircraft, downing 3 probables, destroying 39 air- craft on the ground, assisting in the sinking of the Japanese Battleship ISE, sinking a 500 ton ammo- ship and an enemy LST. For these actions he holds three Navy Crosses, two DFC's, four Air Medals, two Legion of Merit, the PUC, the NUC and all the cam- paign ribbons.
- (3) He served in Fighting Squadron 191 during the Korean conflict and was Commanding Officer of NAS Atsugi in COMFAIRWESTPAC during Vietnam. During his tour of duty as Commanding Officer of Atsugi, he was awarded the Third Order of the Sacred Treasurer by the Emperor of Japan
- (4) Other assignment during his 31 years of Naval ser- vice include; Senior Aviator on the USS *Portsmouth* (CL-102), Commanding Officer Blue Angels, Test Pilot in VX-5, Commanding Officer VA-46, Air Boss on USS *Roosevelt* (CV-42), Commander Carrier Air Group One, Commanding Officer of the USS *Caloosahatchee* (AO-98), Director of Program Planning in OPNAV and Director of Community Relations for the Department of Defense. Retired in June 1973.
- (5) He joined the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation as Secretary/Treasurer in 1975 and has served in that position and as the Chief of Staff of the Foundation till this date.