



**Robert E. Howard Jr., Colonel, USMC (Ret.)**  
 “Bob”

Date of Designation: 18 October 1950 NA # T997

Dates of Active Duty:

USN: 14 June 1946 - 10 October 1950;  
 USMC: 10 October 1950 - 30 June 1975.

Total Flight Hours: 4,500

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 53

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 2,550 Prop: 1,950 VF/VA: 3,000  
 VU/VFP: 20 LTA: 1 (Goodyear Blimp)

Combat Tours:

Korea: Apr.-Nov. 1951, aboard USS *Bataan* -25 missions.  
 Shore-based K-1 Pusan, K-46 Hoeng-Song and  
 K-18 Kungnam - 80 missions. Total of 105  
 missions in F4U-4/4B

Vietnam: Oct. 1969-Sep. 1970

Chu Lai - 300 missions (F-4B)  
 Danang - 30 missions (F-4B, A-6A, AH-1, UH-1,  
 CH-46, CH-53, A-4, OV-10).  
 Total 330 missions

Aviation Commands:

CO, VMFA-122, Chu Lai RVN, Jan.-Jun. 1970 as a LTCOL  
 CO, MAG-11, El Toro, CA., Jun. 1974-Jun. 1975 as a COL.

Combat Awards:

Legion of Merit with combat “V”  
 2 Distinguished Flying Crosses  
 5 Air Medals  
 21 Strike Flight Air Medals



**Duty Assignment Chronology**

1950	VMT-2, MCAS El Toro, Training Sqd. (F-4U)
1951	VMF-312, USS <i>Bataan</i> /Korea combat tour (F4U-4/4B).
1952	AES-12, MCAS Quantico. Close Air Support demonstration squadron (F8F/F6F).
1953	NAS Patuxent River, MD., Test Pilot School, Class 10.
1954	VMF-312, MCAF Miami Masters/MCAS Cherry Point (F9F-4/FJ-2).
1955	VMF-235, NAS Atsugi, Japan (FJ-2/FJ-4). O&R test pilot, Nippi Aircraft (Japanese).
1956-1960	NOTS China Lake, CA. USMC Project Officer, Sidewinder missile.
1960-1963	USN Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA. BS/MS Aeronautical Engineering.
1963-1964	1st Marine Aircraft Wing, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. Assistant Operations Officer.
1964-1965	MAG-15, MCAS El Toro, CA. Group S-1.
1965-1968	HQMC, Washington, D.C. Joint Planning Group, Action Officer on JCS matters.
1968-1969	National War College/George Washington University. MS International Affairs.
1969-1970	Chu Lai, RVN. Operations Officer, MAG-13 then CO, VMFA-122. Danang, RVN. Operations Officer, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.
1970-1974	HQMC, Washington, D.C. Head, Enlisted Assignments, Personnel Department. Military Secretary to Commandant Marine Corps.
1974-1975	MCAS El Toro, CA. CO, Marine Aircraft Group Eleven. (3 F-4J squadrons, 1 RF-4/EA-6 recon squadron, 1 Headquarters squadron, 1 Air Base squadron).
7/1/75	Retired from active duty.

## **Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) Interesting working as test pilot on Sidewinder air-to-air missile (GMU-61) at China Lake. There were three Navy officers in GMU-61 at the airfield and I had my office in Michelson Laboratory with the engineers. We flew the F9F-8, F3D-2, F8U-1, F3H, FJ-4 and F4D as well as a borrowed USAF F-104A. We rigged the F-104 with a Navy full-pressure suit system, and I was able to fire a number of missiles at test points between 60,000 and 70,000 feet from mach 1.5 to 2.0. Over a period from May 1959 to May 1960 I flew that airplane 65 times for a total of 50 hours. Almost everything I did in the airplane was in full afterburner. The J-79 burned about 28,000 lbs/hour in full afterburner on takeoff or at mach 2.0. The F-104 carried 6,000 pounds of fuel.
- (2) While CO of VMFA-122 in Chu Lai, RVN, the squadron had a complement of twelve F-4B aircraft. In May 1970, the squadron flew 770 combat sorties, and on 24 May the squadron delivered 107.2 tons of ordnance while flying 50 combat missions.

### **Personal Information**

Colonel Howard and his wife, the former Rodella Ailene Sutter of Tacoma, Washington, have four children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.