



John E. Lacouture, Captain, USN (Ret.)
 "Tiger One"

Date of Designation: 18 May 1943

Dates of Active Duty: July 1936 - 1 July 1970

Total Flight Hours: 5,900+

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 500+

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 1,875 Prop: 4,025 Helo: 25 VF/VA: 5,000

Combat Tours:

WW II: USS *Blue* (DD-387), Jul. 1941 - Aug. 1942.
 XO, VF-5, USS *Franklin*, 10 - 18 Mar. 1945.

Korea: Air Officer, USS *Tarawa* (CVA-40) Jan.-Apr. 1954

Vietnam: Chief of Staff, COMCARDIV FIVE, USS *Ticonderoga*, Nov. 1964 - Feb. 1965.

Vietnam: Chief of Staff, TF-77, USS *Independence* and *Kitty Hawk*, May 1965 - May 1966.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-4 Red Rippers, Apr. 1945 - Jun. 1947.

CO, VA-15, Jul. 1950 - Dec. 1951

Commander, CAG 6, Oct. 1954 - Oct. 1956

CO, VA-43, Jul. 1959 - May 1960

Commander, RAG 4, Jan. 1960 - May 1960

CO, USS *Saratoga*, (CV-60), Sep. 1963 - Oct. 1964

CO, USS *Independence*, (CV-62), 26 - 29 Oct. 1965

Commander, Light Attack Wing Pacific, Aug. 1969 - Jul. 1970

Combat Awards:

Legion of Merit with Combat "V" (Vietnam)



Duty Assignment Chronology

- 7/35-6/36 U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Quantico, Washington.
- 7/36-6/40 U. S. Naval Academy (Midshipman).
- 6/40-1/41 USS *Saratoga* (CV-3).
- 1/41-8/42 USS *Blue* (DD-387).
- 9/42-1/43 Primary Flight Training, NAS New Orleans.
- 1/43-5/43 Flight Training NAS Pensacola.
- 5/43-7/43 VF Operational Flight Training NAS Melbourne, FL.
- 7/43-5/44 VF Operational Flight Instructor, NAS Melbourne.
- 6/44-3/45 XO, VF-5 deployed on USS *Franklin* (CV-13).
- 4/45-6/47 CO, VF-4 deployed on USS *Tarawa* (CV-40) for two cruises.
- 7/47-6/49 U. S. Naval Postgraduate School, Annapolis, MD. (MSE Aeronautical Engineering).
- 6/49-6/50 Princeton University, 1st Navy MSE in Advanced Flight Testing.
- 7/50-12/51 CO, VA-15 cruises on *Oriskany* and *Coral Sea*.
- 1/52-10/53 Tactical Test Patuxent, started as Head of Fighter Section, ended Assistant Director.
- 11/53-10/54 Air Officer, USS *Tarawa* (CVA-40).
- 10/54-10/56 CAG-6, Med Cruise on USS *Lake Champlain*
- 11/56-7/58 BuAer, Fighter Weapons Program Manager.
- 8/58-6/59 Naval War College - Student.
- 7/59-5/60 CO, RAG Squadron VA-43.
- 1/60-5/60 CO, Replacement Air Group 4.
- 6/60-6/62 SACLANT REPEur NATO Headquarters Paris, France.
- 7/62-8/63 CO, USS *Diamond Head* (AE-19).
- 9/63-10/64 CO, USS *Saratoga* CV-60.
- 11/64-2/65 Chief of Staff COMCARDIV5 on USS *Ticonderoga*, Tonkin Gulf.
- 2/65-5/66 Chief of Staff, TF-77, Tonkin Gulf on USS *Independence* and USS *Kitty Hawk*.
- 10/65 CO, USS *Independence* (26-29 October 1965).

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Duty Assignment Chronology continued

6/66-7/69 OPNAV (OP-50B) Naval Aviation Plans and Requirements, Pentagon, 6 weeks as acting OP-50.

8/69-7/70 Commander Fleet Air Lemoore (Commander Light Attack Wing).

7/1/70 Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) Flew 173 different model airplanes including 6 glider models and a flying platform.
- (2) When CO, VA-15, worked on long, low level navigation flights and loft and over-the-shoulder delivery of nuclear weapons tactics.
- (3) At Tactical Tests Division, developed first probe and drogue in flight refueling procedures, developed combat tactics for the many models of new jet aircraft, evaluated supine seat and first "G" suits, developed procedures for F9F flameout landings at Edwards AFB.
- (4) Responsible for development and introduction into the Navy of the F4H Phantom aircraft and its sparrow weapons when Fighter Weapons Program Manager at BuAer.
- (5) Flew two evaluation flights on F-111 in campaign to shoot it down as a suitable Navy/Air Force fighter to get the go-ahead on the production of the F-14 Tomcat.
- (6) Commanded more actual flying commands than anyone else in the Navy: Three squadrons, three air wings, and two aircraft carriers.