



**Edward C. Outlaw, Rear Admiral, USN**  
"Eddie"

Date of Designation: 21 April 1938

Dates of Active Duty: 6 June 1935 - 1 July 1969

### **Duty Assignment Chronology**

Edward Cobb Outlaw was born in Greenville, North Carolina, on September 29, 1914, son of Needham Whitfield and Grace (Smith) Outlaw. He attended schools in Goldsboro, North Carolina, and Riverside Military Academy, Gainesville, Georgia, prior to entering the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, on appointment from his native state in 1931. Graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 6, 1935, he subsequently advanced in rank, attaining that of Rear Admiral, to date from September 1, 1963.

Following graduation from the Naval Academy in 1935, he joined the USS *Indianapolis* and two years later was detached for flight training at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. Designated Naval Aviator on April 21, 1938, he was assigned the next month to Scouting Squadron SIX, based on the USS *Enterprise*. Returning to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, in July 1940, he was an Instructor there until July 1941 and was serving as Chief Flight Officer at the Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas, when the United States entered World War II, December 8, 1941. He remained there until March 1942, when he joined Escort Scouting Squadron ELEVEN as Executive Officer.

"For heroism and extraordinary achievement....against the enemy while serving with a naval aircraft group in the Solomon Islands area, from February 2, to March 6, 1943...." he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The citation further states in part: "As a flight leader of a fighter escort for bombing planes, Lieutenant Outlaw participated in ten attacks against a Japanese destroyer force, positions at Munda Point, and Vila Plantation, these operations opposed by intense enemy anti-aircraft and combat plane counter-fire. On February 7, 1943, enemy fighter planes were engaged,

three shot down, and the rest driven off by Lieutenant Outlaw and his flight, thus enabling the dive-bombers to successfully carry out their mission. On February 14, 1943, this officer led a strafing mission against Munda Point at a low and hazardous altitude, silencing several batteries of anti-aircraft fire. His untiring attention to duty and his outstanding leadership aided materially in weakening enemy resistance in this area...."

Transferred in June 1943 to Fighting Squadron THIRTY-TWO, he commanded that squadron and Air Group THIRTY-TWO until June 1944. He was awarded the Navy Cross and a Gold Star in lieu of the Second Distinguished Flying Cross, and was cited as follows: Navy Cross: "For extraordinary heroism as Commander of Fighting Squadron THIRTY-TWO, and Flight Leader of two divisions of fighters, attached to the USS *Langley*, during a fighter sweep against enemy Japanese forces in the vicinity of Truk Atoll on April 29, 1944. Boldly intercepting two flights of approximately forty enemy fighters, Lieutenant Outlaw skillfully engaged the enemy, destroying five of the hostile fighters in the ensuing action. Under his superb leadership and perfect air discipline, his fighters destroyed twenty-one fighters and put the remainder to flight without loss to his command...."

Gold Star in lieu of the Second Distinguished Flying Cross: "For heroism and extraordinary achievement... as Pilot of a Plane, attached to the USS *Langley*, in action against enemy Japanese forces in the vicinity of the Marianas Islands, June 11, 1944. Skillfully leading three divisions of his squadron in three strafing attacks on enemy seaplanes in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, (he) personally engaged and shot down an enemy fighter and, when his wingman did not recover from the second strafing assault, fearlessly attempted to locate him, making three low altitude searches despite fierce enemy fire from shore batteries and ships...."

He also received the Air Medal, with Gold Stars in lieu of the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Air Medals, and a Gold Star in lieu of the Third Distinguished Flying Cross for completing five missions each in the Pacific War Area during the period January 29 until July 28, 1944. He is entitled to the Ribbon for, and a facsimile of the Navy Unit Commendation awarded the USS *Langley*.

During the period June 1944 to March 1945 he served as Operations Officer, alternately, on the Staffs of Commander Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT TWO and FIFTY-EIGHT POINT TWO, and was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V." The citation follows, in part:

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct...as Operations officer on the Staff of Commander Task Group THIRTY-EIGHT POINT TWO, in action against units of the enemy Japanese Fleet during the Battle for Leyte Gulf, October 24-26, 1944. Skillfully assisting his Task Group Commander in directing attacks on the enemy warships, Commander Outlaw contributed materially to the success of our forces in carrying out attacks which resulted in the destruction of a

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large portion of the enemy Fleet. As staff watch officer, he greatly assisted the Task Group Commander in defending the Task Group against enemy air attack....”

He is also entitled to the Ribbon for and a facsimile of the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the flagship of Commander Task Groups THIRTY-EIGHT POINT TWO and FIFTY-EIGHT POINT TWO.

In April 1945 he became Executive Officer of the Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas, and three months later was assigned duty as Training Officer on the Staff of the Chief of Naval Air Basic Training, with headquarters at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola. He remained there until December 1946, and after instruction at the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia, assumed command in June 1947, of Air Group SIX. A year later he joined the Staff of Commander Air Force U. S. Atlantic Fleet, as Fleet Training Officer, and from September 1949 to July 1951 was Operations Officer, Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of Composite Squadron FIVE.

He was Chief of the Operations and Training Division at Headquarters, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, Washington, D. C., during the period July 1951 to December 1952, after which he served as Executive Officer of the USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt*. Detached from that aircraft carrier in December 1953, he next had duty as Special Weapons Officer on the Staff of Commander Naval Striking Force, Southern Europe. In March 1955 he reported as Assistant for Atomic Matters in the Air Warfare Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. In that assignment he also served as Alternate Member of the Military Liaison Committee to the Atomic Energy Commission

In February 1957 he was ordered to the National War College, also in Washington, D. C., for instruction. Completing the course in June, 1958, he assumed command of the USS *Duxbury Bay*. In September 1959 he was transferred to command of the USS *Intrepid*, and a year later was detached for a tour of Duty as head of the Air Weapons Systems Analysis Staff, in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department. In September 1962 he became Commander Naval Aviation Safety Center, with headquarters at the Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia and in July 1964 reported as Commander Carrier Division ONE from November 1964 through May 1965....” he was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of Second Legion of merit. The citation further states in part: “(He) demonstrated outstanding professional skill in responding to the rapidly changing military situation which required the development of new and previously untested tactical methods and procedures.. Drawing upon his personal knowledge, resourcefulness and skill, he directly supervised the formulation of procedures designed to most fully and effectively employ Naval Forces in the area of operation.. As Commander Task Force SEVENTY-SEVEN, Rear Admiral Outlaw had the additional responsibility for coordinating operations and procedures of the Attack Carrier Striking Force SEVENTH fleet, consisting of four attack

carrier groups, and was also required to maintain liaison and coordinate strike operations with other U. S. Commanders in Vietnam. This demanded exceptional military acumen and decisiveness and the ability to plan major air-strike operations to effectively carry out joint combat operations....”

On October 29, 1965 he assumed command of Carrier Division Sixteen with additional duty from July to September 1967 as Commander Carrier Division TWENTY. In October 1967 he reported as Coordinator of Safety Programs, Office of Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department and in May 1968 became Commander Fleet Air, Mediterranean, with additional duty as Commander Antisubmarine Warfare Force, U. S. SIXTH Fleet, with further additional duty from November 1968 as Commander Allied Maritime Air Forces, Mediterranean. “For exceptionally meritorious service from May 1968 to June 1969....” he was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Third Legion of Merit. The citation continues in part: “...Rear Admiral Outlaw was responsible for and directly supervised United States Navy shore activities covering the entire length of the Mediterranean Sea and involving over 7,500 Navy and Marine Corps personnel. During a period marked with declining availability of personnel and funds because of Southeast Asia requirements, he demonstrated astute managerial ability in providing timely and effective logistic support of the U. S. SIXTH Fleet. As Commander Antisubmarine Warfare Force, U. S. SIXTH Fleet, (he) employed his limited forces with consummate skill in a program which produced new and vitally important information on the growing threat in Mediterranean waters. In his role as Commander Allied Maritime Air Forces, Mediterranean, (he) developed a plan for coordinated surveillance of the Mediterranean by the participating nations in which the limited forces of each contributed in such a manner as to provide more thorough surveillance, wider exchange of information, and economies in the use of resources. In addition to his heavy operational and logistic responsibilities, he performed many other duties with distinction, not the least of which were his responsibilities as the United States Country Representative to Italy...”

On July 1, 1969 he was transferred to the Retired List of the U. S. Navy.

In addition to the Navy Cross the Legion of Merit with two Gold Stars and Combat “V,” the Distinguished Flying Cross with two Gold Stars, the Air Medal with four Gold Stars, the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon with three stars; and the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon with Star; Rear Admiral Outlaw has the American Defense Service Medal; the American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Navy Occupation Service Medal; National Defense Service Medal with bronze star; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Vietnam); and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon.

Rear Admiral Outlaw married the former Mary Teer from Durham, North Carolina. He has one son, Edward Cobb Outlaw, Jr.