



Samuel Richards, COL, USMC (Ret.)
 "Sam"

Date of Designation: 4 February 1942 NA # 11260

Dates of Active Duty: 20 June 1941 - 30 June 1968

Total Flight Hours: 5,000

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 67

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 600 Prop: 4,400 VF/VA: 3,800
 VR/VP: 400 VT: 800

Combat Tours:

WW II: VMF-122/VMF-112, Sep. 1942 - Aug. 1943,
 SW Pacific, Guadalcanal, Solomons (F4F, F4U).
 WW II: VMF-311/VMF-122, Dec. 1944 - Oct. 1945,
 Okinawa and Pelilieu (F4U)
 Korea: HQ MAG-12/VMF-311, July 1950 - May 1951,
 Wonsan, Yong Po, K-3 (F4U, F9F-2).

Aviation Commands:

CO, Marine Air Reserve Training Det. Olathe, KS, June
 1954 - August 1956.
 CO, VMA-224, April 1957 - December 1958.

Combat Awards:

2 Legion of Merits, one with combat "V"
 3 Distinguished Flying Crosses
 13 Air Medals
 Purple Heart

Duty Assignment Chronology

8/41-2/42 NAVCAD. (N3N, N2S, O2U, SV-2, SNJ and
 F3F).
 3/42-6/42 MCAS Quantico, VA. TAD NAS Norfolk -
 Fighter Director School (SNJ).
 6/42-10/42 Aircraft Carrier Training Group, NAS San
 Diego (F4F).



10/42-1/43 VMF-122, Southwest Pacific (F4F).
 1/43-8/43 VMF-112, Guadalcanal (F4F).
 9/43-4/44 Fighter Training Unit, MCAS El Toro, CA.
 (F4F, F4U).
 5/44-11/44 VMF-462, MCAS El Centro, CA. (F4U).
 2/45-6/45 VMF-311, Okinawa (F4U).
 6/45-10/45 VMF-122, Pelilieu (F4U).
 12/45-4/46 Marine Air Infantry School, Quantico (SNJ).
 5/46-7/48 Air Officer, TTU Lant. (F6F, SNJ, Misc.).
 8/48-2/49 1st MAW Staff, MCAS El Toro (F4U).
 2/49-10/49 XO, VMF-452, El Toro (F4U).
 10/49-5/50 VMF-311, El Toro (F9F-2).
 5/50-2/51 HQ MAG-12, Japan, Korea (F4U, F9F-2).
 2/51-5/51 XO, VMF-311, K-3 Korea (F9F-2).
 7/51-7/53 HQ USMC, Air Officer (F7F, C-45, SNB,
 T-38, etc).
 9/53-6/54 Student, Senior School, Quantico, VA.
 7/54-8/56 CO MARTD, Olathe, KS (F9F-7, F4U, TO-1).
 9/56-2/57 S-3, MAG-33, El Toro, (F4U, AD-6).
 2/57-12/58 CO, VMA-224 (A4D-1).
 1/59-8/62 Marine Corps Development Center, Quantico,
 VA. (AD-6, SNJ, T-28).
 8/62-7/64 Inspector, G-4, AIRFMFPAC, El Toro, CA.
 (A4D, C-117).
 7/64-6/68 Industrial College of the Armed Forces. One
 year student and 3 years faculty. (C-117, T-
 28).
 6/30/68 Retired from active duty.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) FEB. 1943. A Zero on my tail bypassed armor plate and put 20mm in right side of cockpit - it got my attention. Was able to land at Guadalcanal .
- (2) FEB.-MAY 1943. Shot down two Zeros and two probables during Solomon Islands campaign.
- (3) APR. 1945. Took flight echelon of VMF-311 into Yontan on D+6 Okinawa Operation.

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Summary of Significant Career Events continued

- (4) OCT.-DEC. 1950. Became S-3, MAG-12 when S-3 was evacuated. Moved from Wonsan to Yong Po and coordinated five squadrons that supported 1st MAR-DIV at Chosin Reservoir.
- (5) JUN. 1949. Qualified as VMF jet pilot.
- (6) JUL. 1954 - AUG. 1956. CO, MARTD, Olathe, KS. Transitioned reserve squadron from F4U to F9F-7. Won Pete Ross Safety Trophy both years.
- (7) FEB. 1957 - DEC. 1958. CO, VMA-224. First A4D squadron in Marine Corps. Trained West coast and deployed to MCAS Iwakuni for 13 month tour.

