



1951

**Murray M. Staples, Col. USMC (Ret.)**  
 "Murray"

Date of Designation: 10 October 1947 NA#26118

Dates of Active Duty: August 1942 - May 1973

Total Flight Hours: 4,485

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 69

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 1,016 Prop: 3,477 VF/VA: 1,962  
 VR/VP: 1,217 VT: 99 Other: 312

Combat Tours:

WW II: May 1943-August 1945, 1st Marine Division, New Guinea, New Britain, Peleliu, Okinawa. Commanded K Battery, 4th Bn, 11th Marine Regiment on Okinawa.

Korea: 1951, VMF 311, K-3, Korea

Vietnam: 1968-1969, COMUSMACV, Saigon, Vietnam

Total combat missions - 81 (F9F-2)

Aviation Commands:

CO, H&HS, AirFMFPac, El Toro, 1951-52

CO, VMF-311, 1956-57

CO, Marine Aircraft Group 33, El Toro, 1967

CO, NROTC Unit, University of Notre Dame, 6/69 - 5/72.

Combat Awards:

Legion of Merit with combat "V" (Vietnam)

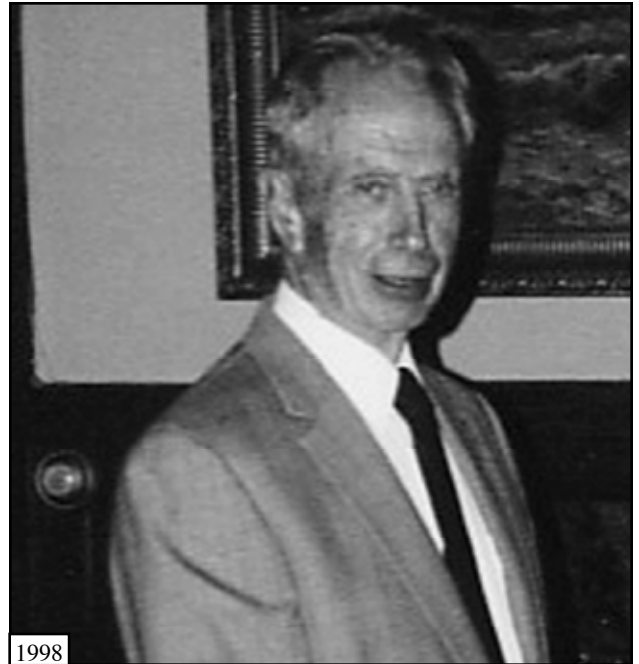
Distinguished Flying Cross (Korea)

4 Air Medals (Korea)

Purple Heart (WW II - New Britain, 1944)

2 Presidential Unit Citations (1st MARDIV, Peleliu & Okinawa)

Letter of Commendation, 1945, C.G.7th Army Div., Okinawa



1998

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

- 8/42-5/43. Student, Marine Corps Schools Candidates Class 9, 14th ROTC, Artillery School, Quantico VA.
- 5/43-8/45 Artillery Officer, 4th Bn. 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division, New Guinea, New Britain, Peleliu, Okinawa.
- 9/45-5/46 Marine Corps Educational Center, student, Advanced Artillery School.
- 5/46-12/47 Flight Training, NAS Dallas, Corpus Christi, Pensacola, Jacksonville.
- 1/48-12/50 VMF-224, VMF-225, SMS 11, VMF-115, MCAS Cherry Point, NC. Med. cruises on USS *Midway* and USS *Leyte* in VMF 225 (F4U-4s).
- 1951 VMF 311, K-3 Korea.
- 1951-52 C.O. H&HS, AirFMFPac, El Toro.
- 1952 All Weather Flight School, NAS, Corpus Christi, Texas.
- 8/52-7/55 NATC Patuxent River, Student, Class 9 Test Pilot School. Project Pilot, Flight Test Division.
- 8/55-3/56 MAG-33, S-3 Operations Officer.
- 6/56-9/56 CTU 5.4.2 Flew Ice Reconnaissance in Alaskan & Canadian Arctic finding open water for ships re-supplying DEW line sites.
- 1956-1957 CO, VMF-311.
- 8/57-6/58 Student Senior School, Quantico, VA.
- 7/58-5/60 Instructor, Educational Center, Quantico Aviator Member Advanced Base Problem team briefing military audiences in CONUS Europe, Canada, and Far East bases.
- 6/60-5/61 Assistant. G-3, 1st Marine Air Wing, Iwakuni, Japan.
- 1962-63 Student Naval Postgraduate School. Earned B. S. in Aeronautical Engineering.
- 1963-65 Head, Air Weapons System Branch, DCS/ Air, HQMC, (OP-52M).

1966 Comptroller, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, El Toro  
1967 CO, Marine Aircraft Group 33, El Toro.  
5/68 -5/69 Ass't. J-1, COMUSMACV, Force Development  
Division, Saigon, Vietnam.  
6/69-5/72 CO, NROTC Unit, University of Notre Dame.  
1972-5/73 Community Plans & Liason Officer, MCAS,  
El Toro.

### **Summary of Significant Career Events**

- (1) Meeting Aviation Pioneers & CEOs,
  - James S. McDonnell at his St. Louis Plant during F3H Preliminary Evaluation;
  - Dutch Kindelberger, North American Aviation. at SETP luncheon in Los Angeles;
  - Igor Sikorsky at lunch in Washington, D.C. while at HQMC.
- (2) 1955, Qualified in F9F-5 on USS *Hornet*.
- (3) 1956, Flew over magnetic North Pole. Reconnoitered Bellot Strait where Canadian Ice breaker came through in 1957 from Atlantic to Pacific.
- (4) Made 25,000th landing on USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVB-42) in 1949
- (5) In 1971, using some credits from USC and Univ of Maryland, completed Master of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering at Notre Dame.
- (6) 1973-1987, Worked as engineer at Northrop Aircraft. Headed F-5 Cockpit Design Team for a number of years, served as Project Engineer for Swiss and Saudi F-5 fighter programs, and wound up as Deputy Program Director for Technical Operations on the F-20 fighter program.
- (7) Member of Society of Experimental Test Pilots.