



**James E. Swett, Colonel, USMC (Ret.)**  
"Jim"

Date of Designation: March 1942                      NA # 11893

Dates of Active Duty: 26 August 1941 - 30 June 1946  
Reserves: 1 July 1946 - 30 June 1970

Total Flight Hours: 3,800

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 121

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 130 Prop: 3,000 Helo: 20 VF: 3,000

Combat Tours:

WW II: VMF-221, Guadalcanal, Dec. 1942-May 1943.  
VMF-221, Solomon Islands, May 1943-Dec. 1943  
MAG-45 (Ops Officer), USS Bunker Hill (CV-17),  
Jan. 1945- June 1945.  
Total combat missions - 160.

Aviation Commands:

XO, VMF-221, Jan. 1944 - Jun. 1945  
CO, VMF-221, Jul. 1945 - Jul. 1945  
Ops Officer, MAG-46, Jul. 1945 - Nov. 1945.

Combat Awards:

Congressional Medal of Honor  
6 Distinguished Flying Crosses  
21 Air Medals  
2 Purple Hearts  
2 Presidential Unit Citations  
1 Navy Commendation



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

- (1) Remained with Marine Fighter Squadron 221 (VMF-221) for the major part of World War II. Was land-based VF pilot during Solomons, Guadalcanal, Russells, New Georgia, Vella Lavella and Bougainville campaigns
- (2) Spent six months on fast carrier USS *Bunker Hill* (CV-17). Ship was Admiral Mitchner's Task Force 58 Flagship.
- (3) Was turned down for Korea due to Medal of Honor and fact that I was a Lieutenant Colonel, so went with the Marine Corps Reserves and stayed until I retired on 30 June 1970.