



Theron Jack Taylor, CAPT, USN (Ret.)
"Jack"

Date of Designation: 24 November 1942 NA # CC-1751

Dates of Active Duty: April 1942 - March 1973

Total Flight Hours: 4,140

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 331

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 1,026 Prop: 3,109 Helo: 5 VF/VA: 3,000
Proficiency (SNB, TF, TV-2, AD-5, etc.): 1,000

Combat Tours:

- WW II: VB-2, Air Group Two, USS *Hornet* (CV-12), Mar. 1944 - Oct. 1944 (SB2C)
- 33 combat missions.
- Korea: VA-55, Air Group 19 X-ray, USS *Princeton* (CV-37), Jun. 1951- Sep. 1951 (AD-1)
- 27 combat missions.
- Korea: VA-55, Air Task Group Two, USS *Essex* (CV-9), Aug. 1952 - Dec. 1952 (AD-4)
- 52 combat missions.

Aviation Commands:

- CO, VA-44, Jan. 1956 - Jun. 1957 (F9F-8 aircraft.)
- Director, Flight Test, NATC Patuxent River, MD, Aug. 1962 - Aug. 1963
- CO, NAS Atlanta, Aug. 1969 - Sep. 1971

Combat Awards:

- Navy Cross
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- 11 Air Medals
- 2 Navy Meritorious Service Medals



Duty Assignment Chronology

- 4/42-5/43 Flight Training (E-Base, Cadet, Pre-operational, Operational) Oakland, CA; Corpus Christi, TX; Miami, FL; Vero Beach, FL; Daytona Beach, FL; Glenview, IL; (N3N, SNV, SNJ, N2S, SNC, SBC, BT, SB2A, SBD). Carrier qualified in SBD, USS *Wolverine*, Lake Michigan, Apr. 1943
- 6/43-3/45 VB-2, Wildwood, NJ; Quonset Point, RI; Santa Rosa, CA; Hilo, HI; USS *Hornet* (CV-12); Pasco, WA; 29 Palms, CA. (SBD, SB2C).
- 3/45-12/45 MIT, Cambridge, MA (N3N, SB2C, SNJ, J2F).
- 12/45-12/47 NATB, Corpus Christi, TX. Staff Safety Officer (N3N, SNB, SNJ, JRB, XNQ).
- 12/47-6/48 CIC School, Glenview, IL (SNB, PBY, SNJ).
- 6/48-1/50 USS *Bairoko* (CVE-115), CIC Officer, NAS North Island, CA (SNJ, F6F, SNB).
- 1/50-1/51 General Line School, Monterey, CA (SNJ, SNB, JRB).
- 1/51-12/52 VA-55, NAS North Island, CA; USS *Princeton* (CV-37); USS *Essex* (CV-9) (AD-1, AD-4).
- 1/53-8/53 Navy Test Pilot School - Class X, NATC Patuxent River, MD (SNB, TV, F8F, SNJ, XNQ, P4Y, F86, F9F, AD, F4U, PBY, HTL). Carrier Branch, Flight Test Division, NATC Pax River, MD (F2H, AJ, AD, F9F, S2F, TBM, FJ, JRB, JD, B-26, F7U, F3D, A3D, A4D, SNB, T34).
- 8/53-8/55 VA-66 Operations Officer, NAS Oceana, VA; USS *Ticonderoga* -Med Cruise (F7U-3, SNB).
- 1/56-7/57 CO, VA-44, NAS Jacksonville, FL (F9F-8B, F2H-2, SNB).
- 7/57-12/59 Air Warfare Division, OPNAV, Washington, D. C. (AD, SNB, JRB, T-28, TV).
- 12/59-4/60 Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA (SNB, TV, T-28).

Duty Assignment Chronology continued

4/60-9/61 USS *Forrestal* (CVA-59), Air Officer. Two Med cruises (TF, AD, SNB).

9/61-9/63 Flight Test Division, NATC Pax River, MD. Assistant Director and Director (TV2, AD, F8U, A4D, TF, T-38, HU, UH, Etendard IV, R4D, A2F, F4, A6, A3, E2).

9/63-6/64 Navy War College - Naval Warfare, Newport, RI (TC45J).

6/64-4/66 Staff, COMFAIRALAMEDA, CA. Training/Readiness Officer (A4, TF9J, A-1, V-11, TC45J).

4/66-8/67 CO, USS *Graffias* (AF-29), NAS Alameda, CA. Two Vietnam deployments (A4E).

8/67-8/69 Staff, Commander Naval Air Systems Command, Washington, D.C.

8/69-9/71 CO, NAS Atlanta, Marietta, GA (A4L).

10/71-3/73 CO, Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center, Portland, OR

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) WWII - Mission Beyond Darkness. VB-2, USS *Hornet* (CV-12) During 1st Battle of Philippine Sea attack on Japanese carrier. Made water landing. Awarded Navy Cross on 20 June 1944. 33 combat missions.
- (2) Korea - VA-55, USS *Princeton* (CV-37) and USS *Essex* (CV-9). Ops Officer and Strike Leader - 79 combat missions
- (3) Class Ten (X), USNTPS, Pax River, MD. Test Pilot, CV Branch, Flight Test. First Navy Preliminary Evaluation Team A4 aircraft, Edwards AFB (9/54)
- (4) CO, VA-44, NAS Jacksonville, FL, 1/56 - 6/57.
- (5) Vietnam -CO, USS *Graffias* (AF-29), 4/66 - 8/67
- (6) CO, NAS Atlanta, 8/69-9/71
- (7) CO, Navy/Marine Corps Reserve Center, Portland, OR 10/71-3/73