



Stanley W. Vejtasa, Captain, USN (Ret.)
 "Swede"

Date of Designation: 14 August 1939 NA # 6020

Dates of Active Duty: 1 June 1938 - 1 July 1970

Total Flight Hours: 5,267

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 478

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 1,023 Prop: 3,786 VF/VA: 4,240
 Helo: 22 VR/VP: 123

Combat Tours:

WW II: VS-5, USS *Yorktown* (CV-5);
 Makin Island attack (31 Jan. 1942);
 Salamoalae attack (10 Mar. 1942);
 Guadalcanal-Tulagi (4 May 1942).
 Attacked and sunk the Japanese carrier SHOHO
 in the Bismark Sea (7 May 1942);
 Battle of the Coral Sea (8 May 1942);
 All above action while flying SBD aircraft.
 WW II: VF-10 (F4F-4 aircraft), USS *Enterprise* (CV-6);
 Battle of Santa Cruz (25-26 Oct. 1942).
 Combat Air Patrol (F4F-4s) - shot down a four
 engine Kawanishi Patrol Plane (13 Nov. 1942).
 Active in Guadalcanal area until April 1943.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VF-97, Aug. 1943 - Apr. 1945
 CAG-44, May 1945 - Oct. 1945
 CO, VF-17, Oct. 1945 - Jun. 1946
 CO, VF-10A, Nov. 1947 - Jun. 1949
 CO, NAF China Lake, CA, Apr. 1953 - Apr. 1955
 CO, USS *Constellation* (CVA-64), Oct. 1962 - Nov. 1963.
 COMFAIRMIRAMAR, Aug. 1965 - Sep. 1968



Combat Awards:

3 Navy Crosses
 Legion of Merit
 Bronze Star
 Navy Commendation Medal
 Presidential Unit Citation
 Meritorious Service Medal

Duty Assignment Chronology

6/38-7/39 Flight Training, NAS Pensacola, FL.
 8/39-5/42 Pilot, Scouting Squadron Five, USS
Yorktown (CV-5).
 5/42-7/43 VF-10 Pilot, USS *Enterprise* (CV-6).
 8/43-4/45 CO, VF-97, NAS Atlantic City (Fighter
 Training Officer).
 5/45-10/45 Commander Air Group Forty-Four.
 10/45-6/46 CO, VF-17, NAS Fallon, Nevada and NAS
 Brunswick, Maine.
 7/46-5/47 General Line School (Student), Newport, RI.
 5/47-11/47 Navigator, USS *Sicily* (CV-118).
 11/47-1/49 CO, VF-10 A & VF-92, USS *Philippine Sea*
 (CV-47). Mediterranean Cruise
 2/49-1/51 Edwards Air Force Base, CA.
 Navy Liaison Officer & Officer in Charge of
 NAS Mojave. BuAer Rep at Edwards A.F.B.
 1/51-4/53 Air Officer, USS *Essex* (CV-9). Two Korean
 Cruises.
 4/53-4/55 CO, NAF China Lake Calif. Ordnance Test &
 Development.
 4/55-7/56 Staff, Commander Carrier Division Five
 (Operations Officer). West Pac.
 7/56-6/57 Student - Senior Course, Naval War College,
 Newport, RI.
 6/57-3/59 Bureau of Ordnance (Air Weapons Officer),
 Washington D. C.
 3/59-8/60 CO, USS *Firedrake* (AE-14).
 8/60-10/62 Fleet Operations Officer, Commander in
 Chief, Pacific Fleet Staff.

Duty Assignment Chronology continued

10/62-11/63 CO, USS *Constellation* (CVA-64). First West-Pac Cruise
11/63-8/65 Office of Chief of Naval Operations (Carrier Readiness).
8/65-9/68 Commander Fleet Air Miramar, NAS Miramar, CA.
9/6-7/70 Chief of Staff, Commander 11th Naval District, San Diego, CA.
7/70 Retired from active duty

- (5) 1950. Edwards Air Force Base--BUAER REP on the D-558-2 project which was the Navy Rocker Plane with Jet assist. I flew as co-pilot on the converted drop plane, a B-29.
- (6) As CO, USS *Constellation* (CVA-64) on its first WestPac cruise, our fighter aircraft intercepted three Russian Bear Bombers and observed them as they circled the carrier. Our photo planes obtained many new and detailed pictures for intelligence values including the first pics of one bomber with a refueling probe.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) 7 May 1942. On mission in which the *Shoho* was sunk, I had Cdr. Shindler in my back seat (SBD). He fired at Zeros from that position and took pictures of the sinking of the Japanese carrier.
- (2) 8 May 1942. I fought a lengthy action with several Zeros after they had shot down four of our eight SBDs on Anti-VT patrol.
- (3) 25 October 1942. Battle of Santa Cruz--I shot down seven-Japanese aircraft--2 Dive Bombers and 5 Torpedo aircraft.
- (4) March, 1943. I flew the first F4U-1 aboard the USS *Enterprise* in the combat zone for a short period to obtain operating data on shipboard operations.
- (7) 15-18 November 1942. Lost at sea. Flying from Guadalcanal to the USS *Enterprise* to pick up message packet for Admiral Halsey to be delivered to him in New Caladonia. Ltjg. Chip Redding and myself changed F4Fs on the *Enterprise* and were lost at sea while enroute to Noumea. A long story but we landed on Ouvea, a small island and I delivered the messages the next day after contacting a radio station in Noumea. We later took off and flew the fighters to Noumea where we found the magnetic compasses far out of calibration.
- (8) 13 November 1942. My F4F-4 division on CAP shot down one four engine Kawanishi Patrol Plane.