



**Michael S. Alexatos, Captain, USN (Ret.)**  
"Mike"

Date of Designation: December 1942      NA # C-1025

Dates of Active Duty: July 1942 - August 1970

Total Flight Hours: 5,052

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 503

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 300    Prop: 4,700    VF/VA: 4,000

Combat Tours:

WW II: VF-1, Tawara and USS *Yorktown*. Strikes against Marshall Islands, Marianas, Bonin Islands, Caroline Islands and 1st Battle of Philippine Sea.

Vietnam: CO, USS *Vesuvius* (AE-15), off coast of Vietnam and Yankee Station.

Aviation Commands:

O-in-C, VC-62 Det., USS *Leyte* (CV-32), deployments to Mediterranean and Korea.

CO, VF-151, USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43).

CO, USS *Vesuvius* (AE-15).

Combat Awards:

4 Distinguished Flying Crosses

7 Air Medals

Presidential Unit Citation

2 Joint Chiefs Achievement Medals (non-combat)

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

Michael S. Alexatos entered the Navy as an Ensign in July 1942. Upon arriving at Corpus Christi he requested the Fleet instead of duty as a flight instructor. After completing flight training, he was assigned to VF-1 which was later based on Tarawa (with strikes against the Marshall Islands), and on the USS *Yorktown* (CV-10) where he participated in



strikes against the Marianas, Bonin Islands, Caroline Islands, and the First Battle of the Philippine Sea.

He joined VF-7 in 1945 and was with that squadron until the end of World War II.

He was then assigned to the Photographic Division under the Bureau of Aeronautics (BUAER) in Washington D.C., where he spent two years after which he was transferred to Villanova College for one year under the Holloway Program.

He was next assigned to VF-72 in 1948, and after deployment to the Mediterranean, was transferred to VC-62 where he made deployments to the Mediterranean and Korea as an Officer-in-Charge of a Photographic Detachment aboard the USS *Leyte* (CV-32).

In 1951 he was assigned back to the Photo Division of BUAER, where he was responsible for development of Photographic Reconnaissance aircraft, various types of reconnaissance cameras and associated equipment.

He was assigned duty as the Air Plans Officer for Amphibious Group Three in 1954, where he became one of the Pacific Fleet's first Atomic Employment Officers. In 1954 he was transferred to VC-61 as its Executive Officer where he pioneered the use of night photography with jet photographic aircraft using photoflash cartridges.

In 1956 he attended the Line School at Monterey, California as a student and then as Director of the Aeronautical Photographic Experimental Laboratory at Johnsville, PA., where he designed several needed photographic reconnaissance items.

After attending the Naval War College in 1959, he was assigned as the Commanding Officer of VF-151 aboard the USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43). Due to the "All Attack Carrier Concept", the ship's fighters were based ashore at NAS

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### Duty Assignment Chronology continued

Atsugi, Japan. From CO of VF-151 he was assigned as the Executive Officer of the USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43).

After this tour he had duty with the Joint Chiefs of Staff under the Assistant for Counterinsurgency and Special Activities. He then received command of the USS *Vesuvius* (AE-15) in 1965, which operated off the coast of Vietnam and Yankee Station. Upon the completion of this tour of duty he was assigned as the J-5 Strategic Policy and Planning Officer for CINCLANT/CINCLANTFLT, Norfolk, VA., where he conducted several studies leading to his being assigned as the Deputy Team Chief of a group that made a study on "The Defense of the Persian Gulf" for the Shah of Iran at the order of then President Johnson. Shortly after that he was transferred to Washington to be the Deputy of the Defense Communications Planning Group. He retired from this tour of duty in August 1970.

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

- (1) Pioneer in the development of aerial photography systems and night photographic techniques.