



**Norman J. Anderson, MGEN, USMC (Ret.)**  
 “Norm”

Date of Designation: February 1937      NA # 5127

Dates of Active Duty:      July - September 1935;  
    January 1936 - March 1940;  
 (American Airlines Pilot) March 1940 - December 1940  
    December 1940 - July 1972

Total Flight Hours: 8,500

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 65    Helo: 50

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 400    Prop: 8,100    Helo: 25    VF/VA: 4,000  
 VR/VP: 3,000    VS: 100    VT: 400  
 Other: American Airlines (DC-3) - 800

Combat Tours:

WW II:    MAG-25, Resupply Guadalcanal - 30 missions.  
    VMB-423, Feb. 1944 - Aug. 1945, blockade  
    Rabaul - 110 missions.

Korea:    VMF-423 aboard *Badoeng Strait* (Pusan  
    Perimeter, Inchon, Hungnam), Aug.- Oct 1950  
    - 69 missions.

Vietnam: 2 missions.

Aviation Commands:

CO, VMB-423, May 1944 - Aug. 1945.

Deputy CO MAG-33 and Group Tactical Officer, Aug. -  
 Oct. 1950.

CO, MAG-11, Dec. 1959 - Jul. 1960.

COMCABS East and CG, MCAS Cherry Point, Mar. 1964  
 - Jun. 1965.

CG, 2nd MAW, May 1966 - May 1967. Cherry Point, NC.

Deputy Commander III MAF (Air) and CG, 1st MAW, May  
 1967 - Jun. 1968. Danang, South Vietnam.

Deputy CG, FMFLANT, Jul. 1968 - May 1969, Norfolk,  
 VA.



Combat Awards:

Silver Star

4 Distinguished Flying Crosses

11 Air Medals

### **Duty Assignment Chronology**

7/35-8/35      Elimination Flight Training, NAS Long  
 Beach, CA.  
 1/36-2/37      Flight Training, NAS Pensacola, FL.  
 3/37-8/39      VMF-1, Quantico, VA  
 9/39-2/40      Flight Instructor, NAS, Pensacola, FL  
 3/40-12/40      Weekend Warrior, Marine Reserve Squadron,  
 Floyd Bennet Field, New York.  
 12/40-7/41      Transport Detachment, NAS, Pensacola, FL.  
 7/41-12/41      First Marine Aircraft Wing Quantico, VA.  
 12/41-5/42      1st MAW, NAS, North Island, CA.  
 5/42-8/42      VMR-153, Kearney Mesa, CA.  
 8/42              VMR-253, Enroute to New Caledonia.  
 9/42-3/43      VMR-253, New Caledonia.  
 3/43-7/43      VMR-253 Detachment, Sydney, Australia.  
 9/43-2/44      VMB-423, MCAS Edenton, NC and MCAS,  
 El Centro, CA.  
 2/44-8/45      VMB-423, Sterling Island, Green Island,  
 Emirau Island and , Malabang, PI.  
 9/45-1/47      MABS - 2, MCAS El Toro, CA.  
 1/47-12/49      Amphibious Warfare School, Junior Course,  
 Quantico, VA, Student and Chief, Air Section.  
 1/50-8/50      MAG-33, MCAS, 1st MAW, El Toro, CA.  
 8/50-9/50      Deputy CO, MAG-33 with VMF-323, 1st  
 Prov. Marine Brigade.  
 9/50-11/50      Group Tactical Officer, MAG-33 with VMF-  
 323, 1st MAW.  
 11/50-6/52      Pacific Fleet Evaluation Group, Pearl Harbor.  
 7/52-6/53      National War College (Student).  
 7/53-6/56      Marine Corps Development Center, Quantico.  
 7/56-5/59      Policy Analysis Division, Headquarters  
 Marine Corps., Washington, D. C.  
 7/59-8/59      Jet Transition Training Unit, Olathe, Kansas.  
 9/59-11/59      Deputy Chief of Staff ,1st MAW, Iwakuni,  
 Japan.      - Continued -

### Duty Assignment Chronology continued

12/59-12/60 CO, MAG-11, Atsugi, Japan.  
12/60-2/61 National War College (Staff  
2/61-10/63 Headquarters, USMC (Pepper Board); Deputy  
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3; Assistant Chief  
of Staff-Air.  
11/63-5/67 MCAS Cherry Point, NC., Assistant  
Commander, 2nd MAW; CG, MC Air Bases  
East, CG MCAS Cherry Point and CG 2nd  
MAW.  
5/67-6/68 Republic of Vietnam (Deputy CG for Air, III  
MAF and CG, 1st MAW).  
7/68-9/68 Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C. (DOD  
Board to Evaluate Employment of Remote  
Sensors).  
9/68-6/72 NOB, Norfolk, VA (Deputy CG, FMFLANT;  
Assistant Chief of Staff CINCLANT)  
7/72 Retired from active duty.

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

- (1) Flew with VMF-1 at Cleveland Air Races in 1938.
- (2) Deployed with VMF-1 to Caribbean in 1938 for winter air-ground maneuvers at St. Thomas and Isla Grande, Puerto Rico, taking ten days in Boeing F4B-4s for transit from Quantico via Ft. Bragg, Page Field, Parris Island, Jacksonville, Miami, Camaguay-Cuba, Guantanamo-Cuba, Porto Prince, Santo Domingo, and San Juan. Attacked targets at sea with 2-250 GP bombs. Returned six weeks later with one litre Bacardi slung between rudder pedals. Transitioned to Grumman F3F-2s in 1939.
- (3) Flew DC-3s as co-pilot for American Airlines in 1940, learning the tricks and science of instrument flying before returning to active duty and a commission in the regular Marine Corps in 1942. Assigned as aide to BGen Roy S. Geiger, CG, 1st Marine Air Wing, because of instrument flying experience, but never permitted to touch the controls.
- (4) Deployed to New Calidonia with VMR-253 (R4Ds) to provide air supply and evacuation for Marines on Guadalcanal. Operated 1st MAW rest facility at Mascot Field, Sydney, May - August 1942. Returned to Soloman Islands in spring 1944, with VMB-423 after transitioning to PBJs at Edenton, NC. Participated with other MAG-61 squadrons in blockade of Rabaul. Moved to Malabang, P.I., in July 1945.
- (5) As Group Tactical Officer and Deputy Commander of MAG-33 in August 1950, deployed with VMF-323 to WesPac aboard *Badoeng Strait* as air component of 1st Marine Brigade in defense of Pusan Perimeter. Supported Inchon landing in September and transited to support landings at Hungnam and Wonsan in October. Assigned to CINCPACFLT Evaluation Group to analyze Navy and Marine Corps participation in Korean War and subsequently brief major commands in U. S. and Europe on the subject.
- (6) Commanded MAG-33 at Atsugi and deployed to Cubi Point during winter of 1960, returning to Atsugi to land on his new runway ahead of base commander. Group established new safety record, receiving plaudits from CMC and CNO. Arranged flight in F9F for then Representative Inouye to his ancestral home in western Japan.
- (7) As Deputy Commander for Air, III MAF and CG, 1st MAW through winter of 1967-68 in Vietnam, brought air-ground coordination to enviable level, resulting in action by COMUSMACV to force similar performance by 7th AF for units of the US Army. Met many interesting Air Force officers who began studying close air support and Single Management.