



**Victor A. Armstrong, MGEN, USMC (Ret.)**  
 "Vic"

Date of Designation: 16 March 1943

Dates of Active Duty: July 1942 - 1 July 1978

Total Flight Hours: 6,000

Carrier/Ship Landings: Rotary wing: 125

Approximate Flight Hours:

Prop: 2,800 Helo: 2,400 VR/VP: 1,050

Other: Several contractor aircraft such as "Little Henry" McDonald Ramjet, Hiller Ramjet, Gyro Dyne One Man Helo and Goodyear One Man Helo

Combat Tours:

WW II: VMF-312 (F4Us), Feb. 1944 - Jun. 1945. South Pacific and Okinawa, CAP and Strike Missions.

Korea: VMO-6 (HO3s), Aug. 1950 - Dec. 1950. Pusan Perimeter, Inchon, Wonson, Hamhung and Chosin Reservoir. First Marine helos to be used in combat. 34 Recon mission, approximately 50 MedEvac missions, 3 downed pilot rescues behind enemy lines, 3 artillery spot, 10 troop support, 120 liaison and resupply.

Vietnam: CO, MAG-3, Jul. 1966 - Nov. 1966. Chu Lai - 76 combat missions.  
 CO, MWSG-17 Danang- 45 combat helo missions

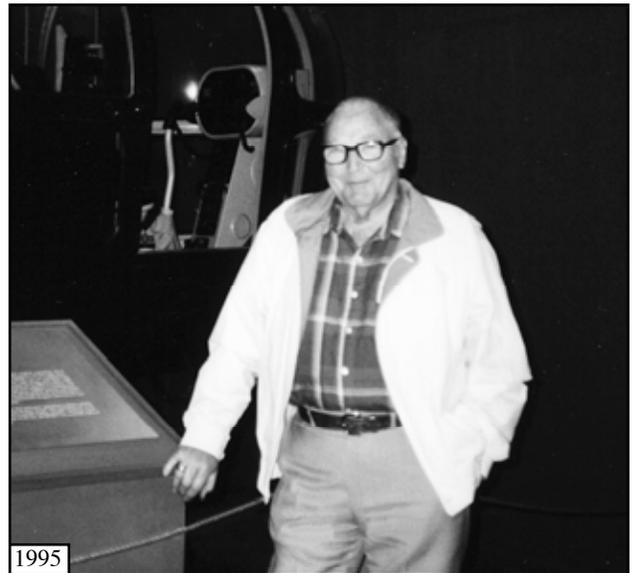
Aviation Commands:

CO, HMR-163 (HRs), Sep. 1953 - Aug. 1954. Japan.

CO, HMX-1 (HUS-2), Jun. 1958 - Apr. 1961. Senior Presidential Helicopter Pilot for Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy.

Naval Air Attache (R4D-6), Jun. 1962 - Jun. 1965. Djakarta, Indonesia.

CO, MAG-36 (H-34, H-46, UH-1E). Jul. 1966 - Mar. 1967. Chu Lai, Vietnam.



Aviation Commands (continued):

CO, MWSG-17 (H-34), DaNang, Vietnam. Mar. 1967 - Jun. 1967.

CG, First Marine Brigade, MCAS Kaneohe, HI. Sep. 1970 - Oct. 1972.

Deputy CG/CS, FMF Pac, Camp Smith, HI. Sep. 1972 - Aug. 1973.

CG, FMAW Iwakuni, Japan. Mar. 1974 - Jan. 1975.

CG, MCAS Cherry Point/COMBCAB East. Aug. 1975 - Jul. 1978.

Combat Awards:

2 Silver Stars (Korea)

5 Legion of Merit with Combat "V" (Vietnam)

4 Distinguished Flying Crosses (one for 2 Jap kills in WW II, Korea and Vietnam)

Air Medal w/2 Oak Leaf Clusters and 4 gold stars and bronze numeral "5"

**Summary of Significant Career Events**

(1) As project officer in HMX-1 (1949-50) and helicopter project officer for Marine Corps Equipment Board (1951-53) and HMX (1957-61), I was involved in developing and testing equipment and tactics. Some of the projects were arming of helicopters with 30 and 50 caliber machine guns, Inerga grenade, 3.5 in. Spin Stabilized rockets and larger, including the Tiny Tim. Other projects included external hoists, hooks and cargo pallets for personnel and external cargo. Night lighting of helicopters including rotor tip lights. And development of one man helicopters.

(2) During the Korean conflict, 1950, served as Executive Officer of VMO-6 and OIC of the helicopters. This was the first deployment of helos in combat for the Marine Corps, and was in support of 1st Brigade and 1st Marine Division in Pusan Perimeter, the Inchon landing and Chosin Reservoir. Directed and participated in the earliest combat operation and helped develop the tactics and techniques for MedEvac,

- Continued -

rescue of downed pilots in enemy territory, and command and control of helos. Made the first Marine Corps amphibious landing in combat at Inchon from a Japanese LST manned with a Japanese crew. Having been raised in Japan before WW II for 15 years and speaking Japanese came in handy for this operation.

(3) Senior Presidential helicopter pilot for both Eisenhower and Kennedy. During President Eisenhower's last two years 1960-61, I flew him on his "Good Will" tours around the world. This included a 2 or 3 day stop in each of the following countries and cities. We had 5 helos in each location - Ankara, Karachi, Kabul, New Delhi, Agra, Tehran. Athens, Tunis, Paris, Madrid, Casa Blanca, Rio de Janeiro. San Paula, Buenos Aires, San Carlos de Bariloche, Santiago, Montevideo, Philippines, Formosa, Okinawa, Korea and Hawaii. The logistics were tremendous which included several carriers, cruisers, LPD's and considerable fixed wing aircraft in support of personnel, equipment and fuel. On many of these flights the President or Ruler of that country accompanied President Eisenhower on the flights. In the U.S. during the Eisenhower presidency I flew many dignitaries which included Khrushchev, DeGaulle and Churchill.

(4) Flew several experimental helicopters such as Sikorsky S-52, Hughes H-6, McDonald's "Little Henry" Ramjet, Hiller Ramjet, single place; GyroDyne one man, Goodyear one man, Boeing Vertol H-106 (later became H-46), McCullough Tandem, McCullough a four place tandem rotor helicopter.