



**David S. Legas, LtCol, USMC (Ret.)**  
"Dave"

Date of Designation: 28 February 1979 NA# T-11953

Dates of Active Duty: August 1967 – April 1996

Total Flight Hours: 13,152

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 29 Fixed Wing (T-28, TA-4, A-6); 49 Helo (CH-46)

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 8,109 Turboprop: 3,293 Helo: 1,588 Recip: 166

Combat Tours:

Vietnam: 1969-1970, HMM-265, USS *Iwo Jima*; HMM-364 (Marble Mountain).

Desert Storm: Station Operations and Engineering Squadron (SOES), C-9B support of deployed Marines.

Aviation Commands:

1977 OIC, VMA(AW)-533, ORI Det. (A-6E)  
1985 OIC, VMAT(AW)-202, Weapons Det. (A-6E)  
1988-1990 CO, H&HS Iwakuni, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan (OA-4M, C-12)  
1990-1993 CO, SOES, MCAS Cherry Point, NC (C-9B, CT-39, C-12, CH-46)

Combat Awards:

Silver Star  
Air Medal (1 single mission) (43 strike/flight)  
Meritorious Service Medal (2)  
Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal  
Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal

### Duty Assignment Chronology

1967-1969 NAS Pensacola, FL, Student Naval Aviator.  
1969 CH-46 Training, Tustin, CA.



1969-1970 Da Nang/Marble Mountain/USS *Iwo Jima*, Vietnam (CH-46).  
1970-1972 MCAF New River/USS Guadalcanal, Med Cruise (CH-46).  
1972 NAS Kingsville, TX, TA-4 Jet Transition.  
1972-1973 MCAS Cherry Point, NC, A-6 Transition.  
1973-1975 MCAS El Toro, CA, A-6A Squadron.  
1975-1977 MCAS Iwakuni, Japan; MCAS Cherry Point, A-6E Squadron.  
1977-1978 MAG-14, MCAS Cherry Point, Group NATOPS/Nuclear Safety Officer.  
1978-1981 MCAS Cherry Point, Operations Officer, XO, and Instructor Pilot for A-6E Training Squadron.  
1981-1984 MCAS Cherry Point, Operations Officer and XO, SOES (C-9B/CT-39 Squadron).  
1984-1986 MCAS Cherry Point, Operations Officer, XO, and Instructor Pilot for A-6E Training Squadron.  
1986-1987 MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, MAG-12 Group Staff, Tactical Airborne FAC (OA-4M).  
1987-1988 MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, XO, H&MS 12 (OA-4M).  
1988-1990 MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, CO, H&HS Iwakuni (C-12, OA-4M).  
1990-1993 MCAS Cherry Point, CO, SOES (C-9B, CT-39, C-12, CH-46).  
1993-1996 MCAS Cherry Point, Staff (C-9B, C-12).

### Summary of Significant Career Events

(1) Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Dave grew up in a military family. (His father was a career USAF pilot.) From a very young age, Dave's goal was to become a military aviator. Following graduation from Weber State College in 1967, Dave reported to the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in August and was commissioned as a 2ndLt on 10 November 1967. Reporting to NAS Pensacola, Dave received his Wings as a Naval Aviator in February 1969. (Both of his younger brothers also became military aviators.) August 1969 found Dave flying CH-46's in Vietnam. - Continued -

## Summary of Significant Career Events continued

(2) Dave returned to the States following his Combat tour and joined an East coast squadron for the next one and half years. This tour included a Med Cruise aboard the USS *Guadalcanal*. Early in 1972, Dave reported for Jet Transition at Kingsville, Texas, followed by A-6 Transition at MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina. In early 1973, he reported to his new A-6 squadron at MCAS El Toro, California. Over the next nine years, Dave stayed in the cockpit with three different A-6 squadrons and a Staff tour with Marine Air Group 14. He held billets as NATOPS Officer, Nuclear Safety Officer, Maintenance Officer, Operations Officer, and Executive Officer.

(3) In 1981, Dave reported to Station Operations and Engineering Squadron (SOES) at MCAS Cherry Point and, for the next three years, flew C-9B's and CT-39's on worldwide missions. While at SOES, Dave held billets as Operations Officer and Executive Officer. In 1984, Dave returned to the A-6 as the Operations Officer and, subsequently, as Executive Officer of the Marine Corps RAG Squadron. In October 1986, Dave headed overseas to Iwakuni, Japan, where he served on the Marine Air Group 12 Staff and as Executive Officer of H&MS 12. From 1988 to 1990, Dave was Commanding Officer of H&HS Iwakuni. During his tour in Japan, he flew both the OA-4M and C-12.

(4) In 1990, Dave returned to Cherry Point to take command of SOES—flying worldwide missions in support of Operation Desert Storm and Headquarters Marine Corps. In 1993, he relinquished command to become a member of the COMCAB (East) Staff. Throughout these last six years, Dave actively flew the C-9B, CT-39, C-12, and CH-46. During his 29-year Marine Corps career, Dave was honored as the 1985 Second Marine Wing Nominee for Marine Corps Aviator of the Year. At the time of his retirement on 30 April 1996, Dave was the high-time Aviator (13,000+ hours) on active duty in the Marine Corps.