



**EARL S. WEDERBROOK, COL., USMC (Ret)**  
 "PEARL"

Hometown: Bainbridge, GA

High School and College Career:

High School - 1972 Stranahan High School, Ft Lauderdale, FL.

College - Broward Community College, Ft Lauderdale, FL and North East Louisiana University, Monroe, LA : 1976 BS Aeronautics

Dates on Active Duty: 1976 - 2006

Date Commissioned/Source:

Dec 1976/ Platoon Leaders Class (PLC)

Date of Designation: 5 Oct 79

Total Flight Hours: 8000+

Carrier/Ship Landings: 32

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 5180 Prop: 50+ Helo: 15  
 VMFA: 4900 VT: 200+ Other: General Aviation 2700+

Combat tours:

Nov-Dec 2004/ 3rd MAW (Forward) Al Asad, Iraq/ Operation Phantom Fury

Combat missions: 30/ F-18

Commands:

VMFT-401/ MCAS Yuma (USMC Only Adversary Squadron)  
 July 98- July 2000  
 MAG-11/ MCAS Miramar (USMC Oldest and Finest)  
 July 03-July 05



Awards:

3 Legion of Merit  
 Joint Meritorious Service Medal,  
 2 Meritorious Service Medal  
 Air Medal,  
 3 Navy Commendation Medal  
 Navy Achievement Medal

**Duty Assignment Chronology**

05/77-10/77 Echo Company/ TBS/ MCB Quantico, VA  
 10/77-12/77 HQMC/ APW  
 01/78-10/79 Training Command, NAS Pensacola, NAS Whiting, NAS Meridian (T-34C, T-2C, TA-4J)  
 10/79-07/80 VMFAT-101, MCAS Yuma, F-4 Transition (F-4N, F-4J). Also flew TA-4J with VC-13 Adversary on det to Yuma  
 08/80-10/81 VMFA 122, MCAS Beaufort, Flight Line Officer, ACTI and Top Gun Grad (F-4J/S)  
 11/81-02/84 VMFA 333, MCAS Beaufort, Pilot Training Officer (F-4J/S) WTI Grad  
 02/84-07/88 MAWTS-1, MCAS Yuma, F-4 Instructor, Adversary Instructor, (F-4N/J/S/ RF-4B, F-21A, TA-4J)  
 08/88-05/89 VFA-125, NAS Lemoore, F-18 Transition (F-18A/B)  
 06/89-03/92 VMFA 531 MCAS El Toro, Aircraft Maintenance Officer, OpsO, XO (F-18A)  
 03/92-06/93 VMFAT 101, MCAS El Toro, OpsO, (F-18 A/B/C/D, T-34)  
 07/93-07/96 MAGTF Staff Training Program (MSTP), MCB Quantico, Marine and Joint Aviation SME  
 07/96-07/97 Student, US ARMY War College, Carlisle, PA  
 07/97-03/98 VFA 106, NAS Cecil, Student, Hornet Refresh (F-18 A/B/C)  
 03/98-07/00 Commanding Officer, VMFT 401, MCAS Yuma, (F-5E/F)  
 08/00-07/01 HQMC/APW, Dept Head

### Duty Assignment Chronology continued

07/01-06/03 Joint Staff, The Pentagon, J-8 Asst Division Head, Requirements and Acquisition Division  
06/03-07/03 VMFAT 101, MCAS Miramar, Hornet Refresh (F-18 A/B/C/D, T-34)  
07/03-07/05 Commanding Officer, MAG-11 (F-18 A/B/C/D, T-34. KC-130)  
07/05-01/06 3rd MAW, MCAS Miramar, ACS-G3 3rd MAW, (F-18 A/B/C/D, T-34)  
02/06-10/06 MCAS Miramar, ACS S-1 Personnel Officer (F-18 A/B/C/D)

Retired

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

1. Started flying out of High School, earning Private Pilot, Commercial Pilot, Instrument Certificate and Flight Instructor Certificate. If I had not been working at McDonald's, I would have starved.
2. Graduated Top 10% of TBS Class and earned Regular Commission.
3. March 1981, Certified as Air Combat Tactics Instructor by Knute Knutson, youngest Marine pilot to date.
4. Oct 81, Top Gun Graduate, one of the youngest Marine pilots to date, selected to lead the Final Class Graduation Strike.
5. During various WestPac deployments, selected for "mini-exchange" with JASDF F4-EJ Squadron at Tsuki Air Base, USAF 8th TFS at Osan Air Base (F-16) and USAF 20th TFS, Clark Air Base (F-4E)
6. Graduated from WTI/ Class 1-83. Invited to return to MAWTS-1 as instructor.
7. MAWTS-1 F-4 Instructor, taught High Threat CAS, Low Altitude Tactics, SAM Counter Tactics, Threat Air-Air Tactics, FW VS Helo Tactics, and Instructor Lead for 10 airborne events. F-4 Instructor Lead for "new" Senior Officer ACTI Refresher Course. Flew A-7K with Tucson ANG applying newly developed three-dimensional low altitude tactics for the F-4. Selected to be USMC First Low Altitude Tactics Standardization Officer. Proposed (but not approved) a revolutionary Low Altitude ACM Program for F-4.
8. Assigned to lead newly created Adversary Tactics Program in support of stand up of VMFT 401. (Knute Knutson was first VMFT 401 CO) Wrote the T&R Syllabus for the USMC F-21 Kfir Adversary Program. Wrote the USMC Adversary Tactics Instructor Pilot Program. Selected in one of first groups of USMC pilots to qualify in the F-21A Kfir. First MAWTS-1 pilot to augment the Adversary Program, simultaneously qualified in the F-4 J/S/RF-4B, F-21A, TA-4J.

9. In addition to F-4 Instructor duties, also served as "Red Air Coordinator" for six WTI classes, developed a "nom de guerre" of Mohammed Abdul Kareem Urass of the Socialist Coalition of United Muslims (SCUM), coordinating and flying many hundreds of Red Air Sorties against WTI Students in support of the WTI Training Objectives.

10. Nominated as USMC Pilot of the Year as OpsO for VMFAT 101 in June 1992.

11. Selected to serve as MAGTF Staff Training Program Aviation SME in 1993. Taught Strategic and Operational Aviation concepts to MEF Staffs. Participated in developing aviation portion of new USMC Five Step Planning Process.

12. First to complete and graduate from the "new" online USMC Command and Staff Program. Later selected as one of the first "on site" instructors for the newly developed distant learning USMC Command and Staff Program.

13. Selected as Commanding Officer of VMFT 401 in 1998 and tasked to re-energize the USMC Adversary Program. Certified as F-5 ATI, LATI, Division Lead and Large-Scale Exercise Lead. Revitalized and upgraded the Adversary Tactics Instructor Program. Introduced three-dimensional maneuvering into the F-5 Low Altitude Tactics Program. Initiated F-5 support of MV-22 OT&E and use of F-5 to provide sorely needed SIM-CAS sorties in support of FAC training at MCB 29 Palms. Initiated the Adversary Cross Country Program to support Fleet squadrons, created the "Adversary pilot mini-exchange" program with pilots from VMFAT 101 to broaden IP experience. Planned, executed, and personally participated in 21 deployments/dets in support of Fleet squadrons.

14. Left scratch marks on the highway all the way from Yuma to the Pentagon when selected by LtGen McCorkle to work at HQMC/ APW and then afterwards on the Joint Staff.

15. Set land speed record driving from the Pentagon to Miramar once my "career enhancing" Pentagon tour was over.

16. Selected in 2003 as Commanding Officer of MAG-11 the Marine Corps' Oldest and Finest Air Group. Tasked to reconstitute the Group and "catch up" with delayed maintenance after a successful and lengthy deployment in support of OIF and ensure that every squadron met their maintenance and operational readiness goals. Initiated Group wide monthly Large-Scale Exercises focusing on opposed Hight Threat CAS and Opposed Long Range Strike missions. Deployed forward to Al Asad in support of 3rd MAW during Operation Phantom Fury, flying 30 combat missions.

17. Exceeded 5000 accident-free flight hours.

18. Retired in 2006. On my last working day, I flew my last Hornet flight, in a VMFA 323 jet, against my old friends at VMFT 401. The flight was a 1 versus 2, the hard way (with a wild card thrown in because everyone wanted a piece of Pearl). The flight ended at Miramar with a 500 knot break and a half flaps flare.

(3) 2007 - present Board of Directors, San Diego Military Advisory Committee (SDMAC)

(4) 2013- President of SDMAC (first Marine)

### **Summary of Post Military Work**

1. 2006-2012 Managed the Raytheon Field Office at MCAS Miramar.

2. 2007-2013 Flew sightseeing tours and civilian air combat flights with "Barnstormers" out of Montgomery Field.

3. 2012-2019 Managed the Raytheon Corporate Business Development Office/ USN and USMC Programs, for San Diego Region.

4. 2015-present. Plank holder investor/part owner of "Associated Aircraft/ Air Combat San Diego" providing sightseeing tours, aerobatic and Spin/Upset flight instruction, civilian air combat missions.

5. Passed 1000 flight hours in the Great Lakes Sport Biplane (nearly 1400 sorties)

6. As a retired Marine/retired Corporate, no load hangar bum, can usually be found on any given day at Hangar 45 at Montgomery Field, come on down and let's go flying. We can pretend to be pilots.

### **Personal**

(1) July 16, 2022, married Shandon Harbour, the woman of my dreams, in a ceremony at the Base Chapel, MCAS Miramar, with a reception at the Officer's Club. She is living proof that God loves Marines. Shandon is President/CEO of Associated Builders and Contractors, San Diego.

(2) Blessed with two grown children (Luke and Erin) and three grandchildren (Lily, Sullivan, Patrick) from previous marriage and three more younger children (Devlin, Shea, Trent) from Shandon.

(3) MA Business Management with Minor in HR/ Webster University.

(4) MS Aeronautical Science/ Embry-Riddle University

### **Associations/Membership/Boards:**

(1) 2003-2005 Board of Directors, Tailhook Association

(2) 2007- present Board of Directors, Marine Corps Aviation Association