



**Michael M. Kurth, Col, USMC (Ret.)**  
"Spot"

Date of Designation: December 1975

Dates of Active Duty: March 1972 – July 1996

Total Flight Hours: 5,244

Carrier/Ship Landings: Ritary wing: 1,526

Approximate Flight Hours:

Helo: 4,208.3 Prop: 1,035.7

Combat Tours:

Desert Shield/Storm, Aug. 1990 - Mar. 1991

HMLA-369 (AH-1W/UH-1N)

216 hours, 3 Strike/Flight Awards

Aviation Commands:

CO/XO, HMLA-369, Oct. 1987 - June 1991

CO, Prov MAG-39, Feb. - Apr. 1990

XO, MCAS Tustin, Aug. 1992 - Feb. 1996

Combat Awards:

Navy Cross

Air Medal w/Flight Strike Numeral 3 and Combat V

Combat Action Ribbon

### **Duty Assignment Chronology**

3/72-5/72 OCS, Quantico, VA.  
 6/72-11/72 Basic School, Quantico, VA.  
 11/72-1/73 Recruiting, Chicago, IL.  
 1/73-3/73 Supply School, Montford Point, NC.  
 3/73-9/74 Platoon Commander/Ordnance Officer, 1st Mar Division.  
 9/74-1/75 VT-1 Student, Saufly Field ( T-34B).  
 1/75-4/75 VT-6 Student, Milton Field (T-28)  
 5/75-8/75 HT-8 Student, Milton Field (TH-57).  
 8/75-11/75 HT-18 Student, Milton Field (H-1).



1/76-3/76 H&Ms 29 New River, Special Assign  
 3/76-5/76 HML-167 RAG, New River (UH-1N).  
 6/76-9/76 HML-268 Career Planner, New River (UH-1N).  
 9/76-11/76 HMH 461, Flight Line Officer, Caribbean Cruise (UH-1N/CH-53).  
 12/76-9/77 HML-268 Flight Line Officer/Maintenance Officer, New River (UH-1N).  
 10/77-4/78 MAG-29, Adjutant, New River (AH-1J/T, OV-10A, UH-1N).  
 5/78-9/78 HML-367, Logistics Officer, Hamby Field, Okinawa (AH-1J/UH-1N).  
 10/78-2/79 ProvMAG-36 Liason Officer, 10th Fighter Wing ROKAF, Suwon Korea (AH-1J/UH-1N)  
 3/79-5/79 HML-367 Logistics Officer, Hamby Field Okinawa (AH-1/UH-1N).  
 6/79-10/79 HML-267 Training Officer, Camp Pendleton (UH-1N).  
 10/79-2/80 HML-367 Operations Officer, Camp Pendleton (UH-1N).  
 2/80-3/80 MAWTS-1 WTI CRS, Yuma, AZ (UH-1N).  
 4/80-5/81 HML-367 Operations Officer, Camp Pendleton (UH-1N).  
 6/81-6/85 MAWTS-1 Instructor, Yuma (multiple models U/AH-1, AH-6, CH-46, other fixed and rotary)  
 6/85-8/85 USS *Hepburn*, Sea of Japan (H-2).  
 8/85-6/86 Student, USMC Command and Staff College.  
 7/86-11/86 MAG-36 Operations Officer, Futenma, (UH-1N).  
 12/86-3/87 MAG-90 Operations Officer, embarked USS *Okinawa* then Pohang Korea (UH-1N/AH-1J)  
 4/87-7/87 MAG-36 Operations Officer, Futenma (UH-1N).  
 8/87-10/87 Cmdr Det HMLA-369 CAX 29 Palms, (UH-1N/AH-1W)  
 10/87-12/88 HMLA-369 XO, Camp Pendleton (UH-1N/AH-1W).  
 1/89-6/89 HMLA-369 XO, Futenma (UH-1N/AH-1W)  
 7/89-11/89 HMLA-369 XO, Camp Pendleton (UH-1N/AH-1W).

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## Duty Assignment Chronology continued

- 11/89-2/90 HMLA-369 CO, Camp Pendleton (UH-1N/AH-1W).
- 2/90-5/90 Prov MAG-39 CO 29 Palms (UH-1N/AH-1W).
- 6/90-6/91 HMLA-369 CO, Camp Pendleton, various locations Saudi Arabia (UH-1N/AH-1W).
- 8/91-6/92 Student Naval War College
- 8/92 -6/96 MCAS Tustin, XO (C-12/T-34/UH-1N/AH-1W).

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

- (1) In October 1978 I began the first of three “special” assignments for then Colonel Chuck Pitman (Now LtGen (Ret) and Golden Eagle) – the first was as liaison officer to the ROKAF 10th Fighter Wing for the largest USMC deployment to the vicinity of the DMZ since the Korean War, the second was in support of the work-ups for the attempted Iranian hostage rescue mission and began in Nov 1979 while the 3rd , in 1986/7, was to develop a safer and more effective night recovery procedure with commensurate training for rotary wing aircraft aboard ship.
- (2) While serving as an instructor at MAWTS-1, became the DIA’s Subject Matter Expert (SME) on Soviet helicopters and joined the European Tactics Analysis Team as the only rotary wing member. During this tour, working closely with VX-5, developed air to air employment tactics and weapons for helicopters and provided advice to the US Army on their air to air Field Manual. I also became involved in foreign military equipment exploitation during this tour. Joined the first V-22 crew station working group in 1983 while on this assignment. Worked closely with the US Army’s TF-160 flying the AH-6 in support of their early Special Operations training and missions.
- (3) Worked closely with then Colonel (now Gen. (Ret.)) Tony Zinni and then LtCol (now LtGen (Ret.)) Emo Gardiner in authoring in 1986 the first Employment/Deployment Guide for the V-22 which was used to “sell” the program to the Congress.
- (4) Led the first USMC combat unit, HMLA-369, deployed in support of operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

### **Post USMC**

Primarily working for the Boeing Company since retirement. Currently the Managing Director of Boeing Defence UK, the Boeing Company's defense business in the United Kingdom.

### **Additional Awards and Recognition**

- (2) Legion of Merit  
Meritorious Service Medal  
Navy Commendation Medal  
Navy Achievement Medal  
Alfred A. Cunningham Award Marine Aviator of the Year 1991.  
Commander Marine Helicopter Squadron of the Year 1991  
John A. LeJueune Award for Inspirational Leadership 1992  
Member Legion of Valor  
Liveryman of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators of London  
Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society  
Vice President British Army Aviation Museum

