JACK L. DETOUR COLONEL USAF (R)





Born August 1923 in Guide Rock, Nebraska. Enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps upon graduating from Benson High School, Portland, Oregon in June 1942.

Completed flight training at La Junta Army Air Base, Colorado. Received pilot wings & commissioned 2nd Lieutenant on 8 February 1944.

Completed B-25 Combat Crew training at Columbia, S.C. and assigned to 38th Bomb Group, FEAF & 5th Air Force. Flew 30 B-25 Combat "Low Level Attack" Missions out of Nadzab, New Guinea; Lingayen Gulf, Philippines and Okinawa. Flew as Group lead pilot and assigned as 822nd Squadron Operation Officer and then Assistant 38th Bomb Group Operations Officer. Received a combat promotion to 1st Lieutenant 15 July 1945. General George Kenney pinned a medal on him while on Okinawa.

Attended and played basketball for Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 1946 – 1950. Graduated with a BS. Degree. Taught High School Science and coached for eight months at Benson High School, Portland, Oregon before being recalled to active duty for the Korean War on 1 April 1951. Assigned 816th TCS and flew C-119s out of Ashiya, Japan in support of the Korean War. Assisted Civil Air Transport Pilots supporting the Battle of Dien Bien Phu. Promoted to Captain 1 June 1952.

Assigned 314 Troop Carrier Wing, 2nd Aerial Port Squadron Operations Officer 1953 and then reassigned as 314 Troop Carrier Wing Assistant Operations Officer at Sewart AFB, TN. 1954. Attended Air University, Squadron Officers School Fall 1954. Assigned and instructed at the Air University, Squadron Officers School Maxwell AFB 1955 – 1958.

Assigned as Assistant Operations Officer, 815 Troop Carrier Squadron, Ashiya AB, Japan, flying C-130s in support of 315 Air Division Theater Airlift Operations 1958. Assigned as Operational Plans Officer, 315 Air Division, Tachikawa AB, Japan 1959.

Attended Air Command & Staff College, Air University, Maxwell AFB. AL.1960 - 1961.

Assigned 19th Air Force, Seymour Johnson AFB, NC as Operational Planner 1961 – 1965. Flew C- 54 VIP flights. Graduated from Army "Parachute Jump School" at Fort Bragg, N.C. 1964.

Assigned Tactical Air Command, Langley AFB as Operational Plans Officer 1965 – 1968. Promoted to Major 1964. Promoted to Lt. Colonel 1967.

Assigned 7th Air Force, Saigon, Viet Nam, Director Tactics and Combat Systems 1969. Promoted to Colonel 1970.

Assigned Head Quarters Air Force/XOXXE, Pentagon Section Head of Middle East/ South Asia & Assistant Division Chief 1970 - 1973.

Assigned as Designated Commanding Officer (DCO) of Australia, New Zealand and Antarctica. Also, assigned as CINCPAC Representative and USAF Liaison Officer to Australia with offices in the US Embassy Canberra, Australia 1973 -1979. Flew a USAF aircraft around the world in 1977.

Retired from USAF 1 July 1979. Flew as Airline Captain and Corporate Pilot of executive jets until 2009. Past President & COB of "Kona Billfisher Association". Five years Hawaii State President of the "Air Force Association". Seven years National President of the "World War II B-25, 38 Bomb Group Association".

WW II Battles Participated in:

New Guinea - Wewack air fields & port facilities

Rabaul - Port facilities and shipping

Bismarck Sea - Shipping

Balakapapan - Oil fields, Air fields & port facilities

Luzon - Army support

Formosa - Rail roads, alcohol plants & air fields

China Coast - Shipping

Sea of Japan - Shipping & port facilities

Korean Coast - Shipping

Air operations Japan - Shipping & port facility

Awards and Medals:

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 7 Battle Stars

Legion of Merit

Bronze Star Medal

Bronze Star Medal

Air Force Outstanding Unit Medal Air Medal

Philippine Presidential Unit Medal
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
National Defense Service Medal
American Campaign Medal
Good Conduct Medal
United Nation Service Medal

Philippine Liberation Medal
WW II Victory Medal
Army of Occupation Medal
AF Commendation Medal
AF Commendation Medal
Presidential Unit Citation Medal

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Medal

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 2 Battle Stars

Vietnam Service Medal

Air Force Longevity Service Medal with 6 Clusters

WW II

Flew B-25 Low Altitude Attack Missions against Japanese Shipping, Air Fields & Port Facilities

- Started in New Guinea
 - -- Flew against Rabaul plus Northern New Guinea Airfields & Port Facilities
- Moved to Philippines
 - -- Flew against China Coast Shipping and Formosa Air fields & Rail Road Yards
- Deployed to Palawan
 - -- Flew against Balakapapin Oil Fields, Airfields & Port Facilities
- Moved to Okinawa
 - -- Hit Shipping Along China Coast & in Sea of Japan plus Japanese Port Facilities