

Air Marshal PHILIP RAJKUMAR

PVSM, AVSM, VM, MiD



Param Vishisht Seva Medal



Ati Vishisht Seva
Medal



Early days

- Born 1941, at Davangere, to the local sub assistant surgeon..!
- Home schooled at Mysore by his mother
- Went on to graduate with a science degree from Central College, B'lore (1960)
- Stood 3rd in India in the Air Force Flying College entrance examination at Jodhpur in 1961.
- Commissioned into flying Branch of the Indian Air Force in 1962.

Early years in the IAF

- Served in frontline fighter squadrons (E- & W-sectors) for 9 years.
- In 1964, five months of 'gunnery training' in the USA

He flew 22 operational missions during the Indo-Pak war of Sept 1965.

1965
No 1
Squadron, of
the IAF,
"The Tigers"
flying the
Dassault
Mystere IVA
ground attack
fighter





An artist's impression of the most daring raid on Sargodha on 7th Sept 1965

AM Rajkumar received the 'Mention in Dispatches' for gallantry exhibited in this daring, daylight raid

**Tigers over Sargodha :
A painting done in
2014 by
Group Captain Deb Gohain.**

In **1966**, he switched to the high performance **MIG 21**, and has flown over **3250** sorties in this 'beast' of an aircraft..!



The Mikoyan-Gurevich
MiG-21 (Russian)

In **1971** he was selected to undergo training as an **experimental test pilot** in France @ **EPNER** (*École du personnel navigant d'essais et de réception*), the French test pilot school, based on the Istres Le Tube Airbase, France.

He completed the rigorous 9 month course entirely in the French language...!!



MiG 27

Test Flying Career



MiG 29

- He spent a total of **20 years** in the specialized field of flight testing various types of *fighter* and



Su 7



Jaguar

Test Flying Career



AVRO HS 748 with AWACS



AN 32

.....and ***Transport*** and ***Training*** aircraft..!



KIRAN



HAWKE

- One of the very few (<5) in the world to have flown ***ALL the TOP NOTCH fighter aircraft*** of the world: Russian **MiG 29**, French **Mirage 2000**, English **Jaguar**, USAF **F16** and Indian **Tejas**

Operational Assignments

- Command of a front line fighter squadron in the Punjab sector
- Jaguar strike aircraft base in the Central sector.

ASTE – Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment



- Established in Bangalore in 1970
- Served here as
 - Test Pilot
 - Chief Test Pilot (CTP)
 - Commandant 1991-93



The LCA - Tejas

- In 1994, Dr Abdul Kalam, then Scientific Advisor to the Raksha Mantri specially asked for his deputation to the Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore, ***to plan and execute the flight test programme of the Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas.***
- This was India's ***most ambitious and risky aeronautical development*** program because of the many new technologies which were, being developed in India, for the first time.

Awards & Honours

- For his distinguished contributions to aeronautics in general, and the IAF in particular, the Rastrapathi awarded him
 - ***The Param Vishisht Seva Medal,***
 - ***The AtiVishisht Seva Medal and***
 - ***The Vayu Sena Medal.***
- He was the President of the Aeronautical Society of India for 2 years, and elected an Honorary Fellow of the Society in 2002.



Param Vishisht Seva Medal



Ati Vishisht Seva Medal



Vayu Sena Medal

- He retired from active service in August 2002.
- **Having flown over 5200 hours in 55 different types of aircraft**
- An avid reader, ardent trekker, loves sport, still adept at golf

Still Fit : In Cockpit of the
Tejas Trainer, Feb 2020

