



George Allen

June 1952 I enlisted in the US Navy. Left Cleveland, OH by train for Great Lakes. Selected as company commander, 6 weeks into the program the chief in charge recommended me for officer training. Following a 3 man interview I was sent to Pensacola, FL and began 18 month flight training program. Completing the program, I was commissioned Ensign, designated Aviator for fixed wing.

Proceeded to Glynco, GA for training in LTA. Conducted lighter-than-air training in Oct., 1954. Reported to ZP-3 at NAS Lakehurst, NJ. From 1954 I flew in ZPG-2 airships. My crew was designated to be the nucleus for a ZPG air early warning squadron.

We were commissioned on 3 Jan., 1957 and I was certified Patrol Airship Commander. Airborne Early Warning class, 1 Oct., 1956. Cdr. Larry Mack, CO. I was the first duty officer. On 3 Dec., 1957 returning from a 24 hour duty on station we ran into a wet snow storm. After a rapid evaluation our message to command was "Headed for Bermuda." We landed the morning of 5 Dec., 1957. Two weeks later we returned to NEL. I checked out of ZW-1 for "line school." Cdr. Bill Hartman, CO, had the detailer change my orders from NAS Akron to line school. Surprise when I completed line school, I was ordered back to the AT&D division of NAS Lakehurst a member of the BIS trials for the ZPG-3W. I flew LTA until August, 1960.

Then went to Naval Postgraduate School in Washington, DC. From postgraduate school I was ordered to USTDC: Taiwan defense command headed by Vice Admiral Smoot and Melson. Helicopters are next. First to Pensacola for training and then Key West for advance training. Then to Quonset Point, HS-11 (admin dept. head). Flying off the USS Wasp. We participated in astronaut recovery, Gemini 4 – 6 & 7. After 2 years in the Sunshine State I was ordered to the LPH New Orleans. Enroute my orders were changed to LPH-8, Valley Forge. After 9 months of making rectangles 3 miles off the coast of Da Nang, Viet Nam, we returned to Long Beach, CA and decommissioned the ship. I headed for FICEUR fleet intelligence center, Europe. From FICEUR it was FICEUR/ANT at Norfolk, VA. My final contribution was CO FACSFAC JAX at NAS Jax. I was the establishing officer, retired August, 1977.