



MARITIME PATROL AND RECONNAISSANCE FORCE HALL OF HONOR

CDR David Weisbrod United States Navy

David S. Weisbrod was born in 1933 in Somers Point, NJ. CDR Weisbrod enlisted in the Navy under the 'Deferred Enlistment Program' in 1949 but didn't enter the Navy until his 18th birthday in 1951. Aviation Radioman Weisbrod, first served through 1955 as aircrewman in Airborne Early Warning Squadron One at NAS Barbers Point, HI, where he deployed in the waning days of the Korean War as an aerial gun systems operator and electronic equipment operator for radar, electronic countermeasures, radioman and navigator. During this first flying tour in early 1952 flying as Aviation Radioman in the PB1W, a USN B-17 modified to conduct electronic surveillance, then Petty Officer 3rd Class Weisbrod was dubbed the 'Wizard' by his plane commander and squadron commanding officer, CAPT 'Flip' Anderson. He subsequently was selected as one of the first Special Project Sonar school trainees followed by duty at the first west coast ASW center at NAVFAC, San Nicholas Island.

From 1958-1960, then AE1 Weisbrod was assigned to Patrol Squadron One, NAS Whidbey Island, serving as an acoustic analyst instructor where he received a commendation from Commander, Western Sea Frontier for his innovation and initiative in the design and construction of the Navy's first ASW integrated aircrew trainer-simulator. After making Chief Petty Officer he was selected for the advanced officer training program "Operation Bootstrap", earning his commission in 1964 and his aviator wings in mid-1965 at age 31, the third oldest aviator to do so, with only ADM Halsey and ADM McCain of WWII fame being older at the time of their winging.

Reporting to VP-19, which had just been outfitted with the new P-3A, he eventually changed designators and qualified as one of the initial Naval Flight Officers and Tactical Coordinators, winning several commendations for ASW innovation and unequalled sub prosecution as he developed ASW tactics that are used to this day. In a subsequent tour as an instructor at VP-31 in early 1968, he was selected to lead a combat aircrew aboard the first west coast P-3C to search for the new construction Yankee class SSBN. He successfully searched for, located and tracked this new threat and was recognized personally by COMASWFORPAC, VADM Pete Aurand. In his next tour onboard VP-48 his crew was the first to successfully track two new generation Soviet submarines, a Charlie Class SSGN and a Victor I attack SSN. His crew took one of the most famous ASW photos with the Charlie on the surface back dropped by the shadow of a P-3C.

During the remainder of his long career, CDR Weisbrod continued to be the leader of ASW operations culminating in his standing up and commanding the Naval Ocean Processing Facility, Ford Island where he culminated his career in the prosecution of numerous submarine contacts. For his efforts he has long been recognized as the father of "West Coast ASW", a title well earned.