



MARITIME PATROL AND RECONNAISSANCE FORCE HALL OF HONOR

RADM Paul J. Mulloy United States Navy

Rear Admiral Mulloy graduated from the Naval Academy in 1952. He served two years aboard the USS Wasp (CV 18) and qualified as an Officer of the Deck during operations in the Korean War. He was subsequently assigned to flight training where he earned his wings as a Naval Aviator in 1955. After several years of flying fighter aircraft, he was reassigned to VP-18, where he qualified as aircraft commander in four months flying the P2V7. He subsequently did a tour with VP-44, where he served as Operations Officer in the second squadron to fly the P-3A. During this tour he established the crew readiness system that remains the basis for readiness in maritime patrol aviation to this day.

In 1969, he reported to VP-26 as the Executive Officer and took a detachment in support of operations against the TET offensive of the Vietnam War. Within six weeks the unit lost two Combat Air Crews, shot down by enemy action. He personally developed new tactics to conceal Maritime Patrol movements in support of Operation "Market Time" which resulted in the successful detection and sinking of two vital enemy supply vessels, an operation for which he was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V". VP-26 went on to achieve the highest maritime patrol combat time of the war, without having any further losses. The following year in command of VP-26, then Commander Mulloy served as Officer in Tactical Command of the first major Atlantic fleet ASW operation in the Northern Atlantic. He led 4 squadrons with 28 aircraft and 36 combat aircrews for a 4 month period. This operation established the P-3A as the finest airborne ASW asset of its time and VP-26 was awarded a Navy Unit Commendation and Commander Mulloy a Legion of Merit.

Captain Mulloy was one of the first VP command officers to select for deep draft command and went on to command the USS Ponce (LPD 15), where he was the first commanding officer in 3 years to pass their Propulsion Examination Board and was subsequently selected to command Amphibious Squadron Six comprised of 8 ships.

Attaining Rear Admiral, he commanded Patrol Wings Atlantic supporting numerous Cold War ASW operations. He had a profound effect on the entire community as he pushed the force, with newly arriving P-3Cs hard on tactics, readiness, safety and professionalism, ensuring all squadrons deployed fully combat ready. He was instrumental in the development of anti-surface warfare tactics utilizing the P-3C and was responsible for bringing the Harpoon missile capability to the maritime fleet. At the end of this tour, then Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Thomas Haywood stated that the maritime patrol community was the "finest example of a fighting force" he commanded.