



**MARITIME PATROL AND RECONNAISSANCE FORCE  
HALL OF HONOR**

**CAPTAIN Robert Porter**  
United States Navy

CAPT Porter attended Temple University on an Eagle Scout scholarship and was commissioned as an Ensign in November 1953 via Officer Candidate School. After a tour on the USS Murrelet (MSF 372) he attended flight training and was designated a Naval Aviator in May 1957, reporting to VP-47 where he flew P5M-2 Marlin Seaplanes deploying to NAF Iwakuni. He was then ordered to Norway as ASW Advisor to the Royal Norwegian Air Force where he was cited as being significantly responsible for the successful operations of the Royal Norwegian Air Force's (RNAF) new SA-16B (HU-16B Albatross) ASW configured aircraft which resulted in a positive vote in the Norwegian Parliament to expand RNAF ASW capability. After SP-2 training at VP-30 he completed a department head tour with VP-21, conducting ASW deployments to Rota, Spain and Keflavik, Iceland.

CAPT Porter then led a CIA sponsored team developing and conducting P2V overland reconnaissance missions in Vietnam. His team developed tactics utilizing Low-Light Level and Infrared Sensors, Terrain Following Radar, 70mm reconnaissance cameras and Active Magnetic Anomaly Detection sensors, all in combat operations. During 14 combat missions over Vietnam, all led by then LCDR Porter, 48 militarily significant targets were identified, and their locations sent to Forward Air Controllers for interdiction. His efforts led to the development of the Navy's Trails and Roads Interdiction MultiSensor/Mission (TRIM) program in which several aircraft types were utilized to conduct overland interdiction missions on the Ho Chi Minh Trail. As the Commander of Task Group 50.8 conducting patrols over Vietnam, CAPT Porter was decorated with the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" and the Air Medal with Numeral "1" for heroic service during South East Asia Operations.

Following transition to the P-3 aircraft, he reported to VP-26 for his XO/CO tour, where he commanded 18 P-3s in support of contingency operations during the Jordanian Civil War. Subsequently assigned to BUPERS and attending War College, he completed his final tour as Commander, Navy Recruiting Area FIVE.

CAPT Porter and his wife Marilyn, raised two sons, David and Robert, who also served 27 and 30 years respectively in the Navy as part of our MPRF community.