



MARITIME PATROL AND RECONNAISSANCE FORCE HALL OF HONOR

Rear Admiral Thomas F. Hall

United States Navy

Born in Oklahoma, Thomas Hall attended Oklahoma State University for a year before transferring to the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in 1963. After graduating at the top of his flight class, he was assigned to VP-8, the Navy's first operational P-3 Orion squadron. Qualifying as a Patrol Plane Commander in 12 months, he was assigned as the squadron NATOPS officer and was credited with the squadron's outstanding performance on the first ever squadron P-3 NATOPS evaluation.

Then LT Hall, as the most junior crew and mission commander, flew over 100 combat hours in the Gulf of Tonkin and overland Vietnam, identifying enemy troop movements. His crew also identified and tracked an enemy surface combatant, which was turned over to carrier attack aircraft and sunk, a mission for which he was awarded the Air Medal with combat "V". When he returned to VP-8 as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer from 1979-81, the squadron was operating the last P-3Bs in the fleet. Despite aging aircraft and limited support, his squadron was specifically recognized by the Operational Commander with a Navy Unit Commendation for superior ASW performance in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea.

Serving next as Chief of Staff of Commander Fleet Air Keflavik from 1982 to 1985, he devised and implemented processes which facilitated the highest ASW operations tempo anywhere in the world. He was subsequently selected for Major Command as Commanding Officer of NAS Bermuda. During his tenure, at the height of the Cold War, the Soviets maintained a continuous presence of several Yankee and Victor III class submarines, and CAPT Hall personally oversaw the monitoring and reporting on the sinking of a Yankee SSBN that had suffered an internal explosion while on patrol off Bermuda.

Selected to Flag Rank in 1989, he was assigned as Commander Iceland Defense Force, where he was awarded the Order of the Falcon by the President of Iceland. The final tour of his Navy career was as Chief of the Naval Reserve. He was then selected and confirmed as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, where he directed an organization with oversight of 1.2 million Reserve and Guard personnel and contributed significantly to the success of Desert Storm, which saw the largest number of reservists mobilized since WWII.