

VICE ADMIRAL GEORGE W. ANDERSON, JR.

George Whelan Anderson, Jr. was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. on 15 December 1906, the son of George W. and Clara (Green) Anderson. He attended Brooklyn Preparatory School, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy on June 2nd 1927 and was commissioned as an Ensign, USN, at that time.

His first duty was in the USS CINCINNATI in the Asiatic, Pacific and Atlantic Fleets. He underwent flight training at Pensacola in 1930 and upon designation as a Naval Aviator in October 1930 was assigned to the aviation unit of Commander Destroyers Scouting Force in USS CONCORD and USS RALEIGH successively in Atlantic and Pacific Fleets.

Between 1933 and 1935 he served in the Carrier Flight Test Division of the Naval Air Station Norfolk which was followed by duty in Fighting Squadron TWO, USS LEXINGTON in the Pacific. In the period 1937-1939 he was fitting out USS YORKTOWN and on board as Landing Signal Officer when the YORKTOWN was commissioned. From mid 1939 until early 1940 he was attached to Patrol Squadron 44 of Patrol Wing 4 in the Northwest Pacific.

His next assignment was to the Plans Division of the Bureau of Aeronautics in Washington where he participated in the rapid expansion of U.S. Naval Aviation, formulation of the American aircraft programs for World War II and was a member of joint and combined agencies involved in the production and allocation of all U.S. aircraft.

In March 1943 he was ordered to the new USS YORKTOWN (CVA-10) as Navigator for her outfitting, commissioning and early actions in the Pacific. From there he was reassigned first as Plans Officer of Commander Air Force Pacific, then as Assistant to Deputy Commander in Chief Pacific and later to the Staff of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Fleet (COMINCH).

After the war, and as a Captain, he continued on duty in the Strategic Plans Divisions of CNO, as a member of the Joint War Plans Committee Staff, as a member of the Canada-U.S. Permanent Joint Board of Defense, Canada-U.S. Military Cooperation Committee and the Brazilian-U.S. Defense Commission.

In 1948-9 he was in command of the USS MINDORO and an Anti-Submarine Hunter Killer Group in the Atlantic; in 1949-50 he attended the National War College from which he was ordered to the Staff of Commander U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean as Fleet Operations Officer. When the NATO military command structure was established in December 1950 Captain Anderson was ordered to SHAPE in Paris where he served as the senior U.S. Officer in the Plans and Policy Division until June 1952 when he was assigned Command of the USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT in the Atlantic and Mediterranean.

From 1953 to mid 1955 as a Captain and newly selected Rear Admiral he served in the Strategic Plans Division of CNO and as principal Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. From there he went to the Western Pacific as Commander Formosa Patrol Force, Commander Task Force 72 and Commander Fleet Air Wing ONE.

In 1956 he reported as Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff, Commander in Chief Pacific. When the Pacific Command was expanded to include the former Far East Command which was disestablished he was promoted to Vice Admiral and became Chief of Staff Commander in Chief Pacific. This duty and rank were terminated in January 1958 upon hospitalization at Bethesda.

Rear Admiral Anderson assumed command of Carrier Division SIX and Task Force SIXTY in the Mediterranean in July 1958 and was in command of that Force during the Lebanon operations. In May, June, and July 1959 Rear Admiral Anderson exercised command of Carrier Striking Forces in the Atlantic conducting training operations of U.S. and U.K. forces in NATO Exercise RIP TIDE.



In August 1959 Rear Admiral Anderson was relieved of command of Carrier Division SIX and was ordered to the Mediterranean to assume command of the U.S. SIXTH Fleet and the Naval Striking and Support Forces Southern Europe: he became Vice Admiral; with his flag in the USS DES MOINES (CA-134).

In December 1960, VADM Anderson transferred his staff to the guided missile light cruiser SPRINGFIELD where he remained until 25 June 1961. He was then appointed to assume duties as the new Chief of Naval Operations on 1 August 1961, with the rank of Admiral.

Vice Admiral Anderson's decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Presidential Unit Citation, Army and Navy Commendations and British Order of British Empire and Republic of China Order of the Precious Tripod.

He maintains his official residence in Washington, D.C.; is married to the former Mary Lee Lamar Sample of Pensacola, Florida and has two sons, LTJG George W. Anderson, III, and Thomas Patrick, a daughter, Mary Annette, and a step-daughter, Mrs. David M. Abshire.

COMMANDER SIXTH FLEET

August 1959 - June 1961