



David L. McDonald, Admiral, USN (Ret.)
 “Dave”

Date of Designation: 1931 NA # 3851

Dates of Active Duty: July 1924 - 1 August 1967

Combat Tours:

WW II: USS *Ranger* (CV-4), Oct. 1941 - Jun. 1942.
 USS *Essex* (CV-9), Mar. 1944 - Jun. 1945, Air
 Officer and XO.

Aviation Commands:

CO, USS *Mindora*, Aug. 1951 - Jul. 1952
 CO, USS *Coral Sea* (CVS-45), Dec. 1954 - Oct. 1955
 COMCARDIV 6, Nov. 1960 - Jul. 1961
 COMSIXTHFLT, Jul. 1961 - Jul. 1962
 CINCUSNAVEUR, Jul. 1962 - Jul. 1963
 CNO, Aug. 1963 - Aug. 1967

Duty Assignment Chronology

Admiral David L. McDonald was born in Georgia in 1906 and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1928. He was designated a Naval Aviator in 1931.

At the beginning of World War II he was aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Ranger* (CV-4) in the Atlantic. Shortly thereafter he was ordered to the Staff of Admiral A. B. Cook at NAS Jacksonville to help establish the Naval Air Operation Training Command of which Mayport was a part. He was later ordered to the Pacific Area where he served as Air Officer and later as Executive Officer of the carrier USS *Essex* (CV-9).

Following World War II his main assignments were; Commanding Officer of the carrier USS *Mindora*, Commanding Officer of the carrier USS *Coral Sea* (CVA-43), as Division Officer of Naval Aviation Requirements in the Pentagon, as Senior U. S. Naval Officer on the staff of the Supreme Commander Allied Forces Europe and as



Commander Carrier Division Six. He was promoted to three stars and given command of the Sixth Fleet, and later promoted to four stars and sent in Command of U. S. Naval Forces Europe. From there he was called to the Pentagon by President Kennedy and on 1 August 1963, was given a two year assignment as Chief of Naval Operations and Navy member of the Joint Chiefs. In 1965, he was given an additional two year appointment by President Johnson.

Retiring in 1967, he and his wife, the former Catherine Thompson of Rochester, New York, came to Ponte Vedra Beach. They lived there continuously until 1995 when they moved to their present location of Fleet Landing, Atlantic Beach, FL. His family consists of his wife (known as Tommie), two children, two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) The CNO, Admiral Jay L. Johnson, presided at the dedication of the airfield at the Navy Base Mayport, Florida, which was named the Admiral David L. McDonald Airfield.