



Paul H. Ramsey, VADM, USN

Date of Designation: 4 January 1930

Dates of Active Duty: June 1927 - 1 October 1966

Paul Hubert Ramsey was born in Springfield, Ohio, on February 24 1905, son of Murray and Maxy Elizabeth (Sultzbaugh) Ramsey. He attended grade and high schools in Springfield and Columbus, Ohio, and the Ohio State University, at Columbus, before entering the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, from the Twelfth District of Ohio in 1923. As a midshipman he participated in wrestling, lacrosse, track and crew, and was a member of the official reception committee. Graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 2, 1927, he subsequently advanced in rank to that of Vice Admiral, to date from September 26, 1963.

Following graduation in June 1927, he had aviation instruction at the Naval Academy and in September joined the USS *Tennessee*. While aboard that battleship he had duties in the Communications Gunnery and Navigation Departments, and served as aircraft gunnery observer (VO-3B) for a period of two years before his detachment in September 1929. He then reported to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, for flight training, having had two months instruction, while attached to the *Tennessee* at the Naval Air Station, San Diego, California, in 1928. He was designated Naval Aviator on January 4, 1930, and assigned to Utility Squadron THREE and Fighter Squadrons THREE and SIX, based on the USS *Lexington* and USS *Saratoga*, respectively.

In 1932 he returned to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, for duty as an Instructor, and as Officer in Charge of VN5D8 at Corry Field. In 1934 he assisted in commissioning the aviation unit of the USS *Idaho*, Observation Squadron THREE. After two years' duty with that unit as Flight Material Officer, Gunnery and Personnel Officer, he had duty in connection with fitting out Patrol Squadron ELEVEN-F at San Diego, California. Following its commissioning, he participated in the mass flight to Hawaii in April 1937. Shortly thereafter he

had duty with patrol Squadron SIX, based at Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii. As Gunnery Officer of that squadron (subsequently redesignated Patrol Squadron TWENTY-THREE), he was commended when the squadron stood first in gunnery for the year. While so attached he had additional duty on the Staff of Commander Patrol Wing Two, Scouting Force, USS *Wright*, flagship.

Transferred in June 1940 to Patrol Squadron FORTY-ONE, based at Seattle, Washington, he made several flights to Alaskan bases with that squadron. In May 1941 he assumed command of Fighting Squadron TWO-B, based on the USS *Lexington*, and was serving with that squadron at the outbreak of war in the Pacific, December 7, 1941. Subsequently operating with a task force off Bougainville, New Guinea, the *Lexington* was credited with sinking fifteen enemy war vessels in a surprise raid on Lae and Salamaua on the morning of March 10, 1942. For participation in the Battle of the Coral Sea, he was awarded the Navy Cross and cited as follows:

"For extraordinary heroism as Commander of a Fighting Squadron of the USS *Lexington* in action against Japanese forces in the Coral Sea on May 7 and 8, 1942. Despite numerical superiority in favor of the enemy, he attacked and destroyed three and damaged two Japanese fighters. His timely initiative and capable leadership were responsible for the high combat efficiency which enabled his squadron to destroy twelve and damage eight enemy aircraft...and contributed materially to our successful attacks on enemy Japanese carriers."

After the loss of the *Lexington*, on May 8, 1942, he reported for duty as Commander Carrier Aircraft Group TWO, in July of that year, and a month later assumed command of Air Group ELEVEN. In February 1943 he returned to the United States for duty at the Naval Air Station, Anacostia, D. C., where he served as Director of the Flight Test Division. With that division he transferred to the Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland, in June 1943, to serve first as Flight Test Officer, later as Director of

Tests. He was detached in June 1945 with orders to duty as Commanding Officer of the USS *Attu* (CVE-102).

He received a Letter of Commendation with Ribbon from the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet, for "meritorious service in the performance of his duties as Commanding Officer of a U. S. carrier transport operating with the logistic support group during operations against the enemy in the area of Okinawa Gunto and the Japanese homeland from June 10 to September 3, 1945. Under his able leadership, his command contributed materially to the ability of the Fleet to remain at sea for extensive offensive operations..."

When relieved of command of the USS *Attu* in November 1946, after a month's Magic Carpet duty, he became Commanding Officer of the Night Development Squadron (later redesignated Night Composite Squadron ONE), Pacific. He subsequently became Commanding Officer of the All-Weather Training Unit, Pacific, with headquarters at the Naval Air Station, Barbers Point, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. In June 1949 he reported to the Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., where he served until August 1951 as Director of the Piloted Aircraft Division.

Reporting next to Commander Air Force, Atlantic Fleet, he was assigned duty as Commander Heavy Attack Wing ONE, and a year later assumed command of the USS *Philippine Sea* (CV-47), for duty in the Korean combat theater. He was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V," for "exceptionally meritorious conduct...as Commanding Officer of the USS *Philippine Sea* during operations against enemy aggressor forces and after the signing of the truce agreement in Korea from 31 January to 30 July 1953..." The citation continues:

"On one occasion, when the vessel suffered a serious engineering casualty which would normally require shipyard repair facilities, he supervised highly complex repairs which were completed in a minimum of time and enabled the ship to remain in action and continue heavy attacks against the enemy. When the tempo of operations was greatly increased...the *Philippine Sea* launched a record number of daily sorties to inflict maximum damage upon the enemy's frontline troops and lines of communication, thereby greatly aiding friendly ground forces in halting the hostile missiles..."

He is also entitled to the Ribbon for, and a facsimile of the Navy Unit Commendation awarded the USS *Philippine Sea*, for "exceptionally meritorious service during operations against enemy aggressor forces in Korea from August 4, 1950 to May 31, 1951, and from January 31 to July 27, 1953..."

Detached from the *Philippine Sea* in August 1953, he reported the same month to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as Assistant Director of the Air Warfare Division. He was Director of that Division from April 1954 until November 1955 when he joined the Staff of the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. He was in command of Carrier

Division ONE from February to November 1958, and on December 5, reported as Chief of Staff and Aide to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

On May 8, 1961 he became Commander Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland, and on May 31, 1962 assumed additional duty as Commandant of the Potomac River Naval Command. He was assigned further additional duty on July 1, 1962 as Commander Fleet Air, Patuxent/Commander Naval Air Bases, Potomac River Naval Command. On September 30, 1963, he became Commander Naval Air Force, Atlantic Fleet and for "exceptionally meritorious conduct...(in that capacity) from October 1, 1963 to March 31, 1965..." he was awarded a Gold Star in lieu of the Second Legion of Merit. The citation further states in parts:

During this period, Vice Admiral Ramsey has been directly responsible for planning and supervising the introduction of two extremely complicated and sophisticated weapon systems; the all-weather, low-altitude, attack aircraft, the A-6A Intruder into the Atlantic Fleet, and the Integrated operational Intelligence System into both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets. Overcoming the many inherent problems associated with these new and advanced military equipments and systems which represent such tremendous advances in the art of seaborne reconnaissance and attack, Vice Admiral Ramsey has been instrumental in providing the United States with a greatly enhanced capability to project its military power to the far reaches of the globe..."

On March 31, 1965 he reported as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air), Navy Department and continued to serve as such until relieved of active duty pending his retirement, effective October 1, 1966.

In addition to the Navy Cross, Legion of Merit with Gold Star and Combat "V," the Commendation Ribbon, and the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, Vice Admiral Ramsey has the Second Nicaraguan Campaign Medal; American Defense Service Medal; American Campaign Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Korean Service Medal; United Nations Service Medal; and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. He also has the Navy Expert Rifleman Medal; the Navy Expert Pistol Shot Medal; the Korean Presidential Unit Citation Badge and the Order of the British Empire (Honorary Officer) awarded by the Government of Great Britain.

Vice Admiral Ramsey was married to the former Miss Isabelle Turton of Montreal, Quebec, Canada. They had two sons, Vice Admiral William E. Ramsey, USN (USNA, Class of 1953) and Lieutenant James Burnley Ramsey, USN (USNA, Class of 1960).