



**Allen M. Shinn, Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.)**  
 "Al"

Date of Designation: 6 July 1937 NA # 5265

Dates of Active Duty: June 1928 - 7 May 1970

Total Flight Hours: 5,250

Carrier/Ship Landings: Fixed wing: 225

Approximate Flight Hours:

Jet: 25 Prop: 5,175 Helo: 50 VF/VA: 2,500  
 VP: 1,923 VS: 450 VT: 300 LTA: 2

Combat Tours:

WW II: ASW (VP), Dec. 1941 - Jun. 1943  
 CAG-89, Jun. - Dec. 1945

Aviation Commands:

CO, Headquarters Squadron 12, FAW 12, Sep. 1942 - Jun. 1943.  
 Commander, Air Group 89, Oct. 1944 - Jan. 1946.  
 CO, FAETULANT/Commander, Carrier Air Groups, Hampton Roads, VA., Oct. 1946 - Jul. 1948.  
 Commander, Air Early Warning Squadron 12 (VC-12), Jul. 1948 - Sep. 1949.  
 CO, USS *Saipan* (CVL-48), Dec. 1955 - Jul. 1956.  
 CO, USS *Forrestal* (CVA-59), Jul. 1958 - May 1959.  
 Commander, Carrier Division 14, Dec. 1959 - Feb. 1961.  
 Commander, Carrier Division 6, Jul. 1963 - Apr. 1964.  
 Chief BUWEPS/COMNAVAIRSYSCOM, May 1964 - Oct. 1966.  
 COMNAVAIRPAC, Nov. 1966 - May 1970.

Combat Awards: None.

Non-combat Awards:

Distinguished Service Medal



**Duty Assignment Chronology**

6/27-7/28 Apprentice Seaman USNR, Oakland, CA.  
 7/28-6/32 Midshipman, U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis  
 6/32-3/35 USS *Tennessee*. Junior Division Officer.  
 3/35-6/36 Staff, ComBatShip Div 3. (Flag in USS *Idaho*, *New Mexico* and *Mississippi*).  
 Assistant Communications Officer and Staff Duty Officer.  
 7/36-7/37 NAS Pensacola, FL. - Student Naval Aviator.  
 9/37-6/39 Torpedo Squadron 3, USS *Saratoga*. "E" in IBP (Torpedoes).  
 6/39-7/40 Cruiser Scouting Squadron 5, USS *Chicago*. XO of aviation unit.  
 8/40-9/42 VP-43 (redesignated VP-81 in June 1941). Based in Seattle, San Diego, Norfolk, Bermuda and Key West. Atlantic Neutrality Patrol in 1941, ASW in Gulf and Caribbean. Commanded 6 plane detachments in Panama, Galapagos and South America in spring of 1942.  
 9/42-6/43 CO, Headquarters Sqdn., Fleet Air Wing 12.  
 6/43-10/44 Staff, COMNAVAIRLANT. Senior Assistant Material Officer.  
 10/44-1/46 Commander, Carrier Air Group 89, USS *Antietam*. In LantFlt to May 1945; then PacFlt to Jan. 1946. Participated with 7th Fleet in occupation of Korea; supported CHINATS in occupation of Manchuria and North China.  
 1/46-10/46 Staff, Commander 5th Fleet. Fleet Aviation Officer on staff. (USS *New Jersey* and USS *Iowa*).  
 10/46-7/48 CO, Fleet Airborne Electronics Training Unit (FAETU). Additional duty as Commander Carrier Air Groups, Hampton Roads.  
 7/48-9/49 CO, Carrier Air Early Warning Squadron 2 (Redesignated Composite Squadron 12). Participated in Atlantic Fleet AEW and ASW operations aboard CVs and CVEs.

9/49-8/52 OPNAV, Washington, D. C. Head, Aircraft Program and Budget Section in DCNO (Air).  
 8/52-6/53 National War College - Student.  
 6/53-10/55 Staff, CINCPACFLT. Pacific Fleet Air Operations Officer from 1953-54, and Pacific Fleet Operations Officer from 1954-55.  
 12/55-7/56 CO, USS *Saipan* (CVL-48).  
 8/56-7/58 U. S. Naval Academy. Commandant of Midshipman. President of Naval Academy Athletic Association and Member of the Naval Institute Board of Control.  
 7/58-5/59 CO, USS *Forrestal* (CVA-59). Operated with LantFlt and deployed to Med as Flagship, CTF 60.  
 5/59-12/59 Chief of Staff, COMSECONDFLT.  
 12/59-2/61 Commander, CARDIV FOURTEEN.  
 2/61-7/63 Bureau of Weapons (S) & (C). Assistant Chief of Field Support.  
 7/63-4/64 Commander, Carrier Division SIX  
 5/64-10/66 Chief, BUWEPS/Commander, Naval Air Systems Command.  
 11/66-3/70 COMNAVAIRPAC, San Diego, CA.  
 3/70-5/70 Commander, Eleventh Naval District, San Diego, CA.  
 5/7/70 Retired from active duty.

#### Promotions

Ensign 2 June 1932  
 LTJG 2 June 1935  
 LT 1 November 1939  
 LCDR 15 June 1942  
 CDR 29 September 1943  
 CAPT 1 January 1951  
 RADM July 1959  
 VADM 11 November 1966

### **Summary of Significant Career Events**

Most Significant: I succeeded in establishing a coherent Naval Air Systems Command - to embrace the entire aircraft weapons systems of the Navy. At the time, Defense Secretary McNamara ordered Bureaus abolished and the "System Commands" established. Neither he nor SECNAV Nitze understood our Navy's organizational requirements, and Admiral Galantin (Chief of Naval Material) was ordered to splitup the aircraft weapons systems among five different system commands. This would have been most unwise - even chaotic for Navy/Marine aircraft design and procurement.

After gaining CNO Dave McDonald's direct intervention, and after a week at the "bloody" Farmington Country Club meeting, I was able to reverse Galantin's directive and pull the aircraft systems together in NAVAIRSYSCOM, an organization which has survived from April 1966 until now!