
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CAPTAIN DAVID JEROME MCCRACKEN, U. S. NAVY

Captain David Jerome McCracken was born in Quitman, Georgia on 18 August 1933. He graduated from Quitman High School in 1951 and attended North Georgia College, a land grant military college in Dahlonega, Georgia.

Captain McCracken entered the U. S. Navy on 24 March 1955 at the Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida and commenced flight training as a Naval Aviation Cadet (NAVCAD) at Pensacola, Florida. He received his commission as a Naval Aviator on 21 November 1956 after completing fixed wing and helicopter flight training.

His first tour of duty was with Helicopter Utility Squadron One (HC-1) at the Naval Auxiliary Air Station Ream Field, Imperial Beach, California where he flew the HUP-2 and H-19 helicopters. He served on several deployed helicopter detachments including one deployment as Officer-in-Charge of a unit aboard the USS Bennington (CVA-20).

In February 1960, Captain McCracken reported to the Naval Air Station Key West, Florida where he subsequently served as Communications Officer and Military Personnel Officer. It was at this station that he received his regular commission.

In March 1962 he was ordered to the Naval Air Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba where he served in the Aircraft Maintenance Department; flying the H-19 helicopter on "fence patrol", UH-16 and C-54 fixed wing aircraft.

He returned to NAAS Ream Field in July 1965 and reported to Helicopter Combat Support Squadron One (HC-1), where he served as Training Officer and later as Detachment Liaison Officer. He organized and trained HC-1 Detachment Five, the first Combat SAR Detachment to deploy aboard a DLG to the Tonkin Gulf and also as its Officer-in-Charge. This detachment flew Combat SAR missions from the USS Coontz (DLG-9), USS Worden (DLG-18), USS England (DLG-22) and USS Bainbridge (DLGN-25). HC-1 Detachment Five consisting of two officers and ten enlisted men was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for combat SAR accomplishments. He made a second combat SAR deployment with HC-1 Detachment Five aboard USS Mahan (DLG-10).

In July 1967, he reported to the Staff of Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Force U. S. Pacific Fleet at the Naval Station San Diego, California as Force Aviation Officer and DASH Training Coordinator.

He departed from the Staff of COMCRUDESPEC and reported in January 1970 to the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D. C. as Special Assistant for Helicopter Facilities on non-aviation ships in the Ship Characteristics Division (OP-36). He was responsible for helicopter facilities on more than four hundred non-aviation ships of the Cruiser-Destroyer, Amphibious and Service Forces. He was also instrumental in starting the Interim Light Airborne Multi-purpose System (ILAMPS) Program that utilized the H-2 helicopter.