

Introduction

With regards to logistics, Rear Admiral Allston's role as a Supply Corps officer can hardly be considered significant. During his short tenure on active duty, Allston assumed a public affairs position, writing articles on Supply Corps activities for the *Navy Supply Corps Newsletter*. Leaving active duty, he pursued a career in corporate relations, maintaining his tie to the Navy as a naval reserve officer.

In his reserve capacity, he made two significant contributions of note. During the challenging period of the early 1970s with the U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam and social change, the Navy faced the reality of having to man its ships and squadrons with an all-volunteer force. With his community relations expertise, Rear Admiral Allston contributed concepts including the creation of Recruiting District Advisory Councils to put the Navy in touch with community leaders who could help promote the sea service as a career opportunity. These councils remain with us today as an integral part of Navy recruiting.

A second contribution is his bicentennial history of the Supply Corps titled *Ready for Sea*, a monograph that filled a void in naval history and contributed greatly to the *esprit de corps* of this important entity in the Navy's organization.

These two examples typify how naval reservists have contributed to the Navy in ways beyond performing weekend drills and two weeks of annual duties. Even in "retirement," individuals such as Allston work to better the Navy as evidenced by this oral history.

The Naval Historical Foundation appreciates the effort of Dr. Phyllis Soybel to interview and record Rear Admiral Allston's recollections. Frank Arre of the NHF deserves credit for conducting the transcription work. Finally, the Foundation thanks Rear Admiral Allston for the hours of work he put into the project to review, correct, and improve the final transcript.

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Subjects Covered

Going up in New Bern--University of North Carolina
Outbreak of the Korean War--Reserve Officer Candidate School
Selection of Supply Corps--Commissioning in August 1952

Influence of father, a WWI sailor, on career
Supply Corps School--Bayonne, NJ
Detailing to the Fleet
Duty in Washington as Supply Corps Newsletter Associate Editor
Travels to Supply Corps facilities
Relations with Rear Admiral Murray Royer
European tour
Assuming role as acting editor

Discussion of Washington in 1952-54
Building ties with Flag Officers
Appendicitis--discharge from active duty

Hired by General Electric--Duty as a naval reservist
Marriage in 1955--Climbing up the GE public relations ladder
Hired by Bunker-Ramo--IC Industries--Spinning off the railroad

Reserve duties--Trip to Havana--Castro revolution
Attending the Naval War College--Views on the media

Development of Recruiting District Advisory Councils
Sea Power presentations--Recruiting Command Market Review Group
Role of Vice Admiral Emmett Tidd

Promotion to Rear Admiral
Continuing contributions to Supply Corps Newsletter
Discussion of Captain John Ingram, RAN
P-3 Orion contract to Australia
Trip to Australia

Discussion of Rear Admiral David Campbell, RAN
Sir Admiral David Hallifax, RN
Rear Admiral Mike Martin, RCN

Observations on current resources--increased optempo

Writing *Ready for Sea*

Previous efforts--Philosophy on people focus
Research challenges--Pearl Harbor--editing--publishing
Navy-related activities--History articles

Naval Reserve integration--Supply Corps contribution
Establishing Inventory Control Point Units--Gaining Command support
Experience gained in private sector

Recruiting for the Naval Reserve--Unmatched responsibilities
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
Academia perceptions of the military
Abuse of the "Peace Dividend"
Current Supply Corps personnel challenges and missions

Reflections on People

Vice Admiral Ken Wheeler--Admiral John McCain
Bill Johnson of IC Industries--Rear Admiral Jim Miller

Observations on the role of Sea Power
Views on women in the military and homosexuals
Lowered expectations today
Final thoughts on the Navy as a family
Appreciation of wife Barbara and friends