

# CHARLES ALTMAN



Charles Altman was raised in Maple Heights Ohio and attended Miami University and the University of Toledo. In 1982 he graduated from the University of Toledo with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering. Altman entered the Navy through the Naval Aviation Officer Candidate School, going through flight training and designated a Naval Flight Officer in 1983.

His first assignment was with Patrol Squadron Twenty Two (VP-22) at Naval Air Station Barbers Point Hawaii from 1984 - 1987. He served as the Assistant Operations Officer, qualified as a P-3B tactical coordinator and mission commander. He deployed to Cubi Point Philippines, Naval Air Facility Kadena Japan, Adak Alaska, and Diego Garcia British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT).



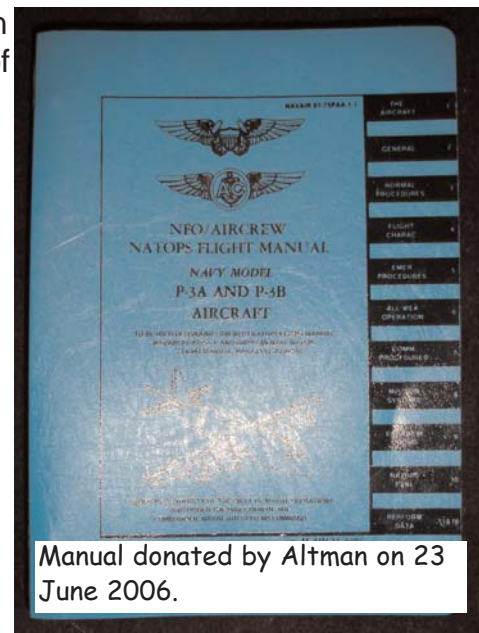
Naval Officer Hat Insignia - Donated by Altman 23 June 2006

Altman reported to the the Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Force Seventh Fleet (CTF-72) in Kami Seya Japan in 1988. He served as a Watch/Staff Officer and the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) Liason Officer. He returned to the United States in 1990 when he reported for duty in the Naval Recruiting District in Cleveland Ohio. He served as an Enlisted Programs Officer, supervising 200 recruiters in Ohio.

Altman reported to the USS America in Norfolk Virginia in 1990. On 28 December 1990, America deployed to the Red Sea in support of Operation Desert Shield. The America allowed for intelligence and operations information to be meshed together into one single tactical unit. Using digital data links between other ships in the fleet, the America had processing capabilities unlike any other ship.

In early January they transited the Straits of Gibraltar and into the Mediterranean. Less than a week later they passed through the Suez Canal and into the Red Sea. When they arrived, the UN imposed deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait expired.

During Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield Altman was serving as a Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer and Air Boss for Helicopter Operations. As he describes it, "My duty was to launch and recover a seemingly endless stream of aircraft flying missions into and out of Iraq."



On 17 January 1990 the first aircraft left the deck of the USS America. The targets of strikes were Oil production facilities, bridges, mobile scud missile sites, and Iraqi Republican guard units. In February they entered the Persian Gulf and became the only carrier to operate in both sides of the Arabian Peninsula during Desert Storm.

He remembers vividly standing on the flight deck seeing the smoke of the burning oil wells each day for seven months until the carrier returned home.

When the ground war started in February, they provided air support for coalition troops by attacking Iraqi troop, tank and artillery sites. They were credited with destroying over 350 armored vehicles and tanks in the Kuwaiti theater of operations.



On 4 March, Altman and the crew of the America departed the Persian Gulf making a port visit in Hurgada Egypt on 16-22 march. They served 78 consecutive days at sea. They arrived at Norfolk on 18 April 1991. Altman and the crew were awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for their service in Desert Storm.

After a short stay at Norfolk, they once again went to sea to participate in Nato Exercises near Havesfjord Norway. By December they returned to the Persian Gulf region and became the first carrier to redeploy to that region after the war. They returned to Norfolk in June 1992.

In 1993 he returned to operational flight duty serving as Tactics, Assistant Maintenance and Maintenance Officer with Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9) through 1995. Based out of Barbers Point Hawaii he again deployed to Diego Garcia, and to Misawa Japan. During his tour he qualified as a P-3C tactical Coordinator and mission commander.



In 1995 Altman served as Officer in Charge of Pacific Patrol Squadron Detachment in San Diego California. He was in charge of 8 aircraft and 320 personnel stationed at Naval Air Station North Island in California.

In 1996 he was assigned to Washington D.C. at the Bureau of Naval Personnel as the Division Director for the Comptroller/Financial Management office of Pers-code Six. He transitioned with the Comptroller/Financial Management office of Pers-code SIX to Millington Tennessee in 1998.

From 1998 through 1999 Altman was assigned to the Command and Staff College in Quantico Virginia earning a Masters Degree in Military Science and the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk Virginia where he was designated as a Joint Specialty Officer.



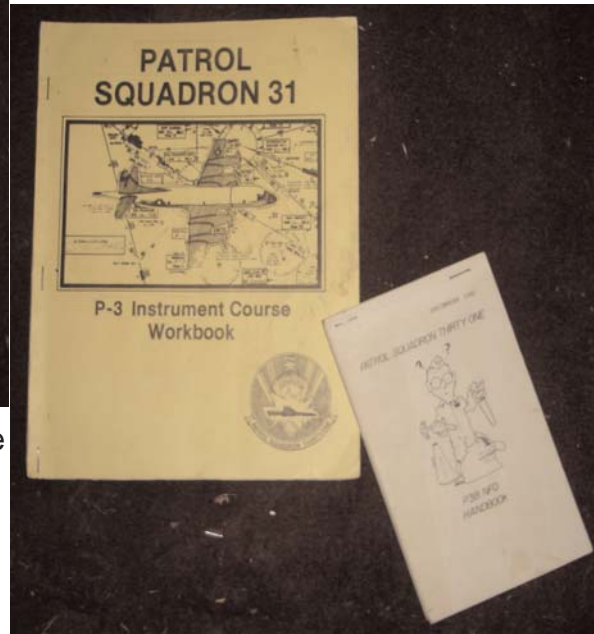
Manuals donated by Altman on 23 June 2006.

In November 1999 he reported to the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington D.C. for language and attache training. In July 2001 Altman assumed responsibilities as the U.S. Naval Attache in Tel Aviv Israel. "Our job was to keep Israel out of the war," Altman told the Hudson Observer in a newspaper article, "When things got hot, American citizens were evacuated from the country. The bombs dropped regularly on Tel Aviv...We lived in gas masks," he said.

In February 2003 during Operation Iraqi Freedom Commander Altman served as the Military Assistant to the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense in the Middle East.



Naval Shoulder Boards donated by Altman.

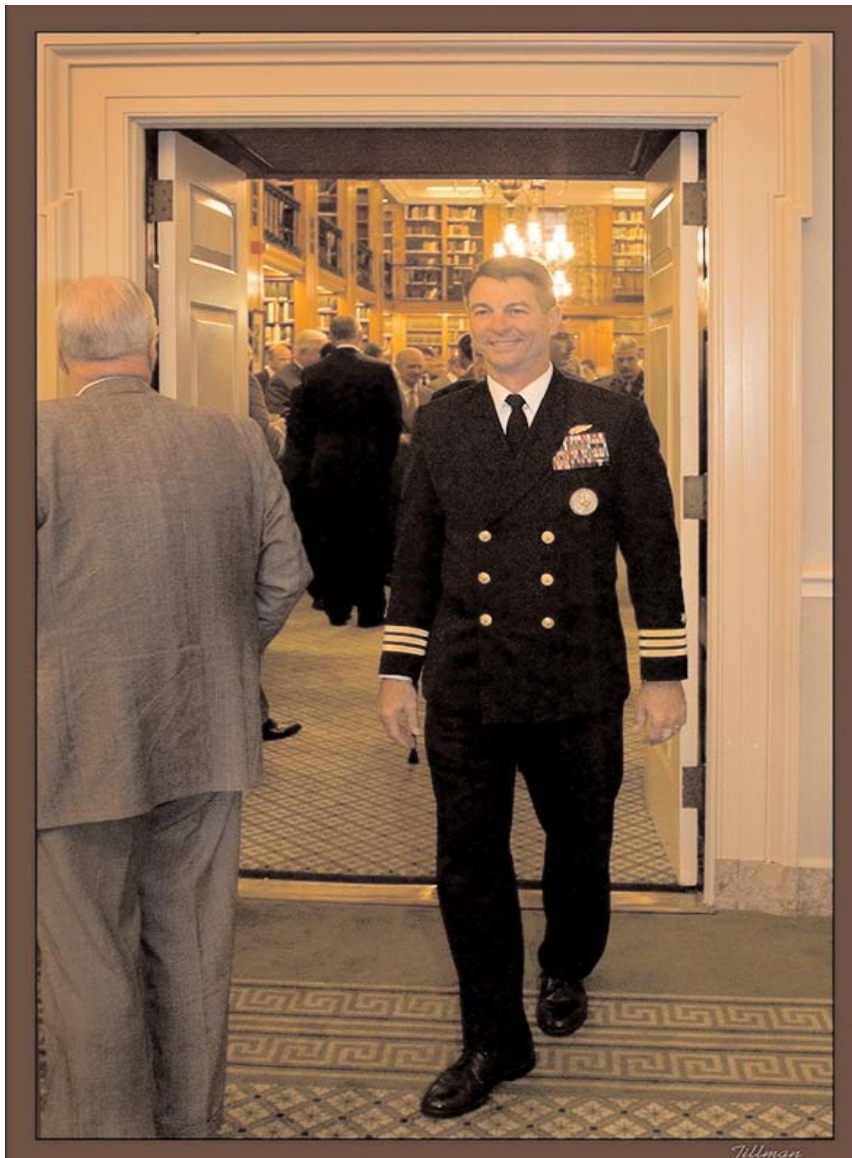


In July 2004 Charles Altman reported to the ROTC unit at the University of Minnesota as the Executive Officer. He served as Associate Professor of Naval Science. Commander Altman taught Naval History (Seapower) and Leadership and Management to over 160 Midshipmen, and choreographed a staff of 15 University personnel.

It was his duty with the University of Minnesota that brought Altman to Willmar for the 2005 Veteran's Day Observance. Charles was the featured speaker for the event that year. He spoke of military history, specifically Naval history, and how it has shaped our country today.



CDR Altman and Jon Lindstrand at the 2005 Veteran's Day Observance. Altman donated some of his and his wife, Shellea's uniforms.



In August 2007 Altman left the University of Minnesota and he was assigned as a student at the Inter American Defense College on Ft McNair (NDU Campus) in Washington DC earning a Masters degree in Western Hemispheric Security and Defense in July 2008. IADC is attended by 16 countries representing the Americas and Europe.

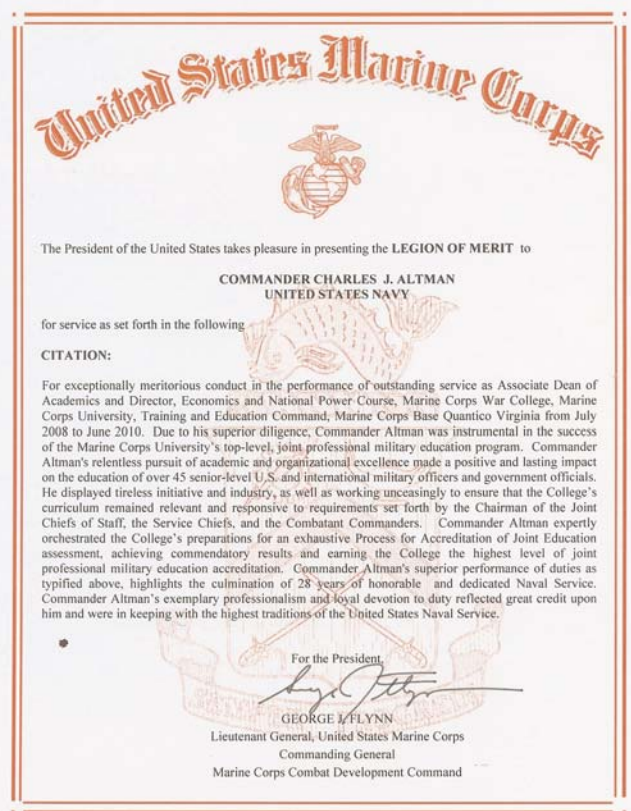
In July 2008, Commander Altman reported to the Marine Corps War College where he served as Assoc Dean-Navy Chair. The War College is an executive level school educating senior officers from all 4 services, the USCG, FBI, State Dept, CIA, ATF and DIA. Students receive a Masters Degree in Military Strategy upon successful completion of all coursework and research project. He was responsible for all administrative functions and curriculum for the War College. Additionally, he successfully designed and delivered master level courses on economics as a function of national strategic power and naval history. He served at the college for two years until he was due to retire.

On 20 August 2010 Commander Charles Altman retired from the US Navy after nearly 29 years. For his years of dedicated service, Altman was awarded the Legion of Merit Medal.



Of his Navy experience Altman says, "My many years of service have afforded me the privilege of visiting of living in every continent of the world except Antarctica. I have completed 8 deployments for at least 6 months each and have spent nearly half my time in service living in distant places outside the contiguous United States." Commander Charles Altman has made a life out of the Navy. He noted he would have stayed in, but he had reached the statute requirement to require.

His family is also a part of his Navy career. Altman's wife, Shellea, is a Navy Veteran and they met while both were serving in Japan. She holds the same rank as he does in the Naval Reserve. They have three children. Altman says, "my children have attended 5 different schools, and lived in several different states and countries during my service. I am proud of them for hanging in there with me."



"My family, everything I've accomplished since I was 21 was in the Navy" He adds, "It has been an honor to serve out nation these many years." Even with the separation from his family and the other sacrifices of full time military life, Charles Altman feels that his Navy career was a great experience.

After his retirement, he plans to continue his education attending the university of Minnesota working on a doctor of education degree.



CDR Altman and his family at his retirement celebration.



Naval Commendation Medal donated by Commander Charles Altman on 23 June 2006.



Khaki dress uniform donated by Commander Charles Altman 23 June 2006.



National Defense Service Medal and Navy Achievement Medal (full size and miniature) Donated by CMDR Altman 11 November 2005.

