

# THE BABY BOOMER WHO WANTED TO BE A NAVAL AVIATOR





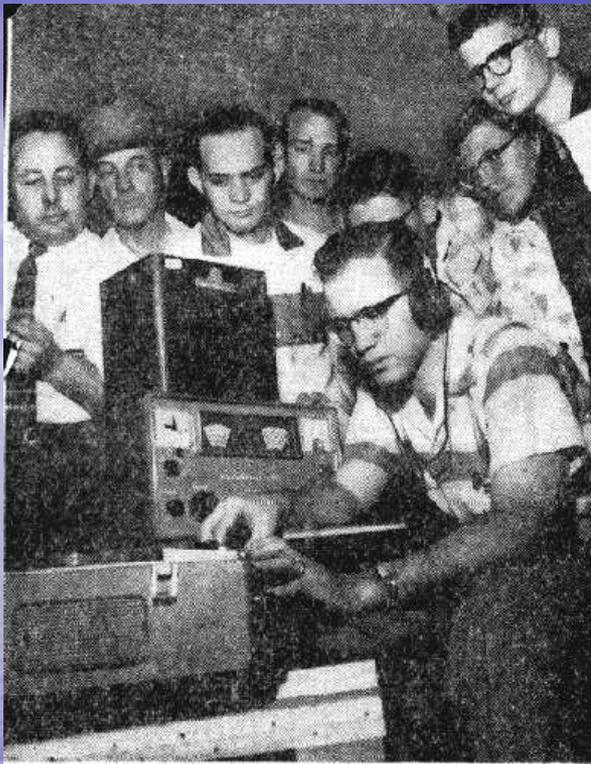
- **The Rogers Family wearing our Sunday best on Easter, April 8, 1957**
- **My father Dallas was 37 and my mother Betty was 36**
- **These were the only matching suits we ever had, but we always dressed in our best to honor the Lord every Sunday.**



- **Our father had served in Jimmy Doolittle's 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force during World War II, flying B-17s**



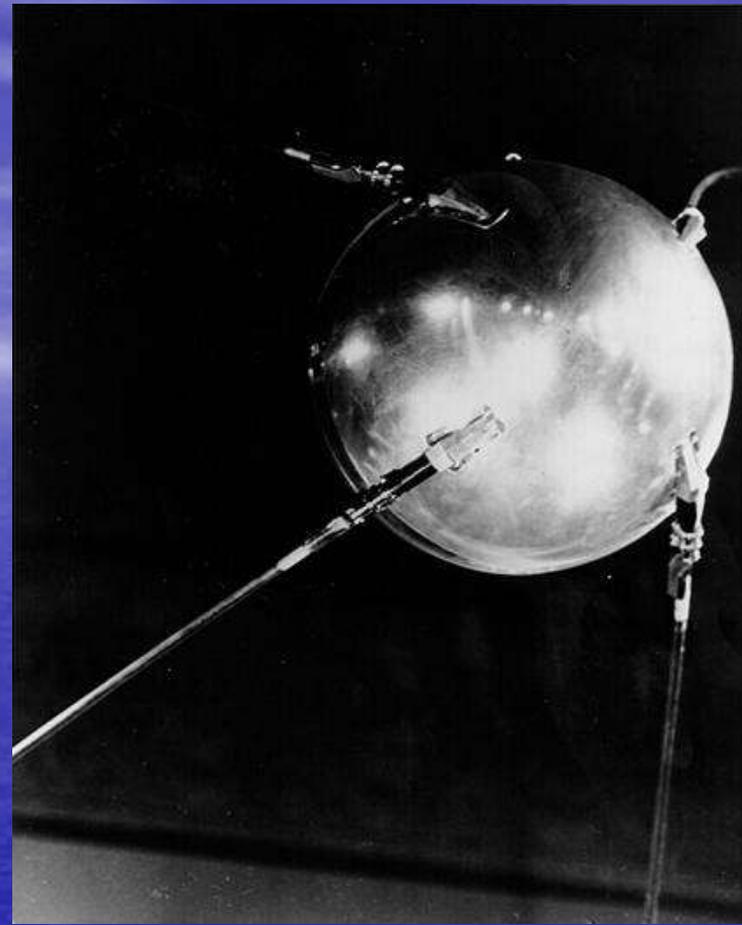
- **Plastic model airplanes**  
fascinated young boys growing up in the 1950s.
- This shows Rob with a P-39 Airacobra, Brian with a Martin Seamaster jet seaplane, and David holding a B-17 Flying Fortress, like our father flew in World War II.
- Our father cut our hair each week, using simple butch haircuts.



—Dallas News Staff Photo.

### **SIGNALS FROM THE SATELLITE**

Ham operator Roy Welch of Dallas, seated, plays a tape-recorded signal from the Russian space satellite for fellow hams at the State Fair of Texas. Welch recorded the signals on a receiver at his home.



- **October 4, 1957** - the Russian satellite **Sputnik** had a profound effect on American culture, insofar as it reminded Americans that we had fallen behind the Soviets in this area of technology, leading to the space race and an increased emphasis on science and engineering education and research. Like most American boys, it also stimulated my interest in telescopes, space exploration, and other things technical.



- **In the summer of 1959 we spent a week at a sea-side cottage in Newport Beach. Each morning a Navy Seahorse helicopter swept by on a low level beach patrol around 5:30 AM. The last morning we were there the Navy aircrew waved to us as they went by, and I set my heart upon becoming a Naval aviator.**

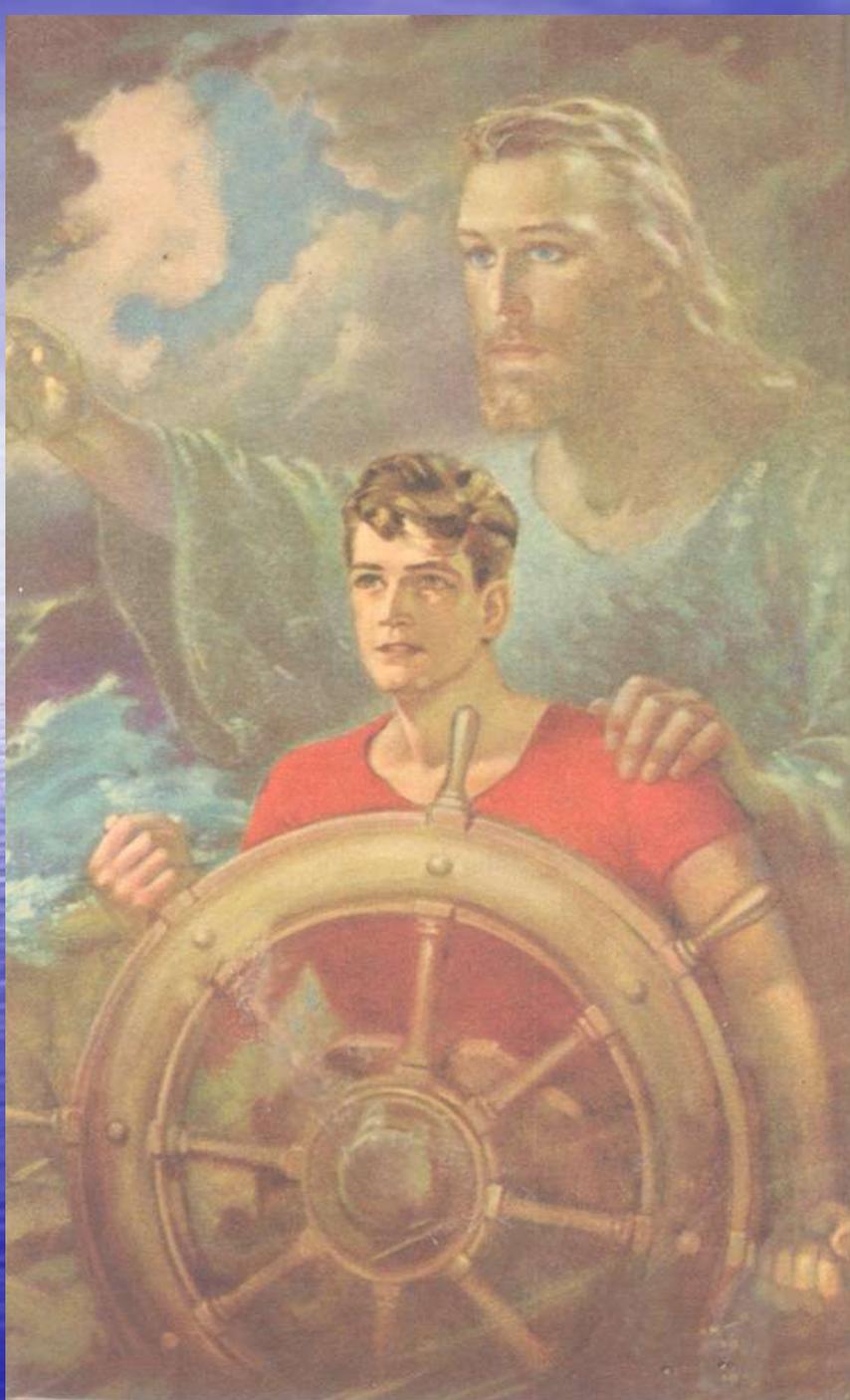


Douglas A-3 Skywarrior kit, similar to the one I later flew

Showing off my new model of the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga, Christmas 1963



- My brothers and I saved the boxes of all the model airplanes and ships we assembled in the 1950s and 60s. Years later I learned that the box art cost more than the plastic models!

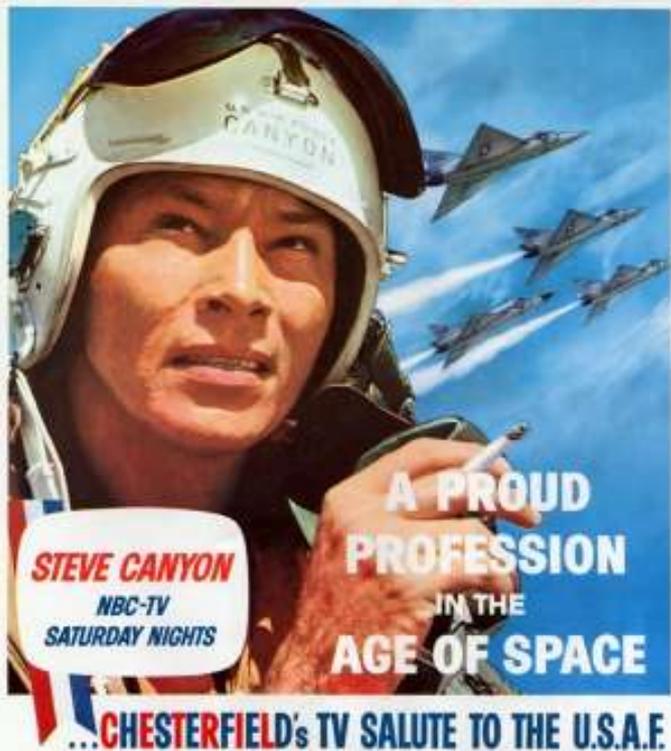


- A small print I received as a prize for Sunday School attendance in 1959.
- My brother Rob called it “**God is my co-pilot**” and it came to signify Christ’s love and protection.
- 23 years later my daughter Beckie looked at the picture and said “That’s Daddy and Jesus.”



- **Dressing myself as a soldier**  
This shows me in June 1960, sporting one of my father's overseas caps from World War II , my yellow plastic canteen, with a toy pistol in one hand and binoculars in the other.
- Nothing fascinated me more than exploring the heavy **military footlockers** my parents kept in our garage. They were filled with World War II memorabilia, such as uniforms, patches, insignias and medals, my dad's hats, scrap books, even my mother's wartime wedding dress.

# U.S. AIR FORCE



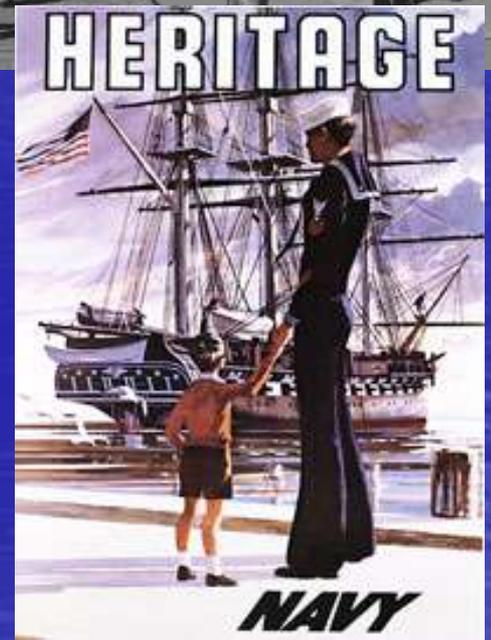
- My favorite TV show was **Steve Canyon**, which first aired in 1958. I received a Steve Canyon flight helmet for Christmas 1960, which I faithfully kept mine in its orange box for many years.



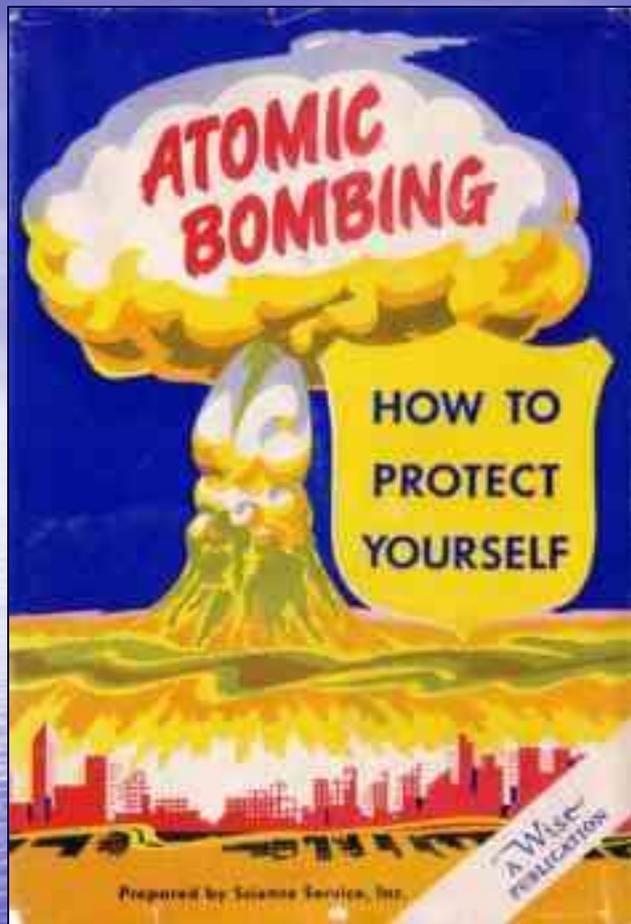
- I was enamored by military aircraft. I loved air shows, air museums, and any forest fire large enough to require borate bombers.



**NAVY AIRSHOWS  
are the best**



# 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis



## NEW AIR RAID WARNING SYSTEM

WHEN SIGNAL IS GIVEN	IT MEANS	YOU DO THIS
 STEADY BLAST	 ENEMY PLANES HEADED IN YOUR DIRECTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. All lights blocked out, unless specifically exempted.</li><li>2. Autos continue, with lights on low beam.</li><li>3. Pedestrians may walk.</li><li>4. Workers remain at jobs.</li><li>5. Civilian Defense mobilizes.</li></ol>
 SERIES OF SHORT OR WAVERING BLASTS	 BOMBING EXPECTED	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Traffic stops.</li><li>2. All lights blocked out, except authorized emergency lights.</li><li>2. Take shelter.</li></ol>
 STEADY BLAST	 ENEMY PLANES HAVE PASSED BUT MAY RETURN	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. All lights continue blocked out, unless specifically exempted.</li><li>2. Leave shelter and resume activities.</li><li>3. Resume driving, with lights on low beam.</li><li>4. Civilian Defense remains mobilized.</li></ol>
 PUBLIC RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT OR OTHER DISTINCTIVE AUDIBLE SIGNAL APPROVED FOR LOCAL USE	 DANGER APPEARS TO BE OVER	Blockout ends.

**CAUTION!** If enemy planes get too close before discovery, the first audible signal will be **RED!** Listen closely!

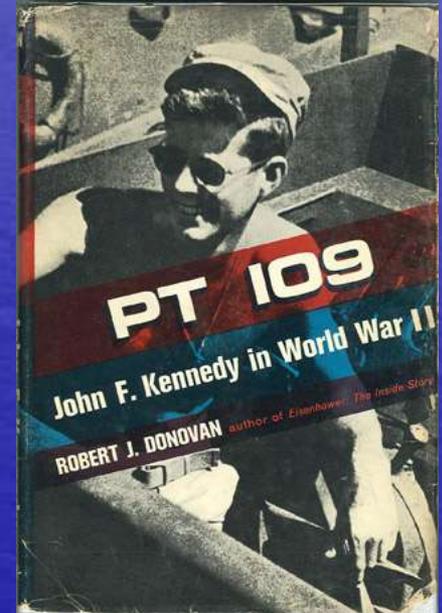
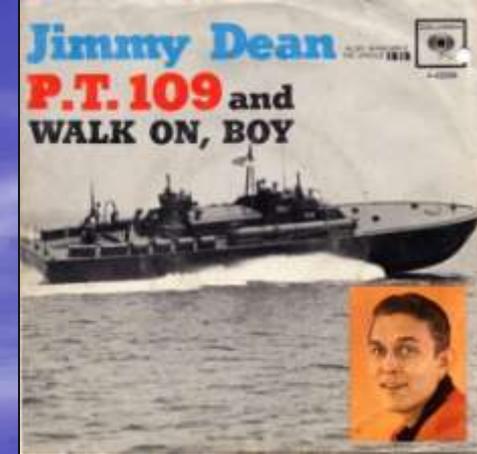
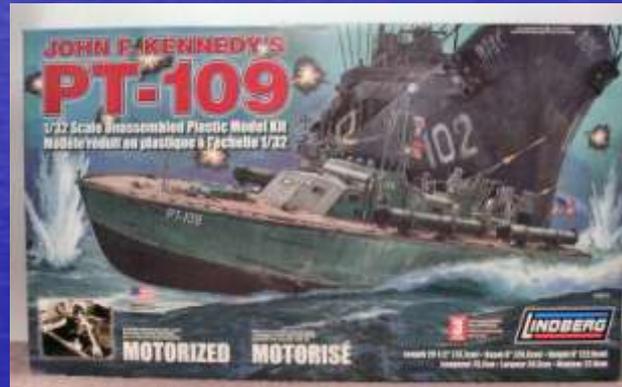
**REMEMBER!** Check your local regulations and observe them!

APPROVED BY THE U. S. OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE



- In October 1962 baby boomers were introduced to air raid drills, complete with sirens

# Playing PT-109



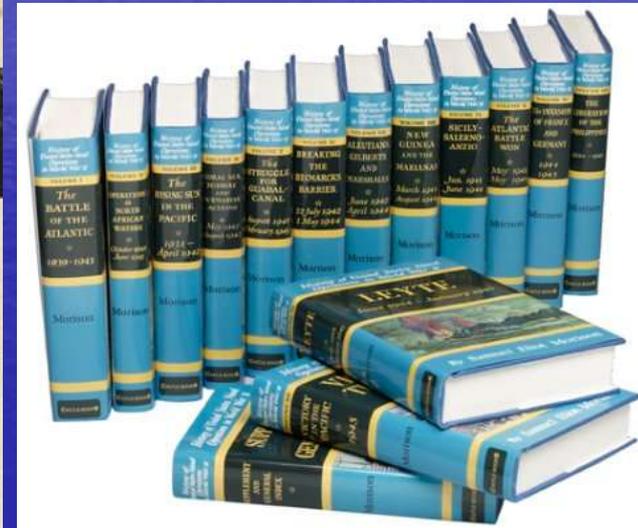
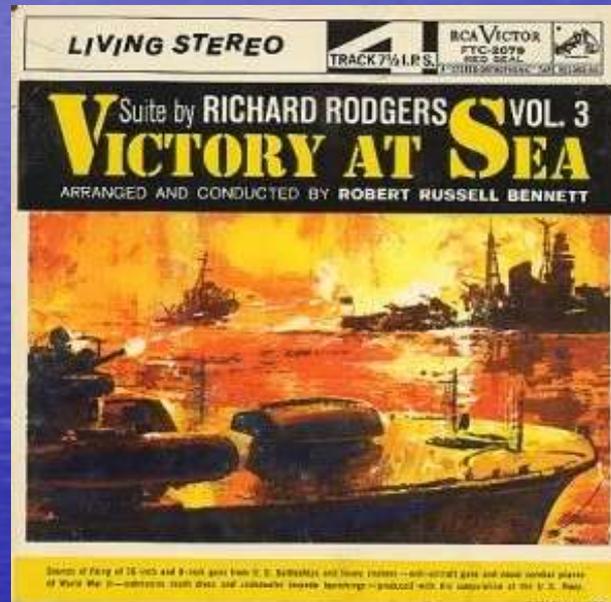
Most of our pretend playtime was influenced by movie re-runs and television shows we viewed at home. This shows my brother Brian and I playing PT-109 in early 1963, while John F. Kennedy was our President. Years later I led a remembrance tour to Blackket Strait, between Kolombangara and Arundel Islands in the Solomon Islands.



- Our rendition of an American Sherman tank after watching **'The tanks are coming'** on the Early Show one summer evening.
- In 1968 we shimmied our way up through the floor escape hatch of an old Sherman tank sitting at a park in Liberal, Kansas. It was very dark inside.

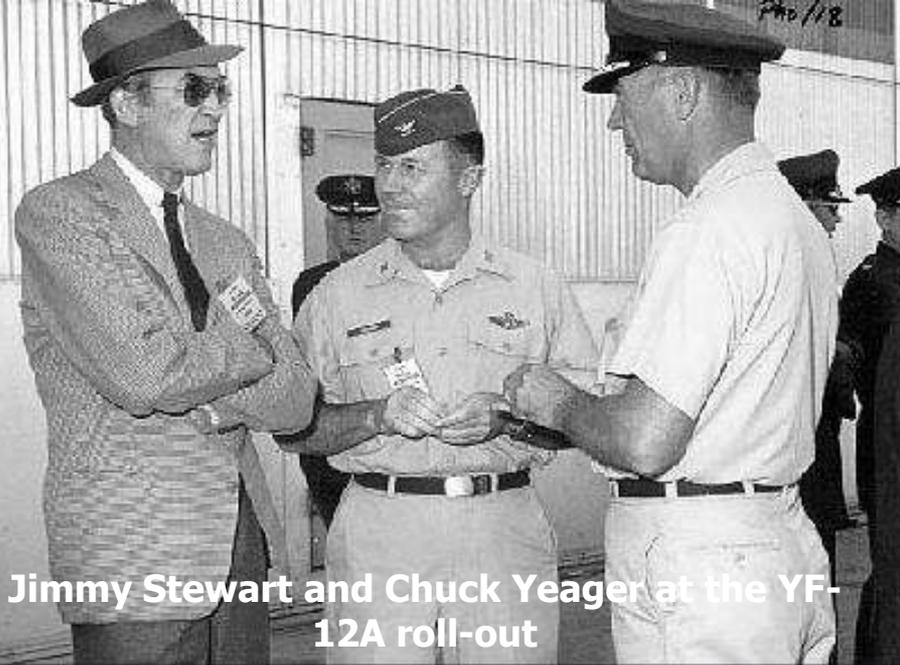


# Victory at Sea music and Samuel Eliot Morison's 16 volume History of Naval Operations in World War II



As a kid my absolute favorite music was Victory at Sea by Richard Rodgers, on three RCA LP records. I also devoured Morison's 16 volume set on US naval operations in World War II, which my brother Rob read in 1960-61.

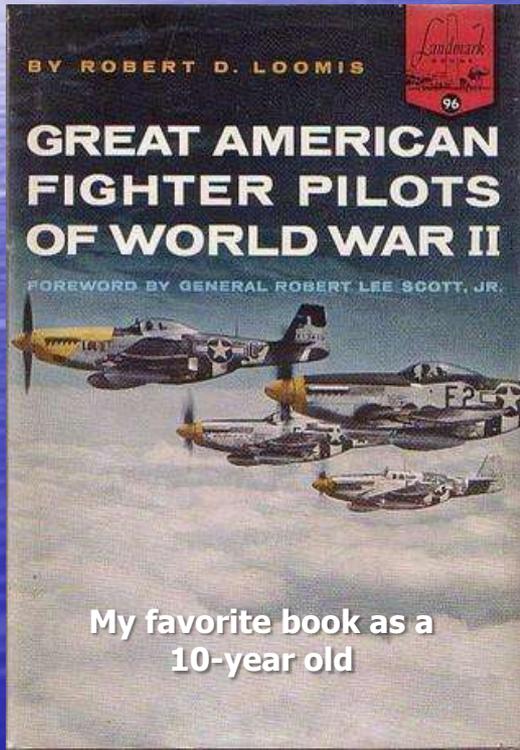
# Cub Scout Outings



Jimmy Stewart and Chuck Yeager at the YF-12A roll-out



The NF-104 that almost killed Yeager



My favorite book as a 10-year old

## Touring Navy ships in San Diego





Marines always look sharp.

- **Touring the USS Galveston (CG-3) at San Diego on my 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, May 16, 1964.**



I was the *strange kid* ...who was always playing army, wearing an old uniform, army boots, or a military hat

# Determined to become the fastest runner



- From 4<sup>th</sup> Grade onward, I worked hard to become the fastest runner in southern California.
- I ran competitively for the next 18 years, at every distance, between 40 yards and 10 km.

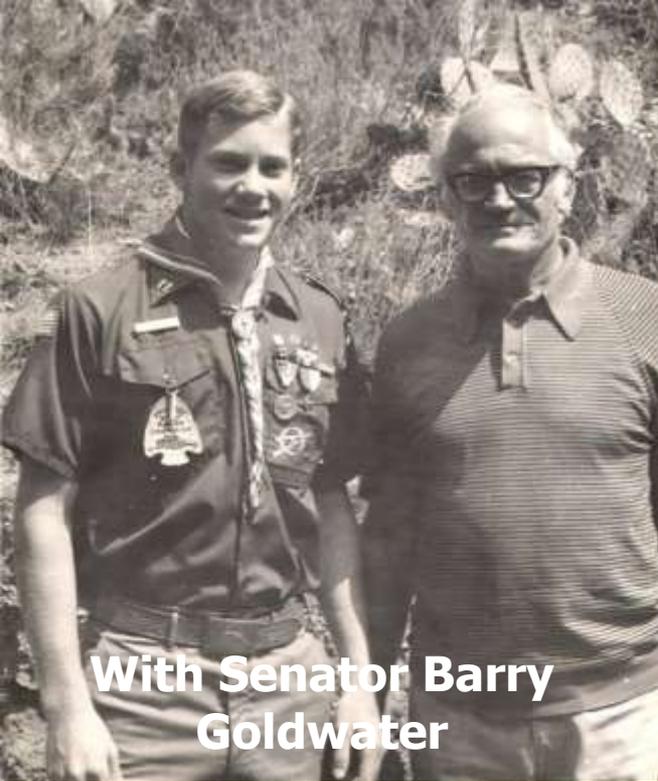
# June 1968: three graduations in three days



In **June 1968**, Dave graduated from junior high school on Thursday evening, Brian from high school on Friday evening, and Robert from Cal Poly Pomona on Saturday.



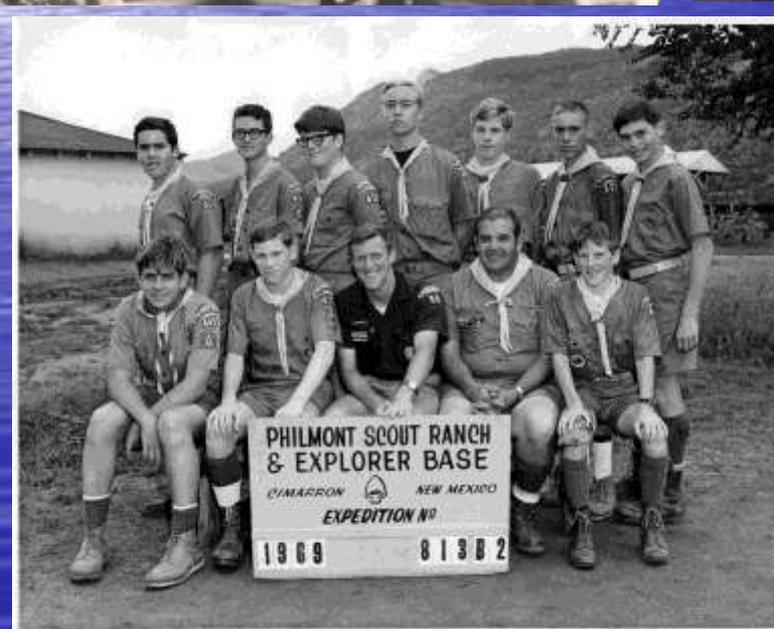
Robert at Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island 1968-69



With Senator Barry Goldwater



# EAGLE SCOUT

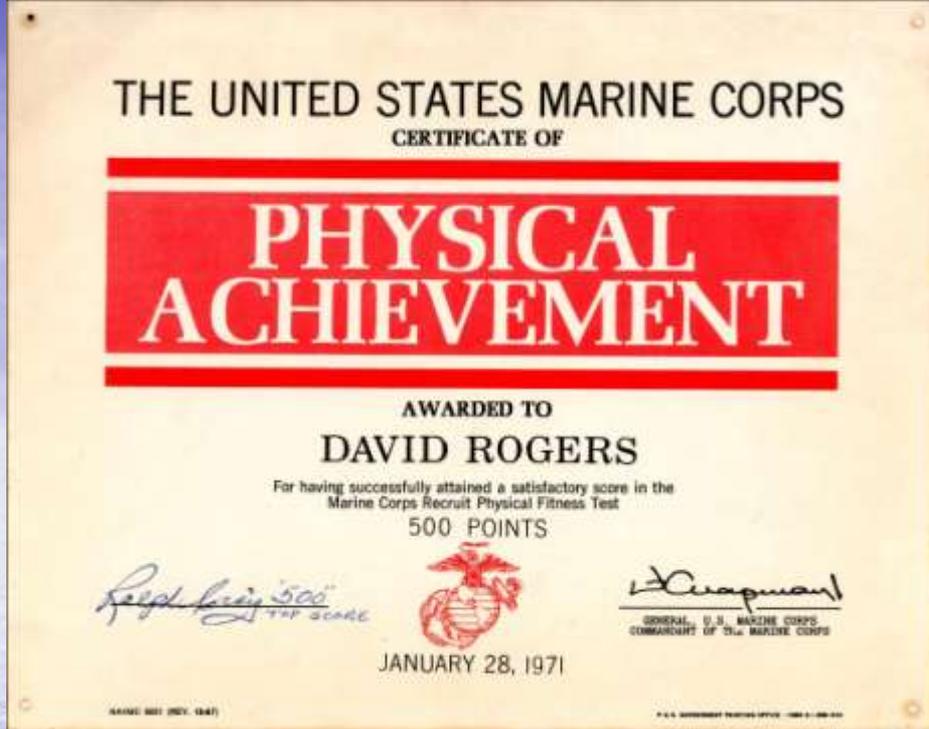


ABC News personality Ralph Story presenting my Eagle Scout Medal



**I became enamored with mountaineering in high school, climbing the east face of Mt Whitney (14,505') in the winter of 1970-71.**

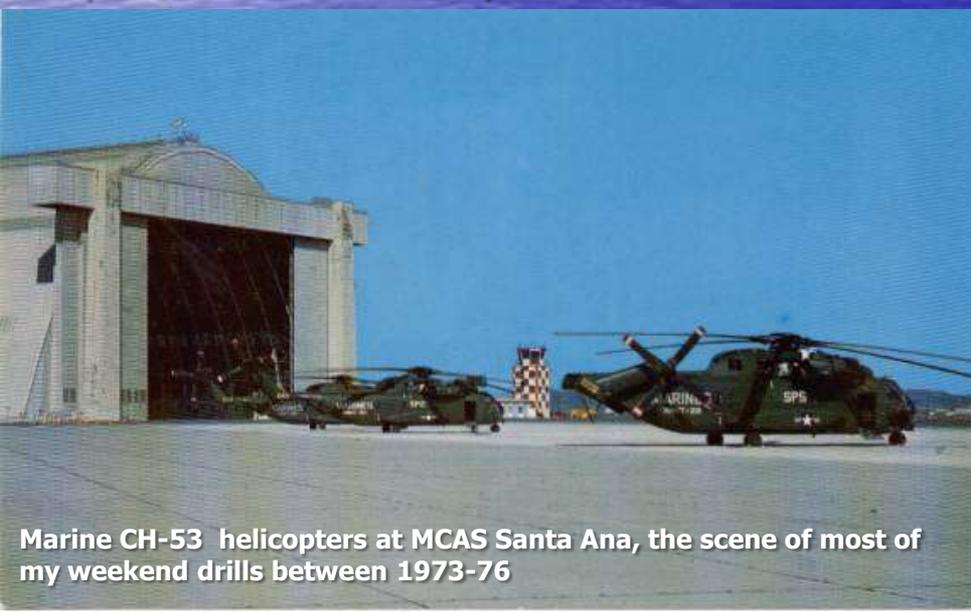




At 16, I was the youngest person to ever score 500 points on the Marine Corps Recruit PFT

# Marine Corps PLC program

The Corps paid PLC'ers to get their private pilot licenses during college.



Marine CH-53 helicopters at MCAS Santa Ana, the scene of most of my weekend drills between 1973-76



Playing zip-line at Camp Pendleton from a CH-46

# While I was matriculating through the Marine Corps PLC program... the Vietnam POWs came home



A 36-year old Lt Commander named John McCain hobbled on crutches and sported snow white hair

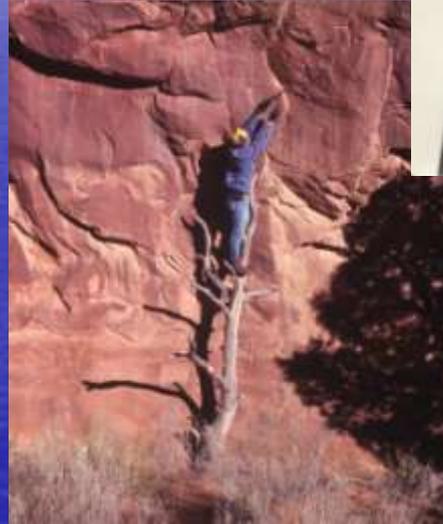


Between February and April 1973 the 591 American prisoners (of 1,205 taken) who survived incarceration in communist prison camps in North Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia were finally released and welcomed home. Nobody thanked by brother Rob for his Vietnam service until 2010.

# Civil Engineering at Berkeley



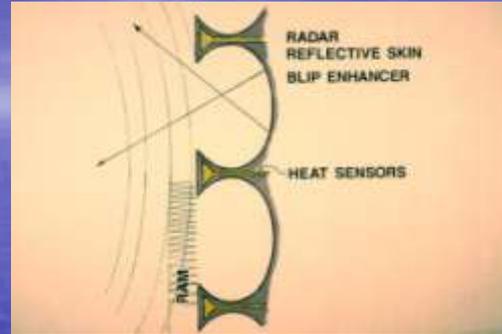
# Grad School 1976-82



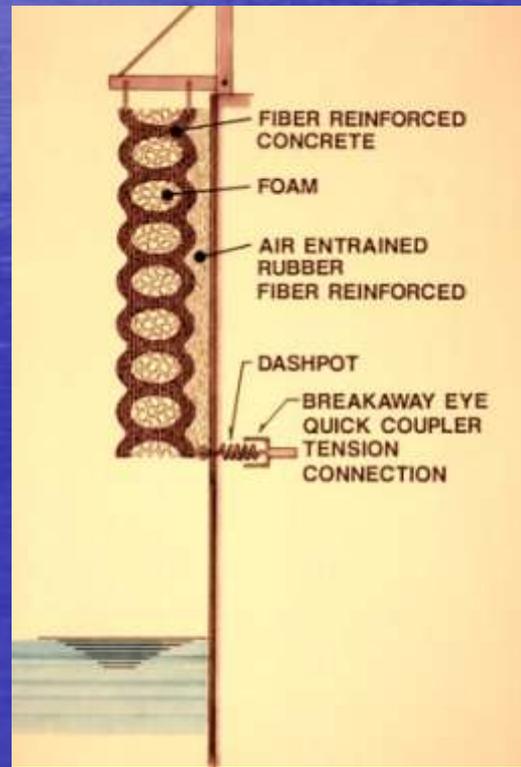
The world's top-rated civil engineering program is at the University of California at Berkeley. □ Join Berkeley civil engineers for the finest education and research in this dynamic field.



# Passive Defense Measures (PDM) in a cruise missile environment



DNRIP  
RADM  
Tom  
Colwell





J. David Rogers, Ph.D., G.E.  
*Principal-in-Charge*

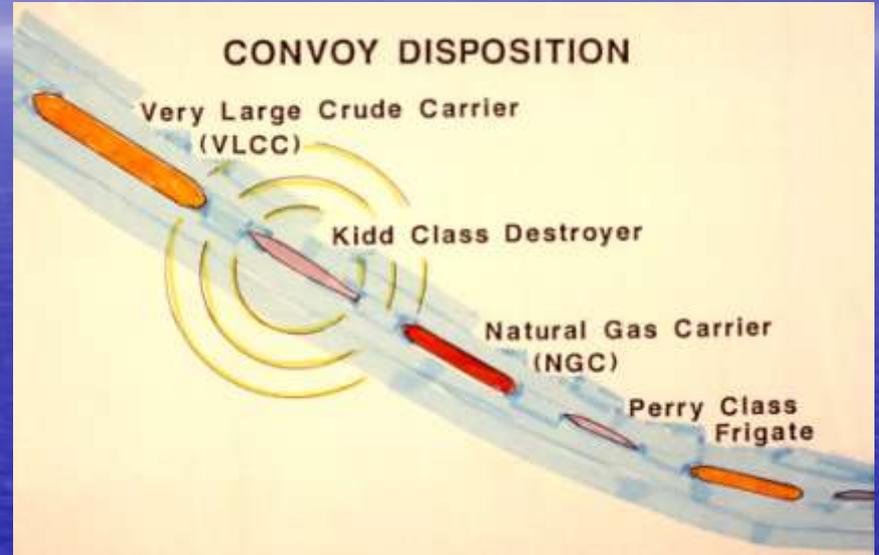
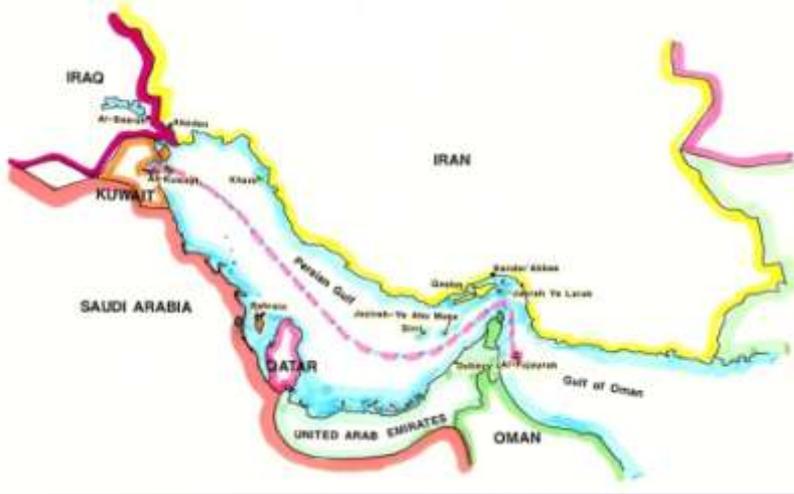
## ROGERS/PACIFIC

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# Off to the Persian Gulf in 1987



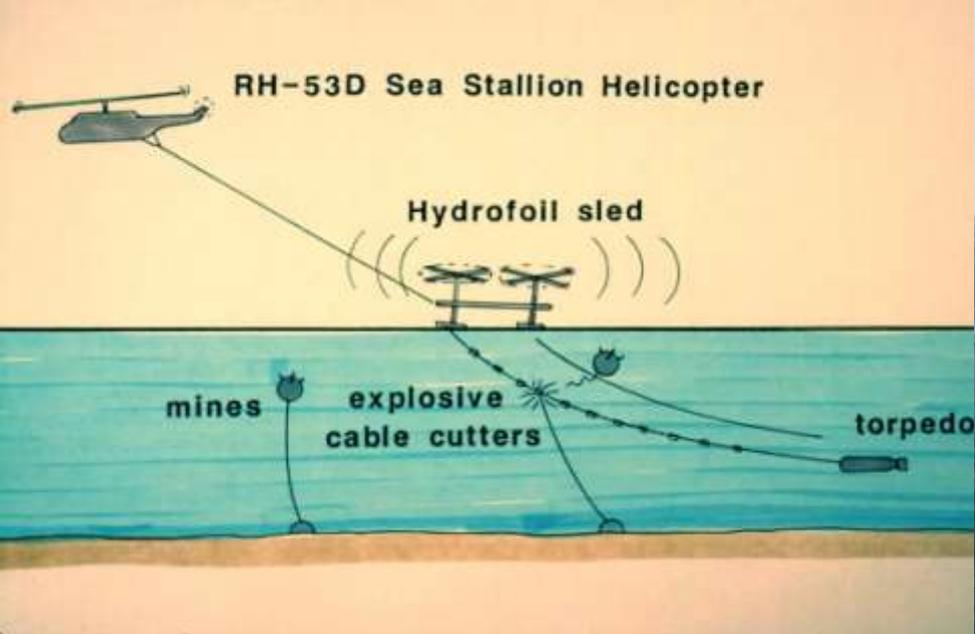
Our Persian Gulf flagship the USS LaSalle

Kuwaiti re-flagging Operation Earnest Will





**Bringing in RH-53D Super Sea Stallions to sweep mines during Operation Earnest Will**



**Mine sweeping operations in the Persian Gulf**



Iraqi Mirage F-1c firing Exocet anti-ship missile



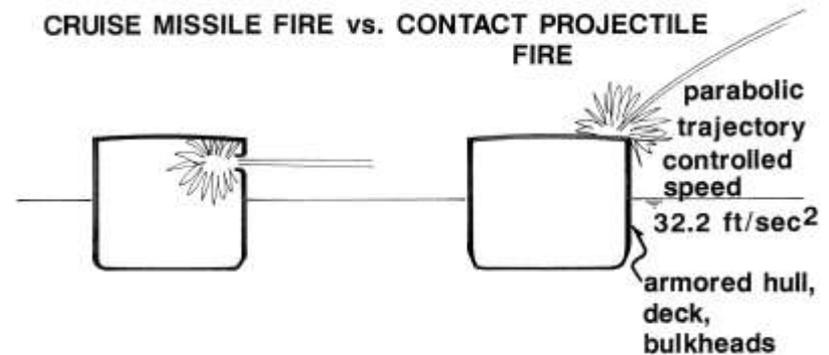
# A "limited conflict"



The Persian Gulf in 1987-88, where lawyers lectured us on the Rules of Engagement



CRUISE MISSILE FIRE vs. CONTACT PROJECTILE FIRE



**Battleship duty on USS Missouri**



# Ronald Reagan and John Warner



Ronald Reagan had a terrific sense of humor and was one of the most personable people I ever met. He could talk to anyone.



**CINCLANT Wes  
McDonald**



**Marine Corps  
Commandant  
Al Gray**



**Former CNO James L. Holloway**



**My father's  
hero, General  
Jimmy Doolittle**

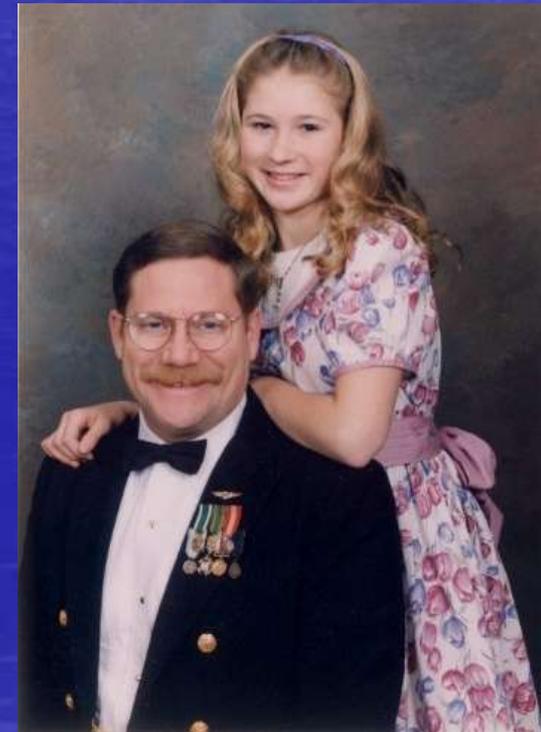


**Blue Angel No1 Butch Voris**

**Trinka – the source of my inspiration and considerable influence**



**Same clothes, 20 years later**





# TTT – the master sub hunters

**LT. J. DAVID ROGERS**

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# ORION

## The Hunter

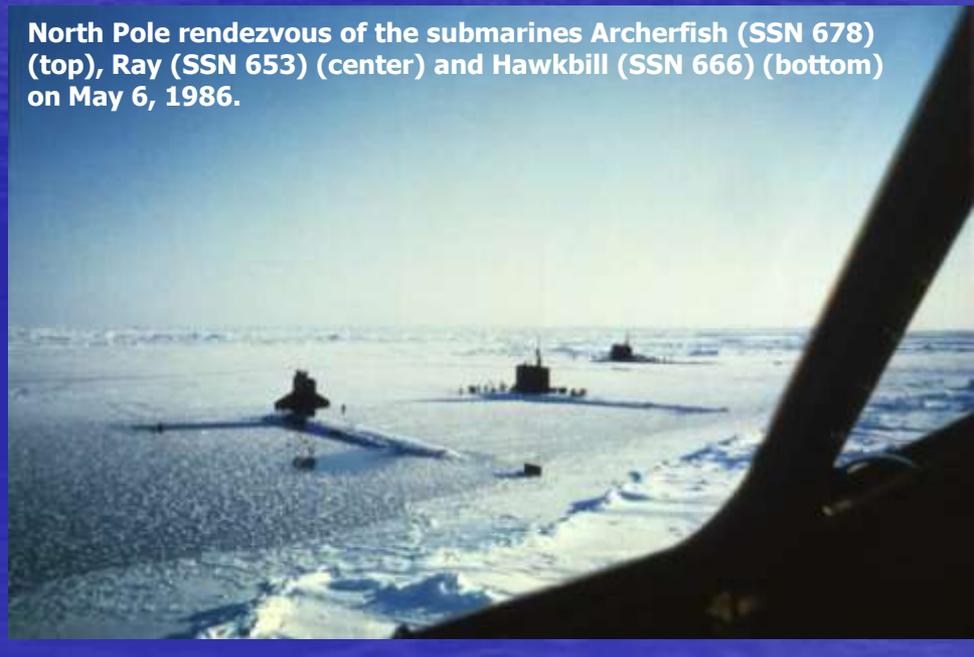


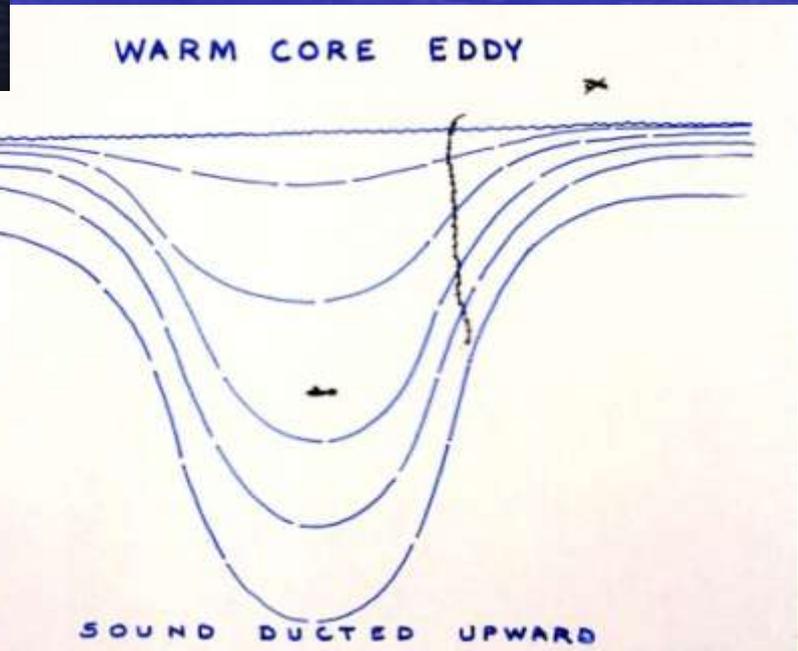
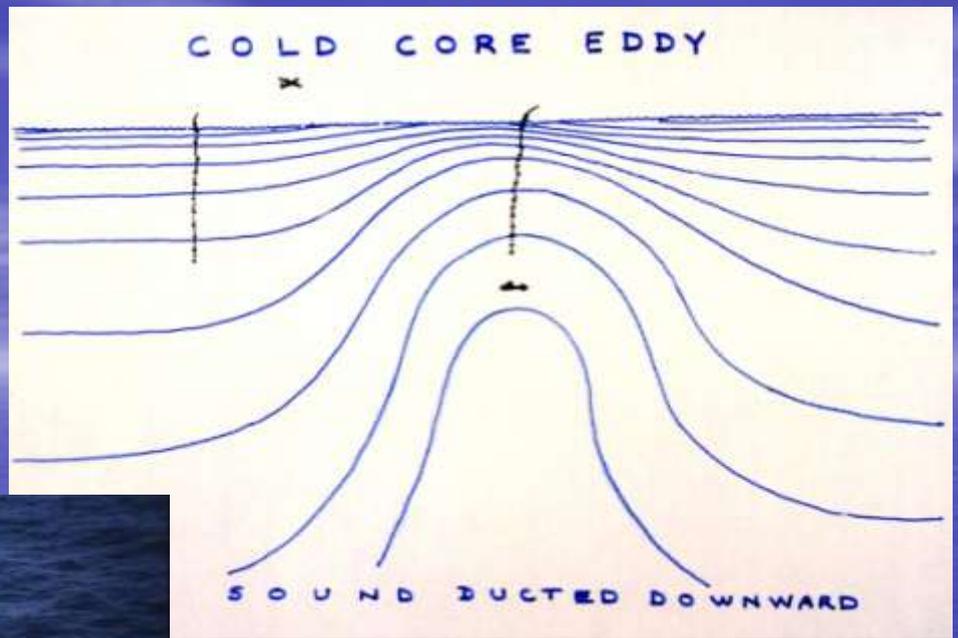


**A major research emphasis in those days was operation and detection of submarines, such as the Soviet Typhoon Class SSBN beneath the polar ice cap**



**North Pole rendezvous of the submarines Archerfish (SSN 678) (top), Ray (SSN 653) (center) and Hawkbill (SSN 666) (bottom) on May 6, 1986.**





Tom Clancy  
The Hunt for **RED**   
**OCTOBER**  
A NOVEL



**Carrier Ops  
On the  
Enterprise  
and Carl  
Vinson**





**Haven  
Ops**



**Coyote  
Ops**



South Pole Station operated by the Navy



Navy LC-130 Hercules transport with skis



# Navy-NSF South Pole Station

- In 1928, US Navy CDR Richard Byrd made his first expedition to the Antarctic establishing a base camp named "Little America" on the Ross Ice Shelf.
- On November 29, 1929 Byrd flew an airplane over the South Pole, taking 18 hrs 41 min.
- Byrd undertook four more expeditions to Antarctica from 1933–35, 1939–40, 1946–47 and 1955–56.
- In 1958 12 nations established a Special Committee on Antarctic Research to coordinate Antarctic research.

# US Navy South Pole Station

- A permanent *South Pole Station* was established by the *US Navy* in 1956-57 as part of the *International Geophysical Year*
- The present station was constructed in 1976 and scientific activities are managed by the *National Science Foundation*



# Research on Graded and Textured Ice Runways



- Air Force C-5 Galaxy transport staged out of New Zealand landing at the South Pole Station.
- JDR Life Goal #105. *Visit the South Pole. Read account of Scott and Amundsen explorations.*

# Three of the neatest things I got to do



President George H.W. Bush aboard the USS Belknap (CG 26) in Marsaxlokk Bay in Malta awaiting his first meeting with Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev on December 2-3, 1989.



GEN Colin Powell speaking to the crew of the USS Wisconsin in the Persian Gulf on Sept. 1, 1990, during Operation Desert Shield.



With retired Navy Captain Don Ross at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium on the Pearl Harbor Attack in Honolulu, in December 1991. Ross was one of three Medal of Honor recipients who saved the battleship USS Nevada

# P-3 Ops



Iraqi ship in daylight, before name was painted over



## Desert Shield ISAR Ops





On February 18, 1991 the helicopter carrier Tripoli (LPH-10) struck a mine in the Gulf



# Transition to teaching 1991-2001



**Dept of Intelligence & International Studies at the  
Naval Postgraduate School**



**The son I never saw  
much of during his  
first five years**



**Dept of Civil & Environmental  
Engineering and Environmental  
Planning at U.C. Berkeley**





For more on my military career, see my  
Missouri S & T website at  
[www.mst.edu/~rogersda/military service](http://www.mst.edu/~rogersda/military_service)

