



Howard B. Thorsen, VADM, USCG (Ret.)

"Howie"

Date of Designation: 19 Aug. 1958 CG Aviator#776
15 Oct. 1962 CG Helo #442

Dates of Active Duty: 27 May 1955 - 30 June 1991

Total Flight Hours: 4200

Carrier/Ship Landings: Rotary wing: 35

Approximate Flight Hours:

Prop: 2,200 Helo: 2,000
VR/VP: 2,000 HS/HC/HU: 2,000

Aviation Commands:

Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi, TX 1975-76

Awards:

Air Medal - Rescue of US Marine and his brother from
drowning off Rosarita Beach, MX 1963.

Distinguished Service Medal (2)

Legion of Merit (3)

Meritorious Service Medal (4)

Duty Assignment Chronology

- 06/55-04/57 CGC Ingham (WPG-35), Norfolk, VA. Gunnery Officer.
- 04/57-01/58 Basic Flight Training, Pensacola, FL. Student Aviator.
- 01/58-10/58 Advanced Flight Training, Corpus Christi, TX. Student Aviator.
- 10/58-10/61 C.G. Air Detachment, Argentia, NFLD.
- 10/61-06/62 Chanute AFB, IL. and NAS Memphis, TN. Aircraft Maintenance School.
- 07/62-09/62 Ellyson Field, FL. Helo Training, Student.
- 10/62-07/65 C.G. Air Station, San Diego, CA. Maintenance Officer.
- 08/65-08/67 C.G. Air Station, Los Angeles, CA. Maintenance Officer.



- 09/67-06/69 C.G. Air Station, Brooklyn, NY. Maintenance Officer.
- 06/69-07/72 Coast Guard Academy, New London CT. Navigation Instructor.
- 08/72-06/75 Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC. Assistant Chief, Aeronautical Engineering Div.
- 06/75-06/76 C.G. Air Station, Corpus Christi, TX. Commanding Officer.
- 06/76-07/77 Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Ft McNair, Washington DC. Student (Distinguished Graduate).
- 07/77-06/80 Coast Guard Headquarters. Chief Aeronautical Engineering Division.
- 06/80-06/83 Coast Guard Academy. Commandant of Cadets.
- 06/83-06/84 Coast Guard District Five, Portsmouth, VA. Chief of Staff.
- 06/84-06/86 Coast Guard Headquarters. Chief, Office of Research and Development.
- 06/86-07/88 Coast Guard District Seven, Miami, FL. Commander Seventh District and Coordinator, SE Region, National Narcotics Border Interdiction System.
- 07/88-0/89 Coast Guard Headquarters. Chief, Office of Operations.
- 03/89-06/91 Governors Island, NY. Commander C.G. Atlantic Area and Commander US Maritime Defense Zone, Atlantic.

Summary of Significant Career Events

- (1) N.A.A.T.C - Coast Guard Student of the Year - 1958
- (2) Flew as pilot of the PBY N4NC - May 1986 - re-actment of the flight of the NC-4 ... honoring LT Elmer Stone, (USCG aviator #1) , pilot of NC-4
- (3) "Ancient Albatross" #13 - 6/90-6/91 (C.G. aviator on active duty holding earliest date of designation).

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- (4) A handfull of challenging rescues as pilot of helicopters.
- (5) Heading the acquisition of the Coast Guard's short range helicopters in 1977-80. The HH-65A Dolphins are recognized as the best helo ever flown by C.G. pilots - still in service and expected to remain so for at least until 2040.
- (6) In June, 2020, I was inducted into The U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Association Hall of Honor, citing “ outstanding contributions ...having a lasting positive impact in the technical development of Coast Guard aviation.”