



Commander Allen P. Fancher was born on March 28, 1932, in Montevallo, Ala. He attended the University of Alabama and Auburn University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1954 and a Masters of Science degree in 1957. He entered the Navy under the NROTC program and was commissioned an ensign in June 1955.

Commander Fancher was designated a Naval Aviator in November 1956, and following completion of Photographic Reconnaissance School reported to Fighter Photographic Squadron SIXTY-ONE in May 1957. During the next four years, he flew the F9F-8P and F8U-1P aircraft from five CVA's in the Pacific while serving as a photo recon pilot. In July 1961, he attended the Naval Postgraduate School, where he received a Masters of Science degree in Operations Research. Subsequently, the commander reported to the Fleet Work Study Group, Atlantic at Norfolk, Va., for duty as department head of the Maintenance and Material Management Project Center, which was charged with developing and implementing the Surface and Aviation 3M systems.

In October 1965, Commander Fancher served as administrative and maintenance officer with Fighter Squadron SIXTY-TWO, while flying F-8C, D, and E Crusader aircraft from the USS Shangri-La (CV A-38) on Caribbean and Mediterranean deployments. The commander reported to Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO as operations officer in March 1968. During this tour, the squadron deployed on board the USS Ticonderoga (CV A-41) and participated in the first combat deployment of the F8J.

Following assignments in the Office of the Assistant for War Gaming and the Systems Analysis Division, Commander Fancher served as the Officer-in-Charge, Strategic Analysis Group at the Applied Physics Laboratory, John Hopkins University in Silver Springs, Md. In January 1971, he returned to a squadron assignment with Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED ONE. After completion of F4 training in November 1972, the commander was assigned to Fighter Squadron THIRTY-TWO as executive officer. He assumed command in August 1973 and later began with the transition from the F-4 Phantoms to the new F-14 Tomcats.

Commander Fancher's awards included the Air Medal and the Navy Achievement Medal. He is married to the former Marie Nelson of Tallasee, Ala. They reside with their children, Lyn, Scott, and Julie, in Virginia Beach, Va.

After VF-32, Commander Fancher commanded VF-124 at NAS Miramar and following a tour on the staff of Commander Operational Test and Development Force, he retired as a Captain in 1977 and went back to law school. Allen Fancher has been practicing law in Virginia Beach for going on 24 years.