



REAR ADMIRAL JAMES R. SANDERSON, U.S. NAVY

COMMANDER, BATTLE GROUP TWO

Rear Admiral James R. Sanderson, born in Selma, California, was raised in Rural Fresno County, California. He underwent initial naval training at the University of Washington and Williamette University and received his commission in July 1945 upon completion of Midshipman School at Columbia University, New York.

Rear Admiral Sanderson's initial tours were as Gunnery Officer in USS MANSFIELD (DD-728) and USS BAUSELL (DD0845). He commenced flight training at NAS Pensacola, Florida in January 1949 and was designated a Naval Aviator in May 1950 after completing advanced training at Corpus Christi, Texas.

In June 1950, Rear Admiral Sanderson joined Attack Squadron 195 at Alameda, California, deploying in USS PRINCETON (CVA-37). He then attended General Line School at Monterey, California from December 1952 to July 1953 before reporting to NAS Pensacola, Florida as a Flight Instructor. In October 1955, he reported to Attack Squadron 16, deploying in USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CVA-39).

Rear Admiral Sanderson next served as Air Operations Officer on the Staff of Commander Carrier Division FOUR in USS FORRESTAL (CVA-59) from July 1957 to January 1960 after which he was Operations Officer for Attack Squadron 43 in the replacement Air Wing Squadron at NAS Oceana, Virginia. In March 1962, he joined Attack Squadron 76, deploying in USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65), as Executive Officer and then commanded that squadron from November 1962 to December 1963. This was followed by command of Attack Carrier Air Wing THREE in USS SARATOGA (CV-60).

Rear Admiral Sanderson entered the National War College in August 1965 and, after graduating in June 1966, served seventeen months as Special Support Plans Officer, Pacific Area, in the Strategic Plans and Policy Division, Officer of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, DC. He then spent one year as Executive Assistant and Senior Aide to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Plans and Policy). In January 1969, he took command of the ammunition ship USS RANIER (AE-5) and in May 1970 joined the Staff of Commander U.S. Sixth Fleet, as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans. He took command of USS SARATOGA (CV-60) in August 1971.

In April 1973, Rear Admiral Sanderson took the post of Deputy Commander Naval Striking and Support Forces, Southern Europe, headquartered in Naples, Italy. He returned to Washington, DC in August 1976 as Vice Director of Operations, J-3, Joint Staff, Joint Chiefs of Staff until January 1977 and then Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Plans, Policy and Operations to January 1979. Prior to assuming command as Commander Task Force SIXTY in June 1979, Rear Admiral Sanderson attended the Senior Officers Ship Material Management Course at Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Rear Admiral Sanderson's awards include the Legion of Merit with two Gold Stars; the Distinguished Flying Cross; the Meritorious Service Medal; the Air Medal with four Gold Stars; Navy Commendation Medal with combat distinguished device; Navy Unit Commendation Medal with Bronze Star; Meritorious Unit Commendation with Bronze Star; the Korean Presidential Unit Commendation; and the Vietnam Navy Distinguished Service Medal, 2nd class.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations from George Washington University.

Rear Admiral Sanderson is married to the former Betty Lee Bradley, also of Selma, California.

