
IN MEMORIAM

Gary F. Wheatley, RADM (USN, ret.)

Gary F. Wheatley, RADM (USN, retired, as well as Program Manager at Evidence Based Research, Inc.) passed away suddenly when he suffered a massive heart attack at his home in Virginia Beach on December 10, 2002. He had a distinguished career that covered four decades and will be remembered fondly by his many friends and colleagues. Perhaps his most fitting tribute was offered by the 19 year old son of one of his friends, who when told of the Admiral's passing paused and said, "he helped me, a lot." The hundreds of people who attended his funeral could almost certainly say the same thing – Gary Wheatley helped many, many, people.

He loved to come to the Cornwallis meetings. He enjoyed the companionship, and appreciated having a place where he could relax and enjoy world class talent as friends and colleagues while working on important issues. At the time of his death, Gary was preparing a Cornwallis paper with Alison Leary, a junior colleague at EBR, and we will work with her to finish the paper and offer it to Cornwallis.

Admiral Wheatley graduated from the Naval Academy in 1965 and, after an initial fleet tour in a light attack squadron on board the USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt*, graduated from the US Naval Test Pilot School at Patuxent River, Maryland. There he served as project test pilot and joined the faculty of the school. He is remembered by other pilots as a talented aviator and an excellent companion who flew A-4 Skyhawks and Grumman A-6 Intruders in completing two deployments in Southwest Asia during the Vietnam War. Later in his career he served as Commanding Officer of Attack Squadron 34 and Commander, Carrier Air Wing One.

He took great pride and pleasure in working with personnel at all ranks and was never happier than when in command. His first command was the USS *Shreveport* (1980-82). Admiral Wheatley remembered his time as Commanding Officer of the USS *John F. Kennedy* (1983-84) with particular fondness. He and the 5000 men in the crew were designated "Best Ship in the Atlantic Fleet," a fleet then numbering 300 vessels. They were also awarded the Department of Defense Award for best material management among all large DoD activities and the top Atlantic Fleet awards for morale and retention. He was one of the few COs in recent memory who took an aircraft carrier "around the horn," working with many of the Latin American navies in the process. His tour on the *Kennedy* also involved complex and arduous operations during the Lebanon Crisis. The ship received the Navy and Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal for combat operations in support of the peacekeeping forces in Lebanon. The vessel was also the subject of the Book *Super Carrier* by George Wilson.

Admiral Wheatley did not neglect his own intellectual development. He attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (Distinguished Graduate), concurrently earning an MS in Management from George Washington University (1973). In 1982, he attended the prestigious Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program.

He also served in a number of responsible management assignments prior to retiring from the Navy. These included Readiness and Training Officer, Naval Air Forces, Atlantic; Director of Operations, Command and Control, US Atlantic Fleet; and Deputy Director, Navy Office of Technology Transfer and Security Assistance.

By the time he retired from the Navy in 1989, RADM Wheatley had been awarded the Legion of Merit (three awards), the Navy Meritorious Service Medal, and seven Air Medals. However, the greatest tribute to his success as an officer and leader in the Navy was the genuine respect and fondness he earned from sailors, aviators, and colleagues. Fully a decade after his retirement, people of all ranks would “come out of the woodwork” to greet him and thank him for his help and support whenever he visited a ship or command.

On retirement from the Navy, Admiral Wheatley became a Vice President of Burdeshaw Associates, where he was responsible for planning, marketing, recruiting, and quality control. He then became a Senior Fellow of the Hudson Institute, where he conducted policy research on advanced technologies (particularly distributed surveillance).

In 1994, Admiral Wheatley joined Evidence Based Research, Inc. as a Senior Analyst, earning promotion to Program Manager in 1997. He published a number of technical reports on command and control topics, particularly for the International Command and Control Research and Technology Symposium (ICCRTS). He also co-authored *Non-Lethal Weapons in Peacekeeping*, *So You Want to Take a Carrier Around the Horn*, and *Interagency and Political-Military Dimensions of Peace Operations: Haiti – A Case Study*. He was active in several prestigious professional organizations, including the Military Operations Research Society (MORS), the Technical Committee for Information and Command and Control of the American Institute of Astronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), and the annual Cornwallis Conference devoted to the topics of command and control and peacekeeping. He also took great delight in organizing and acting as the host for the annual ICCRTS and bi-annual Command and Control Research and Technology Symposium.

For the past several years, Admiral Wheatley functioned within Joint Forces Command, acting for Evidence Based Research as the representative of ASD/C3I’s Command and Control Research Program (CCRP) as well as supporting the J9 (Joint Experimentation). In this role, as well as his many others, his hard work, combined with a ready smile and broad experience, made him a valuable asset. Almost unnoticed, he continued to exercise the leadership skills that made him an effective military officer. He reached out to those around him, offering support and encouragement, insisting on the highest standards, and never hesitating to get his own hands dirty to ensure success.

Admiral Wheatley will be sorely missed by all who knew him. For those who wish to honor his memory with a gesture, his family has requested that rather than send flowers to his home, that you please contribute to your local charities.