

Aviation Boatswain's Mates Association

CWO4 Victor P. Pinion, USN Retired.

**Selected as ABMA Living Legend on
20 July 2001**

Naval Career Biography:

Enlisted in Mississippi National Guard in March 1958. Served six months active duty with US Army.

Enlisted in US Navy in March 1959. Boot camp at NTC San Diego, California.

June 1959 – April 1963 – USS Ticonderoga (CVA-14) V-2 Division, Promoted to ABE3.

May 1963 – May 1965 – NATF (SI) Lakehurst, NJ. Test and Development of Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment. Promoted to ABE2.

July 1965 – April 1969 – USS Oriskany (CVA-34) V-2 division catapult crew. Helped fight the Oriskany fire that claimed the lives of 44 men. Promoted to ABE1.

May 1969 – September 1971 – NAS South Weymouth, Massachusetts. Crash crew. Promoted to ABEC. Volunteered for and completed the Chief Petty Officers' Academy at Pensacola, Florida.

October 1971 – June 1975 – USS Ranger (CV-61). Catapult Chief, V-2 division Leading Chief and Maintenance Chief.

- Helped to develop the navy's Electrical Safety and Safety Tag-out Programs to make the administrative processes of them more efficient.
- Applied for the CWO program.



- Served on the ABMA formation committee.
 - Designed the ABMA Emblem.

June 1975 – July 1976 – NALF Crows Landing, California. Crash crew chief, Assistant officer in charge, Operations department head. Commissioned as CWO2.

- Served as Scout Master of Newman California BSA Troup number 83.

August – October 1976 – Aviation Officer Indoctrination school at Pensacola Florida.

October 1976 – May 1976 – NAS Moffett Field, California. Transient Line / Crash Crew Officer.

- Led successful effort to turn this division around from being the worst division on the base to the best.

June 1976 – July 1980 – USS Midway (CV-41). Home ported at Yokosuka, Japan. Catapults, Arresting Gear and Visual Landing Aids Maintenance Officer.

- Instrumental in the design and development of an Incremental Overhaul Program to overhaul the ship's aircraft launch and recovery equipment during normal in-port periods in home port of Yokosuka,
- Designed, Implemented, and Managed a Quality Assurance Program for the Catapults and Arresting Gear. A portion of this program was adapted by the navy's 3M PMS program to identify QA required steps in its Maintenance Requirement Cards.

July 1980 – July 1983 – COMFAIRWESTPAC DET CUBI Point, Republic of the Philippines. Ship Installations Officer, Administrative Officer, Classified Publications Officer.

- Designed and used a welcome to WESTPAC package for ALRE Maintenance Officers of ships preparing to deploy to WESTPAC which sent them important information concerning how to do business in the western Pacific and Indian Ocean areas.
- Lobbied COMNAVAIRPAC to improve pre-deployment inspections and services to deploying ships.
- Lobbied higher authority for better management support of ALRE Maintenance. This effort ultimately resulted in the creation of the navy's Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment Maintenance

Program (ALREMP).

- Served as the Subic Bay Yacht Club's Rear Commodore for Sail and Sailing Instructor.
- Became a Qualified PADI Open Water SCUBA Diver, and as an American Red Cross CPR, Sailing, and Water Safety Instructor.

September 1983 – December 1985 – USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67). Home ported at Norfolk, Virginia. Served as the Catapults, Arresting Gear, and Visual Aids Maintenance Officer.

- Worked with the Naval Air Systems Command in the design and development of the Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment Maintenance Program.

January 1986 – November 1986 – NATTC Lakehurst, NJ. AB School staff as the ALRE Maintenance Officer course chief instructor.

- Wrote the AB school Standard Operating Procedures Instruction.
- Led the effort to develop the ALRE Maintenance Technician's course.

Post-Naval Career Achievements:

Designed and built a house on his 42-acre east Tennessee mountain property, where he continues to live.

Completed an 18 month course in Air conditioning, refrigeration, heating, and ventilation, then started his own heating and cooling service business.

Completed a series of electrical and electronic courses at the Tennessee Technology Center at Jacksboro.

Wrote the autobiography of his naval career.

Serves as the ABMA Historian.

Selected as an ABMA Living Legend on 20 July at the 2001 ABMA Symposium / Working Conference at Pensacola, Florida.

Military Awards:

Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), Navy Achievement Medal (two awards), Navy Unit Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal (Three awards), Vietnam Service Medal (four stars), Presidential Unit Commendation Medal; Battle E.

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Sea Services Deployment Ribbon, Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal.