

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Gen. Vincent Patton, III

PERSON

Patton, Vincent W.

**Alternative Names:** Gen. Vincent Patton, III;

**Life Dates:** November 21, 1954-

**Place of Birth:** Detroit, Michigan, USA

**Residence:** Alexandria, VA

**Occupations:** Master Chief Petty Officer

## Biographical Note

Master chief petty officer Vincent Patton III was born on November 21, 1954 in Detroit, Michigan. Patton attended Cass Technical High School where he became an Eagle Scout and joined U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) James M. Hannan Division before graduating in 1972. Patton earned all of his college education while on active duty. He received his B.A. degree in communications from Pacific College Angwin, California in 1976 and his B.S. degree in social work from Shaw College in Detroit, Michigan. After

graduating from Loyola University in 1979 with his M.A. degree in counseling psychology, Patton earned his doctorate in education degree from American University in Washington, D.C. in 1984. Patton's advanced military education includes the U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Academy, the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy (with distinction), and the Department of Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute.

In 1973, Patton graduated from U.S. Coast Guard Radioman (communications) School and was assigned duty on board the USCGC DALLAS at Governors Island, New York. He also served as a radioman at the Coast Guard Group and Air Station in Detroit, Michigan and as a recruiter at the Coast Guard Recruiting Office, Chicago. In 1979, Patton changed his occupational rating from radioman to yeoman (personnel) and was assigned to the Ninth Coast Guard District Office in Cleveland, Ohio. He attended American University as the first enlisted member selected for graduate school where he earned his doctorate degree and wrote his dissertation on developing the Coast Guard Enlisted Performance Evaluation Program. After graduate school he served onboard USCGC BOUTWELL homeported at Seattle, Washington and later returned to Coast Guard Headquarters to become the first Coast Guard enlisted training manager. Following this assignment, Patton became the Command Master Chief for the Coast Guard Atlantic Area, based at Governors Island, New York where he was the senior enlisted advisor to Joint Task Force-160 deployed to Haiti and Guantanamo Bay Cuba during Operation Support Democracy.

Patton served as the 8th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard from 1998 to 2002. He was the first African American to reach that rank in the U.S. Coast Guard. As the service's highest ranking enlisted member, he served as the principal advisor to the Commandant of the Coast Guard, his directorates, the U.S. Secretaries of Transportation and Defense and the

Commander-in-Chief. In 2002, Patton retired from the U.S. Coast Guard after thirty years of active service. He became an assistant professor at University of California Berkeley before working for Monster Worldwide as director of Government Partnerships and Alliances. Patton was later named vice president for Homeland Security Programs at AFCEA International.

Patton's military honors include the Distinguished Service Medal; two Meritorious Service Medals, three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, three Coast Guard Achievement Medals, the Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon, eight Meritorious Team Awards, and eight Coast Guard Good Conduct Awards. He also has earned the Cutterman's Insignia and the Parachutist Jump Wings Badge.

8th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard  
Vincent W. Patton III was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on May 25, 2013.

## Related Entries

**American University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Ed.D.**

**Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Th.M.**

**Loyola University Chicago** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**M.A.**

**Pacific Union College** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**B.S.**

**Shaw College** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**B.A.**

**United States Army Sergeants Major Academy**

[STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Graduate Certificate**

**Cass Technical High School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Diploma**

**AFCEA International** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 201107 to ?]

**VP Hom. Sec. Prog.**

**Halley's Comet Foundation** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 200210 to 200411]

**Executive Director**

**Military Advantage (Monster Worldwide)** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 200411 to 201106]

**Director, Government Partnerships & Alliances**

**United States Coast Guard** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 199805 to 200210]

**Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard**

**United States Coast Guard** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 197206 to 200210]

**Various Ranks & Assignments**

**University of California, Berkeley** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 200209 to 200408]

**Adjunct Professor**

**First Command Educational Foundation** [MEMBEROF]

[from 20071 to ?]

**Vice President, Board of Directors**

**Coast Guard Foundation** [MEMBEROF]

[from 20111 to ?]

**Board Member, Board of Trustees**

**Non-Commissioned Officer Association (NCOA)**

[MEMBEROF]

[from 201303 to ?]

**Member, Board of Visitors**

**U.S. Naval Institute** [MEMBEROF]

[from 200504 to 20131]

**Chairman, Editorial Board**

**Pinnacle Five, LLC** [MEMBEROF]

[from 200705 to ?]

**Managing Partner**

**GI Film Festival** [MEMBEROF]

[from 200705 to ?]

**Member, Advisory Committee**

**National Intelligence University** [MEMBEROF]

[from 200206 to ?]

**Member, Board of Visitors**

**American University Board of Academic Advisors**

[MEMBEROF]

[from 201107 to ?]

**Board Member, Board of Trustees**

**Unitarian Universalist Trauma Response Ministry**

**Team** [MEMBEROF]

[from 200508 to 201302]

**Board Member, Team Ministry Responder**

**Committee on Military Ministry, Unitarian**

**Universalist Association** [MEMBEROF]

[from 201209 to ?]

**Member**

**Coast Guard Retiree Council** [MEMBEROF]

[from 200210 to ?]

**Co-Chair**