

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Admiral J. Paul Reason

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Reason, J. Paul
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Admiral J. Paul Reason,
Dates:	June 21, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:40:26).
Abstract:	Naval officer Admiral J. Paul Reason (1941-) served in the U.S. Navy's Nuclear Power Program and became the U.S. Navy's first African American four-star general upon his promotion in 1996. Reason was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 21, 2018, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_132
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Naval officer Admiral J. Paul Reason was born on March 22, 1941 in Washington, D.C. to Bernice Chism Reason and Dr. Joseph Henry Reason. Reason graduated from McKinley Technical High School in 1958 and attended several universities before transferring to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland where he graduated with his B.S. degree in naval science in 1965. Reason then entered the U.S. Navy's nuclear power program and earned his M.S. degree in computer systems management in 1969.

In 1968, Reason was named lieutenant and served aboard the *USS Truxtun*'s first deployment to Southeast Asia. From 1970 to 1973, Reason was assigned to the nuclear powered aircraft carrier *USS Enterprise* as an electrical officer during deployments to Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean where he provided support for American and South Vietnamese troops. After attending the Naval Destroyer School in Newport, Rhode Island, Reason was promoted to lieutenant commander and returned to the *USS Truxtun* in 1974 as the ship's combat systems officer. After a brief stint as a detailee for the Bureau of Naval Personnel in 1976, Reason was appointed to be the naval aide to President Jimmy Carter. He remained in this position until 1979 when he was promoted to commander and assigned to the *USS Mississippi* as the executive officer. In 1981, Reason was given his first command of the *USS Coontz*. He was promoted to captain, trained at the U.S. Department of Energy, and took command of the *USS Bainbridge* in 1983. Reason was selected for promotion to rear admiral in 1986 and served as the commander of the Naval Base Seattle, Cruiser-Destroyer Group 1 and the Battle Group Romeo. In 1991, Reason was named vice admiral and given command of the Naval Surface Forces of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet. After assignment as the Navy Operations Deputy, he became the first African American four-star admiral in the U.S. Navy and served as commander-in-chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, from 1996 to 1999.

Reason served as vice president for ship systems at SYNTEK Technologies, Inc. in Arlington, Virginia; as president, COO and vice chairman of Metro Machine Corp.; and as a member of the Secretary of the Navy's Advisory Subcommittee on Naval History. He served on the boards of Amgen, Inc., Norfolk Southern Corporation,

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and Todd Shipyards Corporation. Reason has received many awards and honors for his service in the U.S. military. He was awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, two Legion of Merit awards, two Navy Commendation Medals and a National Defense Service Medal. Reason also received the Vietnam Service medal with seven campaign stars and a number of foreign decorations from the Republic of Vietnam and Venezuela.

Reason and his wife, Dianne Fowler Reason, have two children, Rebecca Reason Hammond and Lt. Joseph Paul Reason, Jr.

Admiral J. Paul Reason was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 21, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Admiral J. Paul Reason was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 21, 2018, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Naval officer Admiral J. Paul Reason (1941-) served in the U.S. Navy's Nuclear Power Program and became the U.S. Navy's first African American four-star general upon his promotion in 1996.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Reason, J. Paul

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Reason, J. Paul--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Naval Officer

HistoryMakers® Category:

MilitaryMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Admiral J. Paul Reason, June 21, 2018. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Admiral J. Paul Reason, Section A2018_132_001_001, TRT: 1:29:39 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Admiral J. Paul Reason, Section A2018_132_001_002, TRT: 2:31:12 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Admiral J. Paul Reason, Section A2018_132_001_003, TRT: 3:30:45 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Admiral J. Paul Reason, Section A2018_132_001_004, TRT: 4:33:30 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Admiral J. Paul Reason, Section A2018_132_001_005, TRT: 5:32:15 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Admiral J. Paul Reason, Section A2018_132_001_006, TRT: 6:31:45 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Admiral J. Paul Reason, Section A2018_132_001_007, TRT: 7:26:39 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Admiral J. Paul Reason, Section A2018_132_001_008, TRT: 8:31:30 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Admiral J. Paul Reason, Section A2018_132_001_009, TRT: 9:33:11 ?