



*Change of Command  
and  
Retirement Ceremony  
of the  
Commandant  
Naval District, Washington, D. C.*



*Friday, 31 January 1975*

*Sail Left  
Washington Navy Yard  
Washington, D. C.*



## *Program*

### *Official Party Arrives*

*The Honorable J. William Middendorf, II  
and Rear Admiral Arthur G. Esch Arrive  
(Honors Rendered)*

### *The National Anthem*

*Invocation by Rear Admiral F. L. Garrett, C.H.C., USN  
Chief of Chaplains*

*Presentation of the National Ensign to Rear Admiral Esch  
by the Navy League of the United States*

*Remarks by the Secretary of the Navy  
The Honorable J. William Middendorf, II*

*Remarks by Rear Admiral Arthur G. Esch and  
The Reading of Orders  
(Honors Rendered)*

*Reading of Orders by Rear Admiral Ralph H. Carnahan  
And Remarks  
(Honors Rendered)*

*Special Musical Salute by the U. S. Navy Band  
Directed by Commander Ned Muffley, USN*

*Benediction by Commander B. J. Ahern, C.H.C., USN  
Accompanied by the U. S. Navy Band*





*Rear Admiral Ralph H. Carnahan, United States Navy*

Ralph H. Carnahan was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on October 1, 1924, son of Dr. Donald S. Carnahan (now deceased) and Mrs. (Marion Barbara Stegall) Carnahan. He attended Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, for a year, prior to entering the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, in 1943. He was graduated and commissioned Ensign with the Class of 1947 on June 5, 1946.

Following graduation he served on board the carrier SAIDOR and then the cruiser HELENA. After completing Submarine School in December 1948, he was assigned to the USS GROUPE (SSK-214) and in April 1952 he reported to the USS HARDER (SS-568) and served as Engineer Officer from her commissioning until June 1953. After a shore tour at the U.S. Naval Academy, he served on the USS GUDGEON (SS-567) and then the USS BASS (SSK-2) in Pearl Harbor prior to commencing nuclear power training in July 1957. Upon completion of that training, he commissioned the USS SKIPJACK (SSN-585) on April 15, 1959, as Executive Officer and Navigator. Subsequently, from April 1960 to September 1966, he commanded in turn the USS JALLAO (SS-368), the Nuclear Power School, Bainbridge, Maryland, the USS ROBERT E. LEE (SSBN-601), and the USS JOHN MARSHALL (SSBN-611).

From October 1966 to July 1969 he served as Deputy Director, Policy Planning Staff, International Security Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense. Following, while a student at the Air War College, Montgomery, Alabama, he attended Auburn University and received a Master's Degree in Political Science. From August 1970 to July 1971 he was Director, Polaris/Poseidon Operations on the Staff of Commander in Chief Atlantic. He transferred in July 1971 to become Chief of Staff and Aide to Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. He subsequently served as Special Assistant to Director, Navy Program Planning, in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. After selection to Rear Admiral in March 1973, he was transferred in April to Defense Mapping Agency as Deputy Director for Plans, Requirements and Advanced Technology.

Rear Admiral Carnahan has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, the Navy Expeditionary Medal, and numerous Service medals. He is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, Political Science Honorary Fraternity.





*Rear Admiral Arthur G. Esch, United States Navy*

Rear Admiral Arthur G. Esch is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Ben Esch, born 31 January 1917 in Washington, Illinois. Local schools, Severn School, Eureka College, U.S. Naval Academy BS 1940. He holds graduate degrees in Law, 1949, and International Affairs, 1964, from George Washington University. Five and a half years — throughout WWII — were spent in his first ship USS LOUISVILLE: Ensign to Lieutenant Commander, Gunnery Officer. Many destroyer command billets since, including: CO POWER, ComDesDiv 282, ComDesRon TWO, ComCruDesFlot ELEVEN, and ComCruDesGru-7thFlt. Some half dozen tours in each the SIXTH and SEVENTH Fleets have featured his sea experience. And he was Executive Officer of the cruiser NORTHAMPTON (CLC-1).

He also served as Flag Lt Com7thFlt, Director Congressional Liaison BuPers, PAO U.S. Naval Academy, Director Policy Bupers, Navy JCS Planner (Strategic Plans and Policy Division, OpNav), and Assistant Chief of Staff Logistics, NATO's Southern Command, Naples, Italy. National War College, Readiness Officer ASWFORLANT, and all the service schools round out the picture. He has been Commandant, Naval District Washington, D.C. since 31 July 1971. Here he commands the Navy Yard and many large area support programs.

Rear Admiral Esch wears the Legion of Merit with star, the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V", Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two silver stars and three bronze stars (thirteen operations), Vietnam National Order Medal, Vietnam Gallantry Cross, and other ribbons.



