

# NAVAL HISTORY DIVISION

COMMANDER WAYNE J. CHRISTENSEN,  
CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS, UNITED STATES NAVY

Wayne John Christensen was born in Brigham City, Utah, on February 22, 1920, son of John and Lavon (Olsen) Christensen. He attended Weber College, Ogden, Utah, from which he received his Associate in Science in 1941. He next studied at Utah State Agricultural College and was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Science in engineering in 1943. While attending that university he was a member of the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit and between July and October 1942 had temporary duty under instruction in the Industrial Department at the Navy Yard, Mare Island, California.

Commissioned Ensign in the U. S. Naval Reserve on March 16, 1942, he subsequently advanced in rank, attaining that of Commander, to date from January 1, 1958. He was designated a Civil Engineer Corps Officer on April 1, 1946 and on September 25, that year was transferred from the Naval Reserve to the Regular Navy.

Reporting for active duty in August 1943 he was assigned to the Naval Station, Astoria, Oregon, where he served as Ship Superintendent until October 1944. He next had instruction at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, after which he served from July 1945 until July 1946 at the Pearl Harbor (Territory of Hawaii) Naval Shipyard. He reported for instruction in civil engineering at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York and upon completing his instruction in July 1948 received the degrees of Bachelor and Master in Civil Engineering.

After a tour of duty, which extended to April 1950, as Executive Officer and Assistant Public Works Officer of the 1507th Construction Battalion Depot, Guam, Marianas Islands, he again had instruction, this time at the Naval Postgraduate School, Annapolis, Maryland. He attended courses in Radiological Defense Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley, July 1951-June 1953, and received the degree of Master of Science in bio-radiology. In July 1953 he was assigned to the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he served as Project Officer in connection with research and development until July 1956. The next month he became Staff Officer in Charge of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization construction and engineering in Norway and Denmark with headquarters in Oslo, Norway.

Returning to the United States in August 1958, he now serves as Manager of the Atomic Energy and Applied Sciences Branch, Research and Development Division, Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

Commander Christensen has the American Campaign Medal; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; the World War II Victory Medal; and the National Defense Service Medal.

He is a member of Tau Beta Pi and Sigma Xi fraternities. While in college he was Captain of the Swimming Team and won National AAU Swimming Trophies.

NAVY - Office of Information  
Biographies Branch  
12 March 1959