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J. F. Bash Commander U.S. Navy



John Franklin Bash was born in Gary, Indiana on August 7, 1935. After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in Mineral Economics from Pennsylvania State University in 1957, Commander Bash reported to Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. He was commissioned an Ensign in October 1958 and reported aboard USS THRUSH (MSC-204), a coastal minesweeper operating out of Cocosolo, Canal Zone, Republic of Panama.

Upon detachment from THRUSH in October 1961, Commander Bash reported for duty as Engineer Officer in USS NOA (DD-841), home-ported in Mayport, Florida. In February of 1964, he left NOA and began a tour of duty in Bremerhaven, Germany with Commander, Military Sea Transportation Service, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Commander Bash next had a tour of duty as Main Propulsion Assistant on board USS COLUMBUS (CG-12), operating out of Norfolk, Virginia, from July 1966 to February 1968. Commander Bash was next assigned as Plans Officer for Civil Operations for Rural Development with Military Assistance Command in the Republic of Vietnam. He left Vietnam after a one year tour, and reported to staff duty with Commander, Fleet Air, Quonset/Commander, Hunter-Killer Force, United States Atlantic Fleet, from which he reported for duty as Executive Officer of KALAMAZOO (AOR-6).

Commander Bash is married to the former Ernestine M. Maxwell of Oakmont, Pennsylvania. They have three daughters, Susan, Jane and Nancy.

Commander Bash's decorations and awards include the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V and star in lieu of second award, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Gallantry Cross Color, Vietnam Campaign Medal with four stars and the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon.