

Tribute to Deceased Alumni

George W. Allison III

By his West Bethesda colleagues in Code 75

George William Allison III, 57, passed away on Oct. 17, 2010. George was a senior member of Carderock's Underwater Electromagnetic Signatures and Technology Division, responsible for signature measurements of all classes of surface ships and submarines. After graduating from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., he started his Navy career at the Naval Surface Weapons Center (NSWC), then the Naval Ordnance Laboratory, White Oak, Md., in the Underwater Weapons Department in 1974. He evaluated Destructor sea mines (Mk 36/40) for use in Vietnam and all subsequent QUICKSTRIKE sea bottom mines. His first task was evaluating geophones used in the Mk 95 battery, a component in the Mk 42 mine firing mechanism used in the Vietnam War. He was part of a Lead Assessment Engineering team evaluating every target detection device (TDD) used in the QUICKSTRIKE mine versions. He was responsible for conducting operational air drops, environmental testing, and diagnosing component failures until 1995. George and his colleagues also designed a "Computer Aided Test and Evaluation System (CATES)." CATES was a programmable TDD test set capable of exercising TDDs with both ship and countermeasure signatures for software optimization to enhance sea mine mission performance. He conducted operational weapons deployments which required technical coordination skills and significant travel. After the BRAC decision to close NSWC White Oak and move the mine development work to Panama City, Fla., Allison transferred into Carderock's Electromagnetic Fields Branch in 1995 while it was still at White Oak. Based on his background, George was assigned as the test director for the Closed Loop Degaussing (CLDG) program for minesweepers. He took the project through Developmental as well as Operational Test and Evaluation and the project was approved for limited production. Because of the reduced funding for an MCM-class CLDG system, he oversaw the installation on two MCMs, *USS Warrior* (MCM 10) and *USS Guardian* (MCM 5). Once installed, Allison worked with all phases of onboard support for CLDG, and he became the primary technical person on the CLDG installation support and maintenance. He worked on the CLDG support until 2009. Around 2003, he was assigned as surface ship test director and designated as the in service engineering agent (ISEA) for Magnetic Silencing Facilities (MSF). As MSF ISEA, he worked at NAVSEA for three days per week from 2007 to 2010. In 2010, he was assigned to the Code 752 Test and Evaluation Team where he worked on various measurement trials. In addition to his T&E duties, he was gearing up for potential MCM degaussing system upgrades. Allison was a significant asset to our organization and was always willing to support the fleet at a moment's notice. Because of this dedication, he would support the Navy over his own personal needs. He confided that, due to the nature of his work, he missed more of his wedding anniversaries than he made. He is survived by his wife Susan of 36 years. George was a 33rd degree Mason, and served the community in many of the Mason's activities. He also enjoyed being a charter boat captain, and his practical knowledge was very helpful in many of his Navy activities. He was always willing to do what was needed to get the job done and will be deeply missed by his colleagues.