

Rear Adm. Edward A. Wilkinson Jr., U.S. Navy

Director
Defense Mapping Agency
July 1983 – July 1985
Deputy Director
Defense Mapping Agency
July 1979 – May 1981



Rear Adm. Edward A. Wilkinson graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1955 and earned his wings as a naval aviator the following year. He received an MS in engineering from The George Washington University in 1963 and graduated from the Armed Forces Staff College in 1969 and the National War College in 1973.

Rear Admiral Wilkinson's first duty was a three-year tour in hurricane reconnaissance aircraft. He then served as Project Mercury recovery officer with Patrol Squadron 5 and as an aide to the commander of Fleet Air in Hawaii. After a tour at the Potomac River Command in Washington, DC, he served as an instructor in thermodynamics at the U.S. Naval Academy. After duty with Patrol Squadron 30 and Patrol Squadron 24, he became commanding officer of Patrol Squadron 8 in March 1971 and then special projects officer for Commander Fleet Air Wing Atlantic. Following a tour as commanding officer Patrol Squadron 30, he spent two years as P-3 program coordinator in the office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Air Warfare. For the next two years, he commanded Patrol Wing 5 and then served as deputy and then acting director of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Systems Project at the Naval Material Command until 1980. From 1981 to 1983, he served as commander of Atlantic Fleet patrol aircraft.

As director of the Defense Mapping Agency (DMA), Rear Admiral Wilkinson took the leadership in the follow-through implementation of a modernization program and placed Phase I (Mark 85) into production on time and in budget. Mark 85 capability allowed DMA to continue to produce the critical geographic products to U.S. military forces utilizing the new digital national reconnaissance imagery. In 1985 DMA received the Department of Defense Joint Meritorious Unit Award 82-84 for exceptional service to the defense of the nation.

Rear Admiral Wilkinson's military decorations and awards include Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with one gold star in lieu of second award, Navy Commendation Medal with one gold star in lieu of second award, and three awards of the Meritorious Unit Commendation: Patrol Squadron 24, Patrol Squadron 30 and Patrol Squadron 8.