

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Cdr. William Bundy

---

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Bundy, William F., 1946-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Cdr. William Bundy,
<b>Dates:</b>	April 27, 2013
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2013
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:26:37).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Commander Cdr. William Bundy (1946 - 2019) , one of the “Centennial Seven” African American submarine skippers rose from the enlisted ranks to earn a commission and command a submarine, served as a leader in the submarine force and later became a professor at the U.S. Naval War College and director of the VADM Samuel L. Gravely Research Group. Bundy was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 27, 2013, in New Port, Rhode Island. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2013_110
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

---

## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

U.S. Navy Commander and Professor William F. Bundy was born on August 12, 1946 in Baltimore, Maryland to William C. Bundy and Paulyne L. Bundy. Bundy attended Henry Highland Garnet School and then Booker T. Washington Junior High School before graduating from Baltimore City College High School in 1964, after which he enlisted in the Navy. He then graduated from the University of Hawaii with his B.A. degree in liberal studies and technical journalism in 1973.

In 1964, Bundy reported to the U.S. Navy Receiving Station in Washington D.C., and then was assigned to Sonar Technician A and A1 School in Key West, Florida. Bundy was assigned overseas duty in USNS *BOWDITCH* where he served until 1966. He then completed submarine Cold War patrols in nuclear attack submarines on the USS *STURGEON*, USS *RICHARD B RUSSELL* and as a combat systems officer on the USS *MEMPHIS*. Bundy also completed Strategic Deterrent Patrols on the USS *SAM HOUSTON GOLD* as the assistant weapons officer, and as the navigator and operations officer on the USS *LAFAYETTE BLUE*. Bundy served ashore as a sonar instructor at the Naval Submarine Training Center at Pearl Harbor, and then went on to complete Officer Candidate School. In 1981, he was assigned to the Nuclear Operations Division at the U.S. Atlantic Command where he participated in directing and developing fleet ballistic missile operations.

In 1988, Bundy assumed command of USS *BARBEL* in Sasebo, Japan and conducted exercises in the Western Pacific as part of the Seventh Fleet and Submarine Group Seven. Bundy was assigned as Chief Staff Officer of Submarine Squadron Three in 1990. He also served as Director of the Naval Officer Candidate School in 1993. That same year, Bundy graduated from the U.S. Naval War College with his M.A. degree in national security and strategic studies. Bundy retired from active duty in 1994. Bundy was then appointed as Director of the Rhode Island State Department of Transportation and as a FleetBoston Financial vice president before returning to the

U.S. Naval War College as an associate professor. In 2005, he earned his Ph.D. degree from Salve Regina University and was promoted to full professor at the U.S. Naval War College. He was also appointed as Director of the Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely, Jr. Naval Research Group.

Bundy's military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Meritorious Service Medal with a Gold Star, the Navy Commendation Medal with a Silver Star, and the Navy Achievement Medal with two Gold Stars. He is one of the Centennial Seven African American submarine skippers who served during the first one-hundred years of the Submarine Service. Bundy was recognized as the Black Engineer of the Year for Achievement in Government by *U.S. Black Engineer and Information Technology* magazine in 1993. In 1994, he received the U.S. Navy League Dalton L. Baugh Award for Inspirational Leadership, and, in 2010, Bundy was awarded the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award.

Bundy and his wife, Jeanne L. (Pacheco) Bundy, have two sons: Lieutenant Commander William F. Bundy, Jr. and Raymond M. Bundy. His daughter is Andrena M. Seawood.

Bundy passed away on December 15, 2019.

William F. Bundy was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 27, 2013.

---

## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Cdr. William Bundy was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 27, 2013, in New Port, Rhode Island, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Commander Cdr. William Bundy (1946 - 2019), one of the "Centennial Seven" African American submarine skippers rose from the enlisted ranks to earn a commission and command a submarine, served as a leader in the submarine force and later became a professor at the U.S. Naval War College and director of the VADM Samuel L. Gravely Research Group.

---

## Restrictions

### Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

### Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

---

## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

---

## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

## **Persons:**

Bundy, William F., 1946-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews

Bundy, William F., 1946- --Interviews

---

United States--Armed Forces--African American Officers--Interviews.

---

## **Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

---

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

---

## **Occupations:**

Commander

---

## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

MilitaryMakers

---

## **Administrative Information**

### **Custodial History**

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### **Preferred Citation**

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Cdr. William Bundy, April 27, 2013. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### **Processing Information**

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual

(Matters 1995).

---

## Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

---

## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Cdr. William Bundy, Section A2013\_110\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:21 ?

William Bundy describes his family's history. Bundy's mother, Paulyne Louise Johnson Bundy, was born in March, 1910, in Stonewall, New York, and spent her childhood there and in Long Island, New York. Her father, Charles Johnson, was a trumpet player, and travelled as a road musician with Louis Armstrong's band. Bundy's father, William Cox Bundy, was born in April, 1909, in Weems, Virginia, where his family were fishermen. Bundy talks about his paternal family's migration to the North, his first visit to Weems as an adult, and his maternal family's large presence in Philadelphia and New Jersey. His parents met and married in Baltimore, before his father deployed to World War II with the U.S. Army. Bundy discusses his father's service as a sergeant T/4 in a port company during the war, and talks about African Americans who served in the segregated armed forces.

African American families.

African American mothers--New York (State)

African American fathers--Virginia.

African American grandparents.

World War, 1939-1945.

Video Oral History Interview with Cdr. William Bundy, Section A2013\_110\_001\_002, TRT: 2:30:09 ?

William Bundy and his two younger siblings were raised in Baltimore, Maryland, where they lived on McMechen Street, near the entertainment district. His father went to carpentry and construction school after returning from World War II. Bundy recalls his visits with his maternal family, and talks about his mother's influence on him. After his parents divorced around 1957, Bundy's family moved to the McCullough Projects, where he joined a group called "The Cadets," organized by a retired Army sergeant. Bundy talks about his childhood friends, swimming at the YMCA, and working to pay his membership and camp fees. He attended Henry Highland Garnet School and Booker T. Washington Junior High School. Bundy describes his decision to attend Baltimore City College for high school, his desire to pursue a college education, and playing varsity football in high school. He also talks about his first impressions of the U.S. Navy.

African American families.

Divorce--United States.

Childhood--Maryland--Baltimore.

Education--Maryland--Baltimore.

United States. Navy.

Video Oral History Interview with Cdr. William Bundy, Section A2013\_110\_001\_003, TRT:  
3:30:08 ?

William Bundy attended high school at Baltimore City College, where he played on the varsity football and lacrosse teams. While in high school, he also joined the U.S. Naval League Sea Cadet Corps and attended boot camp at the Naval Station in Great Lakes, Illinois. After graduating from school in 1964, Bundy spent his summer aboard the destroyer escort USS Darby (DE-218), as a seaman of E-3 rank in the Naval Reserves. He describes his experience and the mentoring that he received on the USS Darby. The same year, Bundy joined the U.S. Navy, attended sonar technician training in Key West, Florida, and was then assigned to the Oceanographic Unit 1 on USNS Bowditch. Bundy also talks about his assignment to the funeral formation for Admiral Claude Ricketts. He discusses the close-knit community while he was growing up in Baltimore, his exposure to the Civil Rights Movement, and missing the bus to attend the March on Washington as a teenager.

Baltimore City College.

College athletes.

United States. Navy.

Warships--United States.

Baltimore (Md.)--Social life and customs.

Video Oral History Interview with Cdr. William Bundy, Section A2013\_110\_001\_004, TRT:  
4:30:57 ?

In 1964, William Bundy attended Fleet Sonar School in Key West, Florida. The same year, he also became a young father. Bundy talks about his experience in the Atlantic on the Oceanographic Unit 1 of the USNS Bowditch, his assignment to the U.S. Naval Facility in Eleuthera, Bahamas in 1966, and the opportunity to become a submarine sonar technician. From 1967 to 1969, Bundy served on key missions aboard the USS Sturgeon. He describes his experience and talks about the only other African American on the crew. Bundy was assigned as an instructor at the Naval Submarine Training Center in Hawaii where he earned his B.A. degree in liberal arts from the University of Hawaii, and promoted to the rank of chief petty officer. In 1975, he attended the Naval Officer Candidate School, and became an unrestricted line officer in the Navy. After training as a Polaris missile weapons officer, Bundy was assigned to the USS Sam Houston Gold Crew as the assistant weapons officer. He also talks about his mentors in the Navy.

Warships--United States.

United States. Navy--African Americans.

University of Hawaii.

Military education--United States.

Mentoring.

Video Oral History Interview with Cdr. William Bundy, Section A2013\_110\_001\_005, TRT:  
5:28:14 ?

Around 1977, William Bundy was assigned to the USS Ohio, and shortly thereafter, to the USS Richard B. Russell. In 1978, Bundy attended the Submarine Officer Advanced Course in Connecticut, where he met and married his wife, Jean. He then deployed as the department head and combat systems officer aboard the USS Memphis and was stationed in the Indian Ocean during

the Iran Hostage Crisis of the early 1980s. Bundy also discusses his subsequent assignments to the staff of the commander of the U.S. Atlantic fleet in 1981, as navigation and operations officer on the USS Lafayette, as the executive officer on the USS Blueback in 1986, where he met the author of the book, 'Crimson Tide', and as the commanding officer on the USS Barbel in 1988. He also talks about his assignment as the submarine group plans officer for Submarine Group V and as Chief Staff Officer at Submarine Squadron III. While in the U.S. Navy, Bundy also became involved in the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) and its diversity program.

Warships--United States.

Marriage--United States.

Iran Hostage Crisis, 1979-1981.

Submarines (Ships).

United States. Navy.

Video Oral History Interview with Cdr. William Bundy, Section A2013\_110\_001\_006, TRT: 6:28:42 ?

In 1992, William Bundy attended the U.S. Naval War College, where he earned his master's degree in national security strategic studies. Bundy talks about receiving the Black Engineer of the Year Award in 1993, and the organization of the U.S. Navy's Centennial Seven, which consists of the African American officers who commanded Naval submarines in the Twentieth Century. He also discusses the accomplishments of the Centennial Seven, and the black four-star admirals who have served in the U.S. Navy. Bundy retired from the Navy in 1994, and then worked in the civilian sector as the director of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation and in the corporate properties division and the operations and technology division of Fleet Financial Group. He then returned to the U.S. Navy as a professor at the Naval War College. In 2005, he received his Ph.D. degree from Salve Regina University. Bundy describes his doctoral dissertation on leadership in complex technical organizations.

Naval War College (U.S.)

Submarines (Ships).

African American admirals.

Rhode Island. Department of Transportation.

Salve Regina University.

Video Oral History Interview with Cdr. William Bundy, Section A2013\_110\_001\_007, TRT: 7:30:06 ?

From 2002, William Bundy served as an instructor of leadership at Providence College, Rhode Island, and from 2003, he served on the faculty of the U.S. Naval War College. He discusses the training programs at the Naval War College, describes his experience as a teacher, and talks about his involvement as a research professor there. In this closing section of the interview, Bundy discusses race in America, race relations in the U.S. Navy, and the importance of STEM education in the U.S. He also talks about his wife and children, reflects upon his life and legacy, and how he would like to be remembered. Bundy explains the significance of Admiral Arleigh Burke who was instrumental in advancing the nuclear power program and the fleet ballistic missile program in the U.S. Navy.

Providence College.

Naval War College (U.S.)

Education, Higher--United States--Leadership.

Race relations--United States.

Reminiscing.

Video Oral History Interview with Cdr. William Bundy, Section  
A2013\_110\_Bundy\_William\_06\_MED\_001, TRT:

Video Oral History Interview with Cdr. William Bundy, Section  
A2013\_110\_Bundy\_William\_06\_MED\_002, TRT: