

Anson D. Geiger, aka "Bill", entered AFA in September 1940 from Lafayette High School. He was from St. Joseph, Missouri. He was in the First Company and selected as a Second Class Petty Officer. He played Varsity Football in the Fall and Varsity Track in the Spring.

He also was in the Drama Club while at AFA. Anson was an Eagle Scout and was good with the 12 foot Bull Whip, that were used in rodeos at the time. During a Drama Club meeting, Bill volunteered the information that he could handle a bullwhip. He showed what he could do and they wanted Bill to demonstrate that for a show that was being put on. A fellow classmate, Davis King, from Hawaii, volunteered to hold a piece of paper while Bill used the 12 foot Bull Whip to slice the paper. They practiced for a week before the show in the auditorium. He received a lot of praise from other Cadets after the performance. It was remembered by others when he went to the Naval Academy. He also repeated this performance at the Naval Academy while there.

He was a member of the Naval Reserve while at Farragut and attended extra drills once a month for the entire year. They would leave in the late afternoon for a drill at the Naval Reserve Unit in Perth Amboy, NJ. The drill would last a couple hours. On the return trip back, they would stop at a diner and get a burger. Then they would continue their drive back to Farragut and return by midnight.

Bill did not see much action while on the football team as a running back, but he was a pretty good track star. He remembered staying at Columbia University's Visiting team dormitory the night before the Little Army-Navy Football game held at Randall's Island against LaSalle Military. This was arranged most likely by Coach Stanczyk who had attended Columbia and played football there. Coach Stanczyk was both the football coach and track coach, but he knew little of track compared to his football prowess.

During one track meet at a Prep school in Pennsylvania where he was jumping hurdles Bill banged his right ankle on one of the hurdles. This injury resulted in an infection in his right ankle and right leg. The infection got worse about a week after the injury.

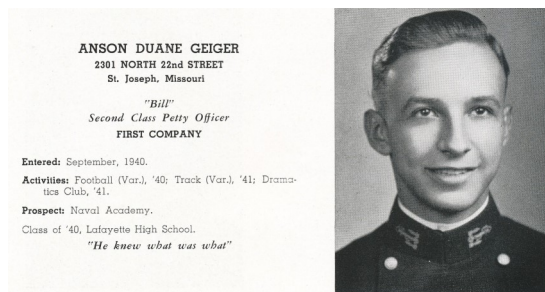
During the entrance exams for the Naval Academy, taken in the Trenton Post Office, he was in pain from his track injury. The examiner asked him if he wanted to stop and take the exams later, but Bill was determined to finish the exams, which were 3 days long. There were a half dozen Farragut classmates who took excellent care of him while taking these exams. They even carried him to the Post Office each day from the YMCA where they were staying. Bill could not walk. The cadets found a doctor to check Bill out and give him medicine. He finished the exams and returned to AFA by ambulance.

At AFA they placed him in the infirmary and then sent him to the hospital. At the hospital they operated on his ankle and used sulfur drugs to kill the infection. He returned to Farragut on crutches and was sent home after a couple days and missed graduation. On the train ride back home, he was in uniform and the ladies kept offering him seats when he changed trains.

He was worried when he was home about his acceptance to the Naval Academy. He was admitted to Annapolis on an appointment from the Naval Reserve and one from a Senator from Missouri. About the same time, he received orders to report to Perth Amboy on Active Duty orders. When he reported there, he showed them his appointment letter to Annapolis. They changed his orders sending him to the Naval Academy. He did not go with his Perth Amboy Unit.

While at the Naval Academy, Bill was a big track star. As a freshman he tied the Navy Academy Freshman Record for the 120 High hurdles. He set the record for the 220 Low Hurdles in the Army-Navy track meet at West Point in the Spring of 1943. The next year he could not compete because of Scarlet Fever.

He attended the Naval Academy for three years with Alan Shepard graduating June 7, 1944. He attended Flight School with Alan Shepard also. Both he and Shepard were friends. Their wives (Doris Geiger and Louise Shepard) knew each other and went out to dinner many times.



His brother, Robert K. Geiger, also attended the Naval Academy. He entered the Naval Academy shortly after Anson graduated. Robert graduated in 1947 as a member of the Class of 1948A and attained the rank of Rear Admiral earning two stars. He was involved in the early days of the Navy Space program. He retired as Chief of Naval Research.

While in the Navy, Bill was on nine deployments. While he was on the carrier USS KEARSARGE, CV-33, and Shepard was on another, the USS ORISKANY, CV-34. Neither Bill nor Alan knew that the other was on the other carrier. It was towards the end of the Korean War in January 1954 and the movie "The Bridges of Toko-Ri" was being filmed on the ORISKANY off the Sea of Japan between Japan and Korea.

There were problems with the Catapults aboard the USS ORISKANY and filming had to be switched over to the USS KEARSARGE. They even painted over the numbers of the USS KEARSARGE to match that of the USS ORISKANY for the film. The USS ORISKANY used McDonnell F2H-Phantoms and the USS KEARSARGE used Grumman F9F-5 Panthers. Aircraft needed to be transferred between the carriers for the filming. LT Anson Geiger had to fly one over to the USS ORISKANY.

After he landed, he went into the island. LT Alan Shepard met him as he came in the island and gave him a hug. Al invited him to his stateroom later to catch up and talk before dinner.

When he arrived at Shepard's Stateroom and entered, he noticed a small table with a white tablecloth and cheese and crackers on it. Shepard also was serving Martini's to his classmate and himself. A knock occurred and Shepard said "Enter." In came Mickey Rooney. Shepard introduced Bill Geiger to Mickey Rooney. Mickey said to Bill "Shake the hand that held the breast of Ava Gardner." She was Mickey's first wife from 1943-1944. He would have eight wives.

Towards the end of his Naval career, Captain Geiger was invited by Bill Masiangelo to interview for the job of Office of the Headmaster. During the interview process, he attended a dinner and entered a drawing. He won a set of Wedgewood 25th Anniversary "Farragut" plates. He is still proud of those plates today almost 50 years later.

He was waiting for Captain Dodge to retire, but Captain Dodge put it off. Upon his retirement from the Navy, Captain Geiger found a job with Honeywell in 1969. He and his wife bought a townhouse in Falls Church, Virginia.

They moved out to Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1977 for Honeywell and when he retired from Honeywell in 1984, they moved back to Falls Church, VA. Anson's wife passed away in December of 2009. He has been living with his disabled daughter since.