Descriptive Finding Guide for

Rear Admiral Constantine A. Karaberis Personal Papers
August 4, 1912 to February 5, 1987

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Provenance

The collection of Rear Admiral was donated to the San Diego Air and Space Museum on April 26, 1999. It is open for research with no restrictions.

History

Rear Admiral Karaberis was a career Naval Officer, graduating from the Naval Academy in 1935 and becoming Rear Admiral in 1963. He was Commander of Naval Air Station San Diego in 1967 and retired in 1969.

Karaberis was born in Lewiston, Maine on August 4, 1912. He moved with his family to Manchester, New Hampshire where he later attended school. He graduated from The City of Manchester Grammar School graduating on June 18, 1926. He attended Manchester High School Central graduating in June 1930.

Karaberis was admitted into the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD on July 7, 1931 and graduated in 1935 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He served as a junior officer on the aircraft carrier U. S. S. Saratoga (CV-3). In 1936, after marrying his first wife, the former Phyllis A. Smith, he reported for flight training at NAS Pensacola Florida and was designated a Naval Aviator in February 1939. Karaberis reported for duty in the aviation unit of the USS Honolulu (CL-48). He was on board this ship when it was attacked in December 1941 at Pearl Harbor. After Pearl Harbor, Karaberis was stationed in San Diego. His first wife passed away in December 1944 in San Diego.

Karaberis became the Executive Officer of the USS Wake Island (CVE-45) in 1945. He was one of the Alaska VP- General Training Softball Champs in 1949. He also studied at the Naval War College and graduated in 1951. He married the former Avis E. Moore of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He became the Executive Officer of Naval Air Station Alameda until he was appointed Commander of the U.S. Navy Patrol Squadron (VR-23) at Naval Air Station Atsugi, Japan.

From 1960 to 1961, Karaberis was commanding officer on the aircraft carrier USS Wasp (CV-18) and was promoted to Rear Admiral on August 1, 1963. He commanded several bases and ships until his retirement on June 30, 1969 after 38 years of service.

As a civilian, he was a Director of Community Relations at Southern California First National Bank. He was also on the board of directors of the San Diego Air and Space Museum and a member of the Advisory Council for the San Diego Boy Scouts of America. He worked at San Diego Trust and
Savings until passing away on February 5, 1987 at the age of 75. His ashes were scattered at sea. He was survived by his second wife, Avis. She passed away December 11, 1998. Their memorials are located at the United States Naval Academy Cemetery in Annapolis, Maryland.

Scope & Content Notes

Box 1 Size: 15” x 5” x 10.5” contains the papers of Rear Admiral Constantine A. Karaberis. There is correspondence about joining the Naval Academy, many programs for the Change of Command ceremonies, newspaper clippings about his various posts, his personal and military files, many awards and letters from the Secretary of the Navy.

Box 2 Size: 15” x 5” x 10.5” contains six decades of official Navy photographs commemorating the ceremonies at the bases he commanded and various awards he received from 1926 until 1985. Also included in this box is a photograph album with pictures of friends from Japan.

Box 3 Size 15” x 5” 10.5” contains oversized documents such as a photograph of the 50-year reunion, class of 1935 at the Naval Academy. There is a large picture of Rear Admiral Constantine Karaberis in his dress uniform and awards from President Franklin D. Roosevelt as he advanced in rank during World War II.

Box 01

Folder 01 – C. A. Karaberis File of Official Orders and Papers Commencing June 1935
1. Folder contains official military papers and correspondence beginning in June of 1935 and ending May 3, 1967. The original folder was two-sided and was held together with clips.

Folder 02 – U. S. Navy Personal Officer Service Record
1. The folder contains official military papers and correspondence regarding orders from 1954-1968.

Folder 03 – 1929-1930 Correspondence regarding appointment to the Naval Academy
1. Newspaper clipping (no date), announcing Constantine Karaberis, age 17, appointed to the Navy Academy.
2. Correspondence dated October 22, 1929, to Constantine Karaberis from Congress of the United States, Washington D.C. regarding appointment to the Naval Academy.
3. Correspondence dated August 21, 1930, to Constantine Karaberis from the Congress of the United States, Washington, and D. C. regarding his appointment to the Naval Academy.
4. Correspondence dated December 6, 1930, to Constantine Karaberis from the Navy Department Bureau of Navigation regarding his mental examination.
5. Postal telegraph dated May 15, 1931, stating Constantine A. Karaberis’s name appears on the list posting him at the Naval Academy.
6. Correspondence dated May 18, 1931, to Constantine Karaberis from the Navy Department Bureau of Navigation stating he passed his mental examination.
Folder 04 – Booklets Containing Reef Point Regulations from the Naval Academy

Folder 05 – Military Correspondence 1940-1959
2. Correspondence dated May 25, 1948, from John Munholland, Chief of Naval Personnel appointing Constantine A. Karaberis to the rank of a Commander.

Folder 06 – Various Newspaper Articles dated 1951-1973
1. Newspaper article dated July 6, 1951, regarding his appointment to NAS Alameda, California as Executive Officer.
2. Newspaper article dated June 5, 1953, regarding Commander Karaberis being relieved of his post by Commander Robert F. Farrington.
3. An undated newspaper article showing Commander Karaberis as station executive officer at NAS Alameda.
4. Newspaper article dated October 13, 1968, in the San Diego Union showing a photograph of people involved in the Flag and General Officers Ball given by the San Diego Chamber of Commerce and the distinguished guests.
5. Newspaper article dated March 12, 1969, stating Rear Admiral C. A. Karaberis was named as chairman of the job fair the previous day.
6. Newspaper article (no date), naming Rear Admiral C. A. Karaberis general chairman of the job fair planning committee.
7. Newspaper article (no date), announcing the change in command at Fleet Air San Diego from Rear Admiral C. Karaberis to Captain G. Donnelly on June 30, 1969.
8. Newspaper article dated July 1, 1969, announcing the retirement dinner of Rear Admiral Constantine A. Karaberis. (2 copies).
9. Newspaper article (no date), naming Rear Admiral C. A. Karaberis to Director of Southern California First National Bank.

Folder 07 – Various Change-of-Command Ceremony Programs from the 1960s
2. Invitation and Program for the Change of Command Ceremony, Commander Antisubmarine Warfare Group, United States Pacific Fleet, March 28, 1964, on board the U. S. S. Kearsarge, (CVS-33) in Long Beach, California.
5. Commander Antisubmarine Warfare Group One Folder that the programs were in dated March 2, 1969.

Folder 08 – Letters of Meritorious Awards 1945-1969
1. Letter of Meritorious Award Bronze Star (March 21 to June 20, 1945), to Commander Constantine A. Karaberis from John L. Sullivan, Secretary of the Navy.
2. Letter of Meritorious Award Manager, anti-submarine Warfare Systems Project (April 1964 to May 1967), to Rear Admiral Constantine A. Karaberis from Paul H. Nitze, Secretary of the Navy.
3. Letter of Meritorious Award Commander Fleet Air San Diego/Fleet Air Wing Fourteen and Commander Southern Sector Antisubmarine Warfare Group, Western Sea Frontier regarding exceptionally meritorious service (June 1967 to June 1969), to Rear Admiral Constantine A. Karaberis from John H. Chafee, Secretary of the Navy.

Folder 09 – Various Military Correspondence 1967-1969
1. Letter dated August 8, 1967, from Secretary of the Navy, Paul H. Nitze to Rear Admiral Constantine A. Karaberis acknowledging his congratulations.
3. Letter dated December 22, 1967, from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy Graeme C. Bannerman to Rear Admiral C. A. Karaberis acknowledging his congratulations on his retirement.
4. Letter dated April 5, 1968, from Rear Admiral Frank B. Voris to Rear Admiral C. A. Karaberis thanking him for his hospitality during his recent visit to San Diego, CA.
5. Letter dated June 17, 1968, from Rear Admiral Floriano Peixoto Faria Lima, Brazilian Navy, Naval Attaché to Admiral Karaberis thanking him for his hospitality to Admiral Jose Moreira, Chief of the Navy General Staff of Brazil.
7. Letter dated December 27, 1968, from Commanding Officer W. B. Barrow to Rear Admiral C. A. Karaberis thanking him and Mrs. Karaberis for attending the USS Bennington CVS-20 change-of-command ceremony.
8. Letter dated January 3, 1969, from Margaret Chase Smith, United States Senator to Rear Admiral Constantine A. Karaberis thanking him for his hospitality on Christmas Eve.
11. Letter dated February 27, 1969, from Admiral T. H. Moorer to Rear Admiral C. A. Karaberis regarding the speech he made with the Kiwanis Club in Long Beach.

Folder 10 – Official Navy Documents: Discharge Papers & Statement of Personal History
1. Letter from C. A. Karaberis to the Secretary of the Navy dated December 27, 1968, requesting a transfer to the Retired List the first day of July 1969 after 34 years of service.
2. Statement of Personal History: A three page document regarding education, relatives and any personal history of Rear Admiral Constantine A. Karaberis (3 pages).
3. Official Discharge Papers. Official Discharge Date July 1, 1969 (2 copies).
8. Air mail letter dated June 16, 1969, from Chief of Naval Personnel to Rear Admiral Constantine A. Karaberis regarding his health (2 pages).

Folder 11 – Retirement Ceremony Paperwork for June 30, 1969
1. Invitation to the Change of Command and Retirement Ceremony for Rear Admiral Constantine A. Karaberis on June 30, 1969.
2. Retirement ceremony guest list and seating arrangement (3 pages).

Folder 12 – Legion of Merit Award and Letter
1. Legion of Merit Award (Gold Star in Lieu of The Second Award) dated June 10, 1969, in frame with a letter dated June 13, 1969.
2. Letter from John H Chafee, Secretary of the Navy awarding Rear Admiral Constantine A. Karaberis a Legion of Merit Certificate for his exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service as command of Fleet Air, San Diego; Fleet Air Wing Fourteen and Commander Southern Sector Antisubmarine Warfare Group, Western Sea Frontier rom June 1967 through June 1969.

Folder 13 – Civilian Correspondence 1969-1970
1. Picture and article of Rear Admiral Connie Karaberis describing his accomplishments and his being and Distinguished Eagle Scout in 1927.
4. C. A. Karaberis Resume of Biography describing his military service.
8. Letter dated March 4, 1974, from Captain A. G. Franch, Commander of Naval Training Center San Diego to Rear Admiral C. A. Karaberis, USN, (Ret.) about being a Guest of Honor at the Recruit Brigade Review.

Folder 14 – Photocopies of All Photographs and Letters Pertaining to Official Duties

Folder 15 – Miscellaneous Items of Importance
1. The envelopes that contained various personal photographs.
2. Civilian correspondence envelopes.
3. Retirement information folder.
5. A Search from Find-A-Grave Memorial to locate Rear Admiral Constantine Karaberis and Avis Moore Karaberis memorials.

Box 02

Folder 16 – Official Photographs I: 1935 Graduation from the Naval Academy
1. Three 5” x 7” photographs of Rear Admiral Constantine Karaberis in his dress uniforms.
2. One 5” x 7” photograph of his graduating class and the envelope the smaller pictures were kept.
3. Three 3.5” x 2.5” photographs of various stages of the graduation ceremony.
4. One 4.5” x 2.5” photograph of two men (writing on the back does not identify them but states “Naval Academy Graduation June 6, 1935. The upper left corner is torn.

Folder 17 – Photographs II: Official and Personal Photographs from 1930’s.
1. Two 5” x 7” Photographs from the 1930’s of Rear Admiral Constantine Karaberis in his Naval Uniforms.
2. Original envelope for the pictures of the 1934 cruise and a 5” x 4” picture of the men at muster.
3. Two 5” x 4” pictures of men in their Navy uniforms and on board the ship. Two 5” x 3” pictures of men in their Navy uniforms.
4. Two 5” x 3” personal photographs and one 5” x 2” personal photograph.
5. Two 4” x 3” photographs of men in uniforms. Two 4” x 2.5” photographs of men in uniforms.
6. Four 3” x 5” photographs of people in uniforms.
7. Four 2.5” x 3.5” photographs of men in uniforms.
8. One 2.5” x 3” photograph and three 2.5” x 3.5” photographs.
9. Four 2.5” x 3.5” photographs of people.
11. Two 4” x 5” photographs of ships, one 2.5” x 4.5” photo of a ship and one 2.5” x 3.5” of ships.

Folder 18 – Photographs III: Official Photographs 1939-1949
2. 8” x 10” Photograph of V. Division USS Honolulu June, 1941.
3. 8” x 10” Official Photograph of Presentation of Admiral Moffett Trophy, USS Honolulu Naval Station Pearl Harbor, January 2, 1942.
4. 8” x 10” Official Photograph of Presentation of Admiral Moffett Trophy, USS Honolulu Naval Station Pearl Harbor January 2, 1942.
5. 8” x 10” NAS Wake Island, official photograph of Rear Admiral Constantine Karaberis in 1945.
6. Four 4” x 5” Photographs of men at Wake Island.
7. Four 4” x 5” Photographs of men at Wake Island, May 1945.
8. One 8” x 10” Photograph of VP2 P2V-1 over San Diego, 1948.
9. One 8” x 10” photograph of “Change of Command Ceremony, Miramar Naval Air Station, December 8, 1948.
10. One 8” x 10” photograph of “Change of Command Ceremony, Miramar Naval Air Station, December 8, 1948.
11. Two 4” x 5” photographs of Alaska VP-2 General Training Softball Champs, 1949; one 4” x 5” photo of Wake Island and one 4” x 5” photo of Rear Admiral Constantine Karaberis in 1940’s.
12. One 8”x10” photograph of the United States Pacific Fleet Air Force Patrol Squadron Two Soft Ball Team Champions 7/18/1949 and paper with description of who is in the photograph.

Folder 19 – Photographs IV: Official Photographs 1950-1959
1. One 8” x 10” photograph of Commander Karaberis and Hoagy Carmichael shaking hands at the Bing Crosby Show at NAS Alameda, California, September 23, 1951.
2. One 8” x 10” photograph of Bing Crosby and Captain R. R. Waller, at NAS Alameda, California, September 23, 1951.
3. One 8” x 10” photograph of Jane Wyman visiting NAS Alameda, California, (No Date).
4. One 6” x 9” cartoon of U. S. Naval Air Station Alameda, California Organization Chart on one side and Arial photograph of Naval Station Alameda California in the 1950’s.
5. Three 4” x 5” photographs of the first landing on the new runway at NAS Alameda, June 6, 1952. The pilot was Rear Admiral Constantine Karaberis.
6. One 8” x 10” official photograph dated 1953 of Rear Admiral Constantine Karaberis, Honolulu, where he was stationed for 11 months before going to Japan.
7. One 8” x10” photograph of Rear Admiral Constantine Karaberis at his desk. Dated 1953.
8. One 8” x 10” Official photograph of Change of Command Ceremony at VR-23, NAS Atsugi, Japan July 9, 1954.
9. One 8” x 10” Official photograph of Change of Command Ceremony at VR-23, NAS Atsugi, Japan, July 9, 1954.
10. One 8” x 10” Official photograph of Change of Command Ceremony at VR-23, NAS Atsugi, Japan, July 9, 1954.
11. One 8” x 10” Official photograph of Change of Command Ceremony at VR-23, NAS Atsugi, Japan, July 9, 1954.
12. One 8” x 10” Official photograph of the Squadron at VR-23, NAS Atsugi, Japan, July 12, 1954.
13. One 8” x 10” Official photograph of Captain Karaberis in 1945 after he went to Japan.
14. Four 4” x 5” Official photographs of Captain Karaberis at VR-23 NAS Atsugi, Japan on May 4, 1955.
15. One 8” x 10” Official photograph of the VR-23 COD unit, NAS Atsugi Japan, May 1956.
16. One 8” x 10” Official photograph of the VR-23 COD unit, NAS Atsugi Japan, May 1956.
17. One 8” x 10” Official photograph of the VR-23 COD unit, NAS Atsugi Japan, May 1956.
18. One 8 x10” Official photograph of the RK Navy VR-23 plane U.S.A.F. (No date, possibly 1956).
19. One 8” x 10” of Rear Admiral Macpherson being saluted at NAS Atsugi Japan1956-1958.

Folder 20 Photographs V: Official Navy Photographs 1960’s.
1. One 8” x 10” photograph of sailors saluting Vice Admiral Bill Cooper, ASW Norfolk, February 1960. Change of Command Ceremony ASW Norfolk.
2. One 8” x 10” photograph of Officers involved in the Change of Command Ceremony, ASW Norfolk, February 1960. Captain Karaberis in background.
4. One 8” x 10” photograph of Admiral Cooper’s going away party February 1960.
5. One 8” x 10” photograph of Admiral Taylor, Admiral Wright and Admiral Cooper, February 1960, Change of Command, ASW Norfolk.
6. One 8” x 10” photograph of Vice Admiral Bill Cooper Commander of Antisubmarine Defense Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, VA, with a note to Avis and Constantine Karaberis.
7. One 8” x 10” photograph of the Change of Command from Commander Tibbets to Commander Karaberis on the USS Kearsage (CV-33) in 1963.
8. One 8” x 10” photograph of the Change of Command from Commander Tibbets to Commander Karaberis on the USS Kearsage (CV-33) in (no date), same people in photograph.
10. Four 3.5” x 5”color photographs of Change of Command on board the USS Kearsage in March, 1964. Rear Admiral Karaberis relieved by Commander Bakutis in Long Beach, California, one picture of Vice Admiral Holmes speaking.
11. Three 3.5 x 5” color photographs of Change of Command Ceremony on board the USS Kearsarge March, 1964.
12. One 8” x 10” photograph of Rear Admiral Karaberis at Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, CA taking command in 1967.
13. Two 5” x 7” photographs of Rear Admiral Karaberis at NAS North Island, San Diego, CA.
14. Two 5” x 7” photographs of Rear Admiral Karaberis at NAS North Island, San Diego, CA.
15. Two 5” x 7” color photographs of Rear Admiral Karaberis at NAS North Island, San Diego, CA.
16. Two 5” x 7”color photographs of Rear Admiral Karaberis at NAS North Island, San Diego, CA.
17. One 8” x 10” photograph of Rear Admiral Karaberis at Naval Air Station Imperial Beach, California being saluted on board a ship.
18. One 8” x 10” photograph of Rear Admiral Karaberis at Naval Air Station Imperial Beach, California speaking with sailors on board a ship.
19. One 8” x 10” photograph of Rear Admiral Karaberis at Naval Air Station Imperial Beach, California speaking with sailors on board a ship.
20. One 8” x 10” photograph of Rear Admiral Karaberis speaking at a Recruit Review at the U. S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, CA, September, 1967.
21. One 8” x 10” photograph of Rear Admiral Karaberis listening to a speaker at a Recruit Review at the U. S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, CA, September, 1967.
22. One 8” x 10” photograph of Rear Admiral Karaberis cutting the cake at the Recruit Review at the U. S. Naval Training Center San Diego, CA, September, 1967.
23. One 8” x 10” photograph of Rear Admiral Karaberis leaving the U. S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, CA, September, 1967
24. Two 5” x 7” color photographs of Rear Admiral Karaberis at a visit from Mendel Rivers at Naval Air Station Miramar in March, 1968.
25. One 8” x 10” color photograph of Rear Admiral C. A. Karaberis at Comfairsandigo (no date).
26. One 8” x 10” photograph of the Change of Command AEW 11 NAS North Island (no date).
27. One 8” x 10” photograph of the Change of Command AEW 11 NAS North Island (no date).
28. One 8” x 10” photograph of the Change of Command AEW 11 NAS North Island (no date).
29. One 8” x 10” photograph of officials leaving a helicopter NAS North Island (no date).
30. One 8” x 10” photograph of officials walking on the tarmac at NAS North Island (no date).

Folder 21 Photographs VI: Official Navy Photographs in the 1970’s
1. One 8” x 10” photograph of Rear Admiral Constantine Karaberis speaking at NAS North Island, San Diego, California July 9, 1971.
2. One 8” x 10” photograph of Officers leaving the U.S. Naval Training Center San Diego, California during a Recruit Review, February 22, 1974.
3. One 8” x 10” photograph of officials at the U. S. Naval Training Center San Diego, California during a Recruit Review, February 22, 1974.
4. One 8” x 10” photograph with Rear Admiral Constantine Karaberis (Ret.) giving Marilyn Van Derbur an award in April 1975. The photograph is dated August 19, 1975.
5. One 8” x 10” photograph of Rear Admiral Karaberis speaking with Marilyn Van Derbur. The photograph is dated August 19, 1975.

Folder 22 Civilian and Military Awards: Rear Admiral Constantine Karaberis 1926-1985
1. Diploma graduating from Manchester Grammar Schools, June 18, 1926.
2. Diploma graduating from Central High School, June, 1930.
3. United States of America Navy Department appointed a Midshipman dated October 30, 1931.
4. United States Naval Academy appointing a Midshipman dated September 28, 1934.
5. United States Naval Academy appointing him a Midshipman Mustering Petty Officer, March 25, 1935.
6. United States Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida appointing him a Naval Aviator, March 6, 1939.
7. President of the United States of America, appointing Constantine A. Karaberis a Commander in the Navy, March 1, 1944.
9. The President of the United States of America appointing Constantine A. Karaberis to the office of a Captain on August 1, 1956.
10. Other Awards:
   b. Association of Naval Aviation Inc. Life Member, April 1978
   c. United States Naval Institute Life Member July 1, 1981
   d. United States Memorial Foundation the Flag Officer, November 1, 1982.
   e. Early and Pioneer Naval Aviators Association “Golden Eagles” Certificate of Membership, March 12, 1984
   f. United States Naval Institute, Silver Member May 1, 1960 to May 1, 1985.

Folder 23 Avis Karaberis Letters and Photographs from Friends in Japan
1. Letter and envelope from Mrs. Y. Hori from Japan dated December 10, 1993, containing photographs.
2. Three 3.5” x 5” photographs of Mrs. Y. Hori
3. Two 3.5” x 5” photographs of Mrs. Y. Hori and an envelope.
4. A photo album with about 60 3.5” x 5 photographs of a family in Japan.

Box 3

Folder 24: Oversized Awards and Pictures

1. Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America appointing Constantine A. Karaberis to the Office of Ensign in the Navy dated June 6, 1935.
2. Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America appointing Constantine A. Karaberis to the Office of Lieutenant Junior Grade dated June 16, 1938.
4. Photograph of the Class of 1935 Naval Academy 50th reunion.
5. One 11.5 X 14.5 Photograph of Rear Admiral Constantine A. Karaberis.

End of Box Listing