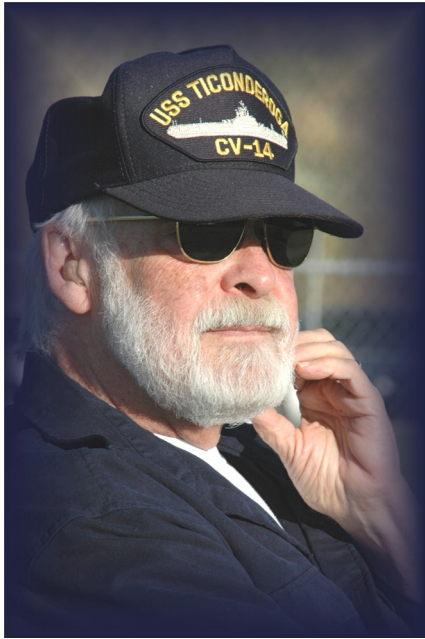
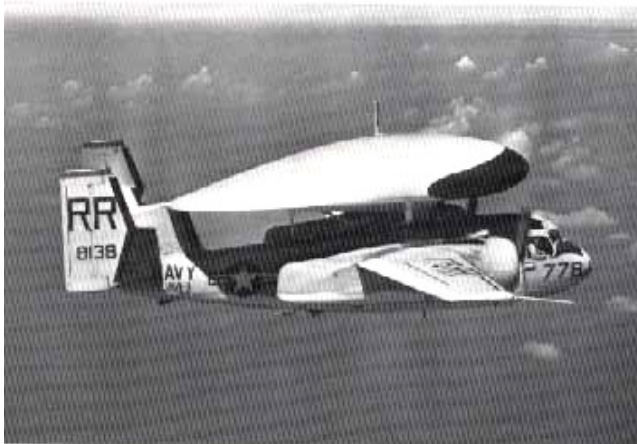


Memories of the Gulf of Tonkin 8.2.1964: Frank Siegler



USS Maddox



**E1B AEW
Navy aircraft**



**APS-82 Radar
aboard E1B**

I was there...at 3,000 feet and twenty miles away in a Navy E1B aircraft equipped with a powerful radar. I directed several F8 Crusader strike aircraft to protect the USS Maddox as I saw raw video on the radar scope of at least 12 small boats darting in and around her. I also established relay communications with the USS Ticonderoga CiC and heard the combat information officer aboard the USS Maddox report multiple torpedoes running under the ship. The only reason they did not sink her was the fact that the Maddox was at the end of her time on station in the Gulf of Tonkin and was low on fuel so was running high in the water. The torpedoes were set to run at a depth too low to hit her. Two nights later I was in the same position to protect the USS Turner Joy. The lone strike aircraft with me was Cdr James Bond Stockdale in an A4 Skyhawk. (Yes, later Adm, MoH and Ross Perot VP). No enemy forces were found and was probably over reaction to lightning flashes observed by an exhausted Turner Joy CIC officer.

New York Times said it didn't happen. History is determined by press reports of the day. Someone once noted that freedom of the press is limited to those who own one. Reporter writes his version of what an eyewitness describes. The eye witness dies. The reporter's version survives. I served two tours in Vietnam and was awarded a chest full of medals. Two of those medals were from President Johnson who, as you might recall, caved in to public polls and the lame stream media pressure and gave up.