



## BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY VETERANS ASSOCIATION



Paul J Ribaldo (in middle)

US Navy- 1968 to 1972  
NY Air National Guard (USAF) - 1978 to 2003 (Retired)  
Total Years Service - 29

I started my military career in the US Navy on May 5, 1968. After Boot Camp I went to Aviation Electricians Mate School in Jacksonville Fla. and from there was assigned to RVAH-3 a training squadron at NAS Albany Ga. I worked on the RA5C Vigilante aircraft; this was a high speed reconnaissance aircraft similar in size and shape to the F-14. I transferred to the “sea going” squadron RVAH-7 made a Mediterranean deployment on the USS Forrestal, and returned to NAS Albany Ga. I closed out my Navy service from the USS Kitty Hawk in February of 1972 leaving the Navy as an Aviation Electricians Mate Second Class (E-5).

In 1978 I joined the 106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Group in Westhampton Beach, assigned to Civil Engineering, working on the bases emergency generators and learning about the Air Forces MAAS which is short for Mobile Aircraft Arresting System. So I became a Power Production Specialist this in part due to the electronics degree I received after the Navy. The 25 years with the NY Guard enabled me to train and travel from Alaska to Panama, Norway, and Spain and many Air Force Bases here in the US. On Sept 11<sup>th</sup> most of my shop volunteered and we spent several weeks in NYC doing whatever we could to help, finally working with the NY Fire Department at ground zero. I retired from the 106<sup>th</sup> in April 2003 attaining the rank of Master Sergeant (E-7).