



BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY VETERANS ASSOCIATION



Fred Horn, Lt. Colonel USAF (Retired)

I entered the Navy as a seaman (E-1) recruit in the fall of 1963 where I was assigned to the USS *Dyess* DD-880 out of Newport, R.I. In December of that year we were designated as Desron-12 and joined the 7th fleet and were deployed to Vietnam assigned as gunfire support in the Mekong Delta and the Saigon River throughout all of 1966 and some of 1967. I was honorably separated and used the GI bill to pursue a degree in Marine Biology.

I had a break in service until I completed my second degree and obtained my RN status when the Army made me an offer I couldn't refuse. Through an act of congress I was made an officer and gentleman (the only way I could obtain this designation) and again, was on active duty. I originally thought that I was a career officer until I realized that I couldn't tolerate the political bull and once again ended my full time service with the Army in 1978.

After another break in service, I was again approached by the Air Force to occupy an open billet in the Air National Guard as a Military Public Health Officer. I spent the next 28 years serving in this capacity at a small air sea rescue unit in Westhampton Beach, N.Y. We took part in numerous humanitarian activities including tours in Africa, Honduras, Mid-East, Germany, England and parts of the United States.

The military has always treated me well where I have met and become friends with an incredible number of productive and intelligent people from all walks of life. I eventually retired in 2004 after completing 42 years of honorable service and the rank of Lt. Colonel. The only regret I have is that I did not serve as a Marine or Coastguardsman; both service branches I have tremendous respect for.

A famous American once said that I have never met a man that I didn't like. This famous American says that I have never met a serviceman or woman that I didn't like.