

This interview is being conducted on Monday, March 24, 2025 at the home of Donald R. Eggett. My name is Fran Prokop and I am speaking with Don who served in the United States Navy and is a veteran of the Viet Nam conflict. Don learned of the Veterans' History Project through me, and he has kindly consented to participate in the National Archives Veterans' History Project. Here is his story:

Don, could you state your full name for the record?

Yes, Donald Robert Eggett.

When and where were you born?

I was born May 10, 1947, in Cleveland, Ohio.

What were your parents' occupations?

My Dad was a contractor for the Department of Defense out of the Cleveland Federal Office, and my Mother really was a homemaker. But she did, in her later years of life – became a Registered Nurse for nearly 15 years.

How many sisters and brothers did you have?

Three brothers, one sister.

Were any of your brothers in the service?

I was the only one – no.

What did you do before entering the service?

Let's see, went to high school. Went to John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio.

I received a Bachelor of Science Degree 1969. I received a job from the University Hospital in Cleveland in the Pathology Department.

And did you work there?

I worked there for nine months, almost, until I got my 1-A Classification and I got drafted in March of 1970 into the service.

So you were drafted.

I was drafted.

And how old were you at that time?

I was 22.

Why did you choose that specific branch of service – even though you were drafted –

I went into the service – at the Social Security Building in the Cleveland area and I first went to the Air Force Division, however, under the circumstances I did not sign on with the Air force so instead I went to the other Division down the hallway, and that was the Navy Division – and I enlisted in the Nuclear Navy at that time– for six years – that was required at that time.

Can you tell me a little about your departure for training camp and early days of training?

Sure. After I received my draft notice and I enlisted in the nuclear navy, I went to San Diego and there I had boot camp –

For how long?

That was an 11-week boot camp.

Can you describe a typical day of boot camp? What did you do – what time did you get up – what were your activities?

We were awakened to an alarm at six a.m. and the Master Chief came in and banged on his pots and pans and you better be out of bed instantaneously because you were in deep trouble if you weren't. We then mustered downstairs at 6:30 and heard a lot of discussion – we were told the Plan of the Day or the POD by the Master Chief. From there we went to have breakfast; then after breakfast we typically ran through exercises, running, lots of physical exercises – running, jumping, chin-ups, sit-ups – to get in physical shape, I guess.

Marching?

A lot of marching, yes, yes, marching was predominant. We had lunch around 12 noon and for maybe 45 minutes max. Then there was more marching; we did have, as we got more into the boot camp, we actually had time for shining our shoes – they had to be “spit shined”. They had to look like a mirror, and we had time for ourselves for awhile, to talk, read books, whatever you were allowed – and again, more training, depending on what was scheduled. Then we had dinner around 5.

How about classroom training?

Not specifically in boot camp, no, at least not at that time. They surely probably have it now, but not at that time, no. We did, towards the end of our boot camp, we were given one day away from the boot camp and you could do anything you want. And that happened to be when I went to Coronado, California, across the water and I spent the day with close friends of mine – and they were close friends from the Cleveland area, I didn't grow up with but I dated one of their daughters. Anyway, so, the after one day R & R you had two weeks left, typically after that, and then you had graduation there at the San Diego base. A lot of people came. Did I get anybody from Cleveland come to see me? No – cost too much.

What happened after that? Where were you sent?

I think there was a two-week leave, then I reported to Great Lakes Naval Station for my schooling – that was my first schooling – at Great Lakes.

So that was your specialized training?

Right, and I went to mechanic and machinist school and that was from June till September of 1970.

Three months?

Three months, right. And there was a graduation there. I even got a certificate for graduation there. Then you were off a week. Then I went to Nuclear Power School in Mare Island, California.

How long was that Nuclear Power school?

That was six months, all schooling -- classroom every day, 8 hours. After that was done, then we went over to Idaho Falls and we actually went to the Nuclear Prototype Training School. They had three training plants there – prototypes; one was for surface and two were for submarines. I went on the on for surface and that's how I ended up on the USS Enterprise, which is a nuclear surface aircraft carrier.

After the six months did you get a certificate or a degree –

Oh, yeah, they're in there.

Like a nuclear power operator –

Well, yeah, over there in Idaho – but in Mare Island you got a certificate upon completion of the nuclear power engineering course.

After your six-month class –

So after six months and six months, then – yeah, from there I was – I went home for one week – and this was late January of 1971. Then I flew from Cleveland to San Francisco, where I caught a military cargo plane out of Travis air Force Base, and they flew me over to Manila, Philippines.

Before we get to Manila – let me ask you – you've been now – from March to December – in nine months – how did you adapt to military life?

Well, okay, from March to June, boot camp, June till September, then September to April, then April to November – almost two years, right.

What I wanted to ask was – when you were back in boot camp – how did you adapt to military life – at the beginning – the physical regimen, the barracks, food, social life –

Social life was okay. Food was okay – nothing to write home about.

So you didn't have any problems with that?

No, no, I had no problem eating stuff like that -- you have to survive.

And you didn't have any problem being away from home. Was that your first time away?

Well, probably the first week or two, it was kinda tough.

Until you meet people, get to know things.

There were a lot of guys who were 17 and 18 and I was nurturing them, believe it or not.

Yeah, I do believe it; I meant to ask you about that because you were 22; most of those guys were a lot younger. Did you get any extra duties because you were older?

Yes, right, I did.

What were they?

Well, they first assigned me as the patrol squad leader and I lasted for four weeks because our squad Master Chief didn't think I was as aggressive as he wanted me to be. I was too nice of a guy. So they changed and put another person in who carried out the rest of the time during boot camp, and I was kind of like a right hand person after that. The Master Chief used me as a right-hand person maybe to help the guys, nurture them a little bit and stuff like that. That was basically boot camp. I exercised quite a bit, because I was into weight-lifting – and that was free time. I got along with all the guys – I showed you the picture.

In boot camp did you have any organized team sports?

No, not in boot camp.

Okay, where did you serve? Now that you're back after your week leave, what was your first assignment?

After boot camp?

No, no, after your classroom training was completed in January of 1971?

I flew from Cleveland to California and then they put me on a military jumbo jet and flew me to Manila and I didn't stay there long. They flew me by helicopter from the base there in the Philippines, which was Subic Bay, and they put me on the Enterprise from a helo.

And where was the Enterprise at that time?

It was in the South China Seas; we were shooting off bombers. So that was February of 1971 and then we came back. I was there for a three-month stint. We came back

around May 1, 1971. There was a fast turnaround and we went right back on a long 11-month – the first one – then a second one. Anyway, so 11 months away from June of '71 to May of '72 – no, I'm goofin' this up right now.

When I went to my two years of schooling in prototype, that was the end of '71, so it was really February of '72 when I caught the Enterprise on the helo for 3 months, came back and then June of '71 we were over in the South China Seas during the war till May of '73, and it was in January of '73 where the Viet Cong surrendered – the actual surrender in January of '73.

So the war ended.

We came back, went into dry dock up in Bremerton, Washington, I think it was for eight months.

What did you do during that dry dock period?

Worked on the ship.

Oh, you stayed on the ship?

Oh, yeah. We lived on the ship. You could get off. Your family could come up there. And those that were married and had a place to stay – I just stayed on the ship. I wasn't married. So, yeah – and I think that was a total – because we replaced all the screws on the ship and a lot of other things too. I worked out of the engineering lab because that's where I qualified as an operator.

Go back to – I want to know what you did on the ship when you were gone for 11 months – what was your daily routine?

I'll start with six in the morning -- I got up, showered, had breakfast and I went down to the engineering plant at 7:30 and I replaced the person on a qualified station because they were there the whole night. So, anyway, we were there for – it was 8 hours, let's say from 7 to 4 – uh, and I was on watch, I was down there watch standing, you know shooting bombs – whatever – I was down there working in the engineering plant. Anyway, so we got out about 4 or 4:30; then we had dinner let's say 5 or 5:30. The food on the Enterprise was pretty good – not like boot camp. So, in the evening then you had some quiet time. You could play cards; you could shoot the breeze with the guys. I did go down to the front of the ship, the forecastle, and there was a gym -- they had up there and I was probably 3 to 4 days a week -- I lifted weights for 2 and a half hours –

Wow!

--each time – I put in at least ten hours each of weightlifting a week – and that was every week. I was in pretty good shape. Anyway, so that was a typical day. Then when quiet time or time for yourself – or whenever you got done with what you were doing, uh, there was no bell or anything where you had to be in bed, like in boot camp, you were just on your own. Whenever you went to bed, although lights were out at 10 –

so we were back in berthing; there were no lights on; all went off at 10, so everybody had their own little light inside their sleeping arrangement.

What was your sleeping arrangement on the carrier?

Well, there were three bunks – one on the bottom, one in the middle and one on the top. Three tier bunk arrangement and the way it was set up, if you were new on the ship, you got the bottom one. If you were second in command, you got the middle one. If you were the top – no if you were second in command you got the top one; if you were the senior, you got the middle one. So that's how that worked, at least when I was there. I eventually got to the middle bunk my last two years on the ship.

On the ship when you were working 7 to 4, did you encounter any – what did you do – did you ever encounter enemies of any kind?

No, we weren't that close. The closest we got to the war itself is that we could see from a distance, if we went outside, okay, and looked towards Viet Nam, you could actually see the orange sky and stuff like that. That's the closest we got.

And how far away was that from shore – like 50 miles?

No, I would say like maybe more like, I'd say probably 10 miles.

Okay, ten miles off shore.

I think the actual zone that they call the Hazard Zone, I think is a 50-mile radius. I don't remember exactly. But if we were within that radius of Viet Nam land, everything we got – we got free postage. We had – when we went to the candy store, depending on your rank you got free candy – I mean stuff like that. Then there was one other thing I wanted to mention – oh, I was a smoker then, during that time, and cigarettes were so cheap it was unreal.

Oh, they weren't free? You had to pay for them.

Yeah – they could have been free when we were in that Hazard Zone – the War Zone – so what else did we do?

There was nothing like ping pong, like I said, there was the weight room. They had a TV room in the berthing area – everywhere they had a berthing. So you could watch TV,

What kind of TV was it? Old movies and things? What programs did you watch?

Old serials?

We got it late; we got it late, obviously, because we got the reels that were sent in by the postal planes that were coming in – that's how we got our mail – yeah. They were the CODs – that stands for Carrier Of Delivery – it was a COD plane; I think it was a four prop engine; wasn't a jet. What they did is they flew it in from the States to Subic Bay. From Subic Bay the prop job found the ships out there in the War Zone, so anyway, where were we?

What I'm asking about is that you saw current movies or series of shows that were going on.

Oh, yeah, give you an example, All In the Family – Carroll O'Connor – that great show came on in '71 or '72 –

Yes, yes.

That's an example.

Ok, so you saw current features; and current news too?

Oh, yeah; current news. They probably put on the best NFL football game – it was a little later, but we did see it. The other thing they had on the ship, that I just thought about, they had what they called like a library and whatever deck it was on, I don't remember but it was pretty nice and there was an actual newspaper, that was the service newspaper called Stars and Stripes –

Oh, yes, Stars and Stripes.

And I went there almost daily to read that Stars and Stripes, just to see what was going on back in the States. That was good. And I read other books up there too.

Did you stop at different ports along the way or did you just sail up and down the South China Sea?

No, no, no, We were replaced let's say by the Constellation, the Coral Sea – other carriers, and we were given like two weeks for R & R.

But I mean during the 11 months that you were on active duty you did not visit any other ports?

Oh, yeah, we did.

Oh, you did. Okay.

Here's some examples – Hong Kong, Singapore, the island of Mauritius – south of India – we went to Kenya –

And you actually got off ship and went on land?

Oh, yeah, we got off the ship by a little small 40 horsepower boat – we disembarked from the carrier and they took us – we were probably about a half mile off the shore, something like that. And there were times – if you had priority or you had done something special or whatever, you could stay overnight in a hotel. So we were in Hong Kong – I think we stayed in the Hilton in Hong Kong – we had about four other guys, whatever.

Oh, Wow!

Mostly what we did is – in Hong Kong I bought something, I know that, I think it was a sports coat, but we ate a lot there – on the Hong Kong main island and even on Kowloon, we ate there also. We went up to the top of Victoria Peak. Excellent Chinese food; same thing with Singapore – great food there. That was more of a cosmopolitan type city – more along the lines of an American city. Let's see, where else did we go – Kenya – that was – we probably were there for three days. I didn't stay overnight in Kenya but I got a lot of pictures. Mauritius – the reason we went there is because they got obliterated by a typhoon and we went in to help them rebuild. We were there about seven days helping. We were told to go by Washington, D.C. to help them out. And I was there helping. I stood watch in the engineering plant when not on the island.

So it got hit by a typhoon – that's like a tornado?

Exactly, cyclone, they're all – more appropriate with a hurricane. So those were some of the places on the way over between the Philippines and US we stopped in Guam, we were in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and in Japan –

And you actually got off the ship and visited these places?

Oh, yeah, yeah, it could have been like an 8 or 10-hour time away from the ship on land if you didn't stay overnight. But that was okay. You talk to the people, get something to eat and buy something – something like that.

Just to get off the ship and do something different.

Exactly, because we were looking at walls all the time.

So you never witnessed any destruction – war-type destruction of any kind while you were in the service? Where villages were bombed – things like that? Really the destruction you saw was from the typhoon.

Well, that was from the typhoon; that wasn't part of a war. The only thing I can tell you was I can relate to the orange sky in the distance. But we weren't close enough to damage – like the infantry and the marines were – no, no.

How about friendships formed and camaraderie of service? Do you still keep in touch with any fellas you met in the service?

No, because most of them have passed away. Probably the last time would have been a good 20 years.

Did you ever go to any reunions?

Never went to any of the reunions. Never went to even an Enterprise reunion either – never did – never did.

You weren't interested in it?

Uh, let me just say, during my time when I was in the service, my attitude wasn't the best.

Well, it was a terrible war too.

Well, that's true too and that didn't help. And my attitude was described as being very disdainful – that was – and finally, I had about two and a half years left, and I turned myself around and said, “hey, get your mind straight.”

Well, that's good.

Yeah, so I did. I got a lot of assignments by a lot of areas on the ship – neither here nor there – by a lot of the officers, the senior officers, and just before I got off the Enterprise, the Captain of the Enterprise had an interview with me and he said, “I'd like to talk to you about shipping over”, and I gave my reasons for not shipping over and he said, “I totally understand your thinking.” And I basically, I think I mentioned that earlier – I just wanted to get into the commercial part of the industry; that's what I wanted to do. But yeah, you know, my attitude was kinda so-so – it was up and down, up and down on the ship. I did very well as far as qualifying what I needed to do or get certified at something – that wasn't the issue, okay. Sometimes I think I had too much free time – and so, that meant I was thinking about, “Jesus, why am I here – why am I here?” – that's what'll hit a person's mind – the minimum time you could make it.

What is the highest rank you achieved?

That was Machinist Mate First Class and I made that at five years.

While you were on the ship how was your communication from home – how did you stay in touch with family and friends?

Oh, that was good; that was great.

I mean, by letter?

Letter, by letter, by tape with my wife –

When did you get married?

I'll get to that. But, yeah, I wrote to my mother and dad probably twice a month. With my friends and girl or girlfriends, I had two – probably once a week. And then with my wife, okay, when we were engaged – not even engaged yet, but engaged and got married, probably every other day.

When did you meet your wife? Did you meet her in the service?

I was in the service. We met in November of 1971, that was in Vallejo, California about 30 miles north of San Francisco. She was working for an owner of an Italian restaurant called Caesar's. I walked in there to see him because I met him when I first went out there to California and to make a long story short, she was working that night. And he introduced me to her; nothing happened that night, but that's when we first met. It wasn't until I got back in April of '72 when we came back after three months, I went

back and I went to see him again. She was working again so we got reacquainted, and one thing led to another. Then I went on that long cruise of 11 months –

So you met her after your first short cruise when you got helicoptered to the Enterprise?

Right, just before I went there is when I met her. Then we got reacquainted, when we came back after three months, but that was a short stint because then we went over for 11 months. So it was tough on both of us. So she wrote, I swear, I think every day – and I tried to get off letters maybe once a week, and tapes, just like you got here.

You had tapes, right.

Yeah.

That was probably better – tapes.

They were – so uh, then when we got back and at the end of that 11-month cruise, that would have been like May of '73, then we went up to Bremerton – of course I saw her before we went up there. And I flew her up there, and that's where we got engaged.

You got engaged in Bremerton, okay.

Yeah, up in Seattle – Bremerton area. That's what I remember. And I think that's pretty accurate.

When did you get married?

We got married April of '74 –

While you were still in the service?

Oh, yeah, yeah. I got an extended leave, in fact I took a month off, and we got married in Portland, Maine, where my wife is from. That's where she was born – and had our reception there and also had another reception – it was like a double reception in Cleveland – that's where I was from.

Two receptions.

Two receptions, right, two different cities. And then we both flew back – after the reception in Cleveland we both went back to the West Coast. That was probably – we got married in '74 and I think the Enterprise went back in July of '74, back to the south China Seas again.

Where did she live, once you were married?

We lived in Vallejo.

When you were gone where did she live?

She lived in a rented home – a little bungalow. She paid \$88 a month to live there.

Ha, ha, you'd pay \$88 a day today.

Yeah, it was a full bungalow – it had a dining room, living room, two bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen, a laundry room and a garage.

Oh my God!

So that's where she lived while I was gone and that's where we lived after I got out in like April of '75. I didn't go on that next cruise that I mentioned, and we lived there until I got my Notice to get discharged at Great Lakes. But I already had a job lined up – 'cuz I was interviewing for jobs. My wife and I both went back I think in fall of '75 and I interviewed with Commonwealth Edison, and that's how I got my first job.

ComEd which is here in Chicago?

Yeah, which is Excelon now. Yeah, I interviewed with them and while we were here, my wife and I had great people helping us here from Edison. They showed up places where we might want to find a place to live. WE got an apartment in Joliet. My wife did not want to live in Morris because when she saw a tractor in the window, she wasn't too thrilled – "I'm not living here while you're going to the plant and working."

Right.

And then we ended up in New Lenox and we bought our first home in New Lenox. That's how that went.

Let me go back to the service. We come to the point what were your medals, honor and awards received – and you will read them out loud to me – that way they will be in the record.

Okay, this is right off the DD-214 – first Good Conduct Award for period ending 8 March 1974. National Defense Service Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Viet Nam Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation – those were the five.

Okay. Now, where were you when you were deactivated?

Great Lakes.

But you got off the Enterprise?

Oh, you mean when I got off – okay – so when we came back in April or May of '75, the war was over because the surrender was in January, so what happened, since I was one of the senior enlisted officers, if you will, on the ship, I got to leave the ship and fly back early – myself and probably a half dozen other guys from the engineering reactor area that we were in. That was three weeks before the ship came back. When the ship came back we assumed all the roles and responsibilities of taking care of the ship in the engineering area while the other people go to go see family. That was part of the evacuation period of Americans from Viet Nam, right around May of '75. Then we had typical shore duties, ship duties while we were in Alameda, California

My wife and I were married by then, and she continued working in that Italian restaurant. We lived together so I drove from Vallejo to Alameda where the ship was stationed, every morning, when I had to, so fighting traffic – usually took about an hour and 15 minutes. So I was leaving early to get there for muster at 7:30. I was leaving the house at probably 6:15 – so we worked on the ship, and when the ship left for its next cruise, and I think that was probably – it was fall of '75 – I don't remember the month – but I got assigned land duties in Mare Island, since we lived in Vallejo – did office work, I think I was helping out instructing the nuclear power school – the new class that came in. I may have helped on that, with the curriculum and stuff. Lots of land duties, documentation, and I stayed there doing that until we got notice from the Navy that I was supposed to report to the Great Lakes Naval Station. I think it was January of '76 – that's just a guess.

All right.

So what happened is my wife and I, we drove from California to Illinois, Great Lakes, and we were allowed two weeks. So we shut the door in California and came to Illinois. I definitely had daily duties there in the Great Lakes, a lot of office work, helping out, just things like that. I wasn't in any type of required government service because I was already getting discharged. I spent a lot of time with the enlisted men and officers there. Saw movies there – they had a great movie theater there – my wife and I – so it was pretty good. Anyway then March 4 I got discharged.

Of 1976.

Right.

How was your readjustment to civilian life?

No problem.

Did you use the GI Bill at all?

No, you know why? To this day, to this day I'm still not happy with that freakin' government of ours.

Oh.

Because, I had my Degree already, my Bachelor's Degree – there was no compensation or benefit to get a Graduate Degree. You can get it now, but you couldn't get it then. There was nothing for it. I searched into that – how come I can't get help from the government? Because we don't have anything; it was an Advanced Degree.

Now they do have the advanced degree.

So what did I do then, after that, in '78 I went to Louis University in Illinois and I signed up for the MBA Program. So the government never really helped me. Have I really used the Veterans' Benefits since I've been out – yes, but not really. I've got – I'm all signed up for burial and stuff like that, not where it's gonna be, but all the transcripts and

everything are ready for my wife and I; it could be up north here – could be anyplace, really.

We have Abe Lincoln.

So I've taken care of that.

Are you a member of any Veterans Organizations today?

Not a member of American Legion or VFW, Well, I was in the VFW when I was living in New Lenox probably for about 25 years.

Oh, you were.

Yeah, when I was living in New Lenox. But not anymore.

So you just dropped out.

A lot of my friends kinda dropped out or passed away – died at an earlier age. Yeah, you don't know the people that much anymore.

So have you been in contact with any fellow veterans over the years – after you got out?

Let me think back –

You said you never went to any reunions –

No, never went, well, as it turned out, I might have gone – I think the last time I was asked to come to a reunion was the one over there off the East Coast, where the shipyard is there – Norfolk. Connecticut is the submarine base– I knew a few people down there. I couldn't get away from work, so I never went to that one. That was the closest I got because I was even communicating via email with them – so never really did. Never caught up. When I first got out, probably the first 10 or 15 years, very close with a few. One guy that I was pretty close with, his name was Kirk Lathrop. He started working for GE out in San Jose – now that office is closed. He and I – we communicated quite a bit. And there was another guy, Brian Martig, he was from northern Minnesota, Bemidji – in fact he bought my wife's Volkswagen before we left California and he converted that into a small truck – cute as heck. We got pictures of it in our albums. Those are really the two very close ones.

And they passed away?

Both of them passed away, yeah.

And the other ones, I don't even know where they are. I don't even have a list of where people are anymore.

So you don't really use any of the VA services?

I don't use their medical and I'll tell you why. When I separated from Edison when I was 50, I got a corporate package you couldn't pass up. That covered me, my wife, my two boys – it was all medical, dental, vision, the whole kit and caboodle – so I didn't need anything from the government so I saved them some money.

That's a good way to look at it. Ha, ha

To this day we still have that Edison package.

Oh, yeah, you can access it if you need it.

Right, exactly.

So how did your military experience affect your life? On the whole?

I'm just trying to think – uh, it was very good from the standpoint of I as an individual, when I started working for Edison, I think some of the managers and other people in leadership probably recognized my capabilities and skills and everything – and I probably improved upon them in the service even though my attitude wasn't the best when I first went into the Navy.– (end of tape)

We had to turn the tape – you said your skills improved in the service –

Yeah, so I'm just saying it definitely helped me in my career, okay. And that's a positive thing. And I used that and I took that because my career's been very good. I left after 25 years with Edison. I retired full-time in 2016 after working for two consulting companies – one out of Chicago and one out of London -- out of the UK – but I was stationed here in the Chicago area.

Wow!

I did a lot of traveling when I was working for Edison. They seemed to send me all over the place.

What did you do with Edison – on these travels ?

Well, my background was nuclear power and nuclear energy.

I mean were you consulting or were you actually doing things –

When I worked for Edison, I was attending meetings representing ComEd. So I was their spokesperson, if you will, where they thought I would fit – that's a good way of saving it. And we had industry meetings – that's where I met a lot of people through my career – great people. To this day I'm still very close with some. But that was that. Then, the later two companies, after I left Edison, AES Corporation and Amick Foster Wheeler, I was an Executive Director and Consultant for both of them. And I still travel quite a bit. And I was used for business development at both companies to gain more business.

Um-hmm.

That went through from 2000 to 2016 – I retired full-time in March of 2016. And then in June of 2016, I opened up my own Consulting company which I have right now,.

Oh, Wow! So you're still working part time?

Part time, right. I don't do full time, although my wife will say, "You work full time." I say no, I get up in the morning, start the coffee, turn on the TV and watch the news. I don't have to get in the car and run to the office.

Right.

So I work part time – but I'm heavily involved – engaged in the industry – in the energy business – that's what I'm doing.

What would you say are the life lessons learned from military service?

Uh, integrity, workman skills – boy, you had to be on top of everything – writing procedure – writing documents, leadership. I was asked on three different occasions to take senior leadership on an examination team on the Enterprise – that was mandated by Washington, D.C. Every year we had to requalify in all the watch stations and I was on that exam team. I was a senior leader. Another one – I was a senior advisor to the Engineering and Reactor Officer on Safety Issues – something else. So I took that, with me and I'm using it even to this day.

Sure.

And then mentoring – I mentor a lot today, especially the young professionals – the younger people coming up – some good, good people. Anyway, those – probably those three things right there – there's probably more -- honesty – I've always been honest. Honesty, integrity, sincerity, friendly – I'm very outgoing – I'm not an introvert – very outgoing.

The service fosters all those qualities – brings them out in you – eventually.

Yes, right, right.

Well, that's it. I think we're probably done. If there's anything else you think you forgot or you just want to add to the story, we can always do that.

Let me go through a few of these papers. I gave you my email – don.eggett@gmail.com .

If Don sends me anything via email I will add it to the end of this interview. There might be a few things. He's going to check through his DD-214 and some other documents that he has unearthed because of this interview and he will check them out.

Yeah, okay.

So I thank you very much for this interview and thank you for your service to our country.

You're quite welcome, Fran. This has been interesting trying to dig some of this information out on the spur of the moment was not easy, but I think it came out okay.

Thank you very much, Don.

Okay, you're welcome.

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