



The Bugle

Ocean Hills Village Vets

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Commander's Corner

I hope everyone enjoyed our speakers at our March Village Vets get-together from CWO4 Kevin Bentle, Enforcement Division at U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Diego, the dynamic Victor Gonzalez from Caption Call, and our own Larry Soukup who filled in for Daryl McFarland about the Vista Military War Memorial. There was a lot of good information put out to our Vets.

In May we will have our Village Vets General Meeting starting at **2:00 P.M. on Saturday, May 21st** at the Clubhouse Lanai under the tent. We will be having a bar-b-que, FREE for all our currently paid members. For alcoholic beverages it will be BYOB. We want our veterans to get re-acquainted with each other. We also invited Marines from the 1st ANGLICO at Camp Pendleton. In addition to attending, they will address their mission and other items

of interest. We also plan on having a second guest speaker.

We also plan to have an offsite during July for our members, and currently working out the details and logistics of the trip. If you still have not joined us this year, your \$10.00 check per person marked "2022 Dues" can be left at the front desk at the Clubhouse, in the Vet's Club folder.

Just a quick reminder. The DOD has changed their Military I.D. Cards with a new design and additional security. If you have an older military I.D. card and it is expired, current or classified as indefinite, it should be replaced. A new card can be issued at Camp Pendleton for all military services. Making a reservation on-line is recommended. You can check at the entrance gate for the location of the badge issuing location.

States with Increasing Vet Populations

Florida's lifestyle is a beacon for retirees, including veterans, but West Virginia, with a low cost of living, South Carolina, with its climate and lifestyle, and South Dakota with lots of career opportunities all outpace Florida. But the shocking leader for inbound Vet migration is Vermont, with career opportunities and proximity to family. It helps if you like snow. (from Veterans Advantage).

And California? Think it might be too expensive?

A VET IN OUR VILLAGE

Paul Elsberry



Photo courtesy OHCC Photo Club

Paul got his start in Tacoma, Washington, where he was born and raised. He attended the University of Washington for three years as an undergraduate, and then switched over to dental school, where he took advantage of the U.S. Navy's early commissioning program. He attended weekly Reserve meetings, and spent the summers with the Navy, but continued his education in the meantime. At the time, the services could draft medical or dental personnel at any time up to age 40, so getting it out of the way was a good idea. Paul went through some basic indoctrination at Newport, RI.

After completing dental school in 1969, Paul went on active duty in the Navy with the rank of Lieutenant. His first assignment was at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. Young Marines on the way in might have seen a dentist for the first times in their lives. Paul's CO was a Captain, who was fond of wearing Marine-style khakis around the base, including the eagle insignia on the collar, and when other Navy people greeted this guy who appeared to be a Colonel as Captain, the Marines were not impressed.

Paul next was assigned to a Seabee battalion in Port Hueneme, CA, in Ventura County. They were a Pacific Alert Battalion, ready to be deployed on short notice. They were deployed to Okinawa, where a lot of the equipment, including dental equipment, was left over from WWII. Practicing dentistry in a hot, humid climate with manually powered equipment and insufficient air conditioning was a problem. Okinawa was in the midst of internal strife, not over yet, between the native Ryūkyūans, indigenous people, and the Japanese who had annexed Okinawa in 1879. Also anti-Vietnam war protests were common.

Paul had some R&R in Tokyo, and while dressed for warm weather, encountered a winter storm. Paul tried to purchase a heavy coat, but the Japanese version of 'large' didn't work for him.

Afterwards, Paul was at Treasure Island, in San Francisco Bay, in July, where he once again

headed off in pursuit of a warm coat. His unit processed people on their way out of the service. An unpleasant additional duty was as a Casualty Assistance and Care Officer. This meant he had to give notification to a family about the loss in combat or serious injury of a loved one.

Paul says he had a great experience in the Navy, but it wasn't the life he wanted. After separation he moved back to Washington State and practiced dentistry for 30 years. Paul and his wife Debbie moved to OHCC about six years ago. Paul is a Vets club member and a board member of the Photography Club. He's been an avid fly fisher for 55 years, fishing freshwater lakes and streams as well as saltwater beaches in Puget Sound and British Columbia.

Big Navy



How big was the U.S. Navy during WWII? By January 1945, the Navy had 61,045 vessels of all types including 23 battleships, over 100

aircraft carriers, 59 cruisers, 425 destroyers, 400 destroyer-escorts, 237 subs and 54,000 landing craft and assault ships. The Navy also had 37,000 planes. (U.S. Naval Institute)

USCG Cruise Missiles?



USCGC Mellon firing a Harpoon in 1990

During the immediate period before the Soviet Union broke apart, and at the zenith of the "war on drugs", some of the US Coast Guard's largest and most capable 378' cutters were equipped with Harpoon anti-ship missiles. ADM Paul Yost, the Commandant, tried to make the Coast Guard into a far more militarized and aggressive service. He thought they should be more than maritime first responders but instead become America's coastal defense against foreign attack. (You could sure discourage drug smuggling go-fast boats with a Harpoon.) Yost was not a popular leader, and nearly every change he made was later reversed.