

Name: Bart Chambers  
Position: Battalion Chief  
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- 1) What branch and unit were you in? *Navy (Hospital Corpsman) with Fleet Marine Force (FMF).*
- 2) What was your highest rank? *Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class assigned to a Marine Corps unit.*
- 3) Are you still enlisted as a reservist or National Guard? *No, retired after 21 years.*
- 4) Why did you join the service? *Wanted to serve my country. Members of the family have been in the service since the Spanish-American War.*
- 5) What did you like the most about being in? *Serving with the Marine Corps, the camaraderie, it's really hard to explain. That's why I stayed with what we call 'the green side of the house' for so long. If a Marine needed your assistance, you never let him down, you were always there for him.*
- 6) What did you like the least? *Nothing in particular.*
- 7) What moment most defined your military experience? *Serving with Marines. I would do anything for a Marine in a heartbeat. They put a higher standard on us, but once they were sure of you, they would do the same. Whether it was sleeping in a dirty foxhole or humping cross-country like they did, when they were good to go, they took care of me.*
- 8) What made you choose firefighting as a career? *I had originally intended to be a policeman, but got the bug when I finished my active duty and worked as a seasonal firefighter with CDF. Ironically, as of a couple of days ago, left our law enforcement fire prevention bureau because I was promoted.*
- 9) What do you like the most about firefighting? *The camaraderie. I have the best of both worlds – law enforcement and firefighting. I enjoy training firefighters, which I've done at the academy, and now that I'm a Battalion Chief, they know they can rely on me, since many went through my classes at the academy. They know they can use me as a tool, that I'll be there for them, but at the same time they know that they have to pull their own weight, but that I'll support them. In a way, the discipline I learned in the military carries over into the fire service. The firefighters know that we will leave no one behind, that they have to pull their own load, but that they will reap the rewards of being part of the team. There is a strong unity, there is a strong family. I'm like a kid playing in a mud puddle and I'm getting paid for it. For me it's relaxing because I have an extended family, a family outside my family.*
- 10) What do you like least about firefighting? *Administrative responsibilities, people getting up in your face, the paperwork.*