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- 1) What branch and unit were you in? *Navy, stationed with Marines.*
- 2) What was your highest rank? *Hospital Corpsman, E-5.*
- 3) Are you still enlisted as a reservist or National Guard? *No.*
- 4) Why did you join the service? *Didn't want to go to college. Went in for seven years March 1994 to May 2001. Got out because couldn't see getting married and having to leave home for months at a time.*
- 5) What did you like the most about being in? *Loved every minute of it and would definitely do it again. The camaraderie was really neat, I really liked that. I really enjoyed seeing the Pacific Rim. Never went by ship. I was with the Marines and they flew us everywhere we had to go.*
- 6) What did you like the least? *Hurry up and wait.*
- 7) What moment most defined your military experience? *The life experience I got out of it, it matures you. It honed my work ethic so I was able to focus in on what I really wanted after I got out.*
- 8) What made you choose firefighting as a career? *Bart Chambers got me into firefighting. I was doing hearing exams on some of his guys and looking around for what else I could do. He got together with me, I looked over the whole paramedic/firefighter thing, and it really appealed to me. So I started volunteering out in Riverside. I had been a lifeguard years before, worked as an EMT at Camp Pendleton, and with the hours on a fire engine as a volunteer, I got into Medic School*
- 9) What do you like the most about firefighting? *Training. It's something different all the time. That's what I really like about it. The camaraderie at the station, it's like an extended family. Life as a firefighter is a lot like life in the military. There are so many specialties and it's really humbling because the more you learn, the more you find out that you don't know. The pay is also good enough that my wife can stay at home and raise the kids, we can own a home, have a new car, and still be okay. And the benefits are unbeatable. I've worked for an ambulance company and the benefits here are way better.*
- 10) What do you like least about firefighting? *Time away from the family. If we're on a fire assignment, we'll be gone for an extended period of time. In this way, it sort of parallels the military.*