

Name: Jerry James

Position: Pilot

Fire Department: Los Angeles County Air Ops

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- 1) What branch and unit were you in? *Army. One tour in Vietnam, got out around 1971.*
- 2) What was your highest rank? *Chief Warrant Officer (CWO-2).*
- 3) Are you still enlisted as a reservist or National Guard? *No.*
- 4) Why did you join the service? *Enlisted in the Army during Vietnam for the helicopter training.*
- 5) What did you like the most about being in? *Spit-and-polish was not as prevalent during my time in Vietnam, but that changed when I got back to the states. They had a surplus of Warrant Officers, so they offered an early out and I took it.*
- 6) What did you like the least? *Didn't like the rudimentary regulation lifestyle.*
- 7) What moment most defined your military experience?
- 8) What made you choose firefighting as a career? *Came here for the benefits and retirement. Flexibility.*
- 9) What do you like the most about firefighting? *I realized after I got here that I should have tried to get here 20 years earlier. Far surpasses anything available in the helicopter industry. I enjoy firefighting. It's a real thrill to get out and knock down fires.*
- 10) What do you like least about firefighting? *Three AM runs to go out and pick up some gang-banger who got himself shot up.*