

Name: Ron Bell
Position: Captain
Fire Department: Burbank, California
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- 1) What branch and unit were you in? *Navy Reservist, USS Tripoli (LPH-10) , 1970-1973*
- 2) What was your highest rank? *3rd Class Petty Officer Bosun's Mate*
- 3) Are you still enlisted as a reservist or National Guard? *No*
- 4) Why did you join the service? *Was facing being drafted into the Army and decided to go into the Navy.*
- 5) What did you like the most about being in? *Good growing up experience, toured 16 months overseas including Vietnam, Hawaii and ports everywhere in the Pacific except Australia.*
- 6) What did you like the least? *Vietnam was an eye-opener, which changed my politics 180-degrees. Basically, we did what needed to be done and then got out of there.*
- 7) What moment most defined your military experience? *In late 1972 the US mined Haiphong harbor and we were detailed to drop off a UDT and SEAL Team as close to shore as we could. This was 4 AM, but the beach was lit up like daytime due to B-52 strikes. It's an experience I will carry for the rest of my life.*
- 8) What made you choose firefighting as a career? *A couple of friends of mine were testing for the fire department, so I took a couple of tests and was lucky enough to get offered two jobs in late 1975 (Burbank and Los Angeles City FD). I decided to go to work with Burbank, which was where I had been raised.*
- 9) What do you like the most about firefighting? *Very rewarding experience, I've gone through Urban Search And Rescue (USAR) and paramedic, now I'm working in the Fire Marshall's office.*
- 10) What do you like least about firefighting? *There's really nothing I dislike about this job.*