

Steven L. Waterman, PHC DV/PJ, USNR, Ret.

Steve Waterman was born in South Hope, Maine in 1946, graduated from Rockland District High School on June 11, 1964 and left for Navy Boot Camp 13 days later. From there, he was assigned to Basic Naval Aviation Officers' School (BNAO) as an undesignated Airman Apprentice. After serving for nine months as a coffee maker, blackboard cleaner and general go-fer, was transferred to NATTU, where he graduated as a PHAN. From there, he was stationed at the NAS Oceana Photographic Lab, he was advanced to PH3, and eleven months later, PH2.

There, he met Commander Jerry Pulley while Jerry was on a tour of some of the local laboratories and convinced him that he would be a good candidate for the Atlantic Fleet Combat Camera Group's Underwater Photo Team. Jerry put in the 'good word' for him and after a short – very short – tour at Naval Guided Missile School, Dam Neck, VA, Steve attended Naval School Underwater Swimmers in Key West, Fl. From there he went to duty with the AFFCCG U/W Photo Team at NAS Norfolk.

In January 1969, he volunteered for a tour in Vietnam with re-commissioned Underwater Demolition Team 13, which was to deploy shortly to the Philippines. While there, he successfully passed the test for PH1 and was advanced to PH1 on 16 April 1969, shortly after his 23rd birthday.

Upon returning to NAB Coronado, he transferred back to AFCCG in Norfolk. Steve then attended 2nd and 1st Class Diver's School While at the Naval School, Deep Sea Diving in Washington, DC. He was class leader and honor man of his class. He was the only 'airdale' in the class.

From there he was assigned to the Photo Lab and Diving Gang of the USS ORTOLAN, ASR-22 at the D & S Piers, Norfolk Naval Station.

Steve left the Navy on May 13, 1977 after having taken the test and been accepted as a PHC into the USNR. He is now retired from the military.

During his service, he was awarded: The National Defense Medal, Expert Pistol Medal, Good Conduct Award, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Citation, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Naval Achievement Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device, Navy Diver First Class device and Navy/Marine Corps Parachutist device.

His book, JUST A SAILOR, was published by Random House in 2000, and has since been republished by Steve as a Print-On-Demand and can be obtained on line at <http://Swaterman.com>