

PHC(AW) Ronald V. Woxland, USN(Ret.)

Chief Photographer's Mate Ronald Woxland was born in Winona, Minnesota on 11 September 1962. He graduated from Red Wing Central High School in 1981 having joined the Navy under the delayed entry program in 1980. He attended basic training at Recruit Training Center Great Lakes, Illinois serving in Company 930 the Band, Choir, and Drill team Triple Threat. Ron was a Tenor in the Choir. Upon graduation from "boot camp" he reported to Photographer's Mate "A" School at Naval Technical Training Center in Pensacola, Florida where he graduated with honors in March 1982.

In May 1982, he reported for duty as Still Photographer and Photographic Lab Technician aboard USS Saratoga (CV 60) in Philadelphia PA. which was undergoing the first CV Service Life Extension Program (SLEP). During his tour he deployed to the Mediterranean Ocean and was promoted to Petty Officer 3rd Class.

Ron reported to his first shore tour at Naval Recruiting District Michigan in November 1985 where he was the assistant Public Affairs Officer. He was promoted to Petty Officer 2nd Class in September 1986. Ron's responsibilities included, local radio and television Navy promotions, Escort for High School visits by Navy VIP's and coordination of major Navy sponsored events such as Blue Angles Air shows and the Gold Cup Unlimited Hydroplane Boat races in the state of Michigan. He was awarded the Recruiting Silver Wreath.

Still having shore tour time remaining he reported to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) in Washington D.C. in October 1986 where he served as a Forensic and Aerial Photographer for DOD, FBI, State Department, and many other Federal agencies investigating catastrophic events world-wide.

In May 1989 Ron reported to NAS Keflavik, Iceland serving at the base photo lab as EH-38 maintenance technician. In addition he was the supply P.O., studio photographer, and B&W printing Supervisor. Serving the maximum unaccompanied tour he then accepted orders back to USS Saratoga (CV 60) now deployed for Operation Desert Shield in the Red Sea.

Ron reported to USS Saratoga (CV 60) in the Red Sea during Operation Desert Shield in December 1990. He was immediately assigned as night supervisor in the lab during Operation Desert Shield. His primary duty during Operation Desert Storm was to provide daily damage assessment video briefs to the Battle Groups Admirals staff.

Recognizing his exceptional leadership during the war, Ron was appointed OP Division LPO as a 2nd Class Petty Officer during the next deployment to the Southwest Asia AOR, simultaneously he was OP Division 3M Work-center supervisor for 3 work-centers, OP Division DC supervisor, Shoot Crew supervisor and Production supervisor.

Looking for a change of pace Ron reported to the Joint Intelligence Center Pacific (JICPAC) in Pearl Harbor Hawaii in June 1993. He was advanced to Petty Officer 1st

Class. His assignments during this time at JICPAC included highly secure daily video briefings to National Intelligence agencies up to and including the President. He was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal for his efforts. During this period he attend Naval "C" Schools for both Motion Media Technician (Video School) and Aerial Film Processor Technician (NIPS) graduating with honors from both.

In January 1997 Ron reported to USS New Orleans (LPH 11) as the Photo Lab LPO. He deployed once to Tandum Thrust 1997 near Australia. Upon completion of LPH 11's last deployment he supervised the Admin Department decommissioning crew.

Ron reported to Fleet Combat Camera Group Pacific in November 1997. He was almost immediately deployed on the very first Det Bravo in Bahrain. Highlights during this deployment included a further deployment to Jordan to document a Combined live fire exercise. Ron was awarded 1st Place Video Editing at the Military Photographer of the Year awards for his documentation of Exercise Infinite Moonlight in Jordan. During his long service at FLTCOMCAMGRUPAC he was almost constantly deployed world-wide to exercises and real world events including Republic of Korea, East Timor, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Jordan and various Aircraft Carrier's, Destroyers and Amphibious Assault ships. During one of these deployments he earned his Enlisted Aviation Warfare wings. Ron was selected as Fleet Imaging Command Pacific Sea Sailor of the Year in 2001 for his efforts that included the coordination of the 50th Anniversary of Combat Camera in the Pacific open house and his second 1st Place MILPHOG winning video Golden Slate.

Deployed as Detachment ALPHA Chief in Japan in 2001 Ron was further deployed to Korea and Hawaii as LPO to document the Ehime Maru Recovery efforts. The final production video for this event earned him his third 1st Place editing award from the Military Photographer of the Year awards for Video Production.

Preparing for transition to the civilian sector Ron was asked to extend his enlistment to deploy with the Joint Combat Camera Management Team in Camp Doha Kuwait during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was responsible for the transmitting of Imagery and Video shot by Combat Photographers from all the services back to the Pentagon. He also made numerous deployments into Iraq during the push to Baghdad with various Army and Marine units.

Following his selection to Chief Petty Officer in September 2003 he reported to Information and Imaging Services (IIS) Department Fleet Imaging Command Pacific. Chief Woxland developed and was the primary instructor for Basic Video Production Course.

Ron Retired from active service in September 2005.

Chief Petty Officer Woxland has been awarded and is authorized to wear the Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist insignia, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Unit

Commendation Award (3), Good Conduct Medal (7), National Defense Service Medal (2), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (3), Southwest Asia Service Medal (3), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment (10), Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Rifle Expert Medal, Pistol Sharpshooter Medal.