

James F. Turner

20 Sep 2008

Rank/Rate Ensign to Lieutenant

Years Aboard 1965-1969

Division/Shop R2 - Division Officer/ QA Officer

Dear Dick,

I spoke to you on the phone recently re: the reunion this year. Still awaiting test results concerning the heart valve problem. Admiral Barrett called me probably thanks to you. Since I don't have e-mail capability at the moment could you enter the following in the crew comments for me.

Comment: I recently saw J. Paul Suprenant's entry and it brought back lots of memories. I came aboard as a fresh Mustang Ensign and was assigned to Balance Crew Norfolk. Ensign Sam Helm and I were immediately assigned to lead a 50 man contingent to Landing Party Training (2 weeks) at Fort Story under the marines. The young guys in that Landing Party did the 5 mile runs and the usual Marine training with no sweat. They got a real bang out of us 40 year - olds "dying" alongside the trail after the first half mile!

I was R -2 Division Officer for about the first two years in Rota and was ultimately assigned as QA Officer for the last two. I relieved Lt. Frenchy LeBoeuf. Upon arrival CONUS I transferred to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. I was there for two years and finally retired at COMSUBLANT as LCDR in 1977 after 6 years on staff. I was the CSL SSBN Maintenance Officer for deployed ships. I kept the sky black with airplanes flying parts to SSBNs.

For the guys from R-1 R-2 and Main Power:

I have recently been diagnosed with Asbestosis. I urge you to get a chest x-ray if you haven't had one lately. Mine took 30 years to show up. Hope to see you all next year at the Valley Forge reunion.

Respectfully,  
James F. Turner

*(Jensen's telephone has been disconnected)*

*P.S. I noticed Jensen was looking for Cdr. Jack Bannon. He was medically retired in Norfolk about 1976 with some (unknown to me) terminal illness. His wife took him to his hometown (believe in Wisconsin) where he died. Sam Helm died of cancer about the same time.*