MY NAVY CAREER

As a "Cryptologic Technician" - Operations/Communications "O" Branch - I served in a special intelligence/communications intelligence/critical intelligence/signal intelligence organization known as the Naval Security Group during my thirty-year Navy career (1949-1977 Active Duty/1977-1980 On-call Fleet Reserve). What we provided to the Navy, to the National Security Agency/NSA, and to the war efforts of both Korea and Vietnam were highly classified Top Secret Codeword communications to the point we were sworn to keep that information secure and not revealed/discussed with anyone, even our own spouses and family members. We were known by many as "spooks" because we refused to discuss our rating or what we performed in the Navy (Navy Spooks: A group of carefully selected and highly trained members of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps who do things they can never talk about, for people they do not know, with little recognition from those they have served). I retired the last day of 1976 and was sworn to this continued security for the next ten years beyond that date. To this day I do not engage myself in conversation beyond the basics of our assignments in this regard. It was very gratifying work in the information of which we were privy and which we shared with other Naval Security Group units, to top Military Commanders, the Army Security Agency, and Air Force Security Service in locations positioned throughout the world, and ultimately to the National Security Agency for compilation and distribution to other Military Commanders in locations of combat to assist their recognition of the whereabouts of the enemy to which they were engaged, their numbers, and best strategy to engage them. Though providing a service of highly important, even critical, intelligence to those units with "boots on the ground," we served elsewhere through both the Korean and Vietnam wars in locations throughout the world best suited to enable and enhance our function. I was fortunate to have advanced through the entire enlisted rank structure to Master Chief Cryptologic Technician/Command Master Chief Petty Officer.