

Wisconsin Veterans Museum
Research Center

Transcript of an
Oral History Interview with

PAUL ANJESKI

Human Resources/Psychologist, Navy, Vietnam War Era

2000

OH
133

**OH
133**

Anjeski, Paul, (1951-). Oral History Interview, 2000.

User Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 84 min.); analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Master Copy: 1 sound cassette (ca. 84 min.); analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Video Recording: 1 videorecording (ca. 84 min.); ½ inch, color.

Transcript: 0.1 linear ft. (1 folder).

Abstract:

Paul Anjeski, a Detroit, Michigan native, discusses his Vietnam War era experiences in the Navy, which include being stationed in the Philippines during social unrest and the eruption of Mount Pinatubo. Anjeski mentions entering ROTC, getting commissioned in the Navy in 1974, and attending Damage Control Officer School. He discusses assignment to the *USS Hull* as a surface warfare officer and acting as navigator. Anjeski explains how the *Hull* was a testing platform for new eight-inch guns that rattled the entire ship. After three and a half years aboard ship, he recalls human resources management school in Millington (Tennessee) and his assignment to a naval base in Rota (Spain). Anjeski describes duty as a human resources officer and his marriage to a female naval officer. He comments on transferring to the Naval Reserve so he could attend graduate school and his work as part of a Personnel Mobilization Team. He speaks of returning to duty in the Medical Service Corps and interning as a psychologist at Bethesda Hospital (Maryland), where his duties included evaluating people for submarine service, trauma training, and disaster assistance. Anjeski recalls transferring to Subic Bay (Philippines) with his family in 1989. He assesses the threat toward Americans from the New People's Army (NPA), a communist insurgency group, and describes the assassination tactics of NPA "Sparrow Teams." Anjeski details the tense situation on base, including base lockdown and having to use convoy transport to and from work at the Subic Hospital every day. He recalls the high school students also having to ride the convoy. Anjeski emphasizes the positive relationships with Filipino staff on the base. He details the eruption of Mount Pinatubo and the evacuation of Clark Air Force Base and Subic Bay. After warnings from a volcanologist, he describes the evacuation of Clark personnel to the much smaller Subic Bay base and the crowded housing situation. Anjeski describes the eruptions, lack of food and water, loss of electricity and radio contact, and problems caused by wet volcanic ash. He comments on the "reverse deployment" of dependents to the United States and the logistics of their evacuation. He speaks of clean-up efforts, the repatriation of dependents after three months, and the last high school graduation on the base. Anjeski notes that at least malaria was no longer a problem because the ash killed all the mosquitoes. Anjeski addresses the closing of the Subic Bay base in 1992, his further participation in the Navy Reserve, and settling in Wisconsin.

Interviewed by James McIntosh, 2000.

Transcribed By Katy Marty, 2008.

Checked by Channing Welch, 2009.

Abstract by Susan Krueger, 2009.

Interview Transcript:

Jim: Okay, talking to Paul Anjeski 21 February.' 00. Where were you born Paul?

Paul: I'm actually a Michigander by birth; I was born in Detroit, Michigan

Jim: And when?

Paul: In 1951, January 10th, 1951.

Jim: Okay. And when did you enter military service?

Paul: First went into ROTC in September of 1969 and was commissioned in the Navy in June of 1974.

Jim: Okay and where was your duty? How it began.

Paul: (sighs) Oh, my kind of the overview of my career quickly? Um, after graduating from college and getting commissioned as an ensign in the Navy. Went to damage control officer school and my 1st assignment was the *USS Hull* out of San Diego, California, which is a test platform for the Navy's eight inch gun.

Jim: I was going to say I don't know where the *Hull* is.

Paul: Nope, it was a twenty-six year old destroyer when I got to her, but they cut her off at frame thirty-nine and installed one of the Navy's new guns. 'Cause we didn't have battleships at that point. The Wisconsin and the Missouri had been commissioned and had not been brought back in to decommission so we did the eight inch gun trials, and after a three and a half year tour on the Hull went to Rota Spain. Did a three year tour there on active duty.

Jim: Rota?

Paul: Rota, Spain.

Jim: Is that a base there?

Paul: It's actually a Spanish naval base that we have a US facility there. We used to have nuclear submarines there and our nuclear tenders were there. We have a large air station there. It was one of the largest staging areas on the European continent. Actually it was the first emergency landing site for the space shuttle.

- Jim: Huh!
- Paul: So if the space shuttle ever got into trouble and take up that was the first spot it could actually do a land landing.
- Jim: Is that an active base yet?
- Paul: It still is an active base. Yup.
- Jim: The Navy, too.
- Paul: Yup, the Navy's still there and mostly an aviation station. It has a huge communication station. The nuclear submarines were moved to Holy Loch Scotland, but as of today, it's still an active base.
- Jim: I'll be darned.
- Paul: Came back from there and went into the reserves.
- Jim: Whoa - tell me what your duty was.
- Paul: Oh, oh over there, oh, in Rota I was a shore duty as a human resources manager specialist. We worked on the Navy's intercultural relations program, equal opportunity programs, drug abuse prevention programs.
- Jim: In other words you were dealing with the personnel.
- Paul: Right.
- Jim: And keeping them out of trouble and trying to teach them something.
- Paul: And actually working with commands, working with the command programs. I worked with commanding officers, executive officers, command master chiefs –
- Jim: To do what?
- Paul: Help them design their programs, make sure they were in compliance of standards when they went into inspections, things like that.
- Jim: Sure.
- Paul: Did a lot of leadership and management training. We did a lot of team building with officers and chiefs, community and teaching people the skills to be good leaders.

- Jim: What was your background for that expertise?
- Paul: They send me, although my bachelor's degree is in psychology –
- Jim: Oh. That's a start.
- Paul: That helped. The second this is the Navy had a sixteen week human resources management school in beautiful downtown Millington, Tennessee. We went there for sixteen weeks, and that's where we learned the basics of each of the programs.
- Jim: Millington, Tennessee.
- Paul: Millington, Tennessee.
- Jim: If my life depended on it, I couldn't pinpoint that at all.
- Paul: (laughs) Just outside of Memphis. It is now the home of the Bureau of Naval Personnel. They've moved from Washington, DC to Millington, Tennessee.
- Jim: I'll be darned.
- Paul: Yup, as of two years ago, 1998 moved down there. So Millington is now the hub of naval personnel because that's where the headquarters are down there.
- Jim: Well, that's nice.
- Paul: Yeah.
- Jim: Is that because it's located in the middle of the country of --?
- Paul: Actually, they've been moved for a number of years to get the bureau out of Washington, DC. Although it was a good duty for officers, I mean you were right there, up the hill from the Pentagon in the hub of things.
- Jim: Sure.
- Paul: It was an awful place for the enlisted folks, the cost of living, transportation.
- Jim: Fierce down there.

- Paul: It was brutal. Matter of fact, probably the last eight years it was there close to fifty percent of the folks who were married who were stationed there chose to move their families to the area. They'd leave them in Norfolk, they'd leave them in Pascagoula, they'd leave 'em in San Diego, and take an unaccompanied tour.
- Jim: They just couldn't afford it.
- Paul: Couldn't afford it, didn't want to put up with another move into a big metropolitan area and all that.
- Jim: Yeah, and outside the pretty buildings in Washington, that's not a very nice place.
- Paul: Well, yeah, it has its trouble spots and that is – they were for years trying to move it. They thought of moving to New Orleans, which is where the Naval Reserve Personnel Center is. That didn't pan out for a variety of reasons. I mean moving stations around is both a military and political decision so –
- Jim: That's right (??).
- Paul: But finally they decided to move to Millington because we were closing down our big aviation training facility there. When I was in Millington along with the biggest reason to go to Millington is if you were a brand new enlisted Naval aviation specialist of any kind, that's where they are anywhere from four to sixteen week schools, or for electronics technician, aviation electronic technician, ordnance men. Things like that. So it was a huge complex we had outside of Millington. It was a naval air station.
- Jim: I'll be darned.
- Paul: So we had the room, we had the facility, and basically what it was, as part of the barrack and a few other things they decided they were moving the aviation training closer to Pensacola, and some of the reorganization found this piece of property and they just redesigned the buildings and went from there.
- Jim: This is on the river?
- Paul: No, actually it isn't. Millington's a little farther inland, not far.
- Jim: Thought maybe that make it an added attraction if they –
- Paul: No, no, it's about a twenty minute drive from Memphis. It's not considered a suburb of Memphis almost, but when I was there it was still

pretty much out in the country. So that was part of my training to go to Spain.

Jim: Did you enjoy your time in Spain?

Paul: Loved – well, not only loved my time in Spain, met my wife there so (laughs) can't beat that.

Jim: You mean she was a local?

Paul: Nope, she was in the Navy also.

Jim: Oh.

Paul: And we were both stationed over there. We met each other, she left, and I thought she was worth following so followed her after I left Spain, but we first met in Spain. Got to do a lot of traveling. Got to enjoy Europe. Got to enjoy the whole, you know, the advantages of the travel in the military. Be over there –

Jim: I know.

Paul: And see some of that so.

Jim: Well, that's terrific.

Paul: Really enjoyed that. Got off of active duty the first time there and came back, since my bachelors was in psychology wanted to get an advanced degree in psychology, and the only way to do that was to get off of active duty and go in the reserves and go back to school, to graduate school.

Jim: So you -- Yeah, I see. Okay.

Paul: So I went to graduate school in San Diego.

Jim: So you don't really resign your commission, you just –

Paul: No.

Jim: Transferred to inactive duty?

Paul: Right. Went to the inactive reserve, right, was a drilling reservist. Was in what was then known as a personnel mobilization team. We did all the preparing for what eventually became Desert Shield, Desert Storm, getting people from reserve to active duty, but our job was to the practice and how

to do that and do all the logistic. So that was an exciting time. I was designated Surface Warfare Officer so my –

Jim: Surface Warfare Officer –

Paul: Yup, uh, huh.

Jim: That sounds like a huge responsibility.

Paul: Well, I had been a –

Jim: Lots of plans and –

Paul: Well, actually it was, my first tour on the USS Hull my first year and a half was spent as a damage control assistant which is an engineering billet.

Jim: Yeah.

Paul: And then my at three days before we went on a nine month deployment the XO called me to his stateroom and said, “You’re now the navigator.” So I became the ship’s navigator (laughs) in –

Jim: With a background in psychology.

Paul: Well, it was in psychology, yeah. And I’d been through ROTC so I’d gotten at least basic training in navigation but ended up doing a nine month deployment. Back in those days we didn’t have a lot of the SATNAV and that. So did it all with the sexton. Some very good chiefs, some very good enlisted folks.

Jim: I was gonna say that helped considerably I expect.

Paul: Absolutely. Got me up to speed. By the time we got to Guam on the outward leg I was up to speed, ready to go. (laughs) But I can remember first time out I wasn’t exactly sure.

Jim: Right. Well, you must be a quick study.

Paul: Well, thanks, I think I picked it up, but those guys were great. We did that whole deployment. So that qualified me as a surface warfare officer which meant I could screen for command eventually if I wanted to and I work up through that hierarchy.

Jim: Surface warfare – now this – tell me how it, what the encompasses exactly.

- Paul: It's kind of the equivalent of being a Naval aviator. It means I was qualified in all of the operations of a combatant ship, and my platform was destroyers. So I had to go through a certification course.
- Jim: Right. So – gunnery (??) school and all that?
- Paul: Right. Did all of that. Had to learn gunnery, had to learn engineering, had to learn operations, pass a written test and an oral interview to wear the designation of a surface officer. The gold pin we wear, which is a ship's prow plowing through ocean waves with crossed swords and that designates us as being surface warfare officers. So that's how you can tell us from aviators or anyone else.
- Jim: Well, that's specialty that I had no knowledge of.
- Paul: Yeah, yeah. It, I was one of – well actually, I was the last year, 1974 was the last year you could become a surface warfare officer without going to the formal surface warfare officer school. It was during the transition period. So I learned mine all on the job training.
- Jim: Right.
- Paul: The year after me, the first six months to a year out of college, everyone went to a school, one on the east coast, one on the west coast where they learned the basics of engineering and gunnery and all of that to hopefully give them a leg up when they hit the fleet, but I was the last of the group to go out there and learn by doing. So we did that.
- Jim: So you were on this destroyer.
- Paul: Mm hmm. Yup, that's where I got qualified.
- Jim: How did you enjoy that duty?
- Paul: Enjoyed it. Enjoyed the travel. Enjoyed the people I was with. Ah, it was a wonderful experience.
- Jim: Riding a destroyer didn't bother you?
- Paul: No, never – nope, I was one of those folks who was fortunate enough, we call 'em "small boys," and I'm a "small boy" sailor. I –
- Jim: Tell me about that expression.
- Paul: Well, you have the carriers which are huge. They're floating islands.

- Jim: The “small boy” refers to the ship.
- Paul: Yup, yeah. A destroyer, a frigate, something –
- Jim: Minesweeper.
- Paul: Yes, minesweepers would be considered as well, anything that wasn’t an amphib, an amphibious ship that had a flat bottom. We were the “small boy” navy. Our ship was, you know I had a crew of under 200. It was only 318 feet long, thirty feet wide at its widest point and being an old destroyer we were known as –
- Jim: It was an old Fletcher class?
- Paul: We were Hull class, we were the first of our class. We had what they call the hurricane bow, the hull bow, which allowed us to cut through.
- Jim: It flared out.
- Paul: It flared out. We were the first of the class. We were our own class. We were known as the Hull class, and um, it was the class after the Fletcher destroyers. So we were the greyhounds of the fleet zipping around. We were the “Little Beaver Squadron,” Squadron 26, you know, which is –
- Jim: A squadron composed of how many destroyers?
- Paul: Those days when we were in DESRON nine was, we were all experimental. I think there were six of us there but usually around nine.
- Jim: In one group.
- Paul: Nine destroyers. Yup, yeah.
- Jim: That was a squadron.
- Paul: That’s right, yeah. So –
- Jim: You could go how fast?
- Paul: Oh, geez. Not for very long. We were twin screwed, twin boiler ships so we used up a lot of fuel very quickly. Our top speed, we could get up and sustain twenty-eight knots when we were following carriers.
- Jim: It was a coal – I mean it was an oil – diesel.

- Paul: Yup, yup. Oh yeah, we were old, well, actually we were converted to the new Navy distillate fuel while they were in the yards but was still a fossil fuel.
- Jim: What's the Navy distillate fuel? Like diesel of a refined diesel or --?
- Paul: It's a little bit more refined. It's kind of half way between the old diesel fuels but not quite aviation grade fuel. So it's kind of – it burns cleaner, it burns hotter.
- Jim: You didn't see any black smoke pouring out of the stacks.
- Paul: Yup, definitely didn't –
- Jim: Give yourself away to the enemy. (laughs)
- Paul: That's right, that's it, wanted to make sure we could only do that when we wanted to and not by accident.
- Jim: Exactly. You still practice smoke screening when you were on that destroyer?
- Paul: Actually we didn't. That was a tactic that wasn't used much because with all the radars and things that –
- Jim: It's pretty much old hat.
- Paul: Yeah, maybe probably for some inshore gunfire support where your only threat –
- Jim: That would be a problem.
- Paul: Might have been about the only threat. A lot of, we were multithread so we had a large ASW section so we did a lot of antisubmarine warfare, 'cause we were to protect the carriers and the convoys. So we had to practice that. Because we had the eight inch gun, we were the naval gunfire support ship so we did a lot of that type of practice.
- Jim: See, now that's bigger than – the old destroyers didn't carry an eight inch.
- Paul: They carried a five inch gun. Yeah, so –
- Jim: Five inch. Three – inch – fifty, five inch.

- Paul: Five inch and the three-inch fifties, but yeah, we used our two five inch aft for spotting and then fired for effect the eight inch. Having seen some of the things –
- Jim: Betcha that rattled the ship when that thing went off.
- Paul: When we first fired it we didn't know what it was going to do, and I was the damage control officer so my job –
- Jim: Wondered if it was gonna make a complete circle and then – (laughs)
- Paul: After we were worried if things were going to crack and break. Yeah, actually it –
- Jim: Geez, I'll bet that made a noise (??).
- Paul: It was pretty exciting. Yeah, we we blew out some bridge windows every once in awhile.
- Jim: Oh, really.
- Paul: Because of the concussion. They were practicing, I mean it was a new gun –
- Jim: I understand.
- Paul: And they were trying the full range, and when it got within the stops on either the port or starboard side it was so close it would blow out, it blew out bridge windows –
- Jim: Just literally shaking 'em out.
- Paul: The concussion, the blast coming back.
- Jim: I understand.
- Paul: But it was an amazing gun. There was no one in the turret, everyone was below decks, fully automatic carriage.
- Jim: Oh, just punch a button and away it went.
- Paul: It was fully automatic, ah yup.
- Jim: Loaded automatic too?

- Paul: Yup, with the hoist it could fire, matter of fact it was kind of interesting when I saw your Wisconsin display down here, we fired a, as I recall, a 370 pound shell, and we could fire it effectively six miles.
- Jim: Right. Well, that one down there is a 2,000 pound shell. It goes twenty-four miles.
- Paul: That's right. So we're like you know, we're in there, that was the biggest we had.
- Jim: Yeah, I had a friend who was aboard the Missouri, a sister ship. He said when they were shooting the big guns he said you had to hang on.
- Paul: Yeah, well, we rattled too, yup.
- Jim: No matter what part of the ship you were on if they were firing you'd better hang on because everything jolted. It just was –
- Paul: That's right. Oh yeah, we would, well, a small destroyer with a big gun like that, we did the same. That's why everything forward of frame 39 was new construction. They literally just cut the ship off at frame 39 and all that was built brand new. We had special big wire springs to hold all the lights in place and things like that. Everything was shock mounted. All the – like the emergency diesel forward –
- Jim: Otherwise it wouldn't last one concussion.
- Paul: Probably, would have been rattled loose or damaged. So –
- Jim: So. Well, that's interesting. Tell me about your – did you have a medical facility on your ship?
- Paul: Ah, we had a corpsman.
- Jim: That's it.
- Paul: 1st class corpsman.
- Jim: So if you required somebody that had a bellyache and you think he might have his appendix removed what would you do?
- Paul: Well, a lot of our corpsmen were trained in basic emergency procedures, and they might be able to be talked through a simple procedure because we were staff configured when we traveled with the flotilla we often carried the doctor with us, but when we independent steamed it was just us, a first class corpsman and the 3rd class corpsman.

- Jim: Didn't have a cruiser nearby to which you could transfer patients?
- Paul: Sometimes yes, sometimes, no, but –
- Jim: Or was there a helicopter?
- Paul: We didn't have helicopter capability. Ours, we didn't have a helo pad. I mean the best we could do was put somebody in a Stokes stretcher, put 'em out on the spot on the back and lower down and get 'em out of there if we could. So when we independent steamed, which out of nine months deployment we did almost five months, we were on our own. One of the nice things we got to do during that deployment was since we were shallow draft, we got to go to Leyte Gulf to Tacloban City for the unveiling of the MacArthur Memorial in 1976 and us and an Australian ship because the Australians were involved in the Leyte invasion, but we were the only ship still in commission in that part of the world. It was shallow enough that we could get in close enough, and so we went there for that.
- Jim: Well, that was a treat.
- Paul: Oh yes, absolutely. So we got to do the transit though the San Bernardino Straits which is twenty-six hour sea and anchor detail or navy detail back and forth –
- Jim: I was going to say that's a –
- Paul: We did that five times during that deployment. Most do it in once and out once. We got to come back and forth a few times (laughs) to do that.
- Jim: All that (unintelligible) makes you alert, doesn't it? Goin' through (??) that?
- Paul: Sure does, sure does.
- Jim: Yeah, 'cause you didn't have a lot of room.
- Paul: Didn't have a lot of room, and actually on the outward leg our surface search radar broke, and we had to make this commitment so on our way to Tacloban City we had to follow the Australian frigate through and kind of basically –
- Jim: Depend on them.
- Paul: Depend on them, and we drew six feet more water than they did.

- Jim: Oh, boy!
- Paul: So we already knew they could go where we couldn't go. So as the ship's navigator that was probably one of my most exciting times –
- Jim: I'll bet.
- Paul: Trying to follow a little white light through the San Bernardino Straits. The stern light of – (laughs)
- Jim: I always admired the Japanese during that battle on Leyte Gulf when they put the battleships through that thing.
- Paul: That's amazing, yeah.
- Jim: It's incredible how they steered those huge ships right through that straight. That's real seamanship.
- Paul: Oh, yeah.
- Jim: Textbook.
- Paul: That's right and now a days we move our carriers through there and everything. So it's quite a – and it's challenging.
- Jim: Yeah. There's better ways of seeing things now.
- Paul: Now, yea, -- with the –
- Jim: Sure
- Paul: With the radars and things. So –
- Jim: So after a year aboard this or nine months aboard this, then what did they do with you?
- Paul: Well, that ended up being a total three year tour with the shipyard period and doing that. Then I went to Spain and did the human resources management tour. And did that, got to work with a lot of different commands, got to work with CB's, aviator, communicators, all the surface and subsurface sailors that were there. So that was kind of nice. Get to do a lot of that. Did a lot of the intercultural relations training getting sailors to figure out how to live overseas and adjust to overseas living. Lived out in town ourselves, so didn't live on base. Lived on the Spanish economy.

- Jim: Yeah, well it's cheaper.
- Paul: It was cheaper, yup, and it was also different. You had to learn how to do all those things.
- Jim: It's a once in a lifetime experience.
- Paul: Absolutely, and that was one of the reasons I joined the Navy initially was to see the world, and that was how I got to see it.
- Jim: When my hospital ship was ready to come back from Korea, after being there a year, I got a message that if I'd sign over they'd leave me in Japan and if I would spend a year there. I said I would if you let me bring my family.
- Paul: Yeah.
- Jim: No.
- Paul: No way. (laughs)
- Jim: So that never went beyond that so I just came home and --. But I enjoyed being in the far east, and I would have stayed, you know, another two years in Japan had they allowed me to bring my family, but no, --
- Paul: Yeah.
- Jim: They didn't want to do that.
- Paul: Didn't want to do that. Gee, that's too bad. Well, you're right it's an amazing experience to live overseas and travel and just experience all that in a local way so --
- Jim: Sure, yeaha, I enjoyed the chance I had to go to Japan. Whenever the ship went back to Japan I took advantage of it and, you know, went to a different place I hadn't been to before. Saw almost all of that Honshu.
- Paul: Oh, wow.
- Jim: And a lot of Kyushu. It was very interesting. Very good. All right, so then what's your next move?
- Paul: Well, after Spain, so I could go back to graduate school, went to San Diego. Went to graduate school there while I was in the reserves, and that's where my wife and I eventually got married, and while I was in the PERSMOB team found out how to get -- personnel mobilization team

which was preparing for getting folks from the reserves back on active duty. Did that for seven years and –

Jim: Oh, boy.

Paul: Yep, decided to come back on active duty as a Navy psychologist, Medical Service Corps, and the only way to do that in those days was to go to the internship at Bethesda, and even though I'd been selected for commander in the reserves to do that I had to revert back to lieutenant in the active Navy so decided, well, it's worth it, let's do it. So did an internship at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda which is where the one year internship is and which was advanced training in – we did things in psychological testing, do all the testing we had to do for sailors and families either for placement or duty or –

Jim: Submarines?

Paul: Yup, some of them too.

Jim: I was going to say I think they would require some special look-see into before we ever let them into those.

Paul: Well, and there's a whole screening process –

Jim: I'll bet (??).

Paul: And a psychologist assigned by at Groton just to do all that, and so we learned a little bit about that. We learned about health psychology and how to help people handle stress and medical psychology when people had to get operations or experience different types of trauma. Little did I know at the time, that year they did their first year of doing disaster psychology.

Jim: Oh.

Paul: So I got some specialty training in that.

Jim: As it turned out that was going to work out.

Paul: It turned out later on that's going to be very important.

Jim: Well, before we leave this subject and I forget to ask, I don't want to get too far behind in my questions. Submariners, what type of things do you try to find out about these kids who wanted to – you know, to keep them from, you know, giving up on the program or maybe people in the Navy making a mistake by asking them to, you know.

- Paul: Whether they're technically competent but maybe not personally suited for doing that?
- Jim: Yes. How do you look into those? Total strangers really.
- Paul: I didn't spend a lot of time in that, but as I recall a lot of it was the personality testing and looking at their ability to work in teams, their ability obviously to handle tense and close quarter situations.
- Jim: Right.
- Paul: A lot of it was done through interviews with them on trying to figure out what their background was, what they were comfortable with.
- Jim: (unintelligible) claustrophobic.
- Paul: Well, claustrophobia was an automatic –
- Jim: I'm sure.
- Paul: A lot of training was like when they did escape training through the diving tower and things like that. It was kind of set up to give an idea and if students had problems in the process they might be evaluated a little further. There wasn't 100% screening if nothing came up during training, so a lot of the steps along training were geared to see how they could handle it, and then in the simulators and a lot of the course work was set up to be very stressful and to see if they could handle that.
- Jim: Before they put them in to sea.
- Paul: Absolutely. Oh, absolutely. That's a long training pipeline, particularly with the nuclear submariners. That's a very long training pipeline.
- Jim: Yeah, because, gosh, go to sea for three – months without seeing the light of day.
- Paul: That's right.
- Jim: Requires a special person, I would think.
- Paul: Yeah, it does. It does in its way because I mean it's amazing how like all the military services we're a cross section a lot of times of the American public, and you know you've got someone who was raised in the wide open spaces of Iowa who does fine.

Jim: (laughs) Right. Oh really?

Paul: Absolutely fine, I mean because maybe character wise, you know they can focus, that's not a big issue for them, they're dedicated to what they do. Those kinds of qualities really help. I mean if you look at – I'll take some of our farm kids here in Wisconsin, you know. We think of them being out in the wide open spaces, but when they're bundled up in cold gear in the winter time and they're riding in a tractor or in a barn somewhere like that they're really not –

Jim: Not too dissimilar.

Paul: Bailing hay in a, or stacking hay in a barn is pretty confining, lots of dust, lots of smoke, you know dirty, hard to breath and that. Sure you can step out, but they've learned to cope with a lot of that, and probably they've built up some personal characteristics that allows them to. - That they would do fine in the submarine force. But, ah, so –

Jim: Okay, all right.

Paul: But so health psychology, like I said the disaster training that we got, disaster psychology—

Jim: What's this training, no panic?

Paul: Well, it was a couple of things. The Navy got together with a civilian organization known as the National Organization of Victims Assistance, and back then there weren't a lot of organizations that formalized that formalized understanding of what to do during disasters. I mean the Red Cross had been doing it for years, but they hadn't set up a real training program that was outside of the Red Cross to help people cope with when disasters happen, and the National Organizations for Victims Assistance had a number of categories. They had everything from like maybe rape victims, individualized assaults, things like that, all the way up to mass disasters. They started going back and talking to people who had worked with communities and fire fighters and that sort of thing and said, you know, other than one on one, talking to somebody one on one, how do you work with a whole community? What do you do when there's a flood, when there's a fire, and those were their most common ones. Flood seemed to be a big one. There was some earthquake information. Turns out there's very little volcano information, but just the – they're rarer. (laughs)

Jim: There's no one who could get the information to people.

- Paul: Well, and but there were some papers had been published and a few things. A lot of it was the environmental folks like the environmental hygienist and that who looked at the effect of ash and looked on the effect on water systems and what effect that kind of ripple effect had had on the community when you could see the water and it looked clean but you really couldn't use it because there were contaminants in it and that so, you know, what kind of happened to communities. One of the nice things is the training that we got included communities, you know. There's no way you can provide mental health services one on one to 10,000 people.
- Jim: (Particularly (??) when those people are not under your control at all.
- Paul: That's right, that's right, and –
- Jim: There's insurance questions (??).
- Paul: That's a big issue. So that was part of the training, and then we had an inpatient rotation where we worked with patients who were actually hospitalized so we would know, you know, the criteria for getting people to be inpatients, you know, the whole gamut because we would be the front lines of folks either writing up the diagnosis for getting people inpatient or working with folks who were stabilized while they were waiting transit to an inpatient facility. So after a year of that internship I had volunteered, since even though I was a lieutenant which looked new in that area. I had already had seven years active service and seven years reserve service so with fourteen years service already I was kind of like one of the old guys. (laughs)
- Jim: Oldest lieutenant in the Navy.
- Paul: One of the oldest (laughs) there had had a lot of experience and so when I volunteered for overseas duty, which they usually don't do for a brand new psychologist coming into the Navy, they said in my case they would make that exception.
- Jim: They gave you your rank.
- Paul: Nope, not yet. Nope, I did not make Lieutenant Commander until I left the Philippines. So they gave me two years in grade so I had to hang in there and do my stint. I was doing what I wanted to do so that's the important thing.
- Jim: Okay.
- Paul: So in 1989 we got orders to the Philippines and left, my family and, I, for the Philippines in late January.

- Jim: Your wife got orders too?
- Paul: Nope, she was off of active duty at that point. She was in the reserves, finished up her reserve time. We had a young daughter who was three years old when we left the United States, and my wife was eight months pregnant with our son.
- Jim: You were busy.
- Paul: Yup, we got on a plane in Chicago and flew from Chicago to Narita Airport in Tokyo and then from Tokyo to Manila. Left Chicago, it was one of their coldest days, we left it was somewhere around ten degrees when we left Chicago, and when we arrived in Manila it was ninety-three degrees, 100% humidity, and that was after a twenty-two hour plane ride and transfer. This is where some of the background things leading up to Mount Pinatubo which was a major experience for us are important. When we arrived in the Philippines it was already during the raucous years of the threat of the New People's Army which was a communist insurgency group and the Philippine government's desire to start thinking about the American bases closing in the Philippines.
- Jim: Nothing official but –
- Paul: Well, the day I got my orders in December was the day of the attempted coup against 'Corazon Aquino back in Manila. So when we arrived in Manila we were explicitly told we could not – we had to be met at the airport by a driver, Philippine driver and a US representative from the hospital. We were shuttled into a van that had completely darkened out windows, and though it was eleven o'clock at night we had to do the then about three hour drive in the dark –
- Jim: That's quite a ways away.
- Paul: From Manila to Subic.
- Jim: Now, Subic is the Naval station in the Philippines.
- Paul: It was the largest Naval installation in the Philippines.
- Jim: And that was there from the time 1898.
- Paul: Basically we captured Manila and Subic from the Spanish. Dewey as part of the Spanish American war
- Jim: In one day.

- Paul: Yup, yeah, that and Subic was the deep water harbor north of Manila.
- Jim: Right.
- Paul: And so that's where we were. It was the largest staging area during the Vietnam War. Our Air Force counterpart about thirty miles inland was Clark Air Force Base.
- Jim: That was Air Force.
- Paul: That was Air Force.
- Jim: Navy Air, where were they?
- Paul: Umm, well, they, we had our base, Naval Air Station Cubi Point.
- Jim: Oh, at Subic Bay.
- Paul: Yep, yeah.
- Jim: They had a naval air station.
- Paul: We had a naval air station and the naval base. The largest floating dry dock in Subic. We had, you know it was a large staging area for our seabee battalions. So Subic was actually made up of two bases [Approx. 5 Sec. pause in tape.] You had Naval Station Subic which is the Fleet side. We call it wt side where the fleet was, and that's where we had the rework facility, the floating dry dock, all the supply area for outfitting and resupplying ships, and then we had Naval Air Station Cubi which is where the carriers would dock, and we could fly in supplies and mobilize troops out of there.
- Jim: Now, was it just attached?
- Paul: They literally boarded against each other. There was a fence that separated them, and that was about it. But they were joined together, and so those were the two major –
- Jim: So when you arrived then things were tending to get a little tense.
- Paul: Things were already tense, so –
- Jim: They limited you on going into the city. There was rules and regs and all that?

- Paul: Well, it was interesting. When we first arrived the restrictions were just going to and from Manila. I mean there were road blocks, we had to have, the van had passes to get through that were guarded by Philippine Marines and we got through so when we first got there the restrictions of going into the city of Olongapo which is right outside of Subic, you could come and go as you pleased at that point. You couldn't travel outside of the area, but you could go –
- Jim: Nowhere in the country?
- Paul: At that point already, no, they had already closed down travel around the Philippines, yeah.
- Jim: Did you have contact with civilians very often?
- Paul: We did. I mean a good portion of the base support staff were Philippine nationals. A lot of the later operations. Our secretary in the mental health clinic was a Philippine –
- Jim: Any problems there?
- Paul: Absolutely none. I mean –
- Jim: No hostility?
- Paul: No, and there's some interesting –
- Jim: I suppose they realized that they were going to lose their jobs so maybe they had a different view of –
- Paul: Well, there was that, and there were also some other political things that kind of went on. When we arrived we stayed in the Navy lodge. Our son was born, so after we were there two weeks, and all the new arrivals, their first housing assignment was at a small communication station called San Miguel which was about thirty minute drive from Subic, and it used to be an Air Force facility. The Navy took it over as a communication station. It had been there, oh geeze, since the fifties. It had been an old receiver site for the NASA missions that tracked the Gemini things and that. So a big – it was basically major communication station. When the Air Force finally left there was a lot of housing there so the Navy took it over, and we had housing. It was a small base of about 800 families and Marine – we had Charlie Company of the Marines. Alpha company was in charge of Subic. Bravo company was Cubi, and Charlie Company was San Miguel. Got there, moved into a nice, what they called *spider houses* because they sat up on eight legs, all cinder block. Moved in –

Jim: Because of tides or the –

Paul: Oh, because of the monsoon season. In the monsoon season so they sat up high. It followed kind of the Philippine traditional way of building houses which were up on stilts. It was – they were wonderful houses to live in. So we had this thirty minute commute, and that started in about February. My son was born, like I said, and so we moved out there and had a good time, and I was commuting back and forth to the hospital. And then in May of 1990 the three airmen were killed outside of Clark Air Force Base. On that day I remember leaving to go to work and was stopped at the gate and was turned around, “Sir, no one is allowed to leave the base.” Called the hospital, “What should I do?” Well, we had a little clinic there. He says, “Why don’t you go see the doc at the clinic. set up a little office there,” and because of the three airmen who were killed at Clark Air Force Base the New People’s Army had said until the American air bases are closed we vow to kill one American a month until the bases are closed.

Jim: Wonderful.

Paul: The bad news was they, obviously they had showed they could kill Americans. They had killed Colonel Rowe, who was a Vietnam hero and stationed in Manila. But they had killed him a few years earlier, and what the New People’s Army was best known for it what they called “Sparrow Teams” which were gunmen of three to five who carried large caliber handguns like 45’s would set up area, and ambush area, and through very sophisticated tactics would get the person in a position where they were kind of blocked or trapped maybe in traffic or maybe they caught them when they were buying something or that, and literally they were assassination teams. And they were so good that at one point they had killed a Philippine general and his driver in the front seat of the car, and put fourteen bullets into him and never touched his wife or daughter in the back seat. They were that good at what they did. They were very bad at bombs. They had tried five bombings, and it either never worked, or they’d only killed their own people.

Jim: What was the background of these people? These Philippine nationalists or –

Paul: They were Philippine National Communist insurgents.

Jim: Communists.

Paul: Yeah, they were affiliated with the Philippine Communist Party, and they were the military arm of that, and their job was to, as they saw it, was to get the Americans out.

- Jim: Did we do anything about them?
- Paul: Well, it was a domestic issue for the Filipinos so we said, hey listen, not much we can do, I mean it's your country, and it's an issue. We just basically locked down the bases. So Subic was locked down completely. Out of the twenty-seven months we spent in Philippines, twenty-three months we were confined to base because of the terrorist threat.
- Jim: Except for the little community where you lived.
- Paul: Even then they closed it down. For twenty-three months we weren't even allowed to go there. Twenty-three of the twenty-seven months, then it shut down. As a matter of fact those of us who lived in San Miguel who had driven this thirty minutes back and forth were now precluded from driving. We had to take a convoy. A convoy consisted of five buses. Each bus had an armed Marine on the bus. The convoy was preceded by a truck vehicle of Philippine marines. It was followed by a truck full of Philippine marines. We were always required to travel with air cover, either a Huey or an OV-10. And the –
- Jim: That's the way you went to work everyday?
- Paul: That's the way we went to work. One convoy in the morning, one convoy home at night. If your job required you to stay late at night I slept –
- Jim: You did too.
- Paul: I slept in my office couch a few nights (laughs) because working in a hospital obviously patients needed to be seen. But that was the way we –
- Jim: How big was the hospital?
- Paul: The Subic Hospital is a fairly small hospital. We had a general ward, and we had an OBGYN ward. Each one, the general ward I think held a maximum of thirty. We had a ward that wasn't being used, could be expanded. We had an OBGYN ward which was about ten. We had an alcohol rehabilitation facility, which was maximum of twenty-four, and then basically since we were just primary care, people who had severe problems that we were medivacing them to Okinawa, Japan, or to Clark Air Force base which had a large hospital. Clark had the large hospital in the area. So we could get them to there.
- Jim: And they would treat all –
- Paul: Right.

- Jim: Armed service personnel.
- Paul: Right, absolutely, so if we had someone who needed to be specialty care they were usually medevac out. But so, here we were in San Miguel having to do this convoy back and forth every day. A lot of things came up. We had children who had sleep problems because they were scared about mom or dad going to work. The families were under threat. The interesting dynamic of the Philippine culture, when you talk about some of the things that were going on, the New People's Army had a lot of local support in the sense of where they were people wouldn't point them out or that, but also they knew that if they ever killed a woman or a child they would loose that support. So they were – the only targets were the active duty military. So my wife, my daughter and my son were virtually safe. (laughs) They would never be targeted. So us different, what was going on in the Middle East where there were bombings and everyday was a target –
- Jim: They didn't discriminate (??) (unintelligible).
- Paul: No. And there was no sense of "It was worthy to die for your cause" in the New People's Army. The job was the other guy was supposed to die.
- Jim: No bombing with the –
- Paul: No. No suicide. No suicide bombing, no nothing that risked them.
- Jim: What about school? What if the kids are school age?
- Paul: We had Department of Defense Schools. We had a elementary school at San Miguel, but the high school kids had to ride with us on the convoy into school, and that was obviously tense for them. I remember –
- Jim: Where was the school?
- Paul: The school was on the base at Subic. So I remember – it's funny you ask that. I remember in June of '90 while this was going on to go to their senior prom the buses at night, when they dropped us off at five went back to Subic for storage at night. They didn't leave them at San Miguel, and they arranged for the high school seniors and juniors to go to their prom to get on these buses and be escorted back to Subic. So, I mean, they had those kids – you know, some kids go to school in limousines and some – or their prom in limousines and some kids, you know, get mom and dad's car or something like that. These kids went in buses with OV-10 and Huey air cover to get back and forth. And that's kind of the situation that existed when Mount Pinatubo and all of these things happened. It was a – we got along well with our local Filipinos. It was interesting that where we were,

Bataan Province, which is the same Bataan from the famous death march, the New People's Army had decided that they wanted that as their training ground and their R and R facility. So they make sure that no one in our area was hurt because they didn't want the police and the federal forces of the Philippines looking for them there. However, our counterparts at Clark are the ones they really wanted to get rid of in Zambalies, and so there all bets were off. They were very aggressive at trying to infiltrate on the base. That's where the airmen were killed up at Clark. So two different, although we were only thirty miles apart, two very different relationships were going on, and it turned out that the road between Clark and Subic could not – the safety could not be guaranteed by the Philippine government. So literally for a medical appointment we started flying from Subic to Clark. There were two flights out in the morning and two flights back in the day. So someone who needed, let's say specialty care, we had to logistically get them on a plane, fly them up to Clark, they'd spend the day at Clark, getting' their medical appointment. –

Jim: About a ten minute ride?

Paul: Nah, almost fifteen. (laughs) But that's the only way we could get them there (??) safely. The Philippine government side we cannot guarantee the road between here and there and as good as the "Sparrow Teams" were we weren't going to risk any ground transportation back and forth, and also that was kind of saying, you know, if you want us here you've got to help protect us, and that was part of (unintelligible).

Jim: When did they close both the air field and the base?

Paul: Well, Clark Air Force Base was closed by Mount Pinatubo. It never reopened aft the eruption of Mount Pinatubo.

Jim: And Subic Bay?

Paul: Subic Bay – everyone, the final detachment left in September of 1992. That's when the base was closed finally. So –

Jim: Take everything with ya?

Paul: Pretty close. Pretty close. Clark not, a lot of things were left behind because of the massive evacuation, but in Subic there was a major effort. It was negotiated through treaty what would stay and what would go and that, and so, you know, obviously buildings, and major things stayed, but we took the floating dry dock, a lot of equipment and that, but now that we are going back for exercises and that, I mean everything, the long term view folks said, you know we're going to have to have a presence in this part of the world somehow. Let's not leave with too bad of an ill will.

- Jim: So we are going back?
- Paul: We have gone back now for some major exercises just this year. This is the first year they've gone back.
- Jim: Do they let the ships come in there?
- Paul: The ships are coming in. Yup. They've docked in –
- Jim: Let 'em in there just temporary, they can't stay.
- Paul: Oh, no, there's no – they're just – support visit. Going to Subic is like going to Hong Kong or Thai or Kaohsiung or – and it's not like going to Sasebo, Japan or anything. You are coming as a port visit. You could go to Manila; you could go to Subic and that was it.
- Jim: Sure. Okay. Well, now that sort of sets up –
- Paul: So that kind of sets up the background as to what had been going on. In early 1991 the volcanologist, and there have been some wonderful PBS specials and that on –
- Jim: I've seen some of them.
- Paul: And one of them is about Mount Pinatubo. The volcanologist started noticing this rumbling of Mount Pinatubo which had not erupted in 600 years. Mount Pinatubo –
- Jim: Tell me how far they are. Give me the geography.
- Paul: Yeah, I was going to say Mount Pinatubo as I recall is about twenty-four to thirty miles from Clark Air Force base in Zambalies province so it's north and island of Subic. We are about thirty miles from Clark so we're about sixty miles from Mount Pinatubo.
- Jim: Can you see it?
- Paul: No, we couldn't. Clark could. Clark could. We could not, and their geography of the Philippines is such where we had the deep harbor there were immediately high hills so I mean when you were in Subic you felt like you were in the a bowl. We had thick jungles and the high hills, and so yeah, if except you looked towards the South China Sea you didn't see anything looking inland in that terrain.
- Jim: So you had a little warning?

- Paul: We had quite a bit of warning. There was these buildups going on starting I think it was about February, and a number of –
- Jim: Were these official warnings?
- Paul: Yes, yes. The volcanologist were saying something is going to happen, we don't know when, we don't know exactly, but we're checking.
- Jim: Be prepared.
- Paul: Yeah, be prepared. So I had flown up to Clark Air Force Base and met with some of their disaster planners, some of the mental health folks and some of the others and kind of like what are we going to do if this thing really goes? And it was recognized that Clark was more vulnerable.
- Jim: Was it assumed that if that blew the stuff could come to Clark rather than in another direction by the way it was shaped or something like that?
- Paul: The prevailing winds and the history of where the old lava flows were from 600 years ago said that Clark was in imminent danger.
- Jim: Oh, my God!
- Paul: Clark was in imminent danger.
- Jim: Even though it was thirty miles away.
- Paul: Yup, Clark was in imminent danger.
- Jim: Okay.
- Paul: And boy, we learned more about volcanologist then I ever thought I'd want to learn, the different types of volcanoes and what they do and that, but the volcanologist they had put sensors up there and a number of things. They had lookouts, and they were measuring a lot of things. The natives who were there, the Aetas who are the native indigenous tribe that lived on that mountain said they viewed it as a god that Mount Pinatubo was a god, and the god was angry. He was angry about a lot of things and that. They were doing sacrifices up on the mountain trying to appease him. It wasn't working, and so they started moving out, too. Once they said the Aetas were moving out there was something in that culture that they knew –
- Jim: Right.
- Paul: Something was going to happen.

- Jim: I would be impressed.
- Paul: Yeah. The first eruption occurred on June 9th.
- Jim: What year?
- Paul: 1991, 1991 and it was pretty spectacular, plumes to thirty, forty thousand feet, and off it went. We could see it from Subic easily. There was a rumbling of the ground Plumes; there's some wonderful photos of that time. And for us being so far away and the wind was blowing north at that time, pretty much the predominant prevailing wind – it was like, it was almost just kind of fun to watch. Obviously that had made the warnings even more aware at Clark Air Bae, and so they started formalizing the plans for the formal evacuation of Clark Air Base to us. Clark at that time, personnel wise about twice the size of Subic. So the smaller base was going to subsume the larger base.
- Jim: What about airplanes?
- Paul: They flew them all out. All the aircraft were removed.
- Jim: Right the, after that first?
- Paul: They were gone. Flown to various [End of Tape 1, Side A. ca. 45 min.] just to get them out of there. We cleared everything out of Cubi Point, all the aircraft.
- Jim: You mean Clark started to close down?
- Paul: Yes.
- Jim: You mean to close down completely?
- Paul: Completely.
- Jim: Okay.
- Paul: They removed all their tactical aircraft. They removed everything –
- Jim: Personnel.
- Paul: -- the first eruption they decided, okay this is really going to happen. Let's get everyone out of Clark, and the entire base, except for a security force was moved out of Clark Air Force Base.

- Jim: Where?
- Paul: To Subic and they came by land. They just drove down.
- Jim: En masse?
- Paul: They brought all their vehicles, everything on - yes.
- Jim: (laughs) oh, geeze. And you had no room.
- Paul: Well, we didn't. As a matter of fact, obviously the normal things were done. All the barracks were cleared out that could be, and people were put like six to a room in four person barracks.
- Jim: Dependents sent home?
- Paul: Not yet. This was happening a little too fast. This high school gym was changed into with cots and things like that into a sleeping area. Chapels were changed converted into sleeping areas, and then the request was put out for everyone to please take in families. We ended up taking in three families in our house. So in addition to us we had a –
- Jim: You were living like gypsies. (laughs)
- Paul: Basically. It was basically it. That was it. There were directions given to the Air Force folks on what to bring with them, but obviously they were a bit panicked and, you know, in a situation like that they could only bring what they could carry or put in their car so they brought like family photos and things like that, but although they were asked to bring water and food most of them did not. Most of them brought just their high values personal items with them so the base at Subic became strained quickly. This is on and around June 10th.
- Jim: You mean for basics, basic essentials.
- Paul: Right.
- Jim: Water and food.
- Paul: Water, food, as a matter of fact, I mean, obviously all the chow halls were being inundated. The commissary and exchange were being inundated and that. So it got pretty hectic pretty quickly.
- Jim: Weren't things coming from Japan and the other --?

Paul: Well, but most of – you’ve got to remember we were in a situation where the only time we got fresh milk was when it was flown up every Thursday from Australia. We got one milk run a week, and if you wanted fresh milk, Australian milk, which is good quality milk, but it was there, usually delivered on Thursdays and gone by Friday noon. So we’re not talking about a big infrastructure. Clark was the bigger of the two places, so they had more there. Now they had boxed up –

Jim: Roughly speaking now, what, you know, X number of people were dumped on by –

Paul: We had, as I recall we received our base of about 7,000 –

Jim: Okay.

Paul: Received somewhere in the neighborhood of 20,000.

Jim: Oh, (laughs) wow.

Paul: Okay, (sighs) so the logistics were, I mean, --

Jim: Mind boggling.

Paul: Mind boggling, absolutely. I mean, there was – and so all that was going on. Now fortunately they closed up their commissary and trucked down as much of the, you know, nonperishable’s as they could. But there was no way they were gonna move down like perishables and that. And they came down – we started having people move in with us around that June 9th, June 10th, and June 11th. Most of the evacuation was done by the 11th so we were kind of sitting and waiting for what was going to occur. There were a couple other eruptions, and everyone thought well, maybe that’s just it and rumor, I mean the rumor mill is wonderful. They’re going to go back and be able to send – that was it that was the eruption on June 9th, everything’s fine. I was able to get out to San Miguel and check – there was a little bit of dust of ash which looked basically like ash from your coal, you charcoal grill or that. Less than an eighth of an inch dusting everything, and, wow, that was good. Phew! Boy, we dodged a big bullet here and that. So – but the volcanologist said no, that’s not it, the signs were not good, things were still going on. Now the thing about Mount Pinatubo is most people think of volcanoes like the Hawaiian volcanoes which are the type that put out lava. Mount Pinatubo is not that type of volcano. It puts out ash.

Jim: More like the one in –

- Paul: Mount St. Helens. Much like Mount St, Helens. So they knew if it was going to go it was going to shed. It was going to shed lots of ash. So with all of these families and that now living with other families, obviously we were doing the best we could. There were recreation facilities during the day. One of the, you know, the quirks of fate, they had to do a joint high school graduation that weekend because the Clark folks were moved out before. So they had a joint high school graduation, Clark and Subic did that. Try to keep life as normal as possible for the kids so movies and things like that and tried to keep things going (??) under these very tense, tight situations. And Saturday, June 14th –
- Jim: That's a week? After the first?
- Paul: Yeah, yup. About a week after, there had been some minor eruptions along, but I went out to check things, and the ash was heavier now. Every day is a little bit more, a little bit more. I drove back in heavy ash fall, and this was a major eruption.
- Jim: That was like going through a fog?
- Paul: Kind of like going through a snowstorm.
- Jim: Snow storm, okay.
- Paul: Imagine a fairly heavy snowstorm and got back to Subic just about 5:30 in the evening which should have been bright and sunny, but it was like an overcast snowy day here in Wisconsin. And so it was already a little bit dark. There was a lot of ash, and so now we knew something big was happening. Made it home that night with the other five families in our home –
- Jim: (unintelligible)
- Paul: And about, I recall, about 7:00 o'clock that night we lost electrical power. The reason we lost it is the ash turned out to be highly conductive of electricity so it basically shorted out the grid.
- Jim: Shorted.
- Paul: Generators were running fine. (laughs) The distribution system was now destroyed because of the ash. So we had batteries and lamps and things like that. There was ash fall all night, but kind of a light ash fall. We probably had about an inch as night went on, and when Father's Day, which was June 15th of that year come up we looked outside about 8:00 o'clock in the morning, there was ash on the ground and this eerie quiet,

no animals moving, not an animal sound. You've got to remember we lived next to a jungle. Not a single sound, not a solitary.

Jim: Ordinarily?

Paul: Ordinarily you'd hear monkeys, birds, all kinds of things. It was your typical jungle environment.

Jim: I'll be darned (??).

Paul: And now it was very quiet. Looked outside, like I said about 8:00. It was kind of a gray overcast day like you would have maybe in January here in Wisconsin. The odd thing was instead of getting lighter as the day went on it went darker. It kept getting darker and darker as the ash fall got heavier and heavier, and by 10:00 o'clock it was pitch black. We ended up having thirty-six hours of continual darkness.

Jim: But you hadn't heard it.

Paul: All we were hearing on the radio was that –

Jim: (unintelligible) rumbles (unintelligible).

Paul: Well, we would feel every once 00

Jim: Oh.

Paul: By the time this was over there was 702 measurable earthquakes in a ninety-six hour period. The closer you were to Clark the more intense they were, and when you watch the video I provided you will see some of the anomalies that occur with earthquakes. So basically at that point, with no electricity obviously we couldn't run our air conditioning so we had to have the windows open with screens to try to keep the ash out. It was getting hot and humid. We had been told to fill our bathtubs with water to store water as much as we could. Toilet tanks were filled with water, the reservoirs, sinks everything you could do that. And all we could do it sit and wait. We were listening. We could not get any US radio. There was absolutely no communication available. We could pick up a Manila station, and it was very surreal in that they were just playing their normal music because the ash was not hitting Manila so – and fortunately we had a Filipina housekeeper so when the news reports came on she would translate for us, and they were saying, oh, there's a little bit of an eruption. It's another one of those --. We knew quite differently. There is a phenomena of lightening with volcanoes of this type, orange lightening, blue lightening. The ash was falling; the air was getting heavier as it got darker and darker, pitch black all day. We became quite frightened.

Jim: That was Father's Day.

Paul: Yes, that (laughs) was Father's Day of 1991. Some of the tremors were sharp enough that I can remember vividly my – I was holding our now one year old son in one doorway, my wife was holding our now five year old daughter in another door way, town of the Air Force families were under our kitchen table, and one was under a turned over couch as the house shook a number of times. We had a tree fall on the house. Fortunately because they were poured concrete constructions, it just ended up sitting on the house, but it was four feet across and fell on the house. We thought it had been part of – we thought it was an earthquake. We didn't even know it had fallen on the house until the next day when the sun came out because we couldn't see outside. We couldn't even tell that a tree had fallen on the house it was so pitch black. So and that night all we could do was ride it out. So we woke up the following morning, the ash had stopped falling, and the – in our driveway was fourteen inches, fourteen inches of ash. Yeah, so –

Jim: Gray?

Paul: Gray, pretty much gray, sometimes a little bit of white to it, gray and white. But the whole, best we could tell is we now know what the astronauts saw when they walked on the moon. The entire landscape was gray. All the trees were covered in ash. As a matter of fact most of the plant life had been stripped down it had come down so hard. We didn't know it at the time, but when you asked about the winds and that – while Mount Pinatubo was erupting Typhoon Yunya came through shifted the wind currents so we simultaneously suffered the fall of the ash and a typhoon at the same time. So it was wet ash now, and it weighed fourteen pounds per cubic foot. So roofs started collapsing and things like that. That caused a lot of the destruction, that it was wet ash.

Jim: It wasn't hot.

Paul: It wasn't hot, no. It was cool, it was cool, particularly by the time it got to us. The only hot ash was probably closer to the Clark area. So we had, literally it was a gray moonscape when you look at some of the photos and some of that videotape. No sounds of animals. All the pall of the palm trees were stripped of their branches because the weight of the ash it was wet ripped it down. So you would have, much like the battle scenes from World War II, you would have, literally just the trunk of the tree.

Jim: The artillery took all the branches off.

- Paul: Right. Where we could not see in the jungle now we had a clear view all the way to the ocean. It had been so devastated, and nothing moved. There were no animals again, no animal sounds or anything. I left the house that next day and went up and down our neighborhood. There were eight houses in our stretch of the road and checked to see if everyone was all right. Found out there were some people who had a child who needed some medicine and things like that. Had a Dodge Caravan van and fired her up and drove it up to the hospital through the ash.
- Jim: Did you have trouble getting' through the ash?
- Paul: They had been plowing the roads with as best they could –
- Jim: Like a snowstorm.
- Paul: Once I got out of my driveway I could get on the road, and I got up to the hospital and we started coordinating services, what we were going to be able to do. And part of my role was to make radio commercials. They got the radio station back running again, and we make radio commercials to tell people what to do and how to get through the stress, and I took on the role of going down and meeting all the ships as they came in. Because now, aircraft could not fly in the ash because it just chewed up engines. It destroyed the electronics. There was no land transportation because there was no way we could get through even though the NPA had called a humanitarian ceasefire, they said we don't care. We won't hurt anybody. There was no way we could get the roads open between us and Manila or us and Clark so everything had to come in and out by ship. So we then started planning the largest peacetime evacuation of dependents since World War II.
- Jim: What was our plan at this point, to get rid of the civilians?
- Paul: Turned out the plan was, yes, we were going to get the dependents out as soon as possible. Then we were going to get the Air Force out and then we were going to see what we could do.
- Jim: In that order?
- Paul: In that order.
- Jim: Okay.
- Paul: So the first plan was to get dependents out. The task forces that were in the area sent everything they had. We had destroyers come in; we had amphibious craft come in. The Lincoln was the first large ship to come in, a nuclear powered carrier, and we started working on getting folks, staging

them. So everyone had to go to staging areas and sign up for evacuation. The decision was made for all the pregnant women and for those in medical need the USS Peleliu was in the area which is a combat ship used primarily for the Marine Corps. It's a LPH.

Jim: So it has a deck on it.

Paul: Not only has a full deck, it has a full surgical suite so we knew we could do OB care and things like that on the Peleliu.

Jim: I see.

Paul: So the plan was even though the Lincoln came in and that they were going to take folks out but not the medical types and anyone who needed medical care or was pregnant was going to go on the Peleliu.

Jim: By this time there was no more fall?

Paul: At this point the fall had stopped, right. And so we could see it off in the distance, eruptions, but they never came our way again. As a matter of fact it kept erupting for another ten days.

Jim: But the wind was in the other direction.

Paul: The wind was the other way because Typhoon Yunya was now gone (laughs), and so the prevailing winds kept it going in the Clark area.

Jim: That was a lifesaver for you.

Paul: Yes, that it stayed that way. As ships would come in I would greet the ship, meet with the doc, the commanding officer and some of the folks and tell them what people had been through. They were amazed when they came in. I mean some of the photos you've seen – these folks had been visiting the Philippines for years, and they said it looked like a moonscape. I mean it was totally gray, and so we would tell them kind of who they were getting, the mix of passengers as we knew it, what their medical needs, and ask them what they needed. Well, these were combat ships. They carry no diapers, no Pedialyte, no children's Tylenol. I mean they had, you know, --

Jim: Well, that's easy to correct.

Paul: You get a combat wound and they're all set. They were ready to do surgery on people, but they couldn't take care of a child's fever.

Jim: You could do that.

- Paul: Well, the interesting thing is the roof our commissary had collapsed under the weight, and one of, some of the heroes I think of Mount Pinatubo were the military and civilian national Filipino staff who crawled through, with flashlights, through the collapsed building and hauled out all the Pedialyte and diapers, baby food and things. So what would happen is I would meet along with some of the port services folks and that, and I would do the medical brief, tell them how many folks they were getting because everyone had to be obviously checked through the process and that and would provide them with some Tylenol, Pedialyte, some baby food, some Pampers. Carried in the back of my van, just kind of haul it out. That's where I made the little sign so I could get on the pier with my little red cross.
- Jim: What were these dependents allowed to take with them? Now, they dragged some stuff down from Clark.
- Paul: A suitcase, a suitcase.
- Jim: Now they even cut it down even more.
- Paul: That was it. A suitcase. So we had a lot of tense, very upset –
- Jim: Every family got one suitcase?
- Paul: One suitcase per person.
- Jim: Per person.
- Paul: So if they had children they could – So children were obviously taking toys and their books and a few things like that, So the child ones and that and then the parents and they were put on ships. The ships interestingly enough, I mean, the first thing they saw me they'd ask me if I wanted a shower. (laughs) Because obviously we couldn't, none of us had had showers. I had taken the position, no, I am not going to get a shower. I had to look like everybody otherwise it wouldn't be good form for me to be walking around the base all clean, but I did do was throw some coolers in the back of my van, and I asked for ice and fresh baked pastries so that in the morning at the cafeterias and that we could give some of the watch standers and that, and we had no ice making equipment. So what I would do is take ice to the command center and the hospital and the child care centers and places like that.
- Jim: You reopened the hospital.

- Paul: The hospital stayed open through it although we had no running water. We had to flush toilets with –
- Jim: Buckets.
- Paul: Buckets of standing water. I mean, it was down to bare bones.
- Jim: No chance of electricity?
- Paul: No electricity. We had an emergency generator that they were able to keep running. It was supposed to run for thirty-six hours. Miraculously it kept it running for ninety-six hours to keep things going.
- Jim: What would that supply?
- Paul: That was just for basic –
- Jim: Lights?
- Paul: We didn't even use lights. They could turn on the x-ray machine by itself (laughs), and shut everything off. Or other times we could run things like autoclaves to sterilize equipment. A little bit of refrigeration to keep blood supply refrigerated.
- Jim: Right.
- Paul: And things but no, all lights, everything was done by flashlight during the day and that. Lights were a luxury. A little bit of communications gear that was it. So we – the swap was we would get ice and baked goods from the ships that I would distribute around the base to key points, and we would give them Pedialyte and Tylenol and things like that, and they would take folks and go. Their plan was they would take them to sea, and they would take them down to Cebu which interesting enough the city of Cebu on Mindanao which is where Mac Arthur went when he left Corregidor past experience. So we learned from some past experience, and they were either taking the smaller ships could dock in Cebu. It's a large port. Ships like the Peleliu and the Lincoln would use their helo's to helo people to Cebu where we would get commercial flights and they would be flown from Cebu to Hawaii where they would be cleaned up a little bit and then transported either to Seattle or Los Angeles for transport to their destination of choice in the United States.
- Jim: Commercial flights.
- Paul: Commercial flights.

- Jim: You helicopter them to Manila and then --?
- Paul: No, Manila was closed to us; we could not get into Manila. The ash was too close Manila. So that's why we went to Cebu. Cebu was about 800 miles south.
- Jim: I was going to say –
- Paul: It was an overnight on the ship.
- Jim: Yes.
- Paul: Down to Cebu. So they would leave us and head down, through the San Bernardino Straits on a military ship then pick up commercial flights out of Cebu and do that. If they had me helo'd off – the kids, I have this picture of my son in a cranial –
- Jim: Oh, my.
- Paul: You know, of being helo'd off down –
- Jim: That's the way your family left?
- Paul: That's – my family left on the Peleliu with the medical folks. We sent all our docs and nurses. The first priority was the Air Force families. So Air Force families left first. The next priority were the Navy families.
- Jim: But the Air Force went to Cebu also.
- Paul: Oh yes, everyone had to go down to Cebu and out that way.
- Jim: That was only Navy down there.
- Paul: Well, yeah, that was it. Yeah, that was our support to get them out.
- Jim: Okay, I understand.
- Paul: At that point the Midway which was home port in Sasebo, Japan was sent back to Japan from its local opps, offloaded all but its emergency aircraft, Loaded on cots, and came down to take all of the active duty Air Force and their pets. (laughs)
- Jim: They were next.

- Paul: So they came down, and they took all the pets, and they took all of the active duty Air Force. So basically the hanger bay of the USS Midway was converted into barracks, and they had to sleep on the hanger decks.
- Jim: How many people?
- Paul: I think the Midway took in excess of 900 active duty.
- Jim: One load?
- Paul: One time, one load. Yeah, most the other ships took what they could. I think the smallest group was an amphib which took thirty, and then some of the carriers would take one and 200. The Peleliu took a couple hundred, but they were the medical type so they were the ones with heart conditions and all that.
- Jim: They were the first to go.
- Paul: Yeah, well no, actually they went about the third day. We had to keep them stabilized until we could get the Peleliu there.
- Jim: Ah, I see.
- Paul: Some of the earlier ships were just those that happened to be in the area, and they just came as quickly as they could.
- Jim: The Lincoln?
- Paul: Lincoln came about the second day, and a lot of people were confused as to why we had the Lincoln come and not send the medical folks with them. But the Peleliu had better medical facilities for a larger number of folks. That was it. Plus we wanted the Lincoln to go out and fly people out as quickly as possible. So they did that. As I looked at some of the papers here, we evacuated over 18,000 civilians in a four day period.
- Jim: Four days.
- Paul: Four days. Constant, twenty-four a days, seven days a week of ships coming in, coming out. And like I said, everything that was available in the area. The logistics of that were phenomenal, and the coordination by the 7th Fleet to get everyone in and out –
- Jim: It went splendidly as far as?
- Paul: Ah, yes, an when you listen – I mean the tensions were the tensions of people being in an evacuation. I mean, these people were tired. A number

of the ships – a couple ships actually went and came back and told us some of the lessons they learned and that. One of it was, I mean unfortunately, I mean, here would be the active duty had to stay, the Navy so, and the Air Force active duty were to be sent separately so their dependents went. So you would have like mothers with two and three children leave, and these women were exhausted, and they'd been on a ship which is not a child friendly environment with straight up and down ladder wells and things like that.

Jim: A lot of injury prone –

Paul: Absolutely. But these women who were so exhausted after three days of being though this and the evacuation and everything would lay down and fall asleep for ten, twelve hours at a time.

Jim: I'm sure they –

Paul: So their children were unsupervised. (both laugh) Now the crews were wonderful baby-sitters and that --

Jim: Well, that gave them a respite from usual duty.

Paul: Yup, and as much as we tried, you know, there were difficulties. Ships' commodes are not there to take tampons or diapers, and so they were getting tied up because they had sharp goosenecks in them, and the kids would just drop things in them (laughs), and quite honestly, you know combatant ships are not made for that sort of things. There was seasickness. Obviously people being miserable and that and terror, just terror struck by what they were going – a lot of them – we had people going – the population, a number of the folks had married native woman.

Jim: Another problem (??).

Paul: Women were being sent back to families who they had never met because they were dependent wives, and they were being packed up and being sent to Nebraska and Iowa –

Jim: These were Philippine ladies that had –

Paul: Yup, or Japanese or, you know, newly weds and that or maybe people who had never been back to the States in the five years they'd been married and they were meeting their families for the first time. We had dietary issues. People who were used to eating rice and fish who were now being served greasy chicken, and that didn't help –

Jim: All the bad stuff.

Paul: Yeah, that didn't help with the intestinal distress. Obviously a lot of respiratory things. It turned out the ash was benign as far as, except for the dust –

Jim: No permanent (unintelligible)

Paul: There were no carcinogens or things like that, fortunately. But anyone who had asthma or that. That flared up obviously. Respiratory problems. We had a large group of military retirees in the Philippines who asked to be evacuated. They were evacuated "Space – A", but a number of them had heart conditions and things. So the range of things we had to deal with, everything from pets to, you know, elderly had to be taken care of.

Jim: Any Americans living in Manila who wanted to be evacuated?

Paul: There were but they couldn't get to us, and we weren't authorized to move them. The casualty rate, we lost three people on the base in Subic. The total death count from Mount Pinatubo was miraculously only 662 throughout the whole country.

Jim: From what primarily?

Paul: Collapsing buildings. We got, they evacuated – we had a couple of miracles, our chapel in Cubi was being used for housing. They declared it unsafe an hour before the roof collapsed and moved everyone out. Over eighty people probably would have been injured or killed there. The only casualties we had is when the high school roof collapsed. We lost two people in the collapse of the high school, and there were over 100 people living there when that happened. Most of it were indigenous Filipinos who died either in trying to cross rivers that were flooded or collapsed buildings. Phenomena of the ash as it comes, when it mixes with water it makes kind of a sludge mixture which is called a lahar, which is very unusual. When it comes down rapidly through a river it doesn't knock things down. It just envelopes them. So whole houses were encapsulated in ash eight feet high, and so people drowned in that, those sorts of things. So that's where most of the accidents happened. They mostly happened off of the base. Obviously we were engaged in as much as we could, doing ambulance runs into the town and trying to help provide water and things, but we were strapped with our own resources until the evacuation was completed to get things into the population. So it was pretty trying.

Jim: So then after a few days when you got everybody out, then what?

Paul: Then we had to start cleaning up. We were in a quandary of wondering, are we going to stay or are we going to go? We knew Clark was lost.

Clark was declared done. The Air Force quick (??) said we're not going back. They ended up sending a contingent of movers and packers and security people to pack up people's household goods and get them out of there and send them back. What was –

Jim: Were the (unintelligible) looted right away?

Paul: Fortunately not. A lot of military areas were, but not the private areas. There was a loyalty from a lot of the people who had been hired as domestic help, and although there were bad political feelings the personal relationships were strong. There was some but not a lot, and a lot of the household – most of the household goods, though, were damaged because they sat there for a month in ash dirt. We had four cars in our driveway from the people who had – (laughs) in fact we had powers of attorney to ship their cars out of Subic.

Jim: Your guests, your houseguests?

Paul: Oh yeah, our houseguests. (laughs)

Jim: And they got their cars back?

Paul: Yup, we put – take – took 'em down, and they staged them down at Cubi and eventually brought in military sealift command ships which had been used – were going to later to be used during the Gulf War to move tanks and things, they put them on that to send them back to the States.

Jim: The cars survived. They didn't require major –

Paul: Not major, I mean once they were cleaned up, got a tune up and things like that.

Jim: Mostly on the outside.

Paul: Although it was kind of fun since we had no electricity and we were living out of the water – you could share one day and bathe the next out of the water you recycled in your bathtub. So you would shave one day and then use the same water the next day to wash your hair.

Jim: These rules you make up yourself?

Paul: Made up ourselves because we had to conserve this. We didn't know when our water was going to come back 'cause we had clean water available. We just couldn't pump it because no electricity. The water did not get contaminated, but it wasn't available and couldn't be purified so we would do that.

- Jim: So there were no cholera outbreaks or typhoid or anything?
- Paul: Nope. Amazingly one of the things – Subic is a malaria endemic area, but the ash polluted the fresh water where the mosquitoes live, and we went six months malaria free because the mosquitoes died.
- Jim: I was going to say, cholera –
- Paul: It even killed the mosquitoes. (laughs) But back to the four cars, some of the creative things we did is here were these four cars sitting in our driveway with all this gas in them, and we didn't have air conditioning. So what we would do is after dinner four of us would go sit in the car, turn on the engine and turn on the air conditioning because we had no electricity in the house, and that was, we would allow ourselves thirty minutes of air conditioning a day in the evening (laughs), and we would sit in these cars until we ran 'em down to their last quarter tank of gas so we could get them down eventually to the staging area. But that's what we used for air-conditioning and a little bit of habitability to do that. Like all disasters you have a lot of people don't realize but if they've been in floods here or tornadoes and that you end up having what we nicknamed the "Seventy-two hour Feast." When you lose electricity your freezer and refrigerator, if you don't open the doors much and the freezer not at all, will probably keep food usable for about seventy-two hours. Then after that it's going to lose it.
- Jim: No matter what.
- Paul: No matter what because then, even it was solid frozen twenty pound hunk of beef it's going to defrost in about the first forty-eight hours, and then seventy-two hours, and then at seventy-two hours you've got to do something with it. So it was odd at the seventy-two hour mark after Mount Pinatubo we were walking up and down the street people were saying "We'll swap you a lobster for a steamship round" and I mean, after days of eating canned food and that you knew you had one day so all the grills were fired up and everybody lit up with charcoal and that, and we made all the rice we could cook and just had a feast at the seventy-two hour mark because that food was to be ruined anyways, and so me of it you could keep after you cooked it for another day, but that was about it and that. So those are the little things that happen in all disasters but –
- Jim: (unintelligible)
- Paul: You learned to do that. But we finally we found that the first call was we were going to abandon Subic also. And Subic was going to go that since Clark was closed Subic was going to go, too. We were upset with that,

those of us who were there, for a number of reasons, some of them being strategic, and so we started a big movement to clean up the base, and we demonstrated that we could clean up the base and bring the dependents back. As a matter of fact there was a repatriation of the dependents. They were brought back in September of 1991. School started two weeks late. We cleaned up the schools. We cleaned up the hospital. We cleaned up the base.

Jim: This is everybody turnin' to?

Paul: Turnin' to. The CB's and bulldozers we did it.

Jim: But everybody pitched in.

Paul: Yup, everybody pitched in. We did it ourselves because they still couldn't get things to us. The runway – the first aircraft did not land at Cubi Naval Air Station until July 7th so we went from June 15th to July 7th without air support. So nothing was flown in. It either came in by ship or they got some land routes open, but those were shaky at best. But we cleaned up the whole base. The enlisted club was renamed the Phoenix Club, the coming out of the ashes, and we started bringing dependents back. And then there was a whole movement for the repatriations of the dependents bringing them back. That was an exciting time, a real sense of accomplishment. But families who had been now separated and dramatically separated for ninety days or more, were now being reunited and coming back. The personnel policies changed because the base negotiations were deteriorating, and we knew we were going to lose the base. Anyone coming to Subic was only coming on one year orders so and odd phenomena happened. Those of us who had been there before Mount Pinatubo and during Mount Pinatubo were welcoming new arrivals, and we were planning their farewells before we left because we were still on three year tours (laughs), but they were coming in and out in twelve months, and no more dependents were allowed to come. There was not enough Infrastructure to have new dependents come.

Jim: No more new ones.

Paul: New ones – you could come back if you were a repatriate, but you could not come with new dependents, and so the phenomena was bringing them back. So we called it the reverse deployment. The active duty stayed, and the families left for deployment back to the States for ninety days, and then they came back and we had yellow ribbons and balloons and bands and everything to welcome them back to the Philippines. And then the next year, that was now obviously September of '91, in June then the official announcement in December was that the base was going to close. We started the phasing out of the base. The last high school graduation

was in June of '92 which was a very tearful, I mean after all the people who were there had gone through and then this. Basically all dependents were gone by July of '92, myself included and my family. We left in June of '92.

Jim: Where to?

Paul: Arrived – to Washington, D.C. where I went to a job at the Bureau of Naval Personnel. And the base closed in September of '92, but was in as good a condition in September of '92 as it had been pre-Pinatubo with all that we had done to –

Jim: Who took over that base?

Paul: The Philippines, well it became, it's a success story. The Mayor of Olongapo City is a Navy Veteran, American of Philippine heritage, and he got the Philippine government to agree to call the Olongapo – Subic area a free trade zone. Cubi Air Station now, I've been told is the largest Federal Express and UPS staging area for all of the southeast Asia. The warehouses that we used for food and clothing and ammunition now store computers and children's clothes and things like that, and it's a duty free area for transit. So things are made in Korea, shipped to Cubi and stored there, duty free, to be transited to other areas. The golf course was reopened and is used at \$400 a day for Japanese golfers to come down. The officers quarters are their living arrangements.

Jim: \$400?

Paul: Easy, easily. And they play golf on these pristine golf courses that were kept there, living in the old officers quarters.

Jim: Oh, my.

Paul: To their credit, all he could (??) guarantee the people that would come back some day – he asked for over 2,000 people to work without pay for the first six months to a year, keeping the base clean and fixing it up, and they did that. And over the years they've got a return on their investment, and the people have gone back. I've talked to a couple who have visited because either they either had friends or that. They came back and said it doesn't look like it did obviously, but it's doing well. It's actually economically a sound place for the Filipinos to work and keep going, and now ships are going back. They kept enough of the port facility up that we could bring our ships in.

Jim: What do we do now, bringing the ships in?

- Paul: Right now we still, well, the Philippines is part of our southeast Asian alliance so when we do joint military exercises with the Taiwanese and the Koreans and the Australians we're in and out of there.
- Jim: But they stay aboard ship.
- Paul: Oh yeah, they stay aboard ship, and, but there's port services now where they can hook up for water and steam and things like that. So it's kind of come full circle to being a port call place again. I haven't heard of flights in and out of Cubi, but I'm sure there are. I mean we left the radar intact and all that so they have the ability. But now a lot of 747's. The runway there was a large –
- Jim: Now FedEx is using' it (laughs).
- Paul: Yes, yes. And UPS and absolutely, it's the largest runway.
- Jim: It's a big commercial base now.
- Paul: Absolutely, And so it was taken over for that. So –
- Jim: Incredible story.
- Paul: The transition – and you know, I'm not the only one, a lot of folks in the military since the '70's, through Desert Shield, Desert Storm are kind of focal points, I feel we're kind of the veterans much like the World War II veterans and the Korean era veterans are, "Where were you? Were you at Iwo Jima?"
- Jim: Right.
- Paul: You know, "Were you on D-Day?" and that, and a lot of people are going, "No, I was in the Aleutians, and some amazing things happened there and –"
- Jim: Right. People don't know about –
- Paul: And I would hope you would come across some more folks who did things like the disaster relief at Hugo or the disaster relief at the Los Angeles earthquake or the San Francisco earthquake. And some of the places where we've been and the military used its infrastructures and its support mechanisms to do its job in a very real sense.
- Jim: Yeah (unintelligible) how they got in there and really made a difference.

- Paul: Yeah, and you know, we look at – that’s the area people don’t think about a lot of times. That while all this is going on and that people who did live overseas, you know, we try to put the best face on it, but people lived in Germany in the times when our relations with Germany weren’t all that great, and the island of Okinawa has been a tense place for years. The Japanese government because it’s this tough relationship, and a lot of people don’t realize not only our active duty but our families were in harms way, I mean, you know, if any of us would have died during Mount Pinatubo it wouldn’t have been just active duty. The ash made no distinction between my, you know, one year old son or me and, you know military families sometimes are in harms way in some of those things.
- Jim: Did your children get used to traveling?
- Paul: They sure did.
- Jim: Like army brats.
- Paul: Yup, they sure did. When we finally decided to settle in Wisconsin by daughter kind of has the wanderlust.
- Jim: The (unintelligible) Tell me. For the record here.
- Paul: We moved into Madison, now live in Verona, in August of 1997, and this is our home. This is permanent now. When we finally had the chance to settle down after all those years in the military, yeah, we picked Wisconsin.
- Jim: How many years did you put in active duty?
- Paul: Ah, put in fifteen years active duty. I now have ten years in the reserves so five more years I’ll have to retire. They’re gonna throw me out. So at thirty I’ll have thirty years.
- Jim: Well, then you get, you retire at three-quarters pay?
- Paul: Half.
- Jim: Half pay.
- Paul: I’ll be at half pay because of the points.
- Jim: Well, that’s – you deserve it. You put in a lot of time.
- Paul: Well, thanks. My wife’s retired a reservist. She was an aviation electronics technician, and did her stint, and –

Jim: Well, I put in four years of active duty in two lumps. Then I stayed, I think in the reserves about fourteen years. Finally I had (unintelligible).

Paul: Yeah.

Jim: (unintelligible)

Paul: Sure.

Jim: All right.

Paul: Well, I hope that was helpful for ya.

Jim: It was super.

Paul: Great.

Jim: And I appreciate it very much.

Paul: Well, my pleasure.

Jim: 'Cause it's really an unusual interview, I mean.

Paul: This is one of the odd (laughs), yeah.

Jim: There's nothing (laughs) like this anywhere.

Paul: Well, that's basically it, ah, a lot of things that go on that we're involved in that a lot of people don't realize.

Jim: Right, I'll have to keep copies of this stuff at my home, too, see.

Paul: Yeah, take --

Jim: What I do at (unintelligible) I like it home, and I make a videotape out of it for the folks at the Museum. But I also take segments out of all these interviews that I like, --

Paul: Great.

Jim: And make a copy for myself. But this interview I think I'll probably just keep all of it.

Paul: Oh! (laughs)

- Jim: Because it's sort of a continuing story.
- Paul: Yeah.
- Jim: And if I like something out of this, you see, then I can throw some of this into the same tape.
- Paul: Please feel free to duplicate those. Those are public, yeah.
- Jim: Make a composite tape of the whole thing. It might be pretty good.
- Paul: Well, and like you said for any other parts of the Museum, if you ever consider, if the Museum ever considers doing even just a temporary thing on the military's role in disaster response I'd be glad to work with them. I mean, we – those sorts of things but also like Hugo and, I mean the stories of heroism and things like that have gone on in those instances, quite honestly I find comparable a lot of, you know the experience people had because I mean, because like I remember the guy, I met him, who crawled around in those collapsed freeway, a Navy corpsmen who was in there crawling around –
- Jim: That's a story in itself.
- Paul: Just doing it. I mean one of the things I didn't mention on the tape, in May of '90 I started looking at. There was the earthquake in what they call Cabanatuan City which is about 100 miles north of Subic and it was devastating for the Filipinos. I mean Cabanatuan City is the heart of NPA country. It is where their headquarters are, and there were fights going on all the time.
- Jim: (unintelligible)
- Paul: Between the Philippine government and this (unintelligible). The NPA said, "We'll call a ceasefire. Will you bring people in to help?" So we flew – our CB's went up with equipment like fork lifts and cranes and drove up there, and we flew up two companies of young Marines from Okinawa who just happened to be there for a training exercise, but one of the requirements was that they go in without weapons. So here were these – and the Marine sergeants had a hard time with it. Vietnam vets who were there had a real hard time.
- Jim: Right.
- Paul: Here were these young Marines –
- Jim: Right. They're put in harms way.

Paul: In *known* enemy territory because the airmen had already been killed.

Jim: Because last week they were tryin' to kill ya.

Paul: That's right, and these kids all they did for four days was haul out dead children out of a school that had collapsed. I mean they were carrying out second graders and that, and we worked with them afterwards on some of the Post traumatic – **[tape ends abruptly]**

[End of Interview]