

Thomas Alesi Veterans' Voices Video Log

00:00 Introduction

00:26 Where and when the Vet was born, who his parents were, any siblings, or family that served?

01:48 What he was doing before serving

02:42 When he joined, where he went to boot camp, first duty station

04:44 Backing up a bit, why he joined, what his family thought

05:52 What boot camp was like and after; second thoughts about service while awaiting job training

10:00 After a year at the Naval Air station, orders to sea duty. Pre-commissioning school in Norfolk, then to Brooklyn to commission the ship.

10:37 The West coast, a West Pac Cruise, and the end of the enlistment

11:49 Going to San Diego and later the Christmas Islands for Nuclear Bomb Testing
supposed to so they sent me down to San

13:47 He witnessed 32 tests, including an accident that irradiated others

14:43 His ship's main task, patrolling the restricted area, following the Russians and playing games with them, morning bomb detonations

17:55 The last bomb test and what it was like, how radiation exposure was supposed to be monitored, finding out it wasn't, ground zero, joining the Atomic Veterans of America

23:03 Going back to San Diego and getting out of the military

23:51 Why he didn't do aviation electronics, trying to switch to Fireman, taking the Seaman's test and becoming a Radarman

26:31 Life after service, getting a job in Connecticut, relocating to Tennessee and using the GI Bill

31:08 After graduating, working for PerkinElmer on the Hubble Space Telescope and the Hexagon Spy Satellites, accident at Vandenberg AFB, retirement

36:21 Going all over the world, port too port, adventures

37:23 Married during service, what he could and couldn't talk about

38:12 The effect of keeping secrets, declassification and telling the family

41:44 Radiation from nuclear tests

46:33 Life Lessons from service, playing ball for the Navy against the Korean Naval Academy,
Christmas Island Natives

51:11 The message for future generations

52:34 Conclusion