

DAMAGE CONTROLMAN 3RD CLASS
JAMES F HOLLAND
By Richard Long

Veteran James (Jim) Holland's story is another example of how military experience opens doors for the remainder of one's working life. After graduating high school, he worked on a civilian oil tanker sailing north from California. When he got to his first port (in Canada) after a very stormy journey, he jumped ship and returned to the US. On October 28, 1951 Jim enlisted in the US Naval Reserves and assigned to the Naval Air Station, Denver Colorado.

In a few short months, the Korean War happening, Jim was called to active duty. His job was damage controlman—everything fire related. He operated crash and structural firefighting vehicles, pumps and quads. He instructed recruits in operation of first aid fire appliances, other pertinent equipment and operational procedures. He inspected/ tested all protection equipment including vehicles, sprinkler systems, ladders, etc. As fire safety officer, he had to know the locations of all hazardous materials.

Ironic that in spite of all the safety training and experience, at one point, a fire truck ran over his foot!

That didn't mar his advancement into the civilian employment world of safety, however. Upon separation from service, Jim was a safety educator and safety officer for various agencies at the state level in Colorado for many years. He also spent eight years in Saudi Arabia and earned a reputation as an International Speaker with engagements in Dubai, Beijing, New Delhi and others.

Damage Controlman James Holland, we honor you and thank you for your service.