

3rd Class Petty Officer Larry Burger United States Navy

In September 1960, Larry embarked on a transformative journey as he enlisted in the Navy at Pasadena, California. Following basic training in San Diego, he found himself stationed on the USS Midway for eight months, awaiting entry into the Electronics Technician (Communications) school at Treasure Island, San Francisco, California. From July 1961 to February 1962, Larry immersed himself in intensive training, emerging as a skilled electronics technician.

Upon completing his training, Larry returned to the USS Midway, which underwent significant renovations. The ship then relocated to Alameda, California, becoming actively involved in annual deployments with the Seventh Fleet. Notably, during the Laotian crisis in the spring of 1961, the USS Midway served duty in the South China Sea. In 1962, Midway's aircraft played a crucial role in testing the air defense systems of Japan, Korea, Okinawa, the Philippines, and Taiwan.

Larry's naval journey took another turn as he was assigned to the USS Aludra (AF-55), an Alstede-class stores ship acquired by the U.S. Navy. Tasked with transporting stores, refrigerated items, and equipment to ships in the fleet, as well as remote stations and staging areas, Larry found himself in the Gulf of Tonkin. It was during this deployment that the USS Aludra faced a challenging issue – the inability to produce fresh drinking water. Larry's experiences on the USS Midway and USS Aludra not only showcase his technical expertise but also highlight the pivotal role he played in critical naval operations during a crucial period in history.

Larry, has numerous stories related to his naval tour, when you have a chance be sure to sit and chat with him regarding some of this interesting events.