

Paul Daniel Kiernan (EOC/SCW/DV) ret., Treasurer, National Seabee Divers Association

I was born and raised in Fullerton, California from 1966 until I departed for Navy Bootcamp in December of 1985. My younger years from age 3 to 14 were spent in competitive swimming, and in my junior high and high school years I was president and competed with the high school surfing team. I started studying diving as an occupation for credit units as a sophomore in high school and it was in my junior year that I decided to delay enlist in the Navy to pursue a career in diving.

My orders out of Bootcamp were to Equipment Operator "A" school and upon graduation I received orders to Underwater Construction Team Two en route to U.S. Navy Second Class Dive School. I graduated dive school in October of 1986 as an E-2, when at the time, the lowest rank at the Team was an E-5. I went on to serve twenty years in Port Hueneme and retired as a Chief Petty Officer with full benefits in 2005. I did one 2-year tour outside the diving community as a military trainer for the "A" school classes. My last tour with Underwater Construction Team Two, was as the Officer in Charge of a 15-man diving detachment.

I feel my 19 years spent in the diving community, gives me a historical feel of the Team through the various generations that mentored me and to the men and women I was privileged to work along side and mentor as well.