

Bernard (Bernie) Hill was born in Washington, D.C., USA in 1945. His Father was an American from Maryland, USA and his Mother was a Newfoundlander from Seal Cove, CBS, Newfoundland. Bernie's father was a WW2 Veteran and met his mother in Washington, DC. He is married to Shirley (nee Morgan), celebrating 54 years or marriage, and has two grown daughters in the United States and two Grandsons.

He spent his winters in the Washington, D.C. area attending school and some of his summers in Seal Cove, NL. at his Grandparents. He graduated from High School in 1964 and because of the Draft in the USA he joined the United States Armed Forces enlisting in the Navy where he served for 11 years. Five (5) of those later years he was assigned to various United States Marine Corps Commands in a Support Role.

He was initially trained and served as a Small Boat Operator and was a Boatswain's mate/Coxswain on the Navy 30ft "Whale Boat" which was used to transport personnel, ammunition or supplies from ship to shore or the reverse. His last year in his Naval assignments was as a Boatswain's mate/Coxswain on a 36ft "Captains Gig" which transported Ranking Officers and Dignitaries, again from ship to shore or shore to shore destinations. During this period he traveled to Spain, France, Greece, Gibraltar, Italy, Cuba. He was also part of the contingent, where he participated in the invasion of the Dominica Republic by the USA, in April/May of 1965. The invasion and seizure of the government was to prevent a Coup and Communist take-over. He ran supplies and men, in small craft, from an Ammunition Ship off the coast, to a landing zone on shore in support of the U.S. Marines.



"Whaleboat" to transport Personnel and Material



"Captains Gig" for VIP Transport

In 1966, per his request, he was retrained at the United States Army Military Police & Criminal Investigation Schools at Ft. Gordon, Georgia. After the three (3) months schooling he was stationed at the Naval Facility in Argentia, Newfoundland and assigned to the U.S. Marine Security Command, Criminal Investigation Division, on the base. He was part of a three (3) person Criminal Investigation Unit. Bernie was there for a little over 3 years.



United States Naval Base - Argentia, Newfoundland. USMC Security Detachment, Criminal Investigation Division. Bernie's partner with Bernie on the right in the photo.

In October of 1969 he was sent to SERE School (Survival-Evasion-Resistance-Escape), a two month intensive training course, for Special Operations Units, and upon successful completion he received his orders to Vietnam and was posted at Camp Carter under the Command/Control of the Naval Support Activity, just adjacent to Marble Mountain (Several miles from DaNang). Camp Carter was the Hqts. for the United States Navy Security for numerous bases, outposts, operations and support functions. I-Corps Region was the farthest Northern part of South Vietnam ending at the Demilitarized Zone with North Vietnam. He served in the Investigation/Intelligence Unit, a small 12 man specialized team, consisting of a Lieutenant, a NCO (which was his position) and 10 specialists in their various fields. The Unit responded to captured suspected Enemy Combatants (Vietcong or NVA), addressed major criminal activity detrimental to operations, developing information via intelligence operations, VIP Security during their transportation in or out of areas of interest and other duties to support the United States Navy & U.S. Marine functions. The Team was always on the move to various areas on missions assigned in I-Corps. All areas of Vietnam had its dangers but I-Corp was the most dangerous and lost more men than all of the rest of Vietnam areas combined during the War. During Bernie's time in I-Corp Vietnam (1969 and 1970) there was an average of 125 men Killed in Action per week

not including Wounded in Action and Medevac'd. Bernie served in a Combat Role in Vietnam and was decorated for his actions as noted:



United States Naval & Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat "V" for Valor



Vietnam: Camp Carter Base Camp - Camp Carter Marble Mountain outside City of DaNang in I-Corp



Vietnam: Bernie Leaving on a Mission to the DMZ as VIP Security for the Commanding Officer via Chopper on an operation to destroy (explosives by EOD) a grounded Vietnamese Minesweeper Ship unintentionally run-aground at the DMZ.

He was then posted to Yorktown, Virginia where he spent a few months in Base Security and debriefings and was then transferred to the U.S. Naval Prison in Portsmouth, New Hampshire as an Investigator with the U.S. Marine Corps Security Detachment. In 1973, after 11 years in the U.S. Armed Forces he was discharged with his 2nd, Honorable Discharge.

During his Military Career he earned the following Decorations during both Peacetime and War

- Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" for Valor
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal with two (2) Stars
- Navy Unit Commendation
- National Defense Service Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- Disabled America Veteran (Vietnam)

Bernie then pursued a 25 year Career in Law Enforcement in the State of Maine. He was a Detective and later a Detective Sergeant with a Major Crime Unit in Southern, Maine...the Multi-Jurisdictional Investigation Unit. He spent 15 years in the Major Crime Unit but returned to uniform for advancement opportunities. He retired in 2003 as a Chief of Police in New Hampshire. At the time of his retirement he had been an Instructor at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in various fields of Criminal Investigations for 15 years and was also on the Adjunct Faculty of a local University where he also taught CID Courses. During his career he served as a Police Diver, a Emergency Medical Technician, Hostage Negotiator, Civil Rights Officer and held certifications as an Advanced Officer and as a Certified Chief of Police in both the State of Maine and New Hampshire. He served on various Task Forces with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency, Attorney Generals

Office and District Attorneys Office. His Unit, The Multi-Jurisdictional Investigation Unit was the first to use DNA in the court systems in the State of Maine, identifying and putting in prison a Serial Murderer/Rapist. This set the standard for DNA use in a court setting in the State of Maine.



Rank and Position Badges during a 30 year career. Patrolman, Patrol Sergeant, Detective, Detective Sergeant, Lieutenant and Chief of Police. Certified in the State of Maine and New Hampshire. Emergency Medical Technician, Police Diver and Special Response Team (Hostage Negotiator). Instructor Maine Criminal Justice Academy and Adjunct faculty @ Andover College.

Upon retirement Bernie and his wife Shirley traveled the USA and Canada in their RV for over 15 years before finally settling full-time in Newfoundland.

He is now a Licensed Guide and enjoys outdoor activities. He has always enjoyed what Nature offers and in Maine his family had a small farm where they were a Licensed Wildlife Breeder and Wildlife Rehabilitator, both State and Federal. All animals were rehabilitated and released back into the Wild.

He is a Life Member of the Disabled Veterans of America (Vietnam) and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, an active member of the Canadian Legion Post #32 and a past member of the American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America.

Bernie contributes any success he may have had in his Service to his country in the United States Military (U.S. Navy & U.S. Marine Corps) and later in his service as a Police Officer (from Detective to Chief of Police) in both Maine & New Hampshire to the support of his wife of 54 years and two wonderful daughters.

Bernie's beautiful wife, Shirley, of 54 years (as of 2023)



Their oldest daughter Raylene



Their youngest daughter Robyn