

## LAO-AMERICANS IN THE ARMED FORCES



**SOULIYONG TERRY PHOUSIRITH**  
**AVIATION MACHINIST'S MATE CHIEF PETTY OFFICER**  
**(AIR WARFARE), U.S. NAVY**

Chief Phousirith entered the United States Navy in December 1987, two years following graduation from John Adams High School in South Bend, Indiana. Upon completion of basic training at Great Lakes, Illinois, he attended Aviation Machinist's Mate Class "A" School in Millington, Tennessee, graduating in May 1988. Thereafter, he reported to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light Three One at Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, California for the H-2 "SEASPRITE" helicopter Fleet Ready Aircraft Maintenance Program (FRAMP).

In September of 1988, Chief Phousirith reported to his first permanent command, Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light Three Five (HSL-35), the "MAGICIANS," and served as Aviation Machinist's Mate Technician and Plane Captain. He deployed aboard USS MIRRILL (DD-976) and USS BAGLY (FF-1069). During his four year tour at HSL-35, he received promotion to E-2, E-3, Aviation Machinist's Mate Third Class, and Aviation Machinist's Mate Second Class.

In January of 1992 Chief Phousirith reported to VF-24 FRAM for TF-30 turbojet engine intermediate maintenance and then reported to AIMD Naval Air Station Miramar. He served as TF-30 Engine 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Degree Repair Technician, Collateral Duty Inspector and Shift Supervisor.

In March of 1995 Chief Phousirith reported to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light Four One (HSL-41) for SH-60B "SEAHAWK" Helicopter FRAM, and upon completion he reported to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light Four Seven (HSL-47), the "SABERHAWKS." He served as Aviation Machinist's Mate Lead Technician, Plain Captain, Collateral Duty Inspector, Quality Assurance Representative, and Leading Petty Officer. He was deployed aboard USS OLDENDORF (DD-972) and USS SHILOH (CG-67). On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1997, he was promoted to Aviation Machinist's Mate First Class through the Command Advance Program.

In March of 1999 Chief Phousirith reported to NAMTRIGROUPDET North Island for T-700 engine intermediate maintenance and subsequently to AIMD North Island where he served as T-7000 Engine Repair and Power Plants Division Leading Petty Officer. There, he was promoted to Aviation Machinist's Mate Chief Petty Officer in September 2001, and he continued to serve as Production Control Chief until his next transfer.

In February 2003 Chief Phousirith joined Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Eleven, the "GUNBEARER" at North Island, San Diego as Maintenance Control and Detachment Chief. He deployed aboard USNS RAINIER (T-AOE-7).

Chief Phousirith's individual and unit awards includes the Navy Achievement Medal with four gold stars, National Defense Medal with one bronze star, Armed Force Expeditionary Medal with two bronze stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal with four bronze stars, Pistol Expert Shooter Medal, Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon, Navy Battle "E" Ribbon, Sea Service Ribbon with three bronze stars, Navy Unit Commendation ribbon with one bronze star, and Meritorious Unit Commendation ribbon with three bronze stars.

*-Information provided by Chief Phousirith*

*(If you know of any Lao-Americans in uniform, please send a note and photos to the following address: LAONET MAGAZINE, 1909 W. Valley Blvd, Suite 300, Alhambra, CA 91803, Tel: 626-943-8889. All documents, photos, or other items provided will become the property of LAONET MAGAZINE. We reserve the right to edit, publish, or decline to publish any submitted items.*

