

Special Places

Of SOLID GROUND

Of course, there was my time in Pearl Harbor and New London (Groton) Connecticut, but I also got to visit other places. All those places have meaning and significance in their own way, but in the context of a piece of music that inspires thought; four places stand out.

Vietnam is perhaps the most impactful. I was never “in Country”, but I was on-board for three separate missions that supported the war effort. For classified reasons, I can’t talk about the “missions”, but I can and do tell the story about my [Vietnam Service Ribbon](#), as one of my [SeeStories](#). But more importantly are the thoughts that rush through my head about a very long flight I once made. [A MAC arranged flight](#).

The other three places that stand out are; Seattle Washington, San Francisco and San Diego California. These three places trigger different aspects of thought coming from the lyrics of the piece of music SOLID GROUND. My “rides” on the USS Pintado are bookended by these three places. Unfortunately, because of the classified nature of what happened on Pintado, I can’t talk about that aspect, but I will tell you about the bookends – to those two-life changing “runs” on Pintado. But what I will say is, those two “runs” had as focal points the important part of Fast Attack Submarines in the defense of this country.

SEATTLE – Just before my first run on Pintado, I had met another one of my “tourist” girl friends in Waikiki. Our relationship went way beyond the typical “tourist” week to ten-day relationships. This one went way further to the point where thoughts about the future were entertained. She lived in Seattle and was in my thoughts when the “run” took me off the coast. (Our relationship did not last – but I still think about it.)

SAN FRANCISCO – In between the first run and the second run, I was sent to “school” in the Bay Area, specifically a company called Electronic Systems Laboratory (**ESL**). The chief engineer and one of its founders, a guy by the name of Jim Moon, taught me about 10-dimensional vectoring. It was a way of “thinking” and electronic signal processing that eventually led to the development of Artificial Intelligence, that we now call AI, but this was in the late spring, early summer of 1974.

SAN DIEGO – Pintado’s home port was San Diego, it was so utterly convenient that when we came to the end of our second extended mission, the boat was a short 20 miles from its home port. Their “WESTPAC” mission ended, and they were two hours from home. Living on board that boat amongst the married and single guys = a special bond developed through my interaction with them. Thinking about that set of circumstances truly fleshes out the questions about my life and the concept of [SOLID GROUND](#).