

RISKS OF DIRECT SUPPORT (DIRSUP)

I made up my mind to enter the US Military in 1967. I had explored different options following the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. I joined the Navy in February of 1968. I departed for Bootcamp the 2nd week following my graduation from High School, and it was during that time frame that I made the decision to work my way into the Naval Security Group. The decision to further refine my area of expertise into that of Direct Support (DIRSUP), came in the following two years. Events took place in that early time that were fait accompli at the time for me but became more fully fleshed out in later years by people I met, who were more directly knowledgeable about them. In the order of occurrence, the three major incidents were:

EVENT	DATE	TOLL	PERSONAL CONTACT
USS Liberty	8 June 1967	34 Dead, 171 wounded	Lee Case
USS Pueblo	23 January 1968	1 Dead 82 Prisoner	Lloyd Bucher & Larry Strickland
Deep Sea 129	15 April 1969	31 Dead	Family members



Lt. CDR. Lee Case was the officer in charge of my shop in Pearl Harbor for a while. Our times there overlapped and because of my interest in the events that surrounded the Liberty and then missions I went on during my time in Pearl Harbor – I learned a bunch of stuff from Lee. We would talk underneath the trees behind the shop out on Hospital Point for hours and hours.

Captain Lloyd Bucher retired into the City of Poway following his Navy Career. He and I recognized each other from our previous meeting at the Pueblo's Board of Inquiry held at the Amphib Base on Coronado. At the end of that meeting, it came down to just the two of us in the room. He was reading the list of names of the crewman of the Pueblo and I was running the tape recorder. I was very glad that Hal Holbrook captured that moment so well in the made for TV movie [Pueblo](#). As an OBTW I was running the tape recorder as I was the “new guy” at my first Duty Station down in Imperial Beach, and at the time I was living in the barracks on the Amphib Base. It was convenient for me to just stay there and run the tape recorder for NAVSECGRU.

His move to Poway and our mutual recognition from the Board of Inquiry led to many long conversations outside the Grocery Store in Poway. He always accompanied his wife to do the grocery shopping but would not go inside the store. He would hang around outside. That's where we ran into each other frequently. When he found out that I had spent my time in the Navy as a DIRSUP dude, his stories got really fascinating with his side of the story.

EMCS Larry Strickland was not a Senior Chief when I got to know him. In those days he was an EM2. As mentioned on my SeeStories webpage about my favorite Diesel Boat, the USS Tang that's where I met Larry. That meeting on the Tang was obviously after the Pueblo incident(s) and the Board of Inquiry. So, Larry and I had lots to talk about. And being in the engine room of a diesel boat while charging the batteries, in the waters we were in – we had time. Many years later we crossed paths again, as Larry got a job at Solar Turbines here in San Diego, and Solar was a good customer of mine – we spent time occasionally when I was making a “customer visit”. Without having to go to the SeeStories Home Page; here is the direct link to Larry's video regarding the [Pueblo story](#). (PS Larry's name was 14th from the last in the [TV movie @ the 1:37:04](#) mark. Captain Bucher and I were the only ones left in the room. Everyone else had left.)

Family members – These stories will remain undescribed for now.