

Facebook Discussion on Agent Orange

[Victor Maxwell](#)

[May 12 at 8:10pm](#) · [Tempe, AZ](#) · [Edited](#)

I was being a bit on the silly side on some of my earlier posts today..but someone reminded me of a very serious question I wanted to ask..I wanted to ask you Vietnam Era guys and gals too..anyone who has had any dealings with the VA, concerning Agent Orange issues..

I recently successfully signed up for medical benefits at my local VA Med Ctr here in Phoenix..the one that has been making a lot of National News here lately for letting 40 vets die B4 they could see a doctor..Which is not very encouraging to begin with..but that's not the issue I wanted to discuss now anyway..

In my interview.. what they wanted to know was..that as a Vietnam Naval Vet..if I was a "blue water sailor" or a "brown water sailor" The theory is that those who served closest to the coast (brown water sailors) were more apt to be affected by agent orange..We NEVER docked at ANY port in Nam when I was on the Reeves..nor do I recall ever seeing any brown water or any land for that matter... when the Reeves was stationed with the Carrier Task Forces off the coast of Nam..Does that sound about right to you Reeves Vietnam Vets?

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[Thomas J. Farrahy](#) Never saw Brown water, or heard of it...

[May 12 at 8:17pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)



[David Thompson](#) I would say the men of the Reeves would be blue water.

[May 12 at 8:18pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)



[Thomas J. Farrahy](#) Yup~

[May 12 at 8:20pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)



[Victor Maxwell](#) That's what I told the lady who interviewed me Dave..Just makin sure you guys agreed.. I didn't ever help navigate the ship..so I have no idea how close we were to the shore..

[May 12 at 8:22pm](#) · [Like](#)



[Gene Clark](#) I've heard that Blue Water vets are dying faster then Brown Water. Agent Orange was sprayed on the sea on the way out. It got into the ships water system and we drink it and bathed in it. I have Type II and was told it is AO related.

[May 12 at 8:23pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)



[Victor Maxwell](#) WOW..I liked your comment above..Gene,,I'm not liking the AO,,,type II problem you're having..I was assuming it was the other way around..worse to be a brown water sailor..the interviewer never really explained the difference to me.. when I applied for benefits..I'LL bring this up at my first doctor's appointment at the PHX VA..if I don't die first..LOL..wait a minute..that ain't funny..why am I LOLing?

[May 12 at 8:34pm](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#)



[Dennis Kumm](#) I was on the Mahan DLG-11 & Parsons DDG-33 during Viet Nam The V A doctor I see in Warrensburg, Mo. insisted I fill a claim for my type II & neurophy (spelling error) even though I am a blue water sailor and never had boots on ground. It took two years and several evaluation in Kansas City VA hospital but I was given 60% disability. I know others with the same basic circumstances and they were turned down.

[May 12 at 9:25pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)



[Victor Maxwell](#) Thanks for your input Dennis..Looks like I should have posted this earlier..

[May 12 at 9:46pm](#) · [Like](#)



[Ed Williams](#) Really depending on the day there was both brown & blue water, we were far enough north to catch that.

[May 13 at 4:42am](#) · [Like](#)



[Mike Reddington](#) Yes Victor. I was asked the same thing when I signed up about 8 yrs ago. I told them no were not close enough to have been in contact with agent orange. She told me this is also carried by the wind and could have gone way out to sea, but I still said...[See More](#)

[May 13 at 4:48am](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)



[Nancy Kenaston Elkins](#) My husband, Charles Elkins, served on the Reeves from 1964-1966. He has developed Type II and neuropathy and some other related issues He has been added to the Agent Orange Registry here in Tampa at James A Haley. According to [Michael Robertson](#) the sh...[See More](#)

[May 13 at 5:23am](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)



[Mike Reddington](#) Ed I do remember seeing some of it but never thought much of it. I also remember when we had that weather phenomenon were it looked like we were right on the beach, but were in fact 35 miles off the cost according to radar. Nancy l;et me know what all they find out about Ed. and what group is he is he in at James A Haley. I'm in Delta

[May 13 at 5:31am](#) · [Like](#)



[Nancy Kenaston Elkins](#) Charles is in the Charlie Team.

[May 13 at 5:42am](#) · [Like](#)



[Mike Reddington](#) Thanks Nancy. If Ed wants to get in touch let me know ok

[May 13 at 6:08am](#) · [Like](#)



[Gene Clark](#) When I was diagnosed with Type II the VA said it was AO related. Chemical damage to my Pancreas due to AO exposure. They sent me to the admin office to sign up for benefits and then 6 weeks after telling me I was AO related and encouraging me sign the ...[See More](#)

[May 13 at 8:13am](#) · [Like](#)



[Kenny Sams](#) Actually, being topside most of the time, I remember being in sight of land quite a bit. I remember one night watching starshells on the horizon. I have stage 3, and the doctor told me yesterday that it's most likely from agent orange exposure. (a VA oncologist)

[May 13 at 9:01am](#) · [Like](#)



[Kenny Sams](#) Hey, ETSN Maxwell!



[May 13 at 2:09pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)



[Victor Maxwell](#) I didn't know this picture existed..

[May 13 at 3:19pm](#) · [Like](#)



[James Anderson](#) I reported aboard the Reeves 15 Aug 66 in Yokosuka, and we left port almost immediately for Gunfire Support and SAR in Gulf of Tonkin. I'm sure that on that deployment we were in Danang Harbor, in fact, somewhere I have a picture of myself on the fan...[See More](#)

[May 13 at 5:45pm](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · [3](#)



[Sidney Bondurant](#) In Veterans Administration-Speak "Brown Water" means you were USN but assigned to a unit that operated on rivers. This was mostly Swift boat crews and some units like LST's that were on the Saigon. "Blue Water" means you were at sea, even if you were...[See More](#)

[May 14 at 7:19pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)



[Victor Maxwell](#) Thanks for joining us on the USS Reeves DLG/CG-24 FB page, Sidney..Mike Reddington posted the following about you..Doctor Bondurant on my personal FB page and I want to re-post it here:

"Victor he is listed on FB by Sidney Bondurant. No he was the DES...[See More](#)

[May 14 at 8:52pm](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#)



[Sidney Bondurant](#) During my weeks on the Reeves we never docked anywhere but Subic Bay. But I distinctly remember being on the bridge one day and Capt. Baggett pointed over to the port side and told me the beach we could clearly see was North Viet Nam. That same day a...[See More](#)

[May 14 at 9:10pm](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)



[Victor Maxwell](#) UR right Doc..In WWII we would have just blown the sucker up..the cargo ship carrying the military gear that is..No wonder we got our butts kicked over there !!

[May 14 at 9:17pm](#) · [Like](#)



[Victor Maxwell](#) Or I should say..our "so called leaders" let us get our butts kicked !!

[May 14 at 9:18pm](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)



[Victor Maxwell](#) Doc..or should I call you Sidney? Do you have any info concerning what Nancy Kenaston Elkins mentioned in this thread..about an AO ship's Registry and whether the Reeves is on it or not?

Also, Gene Clark threw me for a loop when he said that Blue water sailors may be more apt to be affected by Agent Orange than Brown water sailors ??...I assumed it was the other way around. What's UR take on that subject..sir??

[May 14 at 9:51pm](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#)



[Michael Robertson](#) I'm glad to see all this activity about AO. The Association has been pursuing getting REEVES on the AO list. We've been reporting our progress in the newsletters. I try to keep up to date and document progress on the website - http://www.ussreeves.net/agent_orange.html.

[May 15 at 12:28pm](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)



[Kenny Sams](#) I was put on the AO registry in 1989 when I got out. What the VA told me then was that I probably didn't qualify for AO exposure because I wasn't "in country" Whats the difference in being "in country" and "right next to country" I don't know if anyone...[See More](#)

[May 15 at 3:22pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)



[Victor Maxwell](#) I remember all the problems we were having with fresh water supplies and water rationing, Kenny..I recall a rumor that we had to take on water supplies as well as fuel during unrep (underway replenishment..I believe we called it) which to my knowledge ...[See More](#)

[May 15 at 3:42pm](#) · [Like](#)



[Kenny Sams](#) OK, the wayback machine is plugged in and I can't help myself. I remember about taking fresh water from the tankers, Ashtabula, Mispillion, and there was another one I can't recall the name. Sometimes we would have just barely enough feedwater to keep ...[See More](#)

[May 15 at 3:57pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)



[Gene Clark](#) We went from Thanksgiving to Christmas without a shower! Had to rent a hotel room in Hong Kong just for a hot shower! Someone said that the boilers had more holes in them than allowed but we still chased the carriers!

[May 15 at 7:51pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)



[David Thompson](#) When we ran low on water the captian would head for any rain squall that we seen. All hands on deck with a bar of soap and took our shower. :):)

[May 15 at 7:56pm](#) · [Like](#) · [3](#)



[Sidney Bondurant](#) There is a ship's registry for Agent Orange exposure but the Reeves is not on it. The registry lists ships that tied up to a pier in Da Nang or one of the other ports in SVN. Being anchored in the harbor did not count. If you were on a LST that sail...[See More](#)

[May 16 at 1:46pm](#) · [Like](#)



[Mike Reddington](#) I'm concerned about the guys that do have the symptoms, and Va isn't doing anything about it.

[May 16 at 1:48pm](#) · [Like](#) · [2](#)



[Sidney Bondurant](#) Almost every state has a Veterans Affairs Board although it goes by different names in the different states. Ours in Mississippi is very helpful and they know all about these problems. They showed me the list of ships on the registry and all the requ...[See More](#)

[May 16 at 2:09pm](#) · [Like](#) · [3](#)



[Victor Maxwell](#) Doc..PLEASE don't feel like an outsider..It pains me to see you write "I still feel sort of like an outsider ". So what..If you had to helo from ship to ship. Your contributions to the crew of the Reeves.. more than qualifies you to be considered a maj...[See More](#)

[May 18 at 3:39am](#) · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)



- [James Anderson](#) Thanks from me also, Victor, and to you Doc, for your info. As a former staff radioman for ComDesRon 9 and aboard Reeves for nearly 3 years 66-69, I consider myself a Reeves sailor, though I too highlined and heloed often to other DesRon9 ships. St...[See More](#)

[May 18 at 4:54am](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)



- [Mike Reddington](#) Victor I second your nomination for Sid. Great choice and Friend

[May 18 at 9:43am](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)



- [Ed Williams](#) The day that the water was so calm was a freaky day, had everyone running to make sure our charts were right & we were not on the harbor door.

[May 19 at 9:44pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)



- [Ed Williams](#) Yeah Gene was really something to take your clothes off and they stood there looking at you till the next morning

[May 19 at 9:56pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)



- [Victor Maxwell](#) I remember that day.. Ed..Usually there's at least some kind of wave activity...Except for the ship's wake..there wasn't even a ripple !! Very freaky..Twilight Zone..Bermuda Triangle..moves to the Tonkin Gulf kinda freaky...I'll never forget it. It was like we were gliding across a massive mirror or something !!

[May 19 at 9:58pm](#) · [Like](#)



• [Ed Williams](#) I remember Capt Baggett saying "Farmer where the hell are we at? he was pretty tattled too

[May 19 at 10:01pm](#) · [Like](#) · [1](#)