

My name is George James Brocklebank and I live in Palm Beach Gardens, Fl.. I attended Great Lakes boot camp and then went to radio A school in Bainbridge, MD. Upon graduating I was assigned to the USS Power DD-839 home ported in Mayport, FL. I attained the rate of 2nd class radioman was leading radioman when I was discharged from the Navy. I served a little over 4 years in the Navy and on board the Power from Aug. 1963 to Oct. 1966.

I remember well our deployment to Argentia, NF in the winter of 1965. I could not understand sending a ship from Florida to the north Atlantic. We were never told why we were going up there. We knew nothing about Copperhead or SHAD at that time. One of the quartermasters said he was told it was something to do with studying wind conditions in cold weather. Myself being in the radio room had access to pertinent information and still had no idea what we were there for. I can remember monitoring stations being set up in certain areas of the ship and civilians personnel wearing special suits. We were never briefed about this experiment, issued any protective clothing did not give consent to be sprayed with a bacteria, a zinc cadmium sulfide or exposed to the decontaminate agents used to clean the ship. The civilian people would come and go and after some of the days at sea would take throat and gargle samples. This had the crew really wondering what was going on, and we would ask questions and told to go about our business.

I never thought much about the Argentia deployment until I was contacted by Eric Longabardi a tv investigative journalist from Los Angeles about 4 years ago. He contacted me in late 1998 and came to my home in Florida in Feb. of 1999 to interview me for a report on television. He also showed me a film about Copperhead. After which I was rather disgusted and felt betrayed by the Navy for letting this happen without my knowledge or consent. He later produced some reports that were on the CBS evening news in 2000. At that time I and many of my shipmates learned what had really happened in these tests in Argentia. This was information that I had never been told about by the government ever. After the reports were on tv we all felt betrayed by our government.

I have attended 6 Power reunions in the past 6 years and have had contact with many of my shipmates over the years. Many of them have problems now and have in the past. My wife had 3 miscarriages in our first 3 years of marriage and the doctors were at a loss to know why. Other shipmates had similar problems like mine after getting married after discharge from the service. I also have circulatory problems in my legs. No one from the government has ever contacted me about participating in the test called Copperhead for

almost 40 years. I guess they just wanted to wait until we were all dead and then the problem would disappear and no explanation would be needed. I know some of my shipmates would be in better health if their doctors knew what they had been exposed to in earlier years in Copperhead.

I have a new VA hospital 5 miles from me and I signed up for care and was turned down for budget deficits and means policies. I was told when I signed up for the Navy this would be a benefit for me which turned out to not be true. Now with my Senator's help, Bill Nelson I hopefully will get the treatment I earned and expected when I served this country.

I know of one shipmate who sent for his medical records and the year 1965 was missing. This seems very strange. They say we were test conductors but when you take throat swabs and saliva samples from sailors that makes you a test subject. I think it is time for the military and our government to stop stonewalling and release the truth start about these tests and help the many sailors with their medical problems. When enlisting in the Navy you are told you will be eligible for health care at VA facilities, but are not told how difficult it is to obtain such care. I just hope that these hearings bring out the truth and all us who were betrayed, can be taken care of and live out our golden years peacefully. Amen

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Have a good day, Jim