



VIC AYE

Alaska State Trooper since 1991
U.S. Navy 1977-83

Aye was a boy when he immigrated to the U.S. from Germany with his family. After graduating from high school in Texas and having been part of JROTC, Aye enlisted in the U.S. Navy to get his U.S. citizenship and eventually attended college with the assistance of the G.I. Bill. Aye was first assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Constellation out of San Diego, where he was eventually tasked with clerical duties for the deck division of the boat-swains' mates. Aye became a U.S. citizen after serving 1 ½ years on the carrier and was then recommended for the U.S. Naval Academy by his commanding officer. Instead, because Aye wanted to pursue life as a civilian after his Navy obligation was up and become an electrical engineer, he opted to extend his enlistment for two more years to attend the new U.S. Navy combat computer school in San Francisco. After two years of training, he became a data systems technician and was assigned to a naval installation in Tokyo, Japan. He worked on the computer systems for the P-3 air squadrons that deployed all over the Pacific and Indian Oceans patrolling for Soviet submarines. While his job did not require him to be on board during those missions, the flight crew would smuggle him on board and take him to tropical locations like Singapore, Mayalasia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Diego Garcia, and the Philippines to name a few. One memorable mission flew him over unfriendly Vietnam when the P-3 lost three of its four engines due to a tropical lighting storm. Fortunately, the crew managed to land safely in nearby Thailand where they were on the ground for two relaxing weeks in Pattaya Beach. While stationed near Tokyo, Aye pursued his love of motorcycling and ended up exploring much of Japan with his Japanese motorcycling friends. Aye left the Navy to attend the University of Washington, utilizing the G.I. Bill to get a Bachelor's of Arts in political science after changing his degree five times. After four years of college, Aye was once again given the opportunity to attend Officer Candidate School, this time for the Marines. He respectfully declined because he didn't want to wear a uniform ever again. Ironically, Aye has been a Trooper for 23 years.



JUDY SKAGERBERG

DPS Budget Analyst since 2006
U.S. Coast Guard (1978-1985)
U.S. Coast Guard Reserve (1985-1992)

Skagerberg joined the Coast Guard in San Francisco in 1978 after three years of college. Women had only been in the Coast Guard for a year and she was fortunate to become a direct petty officer without any prior service, skipping the first three pay grades and attending just a two-week indoctrination class. She wore her petty officer crowns the first day in uniform. After three months in the reserve training command administrative office at Alameda, Calif., she drove across country to a six-month assignment with a task force on waterfront facility regulations at USCG Headquarters in Washington, D.C. New opportunities kept coming and she stayed at headquarters for five years, working in reserve training and mobilization, military personnel, and educational counseling. To her, headquarters was an exciting working environment and DC was a great city in which to live and work. She was able to finish her political science studies in the nation's capital, attending class when off-duty. In the meantime, she met thousands of other Coast Guard personnel, since headquarters and the other units gave the DC area the largest concentration of USCG members in one geographic area. Then she was offered a position in Alameda and was back in her car for the return trip across country to Pacific Area headquarters. There, she worked again in reserve training, and then for the Chief of Staff. She married a fellow Coast Guardsman, and they moved to Alaska where she joined the reserves and served in a port security unit. The unit performed harbor patrols, fuel transfer site inspections, fishing vessel safety inspections, and cruise ship safety inspections. She ended her career as a chief petty officer (yeoman). "I know how important the administrative work is that makes it possible for the folks in uniform to have the resources and training to do their jobs, and it is a privilege to work for Public Safety," Skagerberg said.

