



Sea Service Deployment Ribbon



**Terrence Richard Neil Jr.**  
**Electrician's Mate Fireman 3/C U.S. Navy**  
**1 November 1979 – 5 April 1982**

Terrence was born on 25 January 1960 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where he attended grade school at Jackson Elementary School. He graduated from Whitehall-Coplay High School in Whitehall, Pennsylvania, in 1979. He also attended Lehigh County Vo-Tech School in 1979 in Schnecksville, Pennsylvania, where he studied Electrical Construction. Just prior to entering the Navy, Terrence worked for about a year as an Electrician at Bollinger Electric Company in Allentown. He enlisted in the Navy in Allentown on 1 November 1979 as a Seaman Recruit and was sent to Naval Recruit Training Command at Orlando, Florida, for basic training. In March 1980 he reported aboard Dock Landing Ship *USS Portland (LSD-37)* at Little Creek, Virginia, and was assigned as a Fireman. The primary mission of an LSD is to land troops and equipment ashore in support of amphibious operations launched from the sea. While Terrence was serving aboard, *USS Portland* underwent a regularly scheduled overhaul at Sun Shipyard in Chester, Pennsylvania, until January 1981. After that she conducted operations underway in the North Atlantic, off Cuba, and in the Mediterranean Sea off Turkey. At times *USS Portland* served as the flagship for the Commander-in-Chief Atlantic Fleet, Commander Naval Surface Forces Atlantic, and Deputy Commander-in-Chief Atlantic Fleet, for which the ship was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon. While serving aboard *USS Portland*, Terrence rose to the rate of Third Class Electrician's Mate Fireman (EMFM) and received recognition as a Sailor of the Quarter, a highly prized quarterly award for individual outstanding service. Terrence suffered a severe injury to one of his legs while serving aboard ship, for which he was hospitalized. Ultimately, because of the injury, he was declared not physically qualified for resuming full duties, and was medically discharged on 5 April 1982 at Norfolk Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia. He returned home to Allentown, underwent a period of further recuperation at the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and then went to work for the Post Office in Allentown in 1983 until he retired because of his leg injury. Terrence bought a home in Lower Macungie Township where he lived for a while before moving into a VA Home in Wilkes-Barre. After he left the Navy, Terrence became a member of the Jordan Lodge #673 Free & Accepted Masons in Allentown. Terrence's parents were **Terrence Richard Neil Sr.** (born 14 August 1933), who also served in the Navy, during the 1950s, and **Theresa J. Moorehead** (born 8 June 1937).



*USS Portland (LSD-37)*