

# *Gunners Mate Master Chief Petty Officer*

*EARL W. BRANDON, (SW)*

## *MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE COMMAND*

GMCM (SW) Brandon was born in Wheeling, West Virginia on 5 December 1947. He enlisted in the Navy on 5 January 1965. After indoctrination at NAVCRUITSTA Albuquerque, New Mexico, GMCM (SW) Brandon was assigned to USS HOPEWELL (DD 681) in April 1965. Upon completion of that tour, he was assigned to Gunnery School at USNAB Coronado, CA and was then transferred to the Naval Support Activity, Da Nang, South Vietnam in March 1967. When GMCM (SW) Brandon completed that tour, he was transferred to the Naval Magazine, Subic Bay, Philippines in May 1968. He then was assigned to Pre-recommissioning Detachment for USS MIDWAY (CV 41) until his transfer to USNS Sangley Point, Republic of the Philippines in January 1970. Following a tour at U. S. Naval Magazine from May 1971 to January 1974, GMCM (SW) Brandon was transferred to DATC, San Diego, CA. Upon completion of his tour at DATC, San Diego, GMCM (SW) Brandon return to Naval Station, Subic Bay, RP in February 1976. After completing his tour at NAVSTA Subic Bay, RP, GMCM (SW) Brandon was assigned to USS OKINAWA (LPH 3) from May 78 to Mar 80. He then was assigned to NAVCRUITCOM Orientation Unit at Orlando, Florida and was subsequently assigned to Naval Recruiting Station Zanesville, Ohio from MAR 80 to JAN 83. After receiving training at the Mark 45, 5" 54 Cal. gun school at Fleet Training Command, San Diego, GMCM (SW) Brandon reported to USS O'BRIEN (DD 975).

Among GMCM (SW) Brandons decorations are: The Navy Achievement Medal (Two awards), the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendatin (Two awards), Expert Marksman Medal (.45 Cal pistol and rifle), Humanitarian Service Medal, and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

GMCM (SW) Brandon is married to the former Clarina Buenaobra of the Republic of the Philippines. They have a son, Melchor and they reside in San Diego, CA.

