



At RNDC and Young's Market Company, we are committed to attracting, developing, and retaining military veterans. In keeping with our core value of family and caring for the well-being of our community, RNDC recognizes and supports associates who are active duty or veterans of the U.S. military.

Name: Edward J. Stark
Title: Sales Representative
Location/Business Unit: Fresno, California

Military Branch: U.S. Navy
Military Rank: Master-At-Arms MA1 Stark
Service Dates: 2014



Please share details about your assignments and/or deployment(s) while serving.

I served in the United States Navy for 29 years and retired in April 2014. My career began in Norfolk, Virginia where I was stationed on the USS Charleston as a Gunner's Mate Guns GMG2. This frigate took me around the world seven times. I also did a tour with the USS Iowa and USS Comte De Grasse. During our tours we were stationed in; Sigonella, Italy, Marseille, France, and Rota, Spain. I also have been to Jerusalem and Guam. I can name several more places that I have been to like Ibiza, but that's for another story and I was a young sailor.

I proudly serve our country and defended it from whoever may tread on us. I have served in the Gulf War-Desert Storm. After 911, I was deployed to support CFAY Security in Yokosuka, Japan, and served as Master-At-Arms (MA) through Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. I served proudly with the United States Navy Custom Battalion Papa in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and again with Area Support Group-Kuwait Provost Marshal's Office Navy Law and Order Detachment Juliet in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn.

What was your proudest moment, recognition, or accomplishment?

My proudest moments are when the American flag is raised and the National Anthem is played while I stand in uniform to salute the flag. I am proud when random people that I do not know thank me for my service. I was proud when I handed my uncle my Military Police challenge coin and he gave me his Purple Heart.

What was the most valuable experience you gained from your service?

The most valuable experiences I gained from my military service have stayed with me to this day. In the military there is a camaraderie, and here with my Fresno team I feel the same connection. I never put footprints on someone's back and respect the chain of command. There are good days, bad days, and days that don't count. The only bad days are those when people are shooting at you.

What do you enjoy most about working at RNDC/Young's?

What I enjoy most about working with RNDC/Young's is the people who make a difference. I started my career with Young's 22 years ago, hitting the Union City territories to my current team in Fresno. I've met so many people, team members, customers, and vendors. Our crew at the Young's store are a great group and the Tustin Veterans team always goes above and beyond for our veterans – all these people make a difference.

Share one or two FUN FACTS about yourself.

Some fun but ironic facts about me. I don't like heights, but I have a parachute certificate. I don't like guns, but I am a Master-At-Arms in the U.S. Navy with medals in Rifle Marksmanship and Pistol Expert, and I am a certified arms instructor. I am a sailor with no tattoos. I am a liquor salesman who does not drink.

My advice to give to anyone who can talk to a veteran would be to take the time and listen to their stories. I enjoy them.

