



BELLEVUE COMETS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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"Beyond the Blue"

Tom Rieckens - 1970 Graduate of Bellevue High School

Key Information:

- Commander Rieckens spent 30 years of active duty in rank from Seaman to Commander in the United States Navy.
- During his time, Commander Rieckens spent 4 years as a Hard Hat Diver, then went through BUDS (SEAL Training), and the next 26 years included east coast tours at SEAL Team 2 and 4 as platoon commander of SEALs traveling around the world working with foreign country special forces.
- On the West coast, he was a BUDs instructor and SDV instructor (the underwater Swimmer Delivery Vehicle) used for extracting SEALs in and out of missions. He was Operations Officer at SEAL 3 and spent two tours as Commanding Officer, one tour at the Naval Special Warfare Group 4 in Puerto Rico where SEALs from both coasts would come for training. He was Commanding Officer at the Reserve Center in Dubuque
- Commander Rieckens completed his active duty career as a Training Officer at Naval Special Warfare Group in Coronado, and was in charge of all SEAL training during the 9/11 aftermath. Upon retiring from active duty, he moved into the Training Officer position as a civilian. In this role he still continued to insure SEALs were preparing for their missions with the proper training.
- He is now retired, but still stays in contact with the local SEALs, stays current on policies and missions around the world (especially those involving SEALs).

Nominated by Jo Ernst

BELIEVE IN THE BLUE

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