

Roosevelt Wade was born in Broken Bow, Oklahoma, in 1937 and attended Broken Bow Public Schools. He enlisted in the United States Navy on April 30, 1958.

Wade was sent to MEPS in Dallas, Texas and did basic training in San Francisco, California. Upon completion he was given orders to Hawaii, where he served some of his time on the USS John S. McCain DL-3 destroyer ship. During this time, the U.S. received intel that a Russian vessel with weapons was headed to Cuba. The USS McCain was ordered to sail to Cuba and intercept the Russian ship if found. The intense mission lasted for several weeks. He spent the next two years on the same ship before receiving orders to Japan.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Wade flew to Tokyo, Japan and spent a year there. He served on the USS Peacock, a mine warfare vessel. Upon completing his duties there, Engineman 3rd Class Wade returned to the United States to serve on the USS Conquest mine sweeper ship.

He returned to Chicago, Illinois and attended diesel mechanic school before ending his enlistment.