

Aerographer's Mates and Carrier Duty a Done Deal?

RTC Bainbridge, Maryland, it's 1954, Boot Camp is over, a young sailor is handed the two green stripes of an AA and sent off to Airman School, Norman Oklahoma. From there he is sent to the "aviation rating" AG A school Lakehurst. Upon

graduation in 1955 he asks for a carrier, but is he sent to an Aircraft Carrier? Nope, he is off to the icebreaker, USS Atka GB-3 for the rest of his 1st enlistment. 1958 he reenlists, perhaps now a carrier? Nope, it's destroyer duty in USS Perkins DDR 877. From there it's to the USS Benner DDR 807 and then to duty at JTF-7HQ Eniwetok and Bikini, Marshal Islands. This followed by non-aviation shore tours at FWC Suitland, FWF London, and instructor duty NATTC Lakehurst. April 1967 he is due for orders, once again he asks for a carrier. Surely a carrier will be available. Nope, this time to cruiser duty in the USS Providence CLG-6, followed 18 months later cross decking to the USS Oklahoma City CLG-5.

Early 1970 orders, not to a carrier, but to FWF Quonset Pt. Well, at least it is on an air station and he gets to sign his very first dash one flight briefing form! 1974, shore tour over, now finally a carrier! Nope, FWC Rota. followed by 1976 transfer to FWC Norfolk. Then 1978 NWSED Oceana. 1981 back to Norfolk serving there to retirement in 1985 with nearly 31 years of service in an aviation rating without a single tour on a carrier!

Who knows what lurks in the wondrous world of BUPERS!

Submitted by CWO4 Mel Harder, USN REL