

A Reservist's Remembrances

The May Aerograph brought to mind three memories of my ACDUTRA periods. As a Reservist I served one weekend per month and two weeks per year. I did this for almost 23 years. I was never on "Active Duty"!

I served two of my two week periods at FLENUMWEACEN. I believe they were in 1974 and 1975. The first day I was aboard I met CAPT Morford in a passageway. He saw my name tag and asked if I was related to Air Force CAPT Bob Willoughby. I told him that Bob was (and is) my brother. Bob was serving in Global Weather at Offutt at the time CAPT Morford was assigned there. Small world!

"My Best Forecast" was also my first forecast. Keep in mind that I did not attend "A School" or "B School". I learned my weather from books and on my week ends and my annual ACDUTRA's at LTA Santa Ana, NARS Los Alamitos and NAS North Island. When I "made" second class it was time for me to move on to forecasting. It was up to various instructors and forecasters to teach me enough to try my hand.

The Sunday in the middle of one of my two week periods at Los AI coincided with the year's "Admiral's Inspection". The mat in front of the Ops/Wx offices was covered with wooden squadron pennants. There were probably 20 or 30 of them.

I drew the honor of writing the day's forecast, my first. I wrote that the wind would blow from the Northeast until noon and then reverse to Southeast AT noon. Amazingly, the pennants were blowing down toward the ocean at 11:45 and away from the ocean at 12:15. So, my forecast verified. But, I was advised by all aboard to not EVER write another forecast with no fudge factors. Lesson learned.

Finally, I served at Los AI and North Island with AGCM Willard Pinder. Bill was a shipmate of Don Cruse on board the USS Liscomb Bay when she was sunk.

Submitted by AGCS John Willoughby, USNR RET

Editor's note CDR Don Cruse passed over the bar on April 1st and CAPT Dean Morford on March 6th, 2013.