

LCDR Bruce F. Moore, USN(Ret)

Bruce was born in Port Townsend, WA in January 1941. His father was in the Army and he, his mother and older brother had recently returned from the Philippines. Being an "Army Brat" he moved around a lot. In the 1950's his father got stationed in Okinawa and the family was suppose to travel there later. When Bruce got his shots for overseas travel, he came down with a serious case of the hives. By the time he was well enough to travel, the Korean War heated up and all dependants travel to Okinawa were suspended, so they moved in with their grandfather in Fargo, ND. Bruce remained in Fargo until the late 50's when they moved to St. Louis Park, MN, just outside Minneapolis.

He joined the Navy Reserves in 1958, a year before high school graduation. After high school he went to Photo School in Pensacola, FL and returned to Minnesota to await orders to active duty.

His first orders sent him to the Naval Receiving Station, Philadelphia to await further transfer to the fleet. While there, bored to near insanity, he became a "Brig Chaser" which made things far more interesting. He also knew little about the Navy and what he could ask for in terms of duty station. All he knew was he wanted a ship and a photo squadron. He got VAP-62 in Jacksonville, FL (and never deployed with the squadron when it went aboard a carrier.) Upon his arrival at VAP-62 he was asked what he wanted to do. His first choice was Third Crew in the A-3D. His last choice was the Fleet Air Photo Lab at NAS Jacksonville, administered by VFP-62 out at NAS Cecil Field. Being a brand new 3rd Class Petty Officer and never having been with the fleet, he was about the dumbest duck around when it came to the Navy, but he was learning. He got the Fleet Air Photo Lab.

While there he met the famous Jerry Pulley (then a Lieutenant), participated in Operation Blue Moon - the Cuban Missile Crisis, joined the NAS Jax Sky Diving Club and met the girl who would later become his wife.

After being with squadron for almost three years and only making one deployment to Rota Spain, he was transferred to what was probably the best duty station the Navy had to offer. The Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA. It was great duty because they only really worked 9 months out of the year. During the summer there were no classes so the staff just made thing ready for the next class which wouldn't arrive until the Fall. The after work duty consisted of running the movie projector in the station theatre twice a week. It was tough but somebody had to do it.

But Bruce wasn't really happy there. He wanted something more. He wanted to go someplace and see things. When a message came out asking for volunteers for Operation Deep Freeze he jumped at the chance.

He and Donna were married in January of 1965 and orders came in transferring him to VX-6 (later VXE-6) in Quonset Point, RI. VX-6 was the squadron that deployed to Antarctica in support of Operation Deep Freeze 6 months of the year. After arriving at the new squadron he found out he needed motion picture training so off they went to Pensacola, FL and the Motion Picture "C" School.

After school Bruce returned to the squadron and subsequently transferred to the "Ice". Since he had volunteered to Winter Over it would be a long time before he got back home.

After the Winter Over he got orders to NAS Key West. Key West in the mid '60s was not what it is today. After a year he had the opportunity to get transferred to NRTC Suitland, MD. Even NRTC wasn't much to his liking so when the opportunity arose, he volunteered for Operation Deep Freeze again. This time he went to the Admiral's staff located in the Washington Navy Yard and deployed to Christchurch, NZ and the Ice.

By now he was getting to be a fair photographer so he applied for and was accepted to the Photojournalism course at Syracuse University. After a year at Syracuse he had had enough of snow and got orders to VFP-63 at NAS Miramar, CA.

Three years at Miramar with people like LCDR "Red" Hagerty, Master Chief Ed Dennig, PH1 Al Tennyson and Chief Ruth Bradshaw as well as many others did more for him than all the other duty stations combined. They were all his mentors, sometimes good, sometimes not so good, but he valued their guidance.

At Miramar he was lucky enough to be accepted for the Associate Degree Completion Program as was off to Palomar College, which was close to where they were living.

Upon graduation he got orders to CincPacFlt Headquarters in Hawaii. It was tough but someone had to do it.

By now he had been a First Class for nearly 10 years so he applied for LDO. As luck would have it, he made Chief first and was selected for Ensign only a few months later.

By now they had been in Hawaii for 2 years and had had all the fun one family could stand so off they went to San Diego and Combat Camera Group.

Within days, Combat Camera Group became the Pacific fleet Audio Visual Command but it was within hours that Bruce learned that he had a long way to go to earn his metal as an officer and leader in the Photo Community. The learning curve was very steep but he was working with great people such as CDR Dick Wade, WO Clara Johnson, Chief Ed Carr and the list could go on.

Over the next several years Bruce would go on to be OIC of the Miramar Photo Lab, San Francisco Audio Visual Center, Photo Officer aboard the Enterprise where he earned his Surface Warfare Designation, Department Head at FICEURLANT in Norfolk, VA and finally back where he started, NAS Jacksonville, FL where he retired after 30 service.

As a footnote I'd like to point out that during his 30 years in the Navy, this guy who wanted to go to sea when he first joined only spent 2 years aboard a ship. Now how in the world did he do that?