

## 1976-1993 Everywhere

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We taught in an environment that was a tiny society composed of students and us. Many of us were approachable, and as such were welcomed to parties and outings. For the final meeting of Geology 100 one of my students provided a volcano cake for the class.

A nice and clever lady lecturer shouted, "free beer" to a group playing baseball in order to get their help doing something she could not do alone. It was reported that the enticement was a great success. She told me that at Kadena she saw a BOQ pilot in his flight suit and thought he was a plumber there to fix her bathroom. Not only was the "plumber's uniform" a blow to his ego but he could not fix the pipes.

I rented a car from another lecturer and was puzzled that it was getting undeserved salutes. An inconspicuous blue tape on its front identified it as requiring a salute. I immediately removed the tape and things became normal. I had a few officers who were friends, but I did not want to be in their society. One confided that I was right.

### Starting a C130

We boarded our Osan to Yokota flight but our C130 refused to start. Before we deplaned, I explained to the crew chief that our airplane could be started by tying it down securely behind another C130 and using the front airplane's prop blast to spin the props and engines of the rear airplane so it could start.

The next day we boarded our same C130, now tied down behind another C130. Distant engines could be heard starting and our airplane shook in the rush of air from the front C130. With props spinning our engines started and our C130 whined into life. We were on our way to Japan.

Enticements sometimes backfired. A very popular Maryland lecturer reported that he happily wore a Central Texas shirt into the ed center and was told by our area director that if he wore it again, he was fired. "Can you believe that?" he said. Yes, I believe it. The area director was defending our program, the lecturer swallowed the free shirt "bait" and was blind to its implication.

It took flexibility. I saw two lecturers preparing their notes for the term on the long flight to Asia. I asked Ron, already a lecturer for a year, if that was necessary as I previously wasted my efforts on a Nairobi flight as I ended up teaching completely different subjects. "No" he replied, "You can easily end up at another location for Maryland teaching completely different subjects on almost no notice. The school adapts to conditions that easily change."

Proof that he was right is in his retirement some 40 years later the two preparing notes lasted 6 months.

Some of us thrived on conditions which made others depart. It was important not to put down roots as that reduced your ability to meet program needs elsewhere. There was little or no possibility of educating and raising children. The Maryland teaching program was for the single lecturer. There is the story of one who was served with divorce papers as he was departing for teaching overseas. It would seem that he was better off single anyway.

That was the program in the decades I taught. It would be exceedingly difficult to improve on it.

Sweeping changes were later made by those who had very different ideas of goals and ways to attain them.

Could those without Maryland teaching experience call the shots effectively?