

Life Après Victor Charlie Ocho by Oscar

I would have submitted this earlier but my dogs ate my homework!!

I left VC-8 in July of 1976 after some 19 months on fun in the sun. Somehow after having my request for back to back "fleet" tours denied on 11 July, the detailers called frantically seeking my transfer to A-6s as soon as possible on 19 July. Then I was told if I wanted to wait until my normal transfer date in November I could request A-7s or F-4s. It was a no brainer to take the bird in hand and I left in a swirl for Oceania. I met my wife while tending bar at an upscale restaurant in Virginia Beach and we were married in August of 1981. My daughter was born in 1984 while assigned as an instructor in VA-42, the A-6 RAG.

After 10 years of flying the Intruder I was assigned to the Naval Air Reserve staff in New Orleans as I opted out of my regular commission and became a TAR. I was assigned as the Weapons Systems Acquisition Manager and parlayed that into a follow on assignment as the Reserve Program Director at NAS South Weymouth. After a year as RPD I became the Executive Officer of the base. Beating the odds I was selected as an O-6 in what at the time was the world's second largest nuclear Navy! The detailer called and asked what I would like to do for a follow on tour. I told him I wanted to go to the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF). He laughed and hung up on me. A month later he called back to confirm what I told him and said I could have the one Reserve billet in the class of '93 but it was not career enhancing! Duh!

Somehow I managed to spell strategy right three times during our strenuous academic regimen at ICAF so for my follow on Joint Tour they assigned me to the Institute of National Strategic Studies right there on the National Defense University campus. I believe the only day I wore a uniform until my retirement ceremony was the day I was officially promoted to O-6! I managed to collect a bunch of great resume bullets so I was ready for the world on retirement in 1996.

My first non-military job was with the ARES Corporation, a typical defense-industrial complex small company owned and run by a retired Army three star. For five years I travelled to Combatant CINCs as a Theater Missile Defense guy assessing their capabilities in such garden spots like Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and South Korea. The upside was I also spent a lot of time in the Netherlands and Italy. In 2001 right after 9-11 the Boeing Company recruited me for some fun clandestine programs. I spent the next eleven years in the Intelligence Community retiring as the Program Manager for a very successful airborne surveillance program two days before my sixty second birthday.

On one of our trips home to Vermont in 1983 Sarah and I decided to purchase a home on the lake I grew up on right on the Canadian border. We rebuilt in 1990 after a fine tenant managed to burn the place down. In 2007 we made the decision to retire here so we rebuilt a little larger home and we still be there to this day!

Since retirement I ski 60 plus days a year, managed to be selected as the Vice President of our local Watershed Association and work part time as the local Harbor Master on the city dock, a fine position for an old Navy guy!