



Fighting the Korean War from the Alaskan Front

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Here's a little story of a method to increase Airways and Air Communications Service commitment during the Korean War.

I arrived from technical school on a ship to the 1931st AACS Squadron at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska in May 1950.

There were about 200 in the squadron and we had four WWII barracks in the squadron for single enlisted male housing. The 25 man bays in each barracks were not filled and it looked like a long and lonesome year tour for me.

*Time
Machine*

At the time I was a teletype operator (later OJT Crypto). When the war started the next month some of us saw a chance to get out of the place and see some action, and we volunteered to go to Korea. We were told that a portion of the airlift would transit Elmendorf and due to our command mission, we would all be sorely needed where we were.

The squadron increased to more than 400 in the next year. In the summer of 1951 we had a change of commanding officers and Maj. Glenn Moore took over. At the time morale was not too high and it was reflected in our work and the squadron delinquency rate.

He made a deal with the squadron. He would see to it that there would be no more inspections, no more unnecessary extra detail work on our off time, and to let us leave the shades drawn in the barracks as someone was always asleep at all times. In return we would keep our noses clean and do our duty to the best of our ability. It worked! The squadron delinquency rate was one of the lowest thereafter.

In 1988, I met retired Colonel Moore at the AACS reunion here. He insisted that I sit next to him at the banquet. We all liked and respected him when we served under him, and he obviously knew how to achieve a goal. Probably would not have ever happened other than in a time of crisis or war.

That OJT Crypto resulted in my not going to USAF Cadet class 55-H. After college I was grabbed by the CIA and later ended my government career in the Foreign Service of the State Department. A most enjoyable and rewarding career and thanks again North Korea.