

# **“NOT EXACTLY BY THE BOOK” HAVE YOU EVER....?**

By: Jim Burns, USAF (Retired)

- # Spent four hours on a ‘one hour’ training flight in an SH-19B and came back with several baskets full of clams?**
- # Hot wired a multi-speed switch on a HH-43B to get the engine started by disconnecting the cannon plug and putting a piece of safety wire in pin hole “A” and “C”?**
- # Used an empty C-ration cracker can filled with sand and JP-4 to make a little stove to heat up your C-ration pork & beans?**
- # Had an engine starter (mounted on the intake) of a CH-3E, T-58 engine fail and removed the bad starter and taken the mounting bolts off of the good starter and held the starter in place in the intake and got one engine running then moved the good starter to the second engine to get it started?**
- # Refueled your CH-3E by siphoning JP-4 out of a 55 gallon drum using the bilge pump hose....at minus 20 degrees Fahrenheit ...with a 20 knot wind blowing...in the dark?**
- # Used a ball-peen hammer and some persuasion to get the inverter in the nose compartment of a CH-3E to come on line after picking up the Chief of Staff of the Air Force?**
  - o Discovered that the Chief of Staff of the Air Force was on intercom listening in while you were telling the pilots “I’ve beat the hell out of it, try it now and see if it’ll come on line...no...dam it....hold on....let me hit it a few more times....try it now....ok good....let me close up and we’ll be ready”?**
  - o Wondered what you were in for after you closed up the nose compartment and went to get in the cabin when you saw the Chief of Staff of the Air Force standing in the cabin door with a headset on...looking at you very intently?**
  - o Had the Chief of Staff of the Air Force say to you “Nice job Sergeant...I’m sure glade to know there are men like you who still know how to kick these things in the ass and get-um in the air”?**
- # Used duck-tape to wrap the fabric back down, which had peeled off the blade of an HH-43B flying through a rain storm, and then flown the bird home for a blade change?**

- # **Returned from a training flight in your HH-43B with a haft dozen or so watermelons or several stalks of sugar cane or a lot of ears of fresh corn?**
- # **Tweaked the blade flap setting on your HH-43B rotor blades so you only had to barely move the collective to take off?**
- # **Used a car fuse on a grounded SH-19B to get it back in the air instead of waiting on the exact same fuse that was back ordered from supply?**
  - o **Saved about \$20.00 using the .19 cent one from the auto parts store instead of the 20.00 something dollar one you were waiting on from supply?**
- # **Stripped and re-painted your HH-43B yourself because the base paint shop had done such a miserable job of it the first time?**
- # **Landed your SH-19B on the beach to visit with a group of swimming and sunbathing nursing students who had written “LAND” in the sand?**
- # **Landed your HH-43B near a rural gas station to try and find out just where in the hell you were at and get directions on your road map?**
- # **Sat in the co-pilots seat and held the stick of a running HH-43B while your pilot climbs a large tree to collect some mistletoe for his wife?**
  - o **Wondered how in the hell you were going to explain how your pilot managed to break several body parts should he fall out of a tree while collecting mistletoe to an accident board?**
- # **Placed the nose of your hovering HH-43B at the entrance of a Thai fish trap penning the two Thai ladies, who were bathing there, into the fish trap?**
- # **Flown your UH-1F over the road between Pleiku and Kontum, RVN at extremely low level having to quickly climb to avoid having a head on collision with a tank?**
  - o **Had a rotor blade can sticking through and out each side of the UH-1F’s cabin like a big wing while ducking trees and tanks while flying extremely low level over the road between Pleiku and Kontum, RVN?**
- # **Used a tree limb and a rope as a hoist to change the engine on your HH-43B?**
- # **Used your HH-43B as a crane to lift a new large water tank on top of your new shower?**

- ✚ **Been on ‘shark patrol’ along the beach in your SH-19A/B, HH-43B or H/CH-3C/E and found yourself making several passes to make sure the lady or ladies sunbathing topless and/or nude on the roof of their beach houses were completely safe from a shark attack?**
- ✚ **Procured a Clark tug from the salvage yard, marked as scrap, and fixed it up and maintained it so you wouldn’t have to move your HH-43B’s in and out of the hanger by hand because your detachment was not ‘authorized’ a tug?**
- ✚ **Pulled the pin on hand grenades and slipped them into Mason Jars and then used them to “bomb” the enemy along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos?**
- ✚ **Been bluefish trolling from the cabin door of a SH-19B?**
- ✚ **Landed your CH-3E at an Eskimo village to go shopping for native trinkets?**
- ✚ **Been on a support mission for President-elect Nixon and had the Secret Service agents on board make you land your HH-3E in the salt water of Biscayne Bay just to prove to them that the bird would float?**
  - **Had to spend a couple of hours or more re-packing bearings and washing down your HH-3E because of the salt water exposure created just because you had to prove to the Secret Service agents that the damn thing would float?**
- ✚ **Had an engine failure on your H-21B when at 1,000 feet over Washington National Airport (now Ronald Reagan Washington National) and made an emergency autorotation to the grass area between the two main parallel runways with airliners taking off and landing at the same time?**
  - **Had a very unhappy Washington National Airport control tower screaming and asking what the hell you were doing only to calm down after they realized that the H-21B had no choice but to land and was quite lucky to get down between the airline traffic?**
- ✚ **Had an especially obnoxious pilot tell you that he didn’t care how many hours you and your crew had to work on your HH-43B, that he was a pilot and he was going to fly them as much and as often as he wanted only to discover that when he showed up to fly that a problem had been discovered with the bird and you had exercised your red X authority and grounded the bird?**
  - **Had an especially obnoxious HH-43B pilot get a lot less flying time than he thought he was going to get?**

- ✚ **Been on a night training flight in your H-19A and stopped by the local drive-in-movie theater, landed and walked-in and watched the flick from the lawn chairs in front of the projection and concession stand?**
  
- ✚ **Been on a night training flight in your H-19A and stopped by the local drive-in-movie theater, landed and while walking in to set down in the lawn chairs an watch the flick had the wing commander greet you and demand to know just what in the hell you think you are doing?**
  - **Had the pilot you used to go to the drive-in-movies with while on night training flights in your H-19A get reassigned to a new job almost immediately after your last visit to the drive-in-movie?**
  
- ✚ **Diverted your two CH-3E's to a point on the polar ice cap about 130 miles North of Point Barrow, Alaska, to re-claim the record for the farthest North streakier from the Navy?**
  
- ✚ **Washed your landing gear by landing your CH-3E in a fresh water lake, lowering the gear and water taxing around to get the red Laotian mud and clay off before returning to base, just so the maintenance guys won't have so much work to do?**

**There is bound to be more....but these are all that come to mind at the moment.**