

Hello Everybody

As many know, I retired as a lieutenant in October 1994 as the Director of the then Office of Staff Inspections. As I had gotten divorced in 1989, my intent was to spend my days fishing and scuba diving for spiny lobsters on my boat in the Florida Keys. But the Haiti problem sidetracked me and I joined John Meiklejohn at Fort Leonard Wood, MO to run the Haitian National Police Training Academy there for the USDOJ. I stayed there until November 1995, when I was transferred to DOJ headquarters in DC where I spent almost five years as a Federal employee working in the Criminal Division and traveled all over the world, wearing out two passports. During that period, I got remarried to Janet Thieman's sister, Diane Shipe, in 1996 and we built a home on the Eastern Shore near Kent Island. I left DOJ in early 2000 as I was tired of the extensive international travel and transitioned to working for the IACP conducting management audits and studies all over the US at the federal, state, and local levels. While there was still some travel, I was able to do most of my work from home, doing three to four studies each year until 2014, as well as numerous training development delivery contracts with the DOJ, Homeland Security, and State Department concurrent with my IACP work.

In 2014, I was asked to join a federal monitoring team that was assigned to monitor the U.S. Virgin Islands Police Department under a U.S. District Court Consent Decree. In a way this is kind of like conducting a CALEA assessment, except you report to the U.S. District Court judge that oversees enforcement of the decree. Our monitoring team is an independent entity (i.e., the primary monitor is referred to as the Independent Monitor) and we do not work for the USDOJ or the VIPD. As such we have ex parte communications directly with the judge, lately by phone or Zoom conferences, but sometimes in his chambers when we are on site. We essentially call balls and strikes regarding the VIPD use of force and citizen compliant compliance activity. Since 2014 and prior to 2020, I was traveling to the VI once a month for a one-week stay on either St Thomas to St Croix to review of internal investigative case files as well as in person meetings with VIPD staff and management. I just returned from one in the later part of April, 2022. Working with the Federal judges, one on one, has been an incredible experience. It is quite different than Circuit Court in Montgomery County. I never thought I would still be at it at this late date in my life.

On the personal side, Diane and I moved from Maryland's Eastern Shore to New Smyrna Beach, FL in 2004. As to the children, my son recently retired as a major with the U.S. Park Police commanding Patrol Operations and just built a new home in the Rehoboth Beach area. I have a step daughter who works for Amazon and a step son who is a jobber for automobile supplies. Diane and I have five grandchildren that we enjoy when they visit or we trek back up north. We do some traveling and stay in touch with members of my Walter Johnson High School graduating class with periodic get togethers, usually in Florida. In closing I am very pleased to be living in the truly "free state" of Florida for many obvious reasons, although I still miss eating the steamed Bay crabs, but that is about all. Have a great day and I hope to see everybody at the reunion events in 2022.

Palmer