Ropeyarn Sunday â€œSea Storiesâ€• and Open Trackbacks

Description

Itâ€™s that time again! Post â€™em if you got â€™emâ€¦

Nowâ€¦the â€œSea Storyâ€• for the week: â€œThe Original â€˜Nickel Back'â€• or: â€œHow to make civil servant cringe.â€•

Besides building a lot of FFG-7 Class frigates for us, we also made two for the Aussies; Two w/o LAMPS MK III helicopter capable and two with. Being the officer in charge of training for our non-LAMPS MK III vessels, my office had the pleasure of hosting the crews of the FFG-01 and -02. -01 was there before I reported, but the crew of the ADELAIDE (FFG-02) arrived during my â€œwatch.â€•

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There are funds set aside to show some hospitality to long term foreign visitors (in this case the course was 4 weeks long) and I was informed I could arrange for a visit to the Williamsburg Busch Gardens facility for our Australians. I was also tasked to provide â€œchaperonesâ€• from my staff, and this could include their spouses/girl friends. I forget the ratio, but it was enough for a few of us to tag along on the taxpayers kindness.

Anyhow, I was supplied with the cash to purchase the tickets and pay for some other minor approved charges. We went, we had a great time. The guests of the taxpayer being â€œenglishâ€• speaking didnâ€™t require a lot of close supervision, so it certainly wasnâ€™t a strenuous day by any means.

So, on Monday morning, I dutifully added up the receipts for the visit and balanced it against the cash provided. I had a expended all but 5 centsâ€¦..I went to Disbursing in the Administrative building at lunch and handed my records and the nickel to the lady civil servant responsible for accounting. She looked at me and said â€œloose the nickel.â€• I looked back at her and said â€œI only have receipts for all but the nickel. Here it is.â€• Her reply was something like â€œdo you know how much trouble it is to put that 5 cents back into the systems?â€• and I responded something to the effect that it was a less effort than us both getting hammered for loosing Government money.â€• and I left.

I know a nickel isnâ€™t much, but it sure wasnâ€™t mine and I had no paperwork to chase it away with, so she got to do the paperwork to put the nickel back in the taxpayersâ€™ account.

Category

1. "Sea Stories"
2. History
3. Humor
4. Military
5. Military History
6. Navy
7. Open Trackbacks

Date Created
January 17, 2007

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