



Dan Osborn

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On a frozen winter night while serving as a deputy sheriff officer in Eastern Washington State, I asked God if He wanted me to continue serving as a law enforcement officer or if there were some other opportunities for me. He answered “mission aviation”, so I began my search. I was able to speak with the recruiters at JAARS and we mutually agreed that my unusual path to mission service should work.

I am not a “typical” missionary – if there is such. Following high school graduation, I spent three years in the US Navy as an aircraft mechanic. This began my 35+ year involvement in aviation. After the Navy, I attended college at Valdosta State in South Georgia, graduating with my BBA in 1978. I reentered the military in January of 1979 and was commissioned as an Ensign in the US Coast Guard. I reported to the US Navy flight school in Pensacola, FL and earned my “Wings of Gold” June 1980. I flew rescue helicopters for the US Coast Guard for 10 years and logged over 3,000 hours and 305 shipboard landings. I was able to transition to the HC-130H transport aircraft in April of 1989 and flew them until retirement July 1996. It was a privilege to serve around the country, including five years in Kodiak, AK. Two years of air ambulance flying in Washington followed, then my service with the Benton County Sheriff Office where I was a commissioned deputy and pilot.

This convoluted path towards my true call in life – serving in mission aviation - resulted in three decades of leadership and management training and experience, especially in the field of aviation training. I’ve served here with JAARS since January 2011 as the Aviation Operations Manager and now as the JAARS Aviation Training Manager.

While not on the front line of “mission” service, my team and I preform the initial mission pilot and mechanic candidate evaluation, pre-field orientation and coordinate/provide recurrent training to the young men and women God is putting in the field. We coordinate training for over 20 like-minded mission aviation organizations.

My wife Gail volunteers in the JAARS Clinic. She and I have three adult children and four granddaughters scattered from South Carolina to California to Tasmania. We love being able to volunteer our services to the greater mission of providing God’s Word to those who have yet to hear. Without His Word, in a language that can be understood, there is no salvation.

Come join us! Visit www.jaars.org/serve to see how you can be involved!