



## Lon Cahill

After graduating from high school in Quincy, MA, Lon Cahill (my dad) enlisted in the USMC. Upon completion of his training, he was stationed at LTA in Tustin, CA. Back in the 1950s the MCAS Tustin was actually referred to as LTA (Lighter Than Air). While stationed at LTA he worked in "Hanger 2." This is the same Hanger that is currently being preserved. Fun facts about LTA: in the 1950s when exiting the freeway on Red Hill, there were orange groves on both sides of the road, WWII Quonset huts were located near the Main Gate of LTA, if you drove out of the backside of the Hangers you had to drive on dirt roads, through orange groves, all the way to the El Toro base.

From 1958-1959 Lon was shipped to Japan and China. He then returned to LTA and remained there until his discharge in 1960.

After being discharged, Lon went on to have a lengthy career in Fire Service. He began as a fireman with the City of Orange, continued with the City of Tustin and retired as the Fire Chief for the City of Garden Grove. A few years after retirement, he began to work as a Fire Marshall for the City of Brea and then became the Fire Chief of Disneyland.

MCAS has a very important place in my life. If not for being stationed at LTA, our family would not have had the opportunity to spend our lives in such a wonderful area. Our whole family (my dad and his wife Linda included) still reside in Orange County.

