

Start of Something

An adventure begins! Bigger and better things in sight.

Both excited and unsure of what is to come.

A fresh start. A purpose. A movement.

If only life graded you on the intricacy of a plan.

The reality of reality crashes like waves on beach barriers.

A man. A love committed. A mistake in the making.

Excitement fades as my insecurities compel me to sleep.

Adjustments tweak pathways to a crafted future once thought.

A hard rock-bottom. A separation. A drink... and another.

How it would work? I didn't know. Didn't need to. Didn't matter.

I deserved better than an inconsistent shrug and a cold attitude.

A decision. A course correction. A chance.

Loneliness settles in like a new neighbor.

Greeted by a circle of bad habits and recklessness.

A wingman. A warrior. Am I even?

This place stinks of regret and self-loathing.

Get up. Get out. Get over it. Get moving.

A fight found. A drive. An adventure begins, again.

Culture Shock

Is it too early to move? Can I apply to PCS already? It is worth a shot.

I got an assignment? Where is South Korea? Somewhere east I imagine.

A new chapter is already unfolding. I could not be more excited.

Brand new Airman and already moving, what a shock.

What is that smell? Fish maybe? Apparently, it's Kimchi.

Are you talking to me? Can you understand me? Maybe if I speak louder.

I don't know anyone in this place. On the other hand, nobody knows me either.

Lost on the first day, what a shock.

What do you mean we are at war? Is this an exercise? I need a day off.

Is there anything to do besides drink? Travel maybe? Might as well hang out.

Everyone is being so loud. If you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

Drinking on the weekend, again, what a shock.

Is that a jet taking off at 3 am? What is going on? I guess I don't get to know.

How much longer do I have left in this place? Are you serious? I'll be counting down the days.

A year goes by so fast yet so slow. I made it out somehow.

Leaving Korea with more stripes than I went there with. Now THAT is a shock.

Across the Pond

If there was an award for adaptability, it'd be mine.

Put into yet another new environment and I am still standing.

Trying. Succeeding.

A new shop, new base, mission, and country.

Now across the pond.

Swimming in my work center like a fish does in water.

Comfortable in my confidence. Strong in my conviction.

Exceeding. Leading.

Getting things done is what I do best.

There or across the pond.

Ratings come out and it's like the high school play actors are being announced.

I am not the best. Not even second best. You have got to be kidding me.

Misreading. Raging.

Apparently, they do things "differently".

Here across the pond.

I gave this job everything I had, every ounce, every pound.

To be told you are not good enough, without reason, just hurts.

Changing. Regretting.

I wish I could just leave this place.

To go back across the pond.

What makes a leader?

A leader is wise, calm, cool, and collected.

Steadfast and decisive at every turn.

People are looking constantly, paying attention.

The leader is there in front, paving the way.

A leader is approachable, strong, and courageous.

Making the unpopular call, taking all the flak.

Their armor prepared to protect their people.

The leader is there above, providing cover.

A leader is prepared, driven, and seen.

Never hiding behind excuses or passing blame.

Effortlessly developing, mentoring, and molding.

The leader is there beside you, shaping your future.

A leader is humble, temperate, and respectful.

Always listening and strategizing, full of tact.

Striving and pushing you to be your best.

The leader is there below you, lifting you up.

Can that be me?

Change

You are working here now. Not there.

You do this now. Not that.

You answer to me now. Not them.

It's just a little change.

Move over there now. Not here.

Don't do that now. Do this.

Answer to that guy now. Not me.

Change to the change.

Get back over here now. Not there.

Stop doing this now. Do that.

You guide us now. Not them.

Change to the change to the change.

I will go there now. Not here.

I will do that now. Not this.

I will lead them now. Not you.

I think that's enough Change.

Respect

The sun beams down and warms the sand under my boots.

I feel its reflection all over my face.

It burns the tips of my nose and ears with ease during mid-day.

Even inside, I suffocate as if the heat deprives me of my right to breathe.

Tempers flare as often as the sun does around here.

Temperatures over one hundred means conflict in the collaboration.

They don't trust me even in the slightest.

How do I keep control?

The coolness of the night fills my mind with resolve.

Almost like ice calms the carbonation in my soda.

Everything makes sense when it doesn't matter.

Trying to win their respect as if I earned it.

Everyone wants to go home and I can't blame them.

The volatility of this place fills the atmosphere with unpredictability.

That is in fact what unites us. Isn't it?

Shifting the focus was all that they needed.

No Pressure

Everyone is looking at you.
All your actions being scrutinized.
Does not matter how new here you are.
Better get it together fast.

Stress compounds like a headache.
Everyone can see you.
The Airman look up to you.
Better not let them see you slip.

Carry the world on your shoulders.
Feel the weight of every movement.
Oops, your knees start to shake.
Better ask for help before you crumble.

Now it is only you, no one else.
Every predicament now in your hands.
Everyone is still looking at you.
No pressure, right?

Resolution in the Resolve

Growth is not as easy as it seems.

If it were, plants would never die.

What makes growth so difficult?

Knowledge is key, so is understanding.

Nobody has ever gotten somewhere knowing nothing.

Where does the knowledge come from?

Experience led me here, as hard as it was to gain.

Knowledge is powerful if you know where to find it.

How can you know the unknown?

Patience is a virtue for a reason, not a right.

Purpose leads to drive and a destination.

So there lies the resolution in the resolve.