



# Philip K. "PK" Waldron



Raised near Philadelphia, PA, I became interested in our fledgling space program and competed for an Academy slot with that interest in mind. I shared my time with the 11<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Cadet Squadrons, then once commissioned I began an Air Force career that was more varied and exciting than I ever anticipated. After pilot training I served as an O-2 Forward Air Controller in Vietnam, then moved to KC-135s at Ellsworth AFB, SD. A few years later I returned to the Pacific at Kadena AB, Okinawa supporting the SR-71 mission as a Tanker Task Force instructor. A non-rated stint in the Air Traffic Control field followed, which culminated with the command of a Communications Squadron at Zaragoza AB, Spain. I then rejoined the Strategic Air Command at Castle AFB, CA as instructor and squadron operations officer in the KC-135 training program. My career next moved into the Latin American area specialty with assignment to the US Military Group at our embassy in Guatemala, followed by a HQ USAF tour in the Operations and Plans Directorate working Central American issues. From there I went back to Latin America as Air Attache at the US Embassy in Bogota, Colombia. My final assignment found me again in the Pentagon, this time in the International Affairs directorate of the Air Force Secretariat. There I was charged with managing the Air Force's worldwide attache program and our officer foreign exchange program. Although I never worked my way into the space program, the overseas duty, the associations with Air Force people, the educational opportunities, the flying hours in multiple aircraft, and the challenging work at HQ USAF and our embassies, remain highlights of my life.

May your service be as rewarding, interesting and action-packed as I found mine. Good luck.