



Robert T. Williams



I graduated from Cooperstown Central School in New York on 22 June 1964 and reported to the base of the ramp the following Sunday. I spent the longest four years of my life at USAFA one night in CS-3 and CS-18, graduating on 5 Jun 1968 with a 2.46 GPA in Civil Engineering.

Life got much better in pilot training at Laughlin AFB in Del Rio, TX. I was a distinguished graduate and joined the real Air Force as an HC-130H/P/N pilot with the 41st Aerospace Rescue & Recovery Sq [ARRS] at Hamilton AFB, CA. Since the war was winding down, I volunteered for Viet Nam and flew from Cam Ranh Bay AB, RSVN and Korat RTAB, Thailand with the 39th ARRS [Callsign King]. I worked several rescue missions including the famous "Bat 21" mission. Returning from SEA, I went to the 54th ARRS at Pease AFB, NH where I upgraded to aircraft commander, flew rescue missions, supported NASA SkyLab missions, and provided rescue standby support from Rota AB, SP for US airlift missions to Israel in the 1973 Mideast War. At that point my commander decided that a 2.46 USAFA GPA was enough to get me into grad school, so in 1974 I went to Wright-Patterson AFB, OH to get a MS in Facilities Management from the AFIT School of Systems & Logistics. I guess he was right; I graduated with a 3.89 GPA and then it was off to the 90th Civil Engineering Sq at FE Warren AFB, WY, as an engineer supporting the missile field, the weapons storage area, and the base, but also as the Chief of Operations & Maintenance. Following that, it was back to flying as a C-130E pilot at the 21st TAS at Clark AB, RP. Halfway through that tour I was sent to the 374th TAW command post where I helped manage tactical and strategic airlift in and out of Clark and downrange to Diego Garcia in the buildup to the attempted rescue of the US hostages in Iran. Then it was off to Ramstein AB, GE where I worked in the USAFE Command Center for 2½ years and then on the staff as an action officer and then chief of the Command & Control Systems Division. In 1985 I became commander of the 7391st Munitions Support Sq at the Turkish 9th Main Jet Base where I was the US Custody Agent for our nuclear weapons. Next it was off to Incirlik AB, TU as the Deputy Base Commander of the 39th TACGp where we placed second in the AF for the Commander In Chief's Installation Excellence Award. In 1989, I went to the Silk Purse Control Gp at RAF Mildenhall as Battle Staff Director and then Chief of Operations for the USCINCEUR airborne command post until we shut it down in 1991. At that point it was back to the US and engineering as I became commander of the 341st CES—then 43rd ES--at Malmstrom AFB, MT. I retired in 1994 with 26 years of service.

Since retirement I got a BA in Philosophy from Montana State University. In 1999 we moved to Louisiana and currently live in Lafayette. I spend my time and energies working with others in a recovery program. It's as rewarding as anything I've ever done and much more peaceful. I may not have known where I was going in much of my life, but the journey itself became my life. Get you some!