

**Montgomery Area Chapter**

**Military Officers Association of America**

**Vietnam Veterans Salute**

**November 8, 2018**

The Montgomery Area Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America is justly proud of its current members who are Vietnam Veterans. We take this opportunity to, in some small way, recognize the courage and sacrifice of these members. Cited here is only their Vietnam War service. Almost all of these remarkable individuals went on to have full and important careers.

**Lieutenant Colonel Gordon M Amsler:** Served two tours in Southeast Asia. From Dec 1966 to Dec 1967 he flew 286 combat missions in the F100 out of Tuy Hoa and Phan Rang AB. In Sept 1972 he was deployed to Takhli AB, Thailand and flew 75 missions in the F111 into N. Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

**Colonel Jeffrey C. Benton:**  As a KC-135 navigator flew missions from U-Tapao, Thailand, Clark AB, Phillipines, Andersen AB, Guam and Kadena AB, refueling B-52' s and fighter aircraft flying combat missions into Vietnam.

**Lieutenant Colonel Peter G. Brambir:**From 1954 to 1973 flew over 100 missions as a navigator on C-118, C-124 & C-121 aircraft flying from MAC bases to Vietnam providing troops, medical supplies, weapons & ammunition.

**Colonel John A. Brantner:** Served with the 14th Special Operations Wing as an Avionics Officer with the AC-119K Gunship aircraft at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam from December 1969 to December 1970. Is married to **Colonel Karen Brantner** who served as an Admin Officer with the 553rd Recon Wing, Korat AB, Thailand October 1968 to 1969.

**Lieutenant Colonel Paul C. Butcher:** Served as a C-130 navigator assigned to Clark AB, Philippines from April 1968 to April 1970. Flew missions into and over Vietnam during four campaign phases.

**Lieutenant Colonel Albert D. Byrd:** In 1975 he was assigned to the 601st Photo Squadron, U-Tapao, Thailand as a combat photographer. He photographed the evacuations of Phnom Penh, Cambodia and Saigon, South Vietnam.

**Colonel Douglas B. Cairns:** From August 1966 to August 1967, served as an F-4C Phantom II pilot in the 555 Tactical Fighter Squadron stationed at Ubon AB, Thailand. Flew 130 combat missions 100 over North Vietnam.

**Colonel Rhon V. Carleton**: Served as a Chaplain at Takhli AB, Thailand from August 1965 to August 1966. He managed to hitch at least one ride on a B-66 mission over North Vietnam before the Chief of Chaplains forbade it.

**Colonel Kenneth D. Carlson:** Served in the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV), Data Management Agency in Saigon from the summer of 1969 to the summer of 1970.

**Col Ralph O. Clemens:** Served at Korat AB, Thailand, from May 1971 to June 1972. Flew an F-4E Phantom II on 163 combat missions**.**

**Lieutenant General Charles G. “Chick” Cleveland:** From May 1966 to June 1967 served as the Executive Assistant to General William Westmoreland, Commander, US Military Assistance Command, Saigon, Vietnam.

**Lieutenant Colonel Leland W. C. “Lee” Conner:** Stationed at Nha Trang AB from 1967 to 1968 flying EC-47s. From 1968 to 1971 flew C-124s from Hill AFB, Utah and later C-141s from Norton AFB, California into South Vietnam and Thailand.

**Colonel Eugene F. “Gene” Crooks:** Served in Vietnam from July 1967 to July 1968 as Commander of the 10th Aviation Battalion. Flew the Bell UHID helicopter as a Battalion Command and Control Aircraft. Later served as the Operations Officer and Chief of Staff of the First Aviation Brigade.

**Lieutenant Commander Ronald P. Davis:** Served on the aircraft carrier USS America from December 1969 to January 1971, positioned in the South China Sea off Vietnam. He served as the Surface Watch Officer.

**Colonel Joseph F. Decker II:** Served as a KC-135 Pilot and Aircraft Commander in the 11th Air Refueling Squadron from June 1971 to April 1975. In four deployments to U-Tapao AB and Takhli AB, Thailand flew 150+ missions.

**Colonel R. Dean Delongchamp**: Served as a Navigator on C-124C’s at Kelly Field, Texas from October 1967 to March 1969 flying missions into and out of Vietnam. From July 1969 to June 1970 served as a Navigator on C124K’s assigned to Phan Rang AB, Vietnam flying airdrop resupply missions in-country.

**Colonel Win E. Depoorter:** Served two tours in Vietnam, from June 1965 to June 1966 and from February 1968 to February 1969 flying 657 combat missions in the A-1 Skyraider.

**Lieutenant Colonel William B. Desmond, Jr.:** From April 1964 to 1965 he served as OJT Adviser to the Vietnam Air Force at Tan Son Nhut AB, Saigon training them in C-47s and accumulating 300 combat hours flying with the Vietnamese to drop flares.

**Colonel Mark J. Dierlam:** Flew B-52s from U-Tapao AB, Thailand, Kadena AB, Okinawa, & Andersen AFB, Guam from 1970 to 1974 with missions over North Vietnam in 1972.

**Lieutenant Colonel Michael Dietvorst:** Served as an Air Traffic Controller in the 1972nd Communications Squadron at DaNang AB, Vietnam from June 1971 to June 1972. He was 19 years old.

**Colonel Clark B. Dorsey:** Served as the Communications Officer for MACV J6 at Tan Son Nhut AB, Saigon, from September 1969 to September 1970 .

**Lieutenant Colonel Walter F. Dzialo:** Served in the 8th Aerial Support Squadron, Tan Son Nhut AB, Saigon from August 1970 to August 1971.

**Cololnel Michael D. Edwards:** Served as a B-52 aircraft commander at Carswell AFB from 1969 to 1972. During that time, he deployed to Guam, Okinawa and Thailand flying 144 combat bombing missions into Vietnam.

**Colonel Frederick T. Enslen:** Served in Vietnam from June 1967 to June 1968. Commanded a platoon in Pleiku providing aviation electronic maintenance support for Army aviation assets in the Central Highlands of Vietnam.

**Colonel Robert B. Goldberg:** Served as an intelligence officer September 1967 to September 1969, USARPAC/RVN, provided Air/Ground Recon from CRB to DMZ for target acquisition.

**Colonel Theodore C. “Ted” Hailes:** Served a one-year tour in 1970 with the 101st Airborne Division in Northern I Corps with 550 combat hours in the O-2A Skymaster. Returned in 1973, assisting Vietnam AF transition into the F-5E.

**Colonel Robert L. Hill:** Served as Dental Officer with the 44th Medical Brigade from October 1968 to October 1969.  Assigned to the 437th KJ Team at Cam Ranh Bay and later to the 219th KJ Team in Chu Lai, Vietnam.

**Colonel Walter E. “Walt” Hines**: Served two tours; in 1965 in the 33rd Tactical Group, Tan Son Nhut AB, Saigon where he flew C-54s, VC 123s, VC 47s, VC 118s and U-3As. From 1966 to 1968 he served as a member of the 33rd ARRS assigned to Naha Air Base, Okinawa, Japan flying HU-16s on 166 combat missions, staging out of Danang AB.

**Lieutenant Colonel William C. Hutchinson:** Served in Vietnam from June 1968 to July 1969. From June to November, logged 220 combat missions and 880 hours as a gunship Navigator on the C47 “Spooky” flying out of DaNang AB. Later, served as Wing Navigator, 14th Special Operations Wing, Nha Trang AB.

**Major Jacques Jarry:** From August 1969 to August 1970 served in Northern I Corp in the First Brigade, Fifth Infantry Division with Charley Company, 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry. 2

**Captain (USN) Bill D. Johnson:** Deployed to Vietnam four times: July 1966, October 1967, March 1971 and September 1972. He flew P2V Neptunes out of Tan Son Nhut, Saigon and P-3 Orions out of Cam Ranh Bay.

**Colonel Robert W. Kline:** Served as Weapons Systems Officer in RF4Cs from January 1969 to December 1969. Flew 162 missions out of Tan Son Nhut AB, Saigon.

**Captain Richard C. “Craig” Kneisel:** Served in Vietnam from June 1968 to May 1969 in the USAR Signal Corps.; initially as a Signal platoon leader at Ben Hoa Army Base. Later at Long Binh he became the Battalion Radio Signal Officer.

**Colonel Joseph A. L’Abbe**: Served as a navigator in the 146th Tactical Airlift Wing of the California National Guard from 1962 to 1972. Flying the “low and slow” C-97 four engine prop aircraft on supply missions to Tan Son Nhut in Saigon and Da Nang. The slow C-97 required several stops, a typical mission took 10 days and 70 hours of flying time.

**Colonel Allen D. “Al” Lang:** Served at Udorn AB, Thailand from July 1971 to April 1972 in the 7/13th Air Force Headquarters. The 7/13th was a special operations unit that flew helicopters and A-1 aircraft; also flew missions as a navigator in a C-47.

**Colonel Edwin K. Livingston:** Served as Scout Platoon Leader, 2-22 Mechanized Infantry Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division from August to November 1967. Transferred to the Brigade’s Tank Battalion where he commanded a tank platoon in Company C, 2-34 Armor Battalion until March 1968 when promoted to Battalion Staff.

**Colonel Malcolm R. McLellan, Jr**: Served as Team Chief, Mobile Advisory Logistics Team, Advisory Team 6, DaNang, from April 1970 to April 1971 training Vietnamese Reservists in I Corps.

**Lieutenant Colonel Lynn F. Oborn:** Served at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center, Lackland AFB, Texas from 1973 to 1974 as a physical therapist caring for wounded servicemembers returning from Vietnam.

**Colonel William L. “Nick” Palmer:** Served in Vietnam from July 1969 to September 1971 (one tour with two extensions). He served as Commanding Officer, A-236 (Camp Bu Prang), 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces in Quang Duc Province; as Commanding Officer Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion (Airborne) 503rd Infantry, at LZ Up-Lift, Binh Dinh Province; and as Battalion Senior Advisor, 11th Battalion, ARVN Airborne Division.

**Lieutenant Colonel George R. Partridge:** Served three tours: was a Mobile Radar Controller at Tan Son Nhut AB, Saigon in 1961; a Forward Air Controller with the US Army First Infantry Division, I Corps in 1965, and a Flight Duty Officer at Tan Son Nhut AB, Saigon in 1972.

**Lieutenant Colonel Charles B. “Bruce” Pickette:** Served as Operations Officer in the 1st Signal Brigade Headquarters in Long Bien, Vietnam from January to November 1972.

**Lieutenant Colonel Gordon K. Pickler:** assigned to the 360th Electronic Recon EC47 Unit at Tan Son Nhut AB, Saigon from June 1971 to August 1972. Flew 250 reconnaissance missions with both Americans and Vietnamese.

**Colonel Robert S. “Stan” Phillips:** Served as a C-123 pilot flying out of Bien Wah and Tan Son Nhut AB, Saigon from August 1968 to August 1969 moving personnel and cargo around Vietnam and Thailand.

**Colonel James C. Poole, Jr:**  Flew 100 missions over North Vietnam and 22 missions over South Vietnam as an F4D aircraft commander out of Udorn AB, Thailand from January to October 1968.

**Lieutenant Colonel Joan E. Powers:** Served as an AF Flight Nurse for the entire course of the war caring for wounded in Vietnam and flown from bases in Vietnam and surrounding countries to hospitals in the Philippines, Japan and the US.

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**Major Lloyd J. Probst:** Served in Vietnam from July 1966 through September 1968. He flew 1,248 combat sorties accumulating 1,048 combat hours as a co-pilot and later aircraft commander flying C-130B aircraft out of Clark AFB in the Philippines and Tan Son Nhut AB, Saigon.

**Lieutenant Colonel Jack N. Reed:** Served as a Weather Officer supporting the 8th Tactical Fighter Wing at Ubon AB, Thailand, from May 1966 to May 1967.

**Lieutenant Colonel Thomas B. “Tom” Reinhart:** Served in the 310th Air Commando Squadron at Nha Trang AB, Thailand from June 1965 to June 1966, as an instructor pilot in C-123s in support of the Army’s 5th Special Forces.

**Colonel James E. Salminen:** Flew RF-101s with the 45th Tac. Reconaissance Sq. at Tan Son Nhut AB, Saigon from June 1967 to May 1969.  He flew 183 combat missions, 100 of them over North Vietnam.

**Colonel Lewis G. Simons:** Served as a personnel officer at Da Nang Air Base from January 1967 to January 1968.

**Colonel Edgar L. “Ed” Smith:** Served two tours in Vietnam. He was a rifle platoon leader with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division in the Central Highlands where he was twice wounded and received two Purple Hearts. Later he assumed command of Company A and led the rifle company north in the Cavalry Division’s relief of Khe Sahn. He returned to Vietnam in 1970 as the Commander of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry (Air Assault).

**Colonel Nelson F. “Smitty” Smith:** Served in the US Army 101st Airborne Division from June 1968 to January 1970, first as an Interrogations Officer and then Battalion Intelligence Officer (S-2), 1st Battalion, 327th Airborne Infantry.

**Colonel Carl B. Stevenson:** Served a one-year tour at Tan Son Nhut AB beginning in October 1965. Then assigned to the MACV Flight Detachment as an Army Aviator. He flew 440 hours in the U-6 Beaver & U-8F Queen Air.

**Colonel Bryan D. Strickland:** Was assigned to the 433rd Tactical Fighter Squadron, 8th Tactical Fighter Wing from 1967 to 1968. He flew 141 combat missions, 100 over North Vietnam.

**Lieutenant Colonel Charles B. Stults:** Served as a Mechanized Infantry Platoon Leader from November 1968 to February 1970. He was assigned to the 2/8 Mechanized Infantry Battalion, 4th Infantry Division. He received the Purple Heart and was evacuated from Vietnam following wounds received in a “search and destroy” mission on February 25, 1970.

**Colonel M. Robert Taffet:** Flew 170 combat missions in Laos and North Vietnam as an F4 Aircraft Commander. Was assigned to the 435th TAC Fighter Squadron at Ubon AB, Thailand.

**Colonel Robert D. Thornton:** Served in Vietnam from Feb 1970 to Feb 1971 as a US Army Signal Corps officer.  He was the Operations Officer of B Company, 369th Signal Battalion operating ICS sites across the country.

**Lieutenant Colonel Jay Van Cleef:** Served as a C-130 pilot stationed at Cam Duc, Vietnam in 1968.

**Colonel John M. Vickery:** Served as an F-4D Aircraft Commander assigned to the 555 Tactical Fighter Squadron at Udorn AB, Thailand from August 1968 to August 1969. He flew 190 combat missions in North Vietnam, Laos and South Vietnam including combat air patrols, air interdiction, close air support fighter escort, and reconnaissance.

**Captain (USN) George E. Wilson:** Assigned to Helicopter Attack Light HAL-3 (an all-volunteer organization) in Vietnam from January 1972 to 16 March 1972. HAL-3 (Helicopter Attack, Light), the only rapid reaction armed helicopter squadron ever commissioned in the Navy.

**Colonel Robert H. Zannini:** Served in the 99th Bombardment Wing flying B-52s which deployed for six months beginning September 1967 to fly bombing missions over North Vietnam. Later flew the EB-66 as ECM support for Arc Light.

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