

Vietnam Narratives

Vietnam involved many in the USAFA Class of 1959. The class history is trying to draw out as many narratives as possible of events connected to that war. This is a work in process, and 59ers or their families are invited to add their own stories to those which are presented below. The log located in the Archives section at USAFACH.org, Class of 1959, will note whenever new write-ups are added. Following the individual narratives is a table showing the Vietnam War - related assignments for members of the Class of 1959. This includes personnel with Vietnam experience who were assigned outside the country, such as in Thailand or Guam.

Individual Narratives

Art Elser

23 May 68, Quang Ngai, Jake 44.

I was bringing the Bad Spad, my O-1E, 62602, back from a periodic inspection at Da Nang. I say mine because I was the only one who flew it for support of five Special Forces camps. I called Jake radio as I passed Chu Lai, letting them know I was inbound and was told to refuel, rearm, and relieve a FAC in an O-2 who was covering a firefight east of the city.

After a quick pit stop, I took off, called the FAC and got a sketchy briefing, so I called the grunt on FM. He said they'd been ambushed as they crossed a large open field and were taking grazing fire from the tree line east of them. They were unable to get to the wounded because anyone who moved got fire from the tree line.

I called Jake radio, asked him to get DASC to scramble fighters. A pair of Marine A-4s launched from Chu Lai, about 25 miles north. They had me in sight quickly and reported Lead had six napalm and Two had six 250-pound high drag bombs, perfect for this target. When I could see them on what would be a downwind leg to the target. I marked the target, taking some ground fire. I told Lead to hit my smoke with his napalm on ripple and told Two to put his high-drags on ripple about fifty meters east of Lead's nape to catch anyone running away.

The poem below tells the story of that mission. It was probably my most successful and at the same time most traumatic. Traumatic because of the number of men I had killed and the effect on so many families.

The Sudden End of the Firefight

The jet races low over the fields toward the tree line
where a small cloud of white smoke rises
from a marking rocket. As the jet nears the smoke,
six shiny cans of napalm tumble from it,
two by two by two,
exploding into a rolling ball of fire
that engulfs the trees.

When the burning slows, troops move forward
to rout the enemy who has wounded
and killed their comrades.
They find only death from the fire.
Forty-five enemy killed.
There is ecstasy over the victory.

In the decades since, in nightmares,
daymares, memories, that jet races
again and again and again
to the trees and releases its napalm,
two by two by two.
But now there is no ecstasy,
only sadness and grief and guilt.

Written by Art Elser, USAFA Class of 1959

Tom Derrickson

Vietnam Was A War Affecting Everyone

I didn't know Tom Derrickson well while we were in school. We were in different squadrons and participated in different activities. After graduation he went to Bartow and Reese, while I went to Bainbridge and Vance AFB. Then he was assigned to fighters – first the F-100, then the F-105, at Spangdahlem AB, Germany and I flew KC-135s at Wurtsmith.

I only got to know Tom and his wife, Dorothy, well when we were together at the Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB. He must have done well early on in his career because he was one of the fighter pilots selected to be in the first group of pilots to be trained for the military space program. I flew with him several times at Edwards, including a memorable flight when we tried to get the altimeter to read below zero while flying through Death Valley. We became pretty good friends and the Reeds and Derricksons would go out occasionally or meet at each other's homes for dinner and talk. They had a lovely daughter, Lorraine, and sometimes our children would play together while the adults discussed other things. We learned of some family tragedies which the Derricksons had suffered, including the loss of their son in May 1963 at the age of six months. I'm still looking for comments from other classmates who may have known them in Germany.

On graduation, he went to Eglin as a test pilot while I went to Canada, but it wasn't very long before he picked up an F-4 assignment and then joined the 557th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam. On October 12, 1967, on an air mission over North Vietnam, Tom's airplane was struck, and he was listed as missing in action.

At that time, I was frequently travelling between Ottawa, Canada, and Edwards AFB on a special project. As soon I learned that Tom was MIA I was able to make a stop in Florida to see if I could help Dorothy. In fact, I was able to make two stops, one just after Tom went missing and another a short time later. Unfortunately, the second stop was because Dorothy was so tormented that she had been admitted to the hospital. I tried to offer what help I could, but there was little I could do.

Shortly after I returned to Canada, Dorothy was released from the hospital. A couple of days later, on January 25, 1968, she found a pistol in her home and took her own life. We contacted her family and offered to adopt Tom and Dorothy's daughter but were told the daughter was being taken care of.

Dorothy Derrickson, another person who was tortured and killed by the Vietnam War, but who will never have a monument to her sacrifice.

Written by Jim Reed, USAFA Class of 1959

Dick Carr

CAMBODIA

I was ops officer of the 14th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron in late '73 into '74. Things in SEA were winding down a lot, except for recce. We were flying more combat missions every day than we had crews. Cambodia, however, had been put off limits by the US Congress after the 1970 invasion and subsequent bombing by the US to halt the North Vietnamese and Khmer Rouge takeover of Cambodia. At this time Prince Sihanouk was overthrown and the western-leaning government of Lon Nol was installed.

I was in the office in late afternoon when an emergency photo mission was ordered by 7th Air Force for an incident deep in the South Vietnam delta. I was the only pilot around and I grabbed a 2nd lieutenant who had just arrived on base for the mission. After a quick brief we went to the aircraft and the lieutenant hit his head on the canopy suffering a nasty gash. I got him off to the hospital and commandeered a WSO from an RF-4 that had just landed. We headed south and briefed in the air.

The mission went well and we got all the intelligence that had been requested. Climbing out was normal until we got over Cambodia. I noticed a lot of dust on Route 13 along the Mekong River. As we descended to have a look dozens of AAA guns, mostly 37 mm, opened up. We got photos of, what I learned later, was about 200 trucks headed south. The flak got really intense but we made it just fine, landed at Udorn RTAB and reported the finding.

Early the next morning I was called to the flight line urgently. General Vogt was standing next to his T-39 with the pictures spread out on the wing. He asked me about the finding then took off for Phnom Penh to brief President Lon Nol. For the next two days neither the Cambodian AF nor the USAF could find the trucks. I was forbidden to go back. On the 3rd day the HHQ relented and said I could go back and try my luck. Surprisingly, there was no AAA but also no signs of movement. I finally tried the west side of the Mekong and took many photos of any heavily treed areas. I didn't see it but a sharp-eyed photo interpreter spotted the corner of a truck sticking out from under a tree in a Michelin Rubber Plantation. It must have been quite a feat to ferry that many trucks across the Mekong River so fast. We did not see any signs of a ferry.

Briefed General Vogt again and he went to brief Lon Nol. The Cambodian red-tailed T-28s bombed the plantation and there was so much explosive material that the whole plantation was reduced to toothpicks. I had one more visit from the General who thanked me for saving the friendly government of Lon Nol.

He then said I should get a medal or be court-martialed for disobeying a direct order to stay away from Cambodia. He then laughed and said he wouldn't do either and we will just call it even. OK by me.

The Lon Nol government then lasted until March-April 1975 when the Khmer Rouge and North Vietnamese took over and installed Pol Pot as president. Of course, he proceeded to kill almost every educated Cambodian citizen in the "Killing Fields" and virtually destroy the country.

IRONY, IN WAR AND PEACE

After my first tour in Vietnam in 1963 – 64 I was recruited to teach Math at the USAFA. At a social one evening the Math Department's Operations Officer's wife and I were chatting about Vietnam. She told me about a high school classmate named James Nicholas "Nikki" Rowe who was a West Point graduate in 1960. He was assigned to Vietnam in 1963, the same time as I was. He was assigned to Special Forces in the Delta with a Civilian Defense Unit. On October 29th, 1963 his group was following a VC unit when they were ambushed and he was captured along with a Captain and a Sergeant by the VC.

He suffered torture and all the usual mistreatment for 62 months having been moved around regularly. He was foiled in 5 escape attempts but the 6th was successful. In 1971 he wrote a book, "*Five Years to Freedom*". I remembered talking about him and bought the book, it is quite a read! In 1974 Nikki left active duty.

In 1981 he was recalled to active duty at Fort Bragg and designed the "Survival Evasion Resistance Escape" (SERE) program now in use by all the services. A source related that once, while on assignment in Greece, Delta Force moved to his location and moved him due to intelligence that he was on a "hit list".

In 1987 he was assigned to the Philippines as Deputy Chief of JUSMAG PI. Here he was able to gain valuable intelligence and earn the respect of the Philippine government. In February 1989 he sent a warning to Washington that the communist guerillas in the PI were planning a high-level assassination and that he was number 2 or 3 on their list.

Why am I writing about Nikki? Fast forward to my assignment in Korea as Chief of Staff of the United Nations Command (UNC), still in existence due to the fact that the Korean War never ended. Main activity is a once a month meeting at the DMZ with the North Korean delegation. There are strict rules about the countries that must be represented in the UNC. The Philippine government wanted to pull their representative out of the UNC. The Commander sent me to negotiate with their government to keep the representative in Korea.

I arrived in Manila on the 3rd of April 1989. A driver picked me up in an armored car. A few minutes later I asked the driver if the armor was added in the PI. He said yes, why – I said because it appeared that there was about 4 inches between the body and roof that didn't appear to have any armor. He said that was true and the car belonged to Colonel Nick Rowe the Deputy Chief who was TDY. I completed the business with the government and flew back to Korea on the 7th of April 1989.

Colonel Rowe returned from TDY and was in the car returning to the JUSMAG Compound on 21 April 1989 when he was ambushed by communist terrorists and killed in a rain of bullets, at least one of which went through the portion of the car that wasn't armored. Two weeks to the day that I spent 4 days in the same car!

We sometimes don't know how close we have come to being terminated!

The above two narratives are by Dick Carr, MajGen, USAF (RET.). Class of 1959

Don Brooks

When the Broncos Returned to Phuoc Vinh

While in Vietnam, I was the Air Liaison Officer to the Third Brigade of the First Air Cav Division, flying the OV-10 Bronco. The Second Brigade FACs normally lived at Phuoc Vinh, co-located with the First Air Cav Division Headquarters, but while the Army was re-surfacing the runway there, the brigade FACs were temporarily living at and flying from Bien Hoa, sometimes using some other locations for refueling and rearming their aircraft during the day. Well, the runway work was finally finished, and the OV-10s were going to return to Phuoc Vinh. You know the Army will make a celebration out of anything, especially a big event such as the re-opening of a runway. I got a call from the Division ALO advising me I was to fly as a member of a five-ship formation of Broncos that were to symbolize the "Return of the FACs to Phuoc Vinh." Leading the flight was the II Field Forces ALO (a colonel), number two was the Division ALO (a lieutenant colonel), and three, four and five were to be the three Brigade ALOs (all majors). None of us had done any formation flying since we left Hurlburt, so we were going to plan for a few minutes of practice just before the actual arrival ceremony.

Just south of Phuoc Vinh the river did an unusual double bend, which was a notable landmark. The five of us rendezvoused over the landmark about ten minutes before our scheduled landing time at Phuoc Vinh. We formed up into a five-ship echelon. Since I was the Third Brigade ALO, I was "tail-end Charlie." It wasn't very pretty! I got whip-lashed quite a few times as we "old farts" made a few circles, preparing for our big moment.

Finally, it was time to go. We turned initial for landing at the new runway, and believe it or not, professional pride came through. We settled down a bit and from my position as number five, I thought we really didn't look too bad as the five Broncos drove up to the pitch-out point. From the pitch, of course, we each were concentrating on our spacing and getting set for a good landing. Even though it was a new runway, we had been cautioned that it was still rather short, so we wanted to get on the ground near the end.

My first clue that all might not be well was when I heard an unidentified voice on the radio exclaim, "*Holy S#*t!!!*" Not knowing what the problem might be, I continued my turn to final, burying the nose of the aircraft so I would be able to land "on the numbers." When I shifted my eyes to the desired touchdown spot, *I saw the First Air Cav Band, standing in the overrun, playing military music!* My windshield was filled with a tuba! I quickly added a burst of power and pulled back on the stick. I sailed just over the heads of the band members, landing right in front of them. I must admit, I really had to admire the discipline of those troops, standing there playing their music with OV-10 props growling up their backs!

When we got to the parking area and shut down, all five of us were talking about the disaster we had just avoided. "Who was the dummy that put the band in the overrun?" Only the Army...

Written by Don Brooks

Vietnam Service, USAFA Class of 1959

The listing below is taken from the Association of Graduates biographic records for the Class of 1959. It will be upgraded whenever newer or more accurate information becomes available.

<u>USAFA Class of 1959 Vietnam War-related assignments</u>			
Name	Duty	Location	Date(s)
<u>David Dean Anderson</u>	Targeting Officer / Navigator	12th Air Commando Squadron Bien Hoa Air Base South Vietnam	1967
	Support Operations Staff Officer	834th Air Division Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1967 to 1968
<u>Thomas Irwin Anderson</u>	Operations Officer	1 Special Operations Wing, Nakhon Phanom Air Base Thailand	1974 to 1975
<u>David Thomas Archino</u>	Instructor Pilot	50th Tactical Airlift Squadron CCK Air Base Taiwan	1968 to 1969
<u>Ules Lee Barnwell</u>	Commander	1st Civil Engineering Group Tuy Hoa Air Base South Vietnam	1967 to 1968
<u>Robert Duane Beckel</u>	Chief, Wing Stdn/Eval Division	35th Tactical Fighter Wing, Phan Rang Air Base South Vietnam	1968
<u>Richard Malone Bigelow</u>	Pilot	40th Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron Nakhon Phanom Air Base Thailand	1971 to 1972
<u>Jon David Black</u>	Pilot - F-4C	555th Tactical Fighter Squadron, George Air Force Base, CA; Ubon Air Base Thailand	1966 to 1967
	POW	Vietnam	1967 to 1968
<u>James Roland Blackwell</u>	Instructor Pilot	1 Flt Detachment, Nha Trang Air Base South Vietnam	1968 to 1970
<u>Robert Edward Blake</u>	Pilot	555th Tactical Fighter Squadron Udorn Air Base, Thailand	1966
	Chief Weapons Tactics Division	8th Tactical Fighter Wing, Ubon Air Base Thailand	1972
<u>Thomas Gayle Bowen</u>	Pilot, H-34	Advisory Team 1, Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1964 to 1969
<u>Don Lewis Brooks</u>	Air Liaison Officer	3Bgd 1AirCavDiv Quan Loi Air Base South Vietnam;	1969 to 1970
	Assistant Air Liaison Officer	3DASCTaskForce Bien Hoa Air Base South Vietnam	1970
<u>James Wilson Brown, III</u>	Operations Staff Officer	Headquarters MACV Saigon South Vietnam	1971 to 1972
<u>Robert Lloyd Browning</u>	Sr Protestant Chaplain	366th Combat Support Group Da Nang Air Base South Vietnam	1967 to 1968
<u>Jack Boyd Bryan</u>	Aircraft Commander, KC-135	4258 Strat Wing, Utapao Air Base Thailand	1967
	Pilot, Instructor Pilot	42 TEW Squadron Takhli Air Base Thailand	1968 to 1969

USAFA Class of 1959 Vietnam War-related assignments

Name	Duty	Location	Date(s)
<u>Robert Chester Buckles</u>	Pilot, FAC	21st TASS Qui Nhon, 20th TASS Da Nang Air Base South Vietnam	1967 to 1968
		21st TASS Dalat/Gia Nghia South Vietnam	1969 to 1970
<u>Henry David Canterbury</u>	Chief, Weapons and Tactics Division;	3rd Tactical Fighter Wing, Bien Hoa South Vietnam	1967 to 1968
<u>Michael Patrick Chamberlain Carns</u>	Pilot, F-4	469th Tactical Fighter Squadron Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base	1968 to 1969
<u>James Thomas Carpenter</u>	Pilot	4250 Spt Squadron Takhli Thailand	1965 to 1966
	Pilot	4S Operations Squadron Pleiku Air Base South Vietnam	1968 to 1969
	Operations Officer	14th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron Udorn Air Base Thailand	1973 to 1974
<u>Richard Eugene Carr</u>	Instructor Pilot	Nha Trang Air Base South Vietnam	1963 to 1964
	Dir Safety 432 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing	14th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron Udorn Air Base Thailand	1973 to 1974
<u>Robert John Chepolis</u>	Plans Officer	HQ 7th Air Force, South Vietnam	1968
	Pilot	12th Tactical Fighter Wing, Cam Ranh Bay Air Base, South Vietnam	1968
<u>George Charles Clark</u>	Pilot	374th Tactical Airlift Wing, CCK Air Base Taiwan	1973
<u>James William Connally</u>	Pilot	8th Special Operations Squadron Bien Hoa Air Base South Vietnam	1971 to 1972
<u>Lawrence Frank Cotton</u>	Pilot	12 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1966 to 1967
<u>Roger Lowell Counts</u>	Pilot	13th Tactical Fighter Squadron Korat Air Base Thailand	1965 to 1966
<u>Harry Hillus Culler</u>	Pilot	7th Air Force Flt Operations Tan Son Nhut South Vietnam	1968 to 1969
<u>Emil Earnest Cwach</u>	Pilot F-105	334 th and 335th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and Takhli Air Base Thailand	1964 to 1966
<u>Howard Dale Davis</u>	Pilot, FAC O-1A	6250th Combat Support Group Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1965 to 1966
<u>William Sheldon Davis III</u>	Pilot, B-57	13th Bombardment Squadron, Light, Da Nang, Vietnam	1966
<u>Robert Stephen Delligatti</u>	Supervisor, Airlift	DAO Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1974 to 1975
<u>Thomas Gardner Derrickson</u>	Pilot, F-4	557th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Cam Rahn Bay Airbase, South Vietnam	1967
	Missing in action; 12 October 1967	Air Mission North Vietnam	1967 to 1979
<u>John William Dolan</u>	Pilot A-1E	1st Air Commando Squadron Bien Hoa Air Base South Vietnam	1964 to 1965

USAFA Class of 1959 Vietnam War-related assignments

Name	Duty	Location	Date(s)
<u>Paul Theodore Douskey</u>	Headquarters USSAG	Nakhon Phanom Air Base Thailand	1972 to 1973
<u>Robert John Dwyer</u>	Pilot	35th Tactical Fighter Wing, Phan Rang Air Base South Vietnam	1966 to 1967
<u>Gerald Francis Elsbernd</u>	Pilot	458th Tactical Airlift Squadron Cam Ranh Bay South Vietnam	1967 to 1968
<u>Arthur George Elser</u>	Pilot, FAC	20th TASS Da Nang Air Base South Vietnam	1967 to 1968
<u>Robert Holder Fay</u>	Flt Commander F/4D	389th Tactical Fighter Squadron Phu Cat Air Base South Vietnam	1971
<u>Charles Joseph Ferrari</u>	Pilot	34/44th Tactical Fighter Squadron Korat Air Base /Takhli Air Base Thailand	1968 to 1969
	Det Commander	555th Tactical Fighter Squadron Udorn Air Base Thailand	1973
<u>Larry Douglas Fortner</u>	Pilot	Phan Rang Air Base South Vietnam	1965 to 1967
<u>Albert Anthony Gagliardi</u>	Pilot	559th Tactical Fighter Squadron Cam Ranh Bay Air Base South Vietnam	1968 to 1969
<u>Jon A. Gallo</u>	Pilot	469th Tactical Fighter Squadron Korat Air Base Thailand	1968 to 1969
<u>John Jefferson Gaunt</u>	Operations Staff Officer	Headquarters 7th Air Force Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1970
<u>Walter (Mike) C. Givens</u>	Pilot, FAC	19th Tactical Air Support Squadron Bien Hoa Air Base South Vietnam	1963 to 1964
<u>Richard Barron Goetze</u>	Pilot	4th Air Commando Squadron Pleiku Air Base South Vietnam	1967 to 1968
<u>William Herbert Gold</u>	WSO	435th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Ubon Air Base Thailand	1970 to 1971
	Chief, Wing Scheduling	8th Tactical Fighter Wing, Ubon Air Base Thailand	1970 to 1971
<u>David Michael Goodrich</u>	Pilot	510th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Clark Air Base PI; Takhli Air Base Thailand	1961 to 1962
	Pilot, FAC	110Ln Squadron Da Nang Air Base South Vietnam	1962
	Aide MAAG; Pilot Advisor	716th Tactical Fighter Squadron Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1963 to 1964
	Pilot	555th Tactical Fighter Squadron MacDill Air Force Base & Udorn Air Base Thailand	1964 to 1966
<u>John Forrest Gullede</u>	Operations Duty Officer	315th Air Div Don Muang Air Base Thailand	1965
	Pilot C-123	309th Air Commando Squadron Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1965 to 1966
<u>James Poteat Gunter</u>	Pilot	1st Air Commando Squadron Pleiku South Vietnam	1965 to 1966

USAFA Class of 1959 Vietnam War-related assignments

Name	Duty	Location	Date(s)
<u>Harlow Kenneth Halbower</u>	Pilot, FAC O-1F	Hon Quan South Vietnam; KIA during air mission near Saigon, Vietnam	1965 to 1966
<u>Stephen Anthony Hamer</u>	Pilot, FAC	19th TASS Bien Hoa Air Base South Vietnam	1964 to 1965
<u>Richard Madden Hilbert</u>	Cmd Post Controller	1st Air Commando Squadron Bien Hoa Air Base South Vietnam	1965
<u>Ransom Steele Holmes III</u>	Pilot	Bien Hoa AFB / Ton Son Nhut AFB, Viet Nam	1964 to 1965
<u>Bradley Clark Hosmer</u>	Air Liaison Officer	1 Cav Div South Vietnam	1967 to 1968
<u>John Griffeth Houston</u>	Pilot	315th Air Division Qui Nhon Air Base South Vietnam	1964
	Pilot, FAC O-1E	21 TASS Gia ghia South Vietnam	1965 to 1967
<u>John Morris Howell</u>	Navigator	4 Spec Operations Squadron Phan Rang South Vietnam	1969 to 1969
	Protocol O	7AF Tan Son Nhut Air Force Base South Vietnam	1969 to 1970
<u>Roy George Inness</u>	Pilot	416th Tactical Fighter Squadron Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1965 to 1966
<u>Wayne Otto Jefferson</u>	Pilot	12th Special Operations Squadron Bien Hoa Air Base South Vietnam	1968 to 1969
<u>Robert Sidney Jennings</u>	Pilot	391st, 558th Tactical Fighter Squadron Cam Ranh Bay Air Base South Vietnam	1967 to 1968
<u>Hansford Tillman Johnson</u>	Pilot, FAC	20th TASS Quang Tri/Pleiku South Vietnam	1967 to 1968
<u>Theodore Beaire Johnson</u>	Wing Operations Staff	14 Air Commando Wing, Nha Trang South Vietnam	1967 to 1968
<u>Edward Hjalmer Josephson</u>	Pilot	345th Tactical Airlift Squadron CCK Air Base Taiwan	1968 to 1969
<u>Thomas Joseph Jozwiak</u>	Pilot	21st TASS Nha Trang South Vietnam	1966 to 1967
<u>Conrad Michael Kay</u>	Pilot U-17	South Vietnam	1964 to 1965
<u>Nathaniel Harrison Keezell</u>	NAV Proj Coll Dye	Tan Son Nhut South Vietnam/Ubon/Udon Air Base Thailand	1965 to 1967
	Navigator Project Blind Bat	Ubon Air Base Thailand / 35th Tactical Airlift Squadron Naha Air Base, Okinawa	1968 to 1971
<u>Robin Mark Kozelka</u>	Contr	III Corps Dir Air Spt Center South Vietnam	1965
	Pilot, FSO	37th Tactical Fighter Wing, Phu Cat Air Base South Vietnam	1969
<u>Lorin Burton Krueger II</u>	Pilot	510th Tactical Fighter Squadron Bien Hoa Air Base South Vietnam	1965 to 1966
	Pilot	555th Tactical Fighter Squadron Udon Air Base Thailand	1972 to 1973

USAFA Class of 1959 Vietnam War-related assignments

Name	Duty	Location	Date(s)
<u>Ronald Todd Lanman</u>	Pilot 7th Air Refueling Squadron	Carswell Air Force Base; Kadena Air Base Rk; Utapao Air Base Thailand	1964 to 1968
	Advisor South Vietnam AF	5th Air Division Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1970 to 1971
<u>Paul Samuel Lasen</u>	FSO	355th Tactical Fighter Wing, Takhli Air Base Thailand	1969 to 1970
	Pilot	355th Tactical Fighter Wing, Takhli Air Base Thailand	1969 to 1970
<u>John Edwin Lee</u>	Pilot, FAC	20th TASS Pleiku Air Base South Vietnam	1968 to 1970
<u>Charles Martin Lofton</u>	Pilot	464th Tactical Airlift Wing, Pope Air Force Base & Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1960 to 1966
<u>Clark Edward Lovrien</u>		20 Heli Squadron Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1965 to 1966
<u>Donald Eugene Madonna</u>	Pilot	435th Tactical Fighter Squadron Da Nang South Vietnam	1965
	Pilot	469th Tactical Fighter Squadron Korat Air Force Base Thailand	1968 to 1969
<u>John Edmund Mantei</u>	Pilot, FAC	22TASpt Squadron My Tho South Vietnam	1965 to 1966
<u>Richard Albert Mason</u>	Pilot F-100	615th Tactical Fighter Squadron Phan Rang Air Base South Vietnam	1966 to 1967
<u>Charles Aloysius May</u>	Wing Stnd/Eval Advisor	41 Wing, Da Nang Air Base South Vietnam	1969 to 1970
<u>William Lee McLain</u>	Pilot F-4	4211th Tactical Fighter Squadron Da Nang Air Base South Vietnam	1971
<u>Charles Howard Meier</u>	Aircraft Commander	17th Special Operations Squadron Phan Rang Air Base South Vietnam	1969 to 1970
<u>James Irwin Miholick</u>	Pilot F-105	36th Tactical Fighter Squadron Yokota Air Base JA, Korat Air Base, Takhli Air Base Thailand	1965 to 1966
	Pilot F-105	35th Tactical Fighter Squadron Korat Air Base Thailand	1966 to 1969
	Flt Commander /Instructor Pilot F-4	25th Tactical Fighter Squadron Ubon Air Base Thailand	1974 to 1979
<u>Craig Vernon Miller</u>	Pilot	1st Special Operations Squadron Nakhon Phanom Air Base Thailand	1971 to 1972
<u>Max Ivan Miller</u>	Instructor Navigator	50th Tactical Airlift Squadron CCK Airbase, Taiwan	1968 to 1969
<u>Jay Neely Mitchell</u>	Pilot	12th Tactical Fighter Squadron Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Korat Air Base Thailand	1961 to 1965
	Pilot /Stdn EvalO	44th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Korat Air Base Thailand	1968 to 1969
	Standardization Evaluation Officer	388th Tactical Fighter Wing, Korat Air Base Thailand	1968 to 1969

USAFA Class of 1959 Vietnam War-related assignments

Name	Duty	Location	Date(s)
<u>Kent Montavon</u>	Pilot, FAC	19 th TASS Cu Chi South Vietnam	1968 to 1969
<u>Edwin Jones Montgomery</u>	Pilot	389 th Tactical Fighter Squadron; Holloman Air Force Base, Phan Rang Air Base; Da Nang Air Base South Vietnam	1965 to 1967
	Flt Commander / Instructor Pilot	421st Tactical Fighter Squadron Udorn Air Base Thailand	1972 to 1973
<u>Joseph David Morgan III</u>	Pilot	555th Tactical Fighter Squadron Udorn Air Base Thailand	1968 to 1969
<u>Patrick Louis Musmaker</u>	Air Liaison Officer	196Inf Bgd Hawk Hill Camp Reasoner South Vietnam	1971
	Air Operations Staff Officer	7AF Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1971 to 1972
<u>Robert Charles Oaks</u>	Pilot, F-100	416 th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Misawa Air Base JA, England Air Force Base, Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1963 to 1966
<u>Lyn Douglas Oberdier</u>	Pilot, A-1H	6 th Air Commando Squadron, Pleiku, South Vietnam	1968
<u>John Arthur Olson</u>	Pilot	21 st TASS Qui Nohn Air Base /Nha Trang Air Base /Pleiku Air Base South Vietnam	1966 to 1967
		374th Tactical Airlift Wing, CCK Air Base Taiwan	1973
<u>Brian Thomas Parker</u>	Navigator	4 th Air Commando Squadron Bien Hoa South Vietnam	1966 to 1967
	Intel O	37 th Tactical Fighter Wing, Phu Cat South Vietnam	1967 to 1968
<u>Wayne Creekmore Pittman</u>	Navigator	12 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1968 to 1969
	Staff Report Dir Cmbt Analysis	Headquarters 7AF Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1972
<u>Melvin Eugene Pollard</u>	Pilot	480 th Tactical Fighter Squadron Da Nang Air Base South Vietnam	1967
	Air Operations Officer	Headquarters 7AF Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1967 to 1968
<u>Leo Leslie Prescott</u>	Pilot	779 th Troop Carrier Sq Pope Air Force Base; Da Nang Air Base South Vietnam	1960 to 1965
<u>Norman Patrick Quigley</u>	EWO F-105	44th Tactical Fighter Squadron Korat Air Base Thailand	1968 to 1969
<u>Michael Peter Reardon</u>	Pilot	531 st Tactical Fighter Squadron Bien Hoa South Vietnam	1967 to 1968
	Wing Staff	3 rd Tactical Fighter Wing, Bien Hoa South Vietnam	1967 to 1968

<u>James McKee Reed</u>	Pilot, FAC O-2; OV-10	20 th Tactical Air Support Squadron, Da Nang Air Base South Vietnam	1970 to 1971
	Chief of Maintenance	20 th Tactical Air Support Squadron, Da Nang Air Base South Vietnam	1970 to 1971
<u>John Michael Reeves</u>	Navigator	310 th Air Commando Sq Nha Trang South Vietnam	1965 to 1966
<u>James Mauran Rhodes</u>	Flt Commander	8 th Special Operations Squadron Bien Hoa Air Base South Vietnam	1970 to 1971
<u>David Keith Richart</u>	Pilot, FAC, O-1E	Da Nang/Dong Ha/Kontum South Vietnam	1965 to 1966
<u>Sherwood Andrew Richers</u>	Operations Officer	7AF Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1966 to 1967
<u>James Mauran Rhodes</u>	Pilot	563rd Tactical Fighter Squadron McConnell Air Force Base, Takhli Air Base Thailand	1964 to 1966
<u>Sherwood Andrew Richers</u>	Aircraft Commander B-52H	23rd Bomb Sq, Minot Air Force Base; Utapao Air Base Thailand	1967 to 1970
<u>Roscoe Russell Roberts III</u>	Acft Commander A-26	609th Special Operations Squadron Nakhom Phanom RT Air Force Base Thailand	1968 to 1969
	Battle Staff Operations Officer EC-130	7th Air Base BC Udorn RT Air Force Base Thailand	1969 to 1970
	Aircraft Commander B-52	Utapao RTN Air Base Thailand	1971
	Bomb Plans Officer	3rd Air Division Anderson Air Force Base Guam	1972
	Bomb Plans Officer	Utapao RTNB Thailand	1973
<u>Edwin Lee Rosane</u>	Assistant Operations Officer	20 th Tactical Air Support Squadron, Da Nang Air Base South Vietnam	1970 to 1971
<u>Craig Otis Schaum</u>	Air Liaison Officer	504TASGp Cam Ranh Bay Air Base South Vietnam	1970 to 1971
	Chief, Stan Eval	504TASGp Cam Ranh Bay Air Base South Vietnam	1970 to 1971
<u>Roger Edwin Schemenaur</u>	Pilot	510 th Tactical Fighter Squadron Bien Hoa Air Base South Vietnam	1966
<u>Karl William Schmidt</u>	Pilot	4133rd Bomb Wing, Andersen Air Force Base Guam	1966 to 1967
	Pilot	554th Recon Squadron, Nakhon Phanom Air Base Thailand	1970 to 1971
	Operations Officer	554 Rcn Sq Nakhon Phanom Air Base Thailand	1970 to 1971
<u>Walter Edgar Schmidt</u>	Pilot	315 th Air Commando Gp Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1965
	Pilot	8 th Special Operations Squadron Bien Hoa Air Base South Vietnam	1970 to 1971
<u>David Raymond Shearin</u>		Advisory Group Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1970 to 1971

<u>Arthur Kenneth Shumate</u>	Pilot, FAC	22 nd TASS Tra Vinh South Vietnam	1965 to 1966
<u>Robert Harold Siteman</u>	Pilot F-100D	South Vietnam	1964 to 1965
<u>Kenneth Robert Smith</u>	Pilot 3 rd Tac Fighter Wing	Da Nang Air Base, South Vietnam	1965 to 1966
	Pilot	531 st Tactical Fighter Squadron Bien Hoa Air Base South Vietnam	1965 to 1966
	Pilot /FAC	388th Tactical Fighter Wing, /469th Tactical Fighter Squadron Korat Air Base Thailand	1969 to 1971
	FtCommander	388th Tactical Fighter Wing, /469th Tactical Fighter Squadron Korat Air Base Thailand	1969 to 1971
<u>Philip Roland Smothermon</u>	Air Liaison Officer	20 th TASS Chu Lai South Vietnam	1967 to 1968
	Pilot	13th Tactical Fighter Squadron Udorn Air Base Thailand	1973 to 1974
<u>Brock Tourville Strom</u>	Navigator	361TEWSq Nha Trang South Vietnam	1968
	War Plans Headquarters	7AF Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1968 to 1969
<u>Thomas Patrick Stack</u>	Pilot	355th Tactical Fighter Wing, Takhli Air Base Thailand	1969 to 1970
<u>Kenneth Raymond Thompson</u>	Pilot	309 th Troop Carrier Sq South Vietnam	1963
	Helicopter Pilot	606th Air Commando Squadron, Nakhon Phanom Thailand	1966 to 1967
	Air Operations Officer	Headquarters MACV Saigon South Vietnam	1971 to 1972
<u>Laurence Joseph Thomson</u>	Pilot	355th Tactical Fighter Wing, Takhli Air Base Thailand	1969 to 1970
<u>Harold Wade Todd</u>	Aircraft Commander	99th Bomb Wing, Westover Air Force Base/7133rd Bomb Wing, Andersen Air Force Base Guam	1966 to 1969
<u>Richard Eugene Tracey</u>	Pilot	469th Tactical Fighter Squadron Korat Air Base Thailand	1968 to 1969
<u>John Winfield Ulmer</u>	Navigator	486th Bomb Squadron Bergstrom Air Force Base/March Air Force Base/Andersen Air Base Guam	1963 to 1968
	Sensor Opr	18 th Special Operations Squadron Phan Rang Air Base South Vietnam/Da Nang Air Base South Vietnam/Nakhon Phanom Air Base Thailand	1970 to 1971
<u>James Coy Vance</u>	Operations Rpts	Task Force Alpha, Nakhon Phanom Air Base Thailand	1968 to 1969
<u>Eugene Larry Vosika</u>	Pilot	3 rd Wing, Bien Hoa Air Base South Vietnam	1966 to 1967
<u>Albert Lee Waters</u>	Instructor Pilot	310 th Troop Carrier Squadron Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1963 to 1964

<u>James Robert Weaver</u>	Pilot	12 th Air Commando Squadron, Tan Son Nhut Air Base South Vietnam	1965 to 1966
<u>James Clayton Welch</u>	Flt Commander	23rd TASS Nakhon Phanom Air Base Thailand	1970 to 1971
<u>Robert Lyons Wilder</u>	Pilot, FAC O-1A	Bien Hoa Air Base South Vietnam	1964 to 1965
<u>Robert Flack Williams</u>	Chief of Maintenance 14DCS Operations	Nha Trang Air Base South Vietnam	1970 to 1971
<u>Charles Peter Winters</u>	Pilot	35 th Tactical Fighter Wing, Phan Rang Air Base South Vietnam	1968 to 1969
<u>Dean Chase Wood</u>	Pilot F-105	355th Tactical Fighter Wing, Takhli Air Base Thailand	1968
<u>Frederick Banks Wynn</u>	Pilot	1 st Air Commando Squadron Bien Hoa South Vietnam	1963 to 1964

Most of the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal awards came from the Vietnam era. Here is a list of all the Air Medals and Distinguished Flying Cross awards presented to members of the Class of 1959.

Class of 1959 Air Medals

David Dean Anderson	6	David Hale Groark	7
Thomas Irwin Anderson	17	John Forrest Gullledge	16
David Thomas Archino	4	James Poteat Gunter, Jr	12
Robert Duane Beckel	16	Harlow Kenneth Halbower	12
Richard Malone Bigelow	6	Stephen Anthony Hamer	13
Jon David Black	1	Flaye Maxwell Hammond, III	5
James Roland Blackwell	8	John G Hayes, Jr	15
Robert Edward Blake	22	Richard Madden Hilbert	1
Thomas Gayle Bowen	1	Ransom Steele Holmes, III	5
Don Lewis Brooks	13	Bradley Clark Hosmer	6
Jack Boyd Bryan	5	Thomas Daniel House, Jr	11
Robert Chester Buckles	19	John Griffeth Houston	18
Stanley Karl Burghardt	11	John Morris Howell, Jr	1
Henry David Canterbury	21	Leigh Hale Hunt, Jr	8
Michael Patrick Chamberlain Carns	11	Roy George Inness, Jr	9
James Thomas Carpenter	11	Jimmie Laurence Jay	8
Richard Eugene Carr	12	Wayne Otto Jefferson	5
James Edward Chapman	1	Robert Sidney Jennings	11
Donald Thomas Chase	1	Hansford Tillman Johnson	23
George Charles Clark	16	Theodore Beaire Johnson	3
Roger Guy Conant	5	Edward Hjalmer Josephson	4
James William Connally	15	Thomas Joseph Jozwiak	19
Lawrence Frank Cotton	11	Conrad Michael Kay	1
Roger Lowell Counts	11	Nathaniel Harrison Keezell, Jr	12
Harry Hillus Culler	4	Louis Kingsland	1
Emil Earnest Cwach	5	Robin Mark Kozelka	7
John Michael Davey	9	Lorin Burton Krueger, II	19
William Sheldon Davis, III	2	Ronald Todd Lanman	5
Joseph Gregory DeSantis	2	Paul Samuel Lasen	8
John William Dolan	5	John Edwin Lee	6
Paul Theodore Douskey	6	Richard Dean Lee	15
Robert John Dwyer	14	Charles Martin Lofton, Jr	2
Gerald Francis Elsbernd	4	Clark Edward Lovrien, Jr	21
Arthur George Elser	18	Donald Eugene Madonna	12
Robert Holder Fay, Jr	8	John Edmund Mantei	25
Charles Joseph Ferrari	7	Richard Albert Mason	19
James Kaigler Fletcher	12	Charles Aloysius May, Jr	5
Larry Douglas Fortner	16	William Lee McLain, Jr	7
Albert Anthony Gagliardi, Jr	10	Charles Howard Meier, Jr	9
Jon A. Gallo	9	James Irwin Miholick	7
John Jefferson Gaunt, Jr	5	Craig Vernon Miller	6
Walter (Mike) C. Givens	6	Max Ivan Miller, Jr	4
Richard Barron Goetze, Jr	14	Jay Neely Mitchell	11
William Herbert Gold	22	Kent Montavon	12
David Michael Goodrich	6	Edwin Jones Montgomery, Jr	19
Douglas Gordon Grafflin, Jr	1	Joseph David Morgan, III	9
		Patrick Louis Musmaker	8

Robert Charles Oaks	9
John Arthur Olson	2
Norris Orville Olson	9
Brian Thomas Parker	9
Richard Leldon Penn, Jr	8
Roger Holt Peterson	2
Wayne Creekmore Pittman, Jr	10
Melvin Eugene Pollard	10
Leo Leslie Prescott, Jr	10
Norman Patrick Quigley	7
Michael Peter Reardon	12
James McKee Reed, Jr	3
John Michael Reeves	6
James Mauran Rhodes	13
David Keith Richart	6
Sherwood Andrew Richers	4
Roscoe Russell Roberts, III	3
Edwin Lee Rosane	3
Craig Otis Schaum	10
Roger Edwin Schemenaur	13
Karl William Schmidt	5
Walter Edgar Schmidt	25
Dennis Ray See	4
Anthony William Seizys	11
David Raymond Shearin	4

Arthur Kenneth Shumate	27
Robert Harold Siteman	1
Kenneth Robert Smith	23
Philip Roland Smothermon	18
Brock Tourville Strom	3
William David Telford	3
Kenneth Raymond Thompson	2
Laurence Joseph Thomson	9
Harold Wade Todd, Jr	8
William Morgan Toney	1
Richard Eugene Tracey	8
Richard Lynn Trail	4
John Winfield Ulmer, Jr	9
Eugene Larry Vosika	12
Albert Lee Waters	6
James Robert Weaver	26
James Clayton Welch	6
Robert Lyons Wilder	11
Charles Peter Winters	14
Dean Chase Wood	11
<u>Frederick Banks Wynn</u>	<u>7</u>

TOTAL: 1298

Name	No. of DFCs
David Dean Anderson	1
Thomas Irwin Anderson	2
David Thomas Archino	1
Robert Duane Beckel	5
Richard Malone Bigelow	1
Jon David Black	1
James Roland Blackwell	3
Robert Edward Blake	7
Karol Joseph Bobko	1
Thomas Gayle Bowen	1
Don Lewis Brooks	1
Jack Boyd Bryan	1
Robert Chester Buckles	1
Stanley Karl Burghardt	3
Henry David Canterbury	2
Michael Patrick Chamberlain Carns	1
James Thomas Carpenter	1
Richard Eugene Carr	1
George Charles Clark	2
Roger Guy Conant	1
James William Connally	2
Lawrence Frank Cotton	2
Roger Lowell Counts	1
Emil Earnest Cwach	1
William Sheldon Davis, III	1
Robert John Dwyer	1
Gerald Francis Elsbernd	2
Arthur George Elser	1
Robert Holder Fay, Jr	1
Charles Joseph Ferrari	1
James Kaigler Fletcher	1
Larry Douglas Fortner	1
Albert Anthony Gagliardi, Jr	2
Jon A. Gallo	4
John Jefferson Gaunt, Jr	1
Richard Barron Goetze, Jr	1
William Herbert Gold	1
David Michael Goodrich	1
David Hale Groark	2
Harlow Kenneth Halbower	1
John G Hayes, Jr	2
Bradley Clark Hosmer	1
Thomas Daniel House, Jr	3
John Griffeth Houston	2
Leigh Hale Hunt, Jr	1
Roy George Inness, Jr	1
Jimmie Laurence Jay	1
Wayne Otto Jefferson	1
Robert Sidney Jennings	2
Hansford Tillman Johnson	3

Theodore Beaire Johnson	1
Thomas Joseph Jozwiak	2
Nathaniel Harrison Keezell, Jr	1
Robin Mark Kozelka	1
Lorin Burton Krueger, II	2
Paul Samuel Lasen	2
Richard Dean Lee	5
Clark Edward Lovrien, Jr	1
Donald Eugene Madonna	1
John Edmund Mantei	1
Richard Albert Mason	2
William Lee McLain, Jr	1
Charles Howard Meier, Jr	2
James Irwin Miholick	4
Craig Vernon Miller	1
Max Ivan Miller, Jr	1
Jay Neely Mitchell	1
Kent Montavon	1
Edwin Jones Montgomery, Jr	2
Joseph David Morgan, III	1
Patrick Louis Musmaker	2
Robert Charles Oaks	1
John Arthur Olson	1
Norris Orville Olson	1
Brian Thomas Parker	2
Richard Leldon Penn, Jr	1
Wayne Creekmore Pittman, Jr	1
Melvin Eugene Pollard	1
Norman Patrick Quigley	1
Michael Peter Reardon	1
John Michael Reeves	1
James Mauran Rhodes	3
David Keith Richart	3
Craig Otis Schaum	1
Roger Edwin Schemenaur	1
Karl William Schmidt	1
Walter Edgar Schmidt	4
Anthony William Seizys	1
David Raymond Shearin	1
Arthur Kenneth Shumate	1
Kenneth Robert Smith	4
Philip Roland Smothermon	3
Thomas Patrick Stack	1
Brock Tourville Strom	1
William David Telford	1
Laurence Joseph Thomson	1
Harold Wade Todd, Jr	1
William Morgan Toney	1
Richard Eugene Tracey	1
Richard Lynn Trail	1
John Winfield Ulmer, Jr	1
Eugene Larry Vosika	1
James Robert Weaver	2

James Clayton Welch	4
Robert Lyons Wilder	2
Charles Peter Winters	1
<u>Dean Chase Wood</u>	<u>1</u>

Total No. of DFCs 171