**Michael M. Decker, USAF, Ret.**

ERHS Class of 1960

My military service was with the United States Air Force from October 1964 until October 1984.

I received my commission in the United States Air Force through AFROTC at Evansville College, now U. of Evansville, Indiana.

 My first duty assignment was to Vance AFB, Oklahoma in Sept. 1964.  From there, I was assigned to Amarillo AFB for advanced training

After my initial and advanced training I was assigned to Snow Mtn AFS, Ft. Knox, Ky.  where I had duties as unit security officer, Logistics Officer, game warden, and AF liaison to the US Army at Ft. Knox.

During this assignment 1964-1968, in addition to my regular duties at the Radar Site, I was also a game warden on the Fort Knox Reservation, a casualty notification officer for the northern regions of Kentucky and southern Indiana.  Although there weren’t a large number of casualties  of the Vietnam War, there were enough to make me sad for the wives and children of the soldiers who were lost or missing  in combat.  Fort Knox was an amazing place to be during those days where everything was being built up for the conflict in Vietnam.  I was an assistant at the Herpetology Laboratory (developing serums for poisonous snakes in Vietnam), Range officer for the M-48 t2 tank courses at Carpenter Test Area.

 In January, 1969 I was transferred to Thule AB, Greenland to assist in the cleanup operations surrounding a B-52 bomber which crash landed on the off-shore ice losing two of the crew members and all four nuclear weapons.  Cleanup took until June.  Following this, I was assigned to account for the remains of camp Century, and camp Tuto. These were inactive military installations located on the central Ice Cap which had not yet been retrograded by outside firms.  It was here that I was promoted to Captain.

 Next, I was assigned to ADC Headquarters where I was responsible for logistics inspections of all units assigned to this Military command.  This assignment involved frequent trips to these units to ensure their operational readiness.  These included Ent AFB, Colorado, Stewart AFB, New York, Tyndall AFB, Florida, Keflavik Iceland, Thule AB, Greenland, Sondrestrom, Greenland, Minot, North Dakota, and the various radar sites and detachments.

 Next, my family and I were sent to the American Embassy, Rabat, Morocco.  This assignment, immediately after the Arab-Israeli War of 1973 until 1975, was to evaluate the American-Moroccan friendship status as well as the relationship between the two countries following efforts by several members of the Moroccan Air Force to attempt to assassinate King Hassan of Morocco. In addition, I developed a computer program for managing the storage assets of the Moroccan Air Force.  Their warehouses were filled with spares and parts for every vehicle and airplane that they had worked with the beginning of World War II. Now they were adding new aircraft like the F-15 and the C130.

In 1975, I was again on the move with my family, but this time it was to Richmond,  Virginia where my experience in Logistics sent me outside the USAF to DOD where I was assigned to the Defense General Supply Center.  Here, we procured and stored all general non-combat materiel like uniform items, field tents, field hospitals, civil engineering equipment, flags, and disaster preparedness equipment. During the course of this assignment we were active in supporting disasters and military actions in Central and South America.  In 1978, I completed my Masters in Logistics from the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia.

 In 1975, I was reassigned to Griffiss AFB, New York where I helped with managing the equipment belonging to NORAD, to the base at Griffiss AFB, and to Eastern Air Defense Sector. I was responsible for aircraft, vehicles, fire trucks, and all support equipment needed to maintain the Air Defense mission of the Eastern United States.

In 1981 I was promoted to Major, followed by reassignment to AF Communications Command headquarters at Scott AFB, Illinois, the base from which I had come in 1964.  The next three years were spent writing policy for communications and electronics weapons systems throughout the Aero-Space Defense Command. At this time I was also offered the opportunity to add Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College to my list of developmental  and Professional Military Courses.

 In 1984, upon completion of my 20 Year service commitment, I retired from the United States Air Force and moved to Evansville, IN where I got a job as warehouse and information systems manager with  TJ Maxx.