

The following is a chapter in the memoirs of Robert Phillip Upchurch, "From City Shadows." This digital version includes a narrative and three lists of related documents, the originals of which are to be found in the Upchurch Collection at N.C. State University. Revised 6/18/2013.

THE MILITARY - FROM STARS IN MY EYES TO CAPTAIN'S BARS

The military aspect of our country and the world did not play a large role in my life. Yet, there is much to be related. The truth be told, the members of any generation have their lives shaped, directly or indirectly, by the military circumstances of their times.

Early in my youth at about 12, probably in the summer of 1940, I had a firsthand look at our U. S. Army in action. Our country was awakening to the war clouds on the horizon. The extensive maneuvers of that season brought an anti-aircraft battery to our neighborhood. They were pretending to protect the airfield known as the Raleigh Municipal Airport. They ran telephone wires on the road down to Inwood Church, there turning east to Aunt Bessie (Upchurch) Perry's land. There they had a gun emplacement and tents for the gunners. My bicycle allowed me to monitor the progress of this operation. Everyone, soldiers and neighbors alike along with wide-eyed young boys enjoyed this playing of war. Little did we understand how WWII would soon engulf the world in its throes. Here was evidence of patriotic fervor emerging. The ladies of the neighborhood lavished the soldiers with pies and cakes.

From that time on the events of the impending and actual aspects of WWII were increasingly forced upon me. As another early example, I recall a 1942 experience when I was forced to stay in bed for several days having contracted a severe case of poison ivy. The radio helped to distract me from the agonizing itch. It also brought me hourly reports on the progress of our troops who had landed in North Africa and, along with the British, were engaged with Italian and German armies.

And now we may fast forward for three years to a point where in the spring of 1945 I was a freshman at N. C. State. I decided to apply for admission to West Point. Only in retrospect can I divine the reasons for this action. One, no doubt, was that I was unclear as to how the expenses of a four-year education could be met. West Point could be a solution to this puzzle. Another likely factor was that I had a thought, mature for my years, that West Point would position me to play a more significant role in a war which, at that time, was upon us. Or was I just trying to take myself out of harm's way for four years? I don't think so. In any case, I got and filled out the application form. Also, I enlisted my mother's help. She had a remote connection with lawyer J. Melvin Broughton from several years earlier when he had represented us in the court case to validate our rights stipulated in the will of Grandfather Cross. In the interim Broughton had been governor of North Carolina. We thus hoped that a letter of recognition from him would tip the scales in my favor. Mother and I went to see him. He dutifully wrote a nice short letter of recommendation filled with meaningless platitudes. My quest was not rewarded with an acceptance letter. At least the project showed that as a seventeen year old I was proactive.

N.C. State was to serve as the basis for my official introduction to the military. Like all students at land grant colleges, I was required to enroll in ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) for the freshman and sophomore years. I was furnished a uniform which I could wear piecemeal any time, but which was de rigueur on drill days three days a week at the noon hour. At the first ROTC assembly in the fall of 1945 Sgt. Preston recognized that I was a returning student and gave me a cadet sergeant's rank, of which I was justly proud. I elected to continue with ROTC for my junior and senior years and for this service I was provided a small stipend. This was one of the several sources of earned money that allowed me to pay for almost all of my undergraduate expenses.

In due course I was promoted to cadet 2nd lieutenant as a more or less routine step. Still, I enjoyed the position of drilling a company of men armed with my accouterments of rank, including a saber. Our courses in ROTC involved all aspects of what a soldier and future officer would need to know. The part I enjoyed most was the periodic field assemblies in which the full regiment would hear the command "march in review". As the cadet colonel would give this command from his exalted stand across the field, we lesser officers would rank-by-rank give the order "stand fast". As our turn came to move we would order "right turn" and "forward march". I was fascinated by these precision movements and sense of order. Most especially, I was thrilled by the "Washington Post March" rendered by our band as we marched in review. To this day I enjoy the marches of John Phillip Sousa. They are included in my collection of special records which play each morning as I shave and prepare for the day.

A high point of all ROTC experience has to be the six week summer camp which comes between the junior and senior years. For me this was in 1947, at age 19. Our tour was staged at Keesler Air Force Base on the outskirts of Biloxi, Mississippi. Cadets made their own travel arrangements. I arrived by bus. We were issued clothing and assigned to WWII barracks. For six weeks we had a taste of all sorts of Air Force activities. There were regular drills, a night march, camping out in the woods, etc., etc. In an age old routine, we had to make serviceable our rifles which had been preserved in cosmoline - a grease in which arms are kept between wars.

One encounter allowed me to lay claim to an unwanted first. I had the unique experience of being the first Air Force ROTC cadet to be the subject of a military court - sort of like being court-marshaled. It happened thusly. We were taking a class in jet engines in an active hangar. During a break some of the cadets were horsing around. The Air Force instructor decided to make an example of the culprits. He claimed that the cadets' behavior courted serious injury in a dangerous environment. In any case, I was swept up in the enumeration of those accused. In due course we were hauled before a tribunal where charges were preferred, testimony was given and we were allowed to defend ourselves. I felt that I was a marginal participant in the fracas. Some testified that I had made statements during the fracas that were vulgar and that I incited others. I testified that I had indeed made some statements but that I had not said the things attributed to me. Another cadet backed me up. The tribunal then went easy on me. I was let off with the only penalty being restricted to the base for ten days. It could have been worse - even expulsion from the program.

Just to show how foolhardy young people can be, I confess that one weekend, on Sunday, I violated my restriction and went into Biloxi. To build a defense for my action I went to church in the city. If I had been caught, I doubt that my excuse of piety would have carried much weight.

It was my choice to be in the Air Force component of ROTC. This was allowed even though my major was in agriculture. I think they later required enrollees in the Air Force component to be engineering majors. I close the summer camp episode by reporting that Miss Sallaine Sledge and I regularly exchanged letters and talked some by phone. That girl had me hooked. We were married in August, 1948.

Although I finished my requirements for the BS degree at the end of the 1948 summer school session, I could not be awarded my degree until June 1949, as N. C. State had only one graduation per year. Thus, I was also commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U. S. Air Force in June of 1949 and assigned to the Reserves.

A condition of my commission was that it would be retained for five years and that in the case of a certain level of national need I would be obligated to serve for two years on active duty.

As matters developed this led to an eighteen year saga and to a regular tussle between the Air Force and my draft board. The draft board had entered the picture earlier as my 18th birthday approached in early 1946. They sent me greetings and requested that I show up on a certain date for a physical and presumably for induction. Draftees were then being used to relieve soldiers who were still serving overseas; WWII having been over less than a year. I wrote the draft board that I would be happy to comply, but asked could they give me a later date as I was scheduled for final exams on the day they wanted me to report. They wrote back saying OK but never gave me a new reporting date.

Except for the Korean conflict starting in 1950, I would probably never have heard from the draft board or the Air Force again. However, by 1951 both were tracking me. I had to repeatedly convince the draft board that I was better bait for the Air Force. They always agreed. While I was in graduate school in California in 1951 and 1952, the Air Force sent me preemptive orders to report for duty. I was to report to Barksdale AFB in Louisiana to learn how to interpret reconnaissance photographs. At each of these summons, Sallaine and I drove down to Hamilton AFB near San Francisco where I was allowed to appeal. My pitch was that I should be allowed to finish my degree. This appeal was generally successful. However, the end of my five year obligation was growing closer. The Air Force and I struck a deal. They would allow me to finish my Ph.D. degree if I would extend my obligation to an eight-year commission and if I would agree to serve if called with no rebuttal allowed.

We now fast forward to February/March, 1955. My degree was behind me and I had been on the N. C. State faculty for two years. In a few weeks my eight-year commission period would have less than 24 months to run. It seemed unlikely the Air Force would call me if I had less than 24 months to serve on my commission. Anyway, I was not thinking about the matter. The Air Force was.

Along about February 1955, out of the blue, I got orders to report to Japan to serve as an administrative officer. I felt duty bound to serve my two years as the deal had been fairly struck. However, my take was that I had a scientific background and thought I might be more useful in a different assignment. What to do?

I drove to Washington and went to the Pentagon and located the Air Force Assignment Section. First I talked to a Lt. Col. who seemed dubious about my pitch - as if it were a scam of some sort. However, he said he would turn me over to Major Cronin who would get to the bottom of the matter. The major listened to my story and agreed with me. He told me to go back home and in so many days I would receive new orders. I would be ordered to report to one of three locations where the Air Force needed people with scientific backgrounds - Fort Detrick, MD, White Sands, NM or Eglin AFB, FL.

The major was as good as his word. I was ordered to report to Eglin AFB in northwest Florida, effective April 13, 1955. The Air Force had the Mayflower movers transport our household goods to our assigned location. Sallaine and I took our 15 month old daughter, Nelda Lane, and drove to unknown excitement.

Eglin AFB at 800,000 acres was the largest U. S. Air Force installation. Adjoining areas were the small towns of Fort Walton Beach, Valparaiso and Niceville. The large reservation included numerous practice airfields and several bombing ranges used for testing armament. This AFB is famous as the site where pilots trained for the 1942 attack on the Japanese homeland.

Our first nights were spent at a motel on Main Street in Fort Walton Beach. A dozen years later we returned to the same motel and renamed it "Cockroach Haven" and for good reason. We soon found a small house to rent in Niceville. Our furniture arrived in good order except for the ironing board. The temporary storage facility that housed our furniture had a novel solution. They simply gave us the ironing board belonging to someone else. This kind of sleight of hand accounting by a government contractor should have been a wake-up call for me.

When I reported to the assignment section at Eglin a rare bit of luck came my way. The fact is that I was a spare officer and could be assigned to any unit and not be counted against their authorized personnel ceiling. There were two major Air Force Units at Eglin. It was the headquarters for the Air Proving Grounds Command (APGC). They ran the base and were called the Host Entity. The other unit was the Air Force Armament Center (AFAC), a guest or renter on the base. As I explained my scientific background to the placement officer he quickly decided that APGC had no particular need for my services. As for AFAC there was a Col. Cruikshank who seemed to have first dibs on anything that moved. Then the unlikely happened. Major Stanley Plecha happened to overhear our conversation. He just happened to be visiting from the Biological Warfare Chemical Warfare (BWCW) branch of AFAC to attend to some administrative matters. Major Plecha said his branch had a special project for which I would be a perfect fit. The placement officer quickly checked with Col. Cruikshank and learned he would forego my services. Thus, the BWCW branch became my military home for

two years. There were many unique and exceptional aspects of my assignment which made my tour productive and educational. I was able to learn about the military generally, how the Air Force conducted research in house, how they executed contracts, how political influences led to cross servicing agreements, and much more.

The BWCW branch was small but had a cast of civilian and military characters that provided an education in the essence of the human character in all of its shades. There were about a dozen of us housed in an office type room and an adjoining chemical laboratory. The function of the branch was to test devices used to record data on test ranges and to provide general assistance for test range operations. Much of the work had a secret classification.

When I arrived at the branch there was a Lt. Col. in charge. He treated me correctly, but at arm's length. His assignment soon took him elsewhere and Maj. Jerry P. Moore, the ranking member of the branch, was named chief. He was a prince of a fellow and I enjoyed my association with him immensely. Still, he always called me Lt. Upchurch, rather than by my first name, the norm for such a military setting. He regaled us with stories including how he headed a military troop in a parade in Tokyo and got them marching down the wrong street.

Maj. Harold Tweeten was the branch meteorologist. There was a Mr. Vaughn who worked with him and a Lt. Deckert and a Mr. Walt Spence. Deckert was a spare officer like me and was pretty sharp and proactive. Maj. Moore gave him an exceptional performance report. After he left and time came for my report, Maj. Moore said I deserved an exceptional rating more than Deckert but he said it was too much trouble to prepare. I took this backhanded compliment in good spirit.

Walt Spence was a really unique person. His family was big in local business, including fishing, shrimping and hog production. The base commander used the Spence family to keep peace with the locals and Walt was their representative and the general go-between. Walt played this role to the hilt and for much more than it was worth. He did have great access to the muckety-mucks. Walt was very bright and used his smarts and connections to get an ever higher GS rating. He knew the exact minimum time needed for promotion and the exact key words to use to trigger a promotion. He also knew how to grease the skids as the appraisal went up the line. It is quite possible that I subconsciously picked up some of his tricks as would appear from my actions in the next several decades.

Walt headed a project which served as the basis for my assignment to the BWCW branch. The test ranges had a lot of volunteer turkey oak trees that infested the ranges and interfered with the testing and recovery of ordinance (shells, bullets, rockets, whatever). Walt knew that herbicides might be used to control the vegetation. He got a project started and then negotiated a contract with the University of Florida at Gainesville, FL to carry out the work. Since weed science was my field it was a natural for me to be assigned as project leader in place of Walt. He was gracious in the substitution. More of my work later.

Major Plecha headed the laboratory. Assigned to it was Lt. Pierce and an airman, who was a corporal. They seemed not to know what to do with the lab. I trumped up the idea that we needed to learn how herbicides moved in the soil. I arranged to get some four-inch

diameter high-grade metal tubes cut into certain lengths. Into these we placed soil from the ranges thus recreating a three foot deep soil profile. Then we added herbicide to the top followed by increments of water. Subsequently, the columns were dismantled and the soil analyzed to see how deep the weed control chemical had penetrated. In due course, I produced two scientific papers from this work with Lt. Pierce as a co-author. The senior officer in the branch heartily agreed with my finding a use for the lab even if the logic of my use had a marginal bearing on military needs. It made them look better as the lab was put to some use rather than it and its personnel standing idle. My project had a priority code even though it was very low. Still, I soon learned that this could work wonders. Whenever I would show up at some functional unit with a request, the citation of my priority would put me ahead of all other requests that did not have a priority code. They did not have the foggiest idea of what I was doing or why, but the priority code was like bringing a command from some general.

Every noon Majors Moore, Plecha, and Tweeten and Walt would play bridge, often running well beyond the one hour allowed for lunch. They were super bridge players. Their sometime excessive exuberance had to be curtailed as only a thin wall separated our office from the one next door where Col. Sims, the commander of several branches was located.

The mysteries of the military continued to unfold. I once needed a pencil and took myself up to a shack on the roof where a civilian guru was in charge of such supplies. In all seriousness he asked me "Lt, who told you - you needed a pencil?" I summoned my best negotiating skills to overcome this impasse. The Air Force was addicted to having a plethora of initials on any given document. In one case I initialed at the wrong place. This would not stand. The document soon came back to me with detailed instructions that I was to erase the initials and then to initial the erasure. Only some Higher Being knows how we ever win a war.

On weekends Eglin AFB did not have a regular officer in charge. This deficiency was corrected by drawing from a roster of lower grade officers who were conscripted on a random basis to serve as "Officer of the Day" on weekends. My number came up in due course. In advance I read the detailed and voluminous instructions which covered what to do in any eventuality - including nuclear attack, a heavy rainstorm, discovery of a dead person, etc., etc. I appeared at the appointed hour and strapped on my loaded Colt 45 pistol for the 24 hour tour. I could lie down on a cot but could not undress or go to sleep. The common understanding and specific order was that I was in command of the base. In reality I could only call one of several numbers if something went amiss. Still, it was a burden. I was required to get in my Jeep and make the rounds of the base even in the middle of the night. On one of these tours I sensed that the guard at one manned post was asleep. What to do? I retraced my steps and then advanced making considerable noise. By the time I had the guard post in sight the guard was now doing his job properly. Any other course would have led to an unbelievable amount of paperwork.

The branch secretary was a plain, slightly overweight but cheerful Mary Chaney. She was a motherly sort of person who helped me in every way possible. We came to understand that her husband, an enlisted airman, was abusive. Thus, we in the branch did our best to be supportive.

Mr. Weeks was a cheerful and seasoned civilian driver for the base motor pool. He had a special assignment of driving a special truck called a DECON truck. This was a 2-1/2 ton regular military truck with a very large tank. It was designed to be filled with chemicals of various types to be used to decontaminate sites that had been polluted. We had it fitted with a spray boom and used it to establish experimental brush control plots on the ranges. Mr. Weeks was always our operator and he liked us. In fact he would find some excuse to bring his DECON truck up to our building even on days we did not need him. I never found out how he arranged this and I did not ask. I had only to look out the window and spot Mr. Weeks and his truck to know he was there if we needed him. Such was life in the Air Force.

One of my first tasks was to rearrange the contract with the University of Florida. AFAC had a broad contract with the College of Engineering at Gainesville. Not knowing better, Walt had placed the brush control research project there as well. A long in the tooth engineering professor had the responsibility for the project. When I showed up and laid plans to have Dr. Earl G. Rodgers in the College of Agriculture become project leader rather than the engineering professor there was really no objection from any quarters. It was recognized all around that I knew what I was doing. However, it still took a lot of paperwork. Several trips were made to Gainesville at government expense. Sallaine went with me on some of these. In some cases I had to take a contracting officer with me. I was pretty serious about getting something done. Still, there was somewhat the atmosphere of a boondoggle about it all. Earl proceeded to do a nice job and often traveled to Eglin AFB to run experiments under my benign guidance. We became great friends.

Northwestern Florida was represented in Congress by Mr. Sikes, a powerful congressman who caused various kinds of funds to flow to his district. This included a desire to better fund a U. S. Forest Service Research Station at a little town named Chipola. The foresters there had gotten the ear of the congressman. In various ways it became clear to us that we would fund an aspect of research on turkey oak at Chipola. It was not a decision for us to make. More visits, more boondoggles resulted. In the process I learned how to draft and implement a cross-serving agreement between two major government entities - The U. S. Air Force - DOD and the U. S. Forest Service - USDA. The project leader at Chipola was Dr. Frank Woods and I got to know him well and later visited him at Duke University where he landed as a forestry professor.

One of my weird undertakings involved Southern Research Institute at Birmingham, AL. I conceived the idea of injecting radio-active phosphorus (P^{32}) at various distances and depths from turkey oak plants and then assaying the foliage for radio-activity. In doing so, we could learn about the root distribution of these promiscuous plants that stood in the way of the proper use of the Eglin test ranges. Since we did not have radio-tracer expertise and analytical equipment at Eglin we would contract with SRI for this. My superiors bought into this plan, resulting in more trips and boondoggles. This time it was done on a grand scale. The AFAC senior contracting official was a bird colonel. He decided he would go along to Birmingham on one of our trips. Now the skinny on the colonel was that in his previous assignment he had been a hard-as-nails military leader going by the book. However, as chief of the AFAC contracts office he had become much more laid back. Possibly he gave up bucking for general or maybe officers ebb and flow in their demeanor from one assignment to another. Who

knows - not me. In any case, the Birmingham caper became quite an experience. There was a lot of jocularly referring to one of SRI's lead radio-tracer experts as the "Countess" as she was attractive but had a cold shoulder. (Get it - Countess" - "Geiger Counter"?). But the real action came at the hotel where we stayed. There abounded stimulants and I suspect more than alcohol. The colonel presided over this bacchanal which included some attractive ladies who appeared out of nowhere. I was unable/unwilling to be a full participant in this celebration so cannot give a reliable report of the outcome. It was clear to me that my little project at SRI was used as a fig leaf to cover other kinds of exploits.

On one occasion I was scheduled to go to Washington, DC on project business. It was decided that I could serve as a courier to transport a secret document to a certain officer in the Pentagon. My secret clearance allowed this. So I took off with the pouch shackled to my person. Upon arriving at the Pentagon I not only delivered my packet but was asked to join the discussion which ensued. I suppose they concluded I had a connection with the subject matter that went beyond serving as a courier. For about an hour I found myself engaged in discussing the pros and cons of using various kinds of extreme military tactics. It was weird as I had no credentials for participating in such a discussion.

It may have been on this same trip that I found myself spending the night in the BOQ (Bachelor Officers' Quarters - love these acronyms) at Ft. Detrick, Maryland. I went there to probe for information on the use of chemicals to control vegetation. As the time came for taps, I found myself walking along a sidewalk when the plaintive notes resounded across the Fort. I stood puzzled, not knowing the proper military protocol. Should I stand at attention, salute? I still don't know. Fortunately, no one seemed to be watching me.

The perks of my assignment included the opportunity to attend scientific meetings in the field of my agricultural expertise. The military establishment is quite accustomed to having its officers travel for all sorts of reasons. I was able to fit right into the mold. In their parlance, it was called going on TDY (Temporary Duty). Some descriptions of my activities may seem as if I treated my whole two year assignment as a lark. Such was not the case. I was very serious about running an effective, useful project. My supervisors recognized my dedication and gave me great flexibility. I was grateful to learn how to get things done in a military structure and to grasp the essence of leadership, regulations, boundaries and options as they existed in an Armed Forces structure.

We came to Eglin AFB with one child and left with two. Our second daughter, Debra Nan, was born in a little commercial hospital in Valparaiso. We could have used the base hospital for free but we felt more comfortable having more control over our lives. During the two year assignment I, for the only time in my life, followed a 40-hour work week schedule. This left me free to do the family grocery shopping at the Base PX (Post Exchange) and to run other errands.

On several occasions we drove north to North Carolina to visit relatives and on two occasions members of our respective families visited us in Florida. Some time was taken to relocate from Niceville to Valparaiso in mid-tour as our rental house in Niceville was put up for sale.

We enjoyed a variety of social activities at Eglin. On occasion, I would join my fellow officers after work at the Officers' Club for happy hour. We enjoyed playing liar's dice and partaking of the best smoked oysters ever. From time to time there would be a shrimp boil on the beach with beer served as the beverage of choice. On one occasion I participated in a deep-sea fishing expedition with considerable success. The area had some fantastic white sand beaches and the very large Choctawhatchee Bay. We were tempted to buy a motorboat but did not.

In retrospect, I have come to understand that a military unit is designed to be prepared to fight and win wars. It is an inherently wasteful process whether in wartime or between wars. Between wars the task is to be constantly upgrading the capacity to respond well in the next war. This challenge is not always well met. I saw some who were up to the task and some who were not. For those who did not personally rise to the occasion there was a temptation to yield to demon rum. I saw evidence of both situations.

As the tour came to a close I left in good spirits, feeling I had responded to my country's call and performed creditably under the prevailing circumstances. The wonder of it all is that I was actually able to serve in the field of my professional expertise. To explain that I have developed the concept that the military cannot possibly get everyone in the wrong assignment no matter how hard they try.

There was great joy in our little family as we returned to Raleigh, NC in April of 1957. I was anxious to resume my assistant professorship in crop science at N. C. State University. Before getting too deep into my job again I felt the need to see about the logic of fitting into the U. S. Air Force Reserves. I conferred with the reserve unit in Raleigh and found rather bleak options. I could stay in the Reserves and do nothing or I could take night and weekend courses and participate in a two-week summer assignment each year. I was told there was no money to pay me for these activities. I would be earning points towards retirement after 20 years of service. My stipend at retirement would be meager. Further, I was told that promotion to captain would come only after about ten more years of service.

With this sad picture in mind, I decided to stay in the Reserves but not to be an active participant. Contrary to what I had been told, my promotion to captain came in the mail in about six months. Still, I decided to concentrate all my energies on my university position and to lay low in the Reserves.

I managed to stay in the Reserves for a total of 18 years without taking on any kind of courses, camps or whatever. The Reserves and I established a polite pattern of dancing around my status. Every 2 or 3 years I would be notified that my status had been reviewed by a special board of officers. The message was that due to my inactivity I would be processed out of the Reserves. Then I would rebut the decision and point out that I had certain kinds of scientific expertise which was regularly being enhanced. My pitch was that in a future national emergency such expertise would be valuable to the Air Force. Like Walt, I used key words and phrases to reinforce my pitch. The corresponding officer would respond that my rebuttal had gained me some more time but I was admonished to become active. I never did.

This process would be repeated every few years with the same result until the magic number of 18 years of service was reached. Then my usual plea did not work. I was given an honorable discharge. My suspicion is that had I been allowed to reach the golden number of 20 years Reserve Service, I would be entitled to retire. My few number of points accumulated would not entitle me to any retirement pay, but probably I would have earned a burial spot. On this occasion the Air Force was efficient and did not let me slip past their screening system. "No burial spots for slackers" fits right up there with the slogan "They shall not pass".

The dominant recall I have about the military is that I was tremendously impressed by WWII. Part of this was because I was of such an impressionable age at the time. But then anyone who lived in those times had to be deeply impacted. The people of America came together as one. Together we fought a terrible war and won through to the end. For me the result is that I have an abiding thirst to learn more about wars and especially about WWII. As an example, I always enjoy seeing "Tora, Tora, Tora" yet again and for the umpteenth time.

Thinking historically, I can record that my great-great-grandfather Upchurch fought in the Revolutionary War. My great-grandfather Upchurch lived between wars. My grandfather was in numerous battles in the service of the Confederacy. My father lived between wars. I barely missed being a WWII participant. Fortunately my children seemed to have escaped the misery of war. I have great hope and pray that none of my eight grandchildren will be asked to serve in a war. However, if they are called to serve in the defense of our nation and for our liberty and way of life, I trust they will serve honorably and return safely home.

From time-to-time I muse about a parallel universe in which I pursued a career in the military. Let us presume that my arm of service would have been the Army. I seem to fit there better than in the Air Force, Navy or Marines. The question is - how would I have fared? Knowing of my drive to succeed there is no question but that I would have worked hard, taken prescribed courses and generally would have been proactive. Given a war, I would have asked for service on the battlefield. Being proactive, I would have been lucky to have survived. Many of my superiors would have been impressed with my abilities and ambition to succeed. If my real life is a guide there would be some superiors or peers who would have reacted unfavorably to me. So it would be the luck of the draw that would determine whether a supporter or a detractor would have been the key person at critical decision points. I would hazard a guess that I would have had an 80% chance of coming out on top at any given critical juncture. Another question is how would I have been viewed in the eyes of my subordinates? There it is more difficult to hazard a guess. The military has a record of fairly judging leadership performances and potential. Perhaps I would have done OK. My sense is that I would have made full colonel for sure. Perhaps I would have had a shot at brigadier general or beyond. On second thought, it is likely that I would have had bad luck and flamed out at Lt. colonel or that I would have had good luck and become a general officer. It is my belief that my ambition to succeed was generic and would have served me well in the military or in any other field that would have come my way.

THE MILITARY: SELECTIVE SERVICE DOCUMENTATION FOR RPU

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	13 SEP 1948	SS Card (duplicate issued 14 AUG 1957)(Clerk - Nellie H. Bagley).	RPU registered Selective Service No.31-93-28-92-Res.1922 Sunset Dr., Raleigh, NC., 145 pounds.
2	6 MAR 1946 (mailed)	SS Ltr order 12949 per L. G. Jordan, Chair.	Report 14 MAR 1946 to Local Board Office, Varina, NC for pre-induction physical.
3	9 MAR 1946	RPU Ltr to SS.	RPU requests delay.
4	12 MAR 1946	SS responds.	OK not to report now.
5	14 JUN 1949	SS classification.	3-A.
6	18 JUN 1949	RPU Ltr to SS	Inform SS of my Commission.
7	20 Jun 1949	SS Ltr to RPU (Signed Nellie H. Bagley - Typed Nellie G. Bagley).	Acknowledge my Ltr of 18 JUN - Married man not now being called.
8	17 JAN 1951	RPU Ltr to SS.	Inform SS of enrollment in Graduate School (Said my old address Sunset Dr. I never informed SS of 1208 College Place address).
9	25 OCT 1951	SS Ltr to RPU.	SS wants update on status. A child would allow continued 3-A classification. (No record of my response).
10	6 DEC 1951	SS classification (Signed T. M. Arrington).	1-A
11	12 DEC 1951	RPU Ltr to SS.	Remind SS of my Commission & Graduate Student status.
12	19 DEC 1951	SS Ltr to RPU	Acknowledge my Ltr 12 DEC. Require NME Form 44.
13	20 DEC 1951	SS Ltr to RPU.	Ordered to report for physical, Raleigh, NC.
14	27 Dec 1951	RPU Ltr to SS.	Enclosed NME Form 44. Also request II-S classification.
15	26 DEC 1951	Univ. of CA Ltr to SS.	Submit Form SS 109 to support II-S.
16	27 DEC 1951	USAF Ltr to SS (Hdq. 4 th AF; Hamilton AFB, CA).	Defines RPU USAF status as being in "Volunteer Reserve Section - This Hdq".
17	27 DEC 1951	RPU Ltr to SS.	Request required physical be taken in CA.
18	27 DEC 1951	RPU Ltr to NCSU.	Request them to send SS Form

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Comments</u>
19	31 DEC 1951	NCSU Ltr to SS Board 93. (Signed W. L. Mayer).	Form 109 completed. RPU Undergraduate. Avg. 82.090, College rank = 402/1138 and School rank = 77/202.
20	8 JAN 1952	SS Ltr to Local Board 20 Woodland, CA.	Ask them to return paperwork - RPU physical not required.
21	31 JAN 1952	SS classification	1-D.
22	12 FEB 1956	Ltr USAF to SS (States RPU signed agreement to serve not less than 2 years if called by Sec. Of USAF and to remain in USAF Reserves until 8 th anniversary of receipt of his Commission). (Hence gives Selective Service the authority to defer).	DD Form 44 executed.
23	25 JUL 1952	Univ. of CA Ltr (2) to SS.	Update on status - still in Graduate School-request continued deferment.
24	31 JUL 1952	SS Ltr to Univ. of CA.	SS ticked-off that Form 109 not used.
25	28 AUG 1952	RPU Ltr to SS	Plead my case that I do not want student deferment but prefer 1-D based on USAF. Backup documentation submitted (signed by RPU 9 FEB 1952).
26	4 SEP 1952	SS Ltr to RPU	Confirms my 1-D status (They still want to track me).
27	6 MAR 1953	Univ. of CA Ltr to SS.	RPU not enrolled Univ. CA spring semester 1953.
28	11 AUG 1953	Dr. Robert J. Ruark Ltr to SS.	Certifies SSU pregnant - due DEC 1953.
29	17 AUG 1953	SS Ltr to RPU.	Want me to come see them. (I find no record of my visit).
30	5 OCT 1953	RPU Ltr to SS.	Change address 1208 College Place to Dept. Agron.
31	5 OCT 1953	RPU Ltr to SS.	Report on RPU dependants (Pat lives 1407 Beaverdam Rd. Ray lives 127 Hudson St.).
32	15 OCT 1953	SS classification.	3-A.
33	15 MAY 1955	RPU Ltr to SS.	Report on entry into USAF Active Duty - Box 476, Niceville, FL.
34	18 MAY	SS Ltr to RPU.	OK - but I should have executed DD Form 53. (SS notes error listing my DOB as 9 FEB 1929 rather than correct DOB 9 FEB 1928).

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Comments</u>
35	14 SEP 1955	USAF center Ltr to RPU.	They acknowledge my request for classification dated 13 JUL 1955 and say Air Adjutant General will respond.
36	9 AUG 1957	RPU Ltr to SS.	Nash Co., NC SS wants my participation. I explain why not.
37	8 AUG 1957	RPU Ltr. to SS.	Report two years of active duty completed.
38	10 AUG 1957	SS Ltr to RPU	They are glad I am home! (I must visit to get duplicate of my lost registration card & to correct error in my DOB. Also they want DD Form 214).
39	15 SEP 1957	RPU input to SS.	Standby Reserve questionnaire .
40	20 SEP 1957	SS classification	4-A.
41	13 OCT 1957	SS Ltr to RPU	RPU - not available.
42	10 OCT 1960	SS Ltr. to RPU	Update required/given.
43	31 OCT 1962	SS Ltr to RPU	Update (SS Form 91) requested & given.
44	20 FEB 1963	SS classification	5-A.
45	30 OCT 1963	SS Ltr to RPU	Update required/given.
46	30 DEC 1964	SS Ltr to RPU	Update required/given.
47	10 FEB 1965	SS Ltr to RPU	RPU - not available. (I sent in status report a little late)
48	15 FEB 1966	SS Ltr to RPU	RPU - not available. (They say I did not send in Form 91 - I did but late) (They say the Armed Forces Reserve Act of 1952, as amended, requires SS to determine availability of Standing Reserve members).
49	3 FEB 1966	SS Ltr to RPU	Want update - sent in 15 FEB 1966.
50	15 FEB 1966	RPU Ltr to SS	Address reported as 230 Clion Lane, St. Louis, MO.
51	12 MAR 1966	RPU Ltr to SS	Sent status update.
52	5 APR 1966	Ltr SS to RPU	RPU - not available.
53	6 MAR 1967	Ltr SS to RPU	Need update/given.
54	25 OCT 1967	Ltr RPU to SS	Inform SS I was honorably discharged from USAF effective 27 SEP 1967 - provided copy of DD Form 256.

Note: Following Item 54 I have since had no further interaction with the Selective Service System.

U.S. MILITARY DOCUMENTATION FOR RPU

1. 11 JUN 1949 RPU appointed 2nd Lt. (Two versions of letter).
2. Missing Item. The "Commission evidencing appointment as referred to in paragraph 2 of 1 above.
3. 31 AUG 1949. Assigned to volunteer Air Reserve Section HQ & HQ Squadron, 14th AF, Orlando, FL, EDCSA 1 SEP 1949.
4. 1950. No paperwork.
5. 17 JAN 1950. RPU reports change of address NC - Dept. Agronomy, UC.
6. 5 FEB 1951. HQ & HQ 14th AF, Robbins AFB GA requests input.
7. 13 MAR 1951. Order 58. RPU reassigned to HQ & HQ Sq. 4 AF (VRS), Hamilton AFB, CA EDCSA 26 MAR 1951.
8. 10 AUG 1951. USAF informs RPU of training opportunities (Div. of Agron misspelled AGLON).
9. 3 OCT 1951. USAF insists RPU respond to #8 even if negative.
10. 9 NOV 1951. USAF informs RPU more opportunities.
11. 15 JAN 1952. RPU reassigned to 4th AF Reserve Dist. Hdq. 870 Market Street, Flood Bld., San Francisco 2, CA eff 19 DEC 1951.
12. 26 JAN 1952. USAF informs RPU that a 8 year Reserve obligation is required for deferment by Selective Service.
13. 9 FEB 1952. RPU signs Deferment Agreement and states he is obligated to Reserves for 8 years.
14. 14 FEB 1952. A training option.
15. 3 MAR 1952. USAF changes RPU PSSN from 4823 (Acft Maint Off) to 8503 (PI).
16. 11 MAR 1952. A training option.
17. 2 MAY 1952. 4th AF, Hamilton AFB informs that RPU tentatively selected for entry into active serve on or about 16 JUN 1952 SSN 8503.
18. 5 MAY 1952. USAF reports RPU credits to 1 JUL 1949 = 2.
19. 12 MAY 1952. RPU asks NSF to help with deferment.
20. 20 MAY 1952. RPU asks US Dept. of Labor for information.
21. 20 MAY 1952. RPU asks US Dept. of Commerce for info.
22. 4 JUN 1952. USAF provides RPU info re delays. Also, provides Special Order 110 dated 4 JUN 1952 re RPU assignment to Barksdale AFB, LA, reporting not later than 16 JUN 1952. EDCSA 9 JUN 1952.
23. 5 JUN 1952. RPU Ltr to USAF requesting delay of entry into active service. Attached letters from Lovvorn, Briggs, Currier, Peterson, Waterman, Kelly.
24. 6 JUN 1952. USAF states RPU approved before Delay Board on this date and was granted a delay until 31 JAN 1953.
25. 6 JUN 1952. USAF gives temporary input re Order dated 4 JUN 1952.
26. 12 JUN 1952. USAF Special Order NO. 116. Orders to report are revoked.
27. 23 JUN 1952 Ltr NSF to RPU commenting on his Ltr to NSF of 9 JUN 1952. I had requested that my fellowship be spread over 12 months rather than 7, terminating 1 JUL 1953 rather than 5 months earlier. NSF says OK.
28. 3 NOV 1952. 2 Ltrs - Dees of NSF sends RPU copy of Waterman Ltr to USAF stating that RPU requested on 24 OCT 1952 extension of NSF Fellowship to 22 JUN 1953 (from 31 JAN 1953) and that NSF approves.

29. 7 NOV 1952. Ltr RPU to USAF reports NSF has extended Fellowship.
30. 7 NOV 1952. USAF approves RPU delay to extend to 22 JUN 1953.
31. 17 NOV 1952. USAF initiates an Inventory of Potential for Service. Attached one of 3 forms RPU executed and returned plus a 17 NOV 1952 Ltr Briggs to USAF.
32. 25 NOV 1952. USAF gives RPU classification Code of C III.
33. 1 DEC 1952. USAF offers RPU appointment for an indefinite period. RPU declined.
34. 20 JAN 1953. USAF acknowledges RPU report that Fellowship terminated, hence delay for entry for active duty is canceled.
35. 30 JAN 1953. USAF orders show RPU address changed from CA to c/o H. W. Sledge, Rt. 2, Nashville, NC PAFSC 8690.
36. 26 JUN 1953. USAF offers permanent commission Vs 5 year commission.
37. 19 AUG 1953. RPU requests USAF to send Draft Board DD Form 44.
38. 10 SEP 1953. USAF reports Form 44 sent. Also reports that since I declined offer to extend my commission it will expire 10 JUN 1954.
39. 16 OCT 1953. USAF offers RPU an indefinite commission.
40. 16 OCT 1953. USAF to RPU re indefinite commission. This letter explains in some detail that I was deferred from entry into active service and from Selective Service action in 1952 when I agreed to serve for 8 years in Reserve. However, my commission expires in JUN of 1954. The USAF says I should seriously consider the offer for indefinite appointment. I finally saw the light and agreed. My paperwork attached.
41. 30 NOV 1953. USAF Order 234 shows I now have an indefinite reserve appointment.
42. 26 DEC 1953. RPU reassigned from HQ 4th AF (NARS) CONAC at Hamilton AFB, CA to HQ CONAC (NARS) Denver, CO. EDCSA 1 JAN 1954.
43. 6 MAY 1954. Signed new deferment agreement. Original not in USAF files.
44. 18 MAY 1954. Summary of RPU Points - 1 JUL 49 - 30 JUN 53 = 15 x 4 = 60.
45. 19 MAY 1954. USAF describes Annual Survey and requests RPU input.
46. 2 JUN 1954. Wyman E. Nyquist sends RPU telegram stating he is ordered to duty 20 JUN 1954 in Far East.
47. 13 JUN 1954. Input by RPU per Item 45.
48. 5 OCT 1954. USAF requests input re my address.
49. 7 NOV 1954. Sent in Annual Status Report.
50. 2 DEC 1954. Alerts RPU that orders for active duty are coming; request - several inputs.
51. 6 DEC 1954. Inputs requested in Item 50 provided.
52. 25 JAN 1955. RPU to C. E. Minarik at Camp Detrick asking about prospects of assignment. 31 JAN 1955.
53. 31 JAN 1955. Minarik responds.
54. 3 FEB 1955. Letter Orders 1184 HQ CONAC-ARRC-Denver, CO to Parks AFB, CA for assignment to Far East effective 8 APR 1955.
55. - FEB 1955. A single sheet with names. RPU recalls these notes made are trip to Pentagon to clarify orders shortly after Item 54 received.
56. 21 FEB 1955. USAF says acknowledgment card with Item 54 not returned.
57. 2 FEB 1955. RPU earned 15 points in year ending 30 JUN 1954.
58. 1 MAR 1955. Letter Orders 1365 cancels Item 54 per input from HQ USAF (Pentagon) 18 FEB 1955.

59. 1 MAR 1955. Letter Orders 1367. RPU gets different assignment to HQ AFAC, Eglin AFB, FL. Date of Duty and Date of Rank, 13 APR 1955. Report not later than 15 APR 1955.
60. 13 MAR 1955. RPU requests start Raleigh, NC. not Nashville, NC.
61. 14 MAR 1955. RPU reports error in Orders. Separation for 2 years should be 12 APR 1957 not 12 APR 1958.
62. 26 MAR 1955. RPU relieved from assignment to CONAC, Denver.
63. 28 MAR 1955. Letter Orders 1548. Acts positively on RPU Items 60, 61.
64. 1 APR 1955. From USAF a routine survey. ON ACTIVE DUTY. MID APR 1955 - 31 DEC 1955.
65. 15 APR 1955. RPU assignment in AFAC under consideration Lt. Col. Beamer handwritten note to Col. Cruikshank asking him if he wants me. (he said NO).
66. 20 APR 1955. Report of RPU medical exam.
67. 25 APR 1955. HQ AFAC Orders RPU assigned to Bio-Chem. Branch, Armament Test Equipment Lab.
68. 27 APR 1955. RPU returns Officers Incoming Clearance sheet, rec'd 15 APR 1955.
69. 27 APR 1955. RPU asks CONAC clarification of Ltr. Rec'd 8 APR 1955.
70. 5 MAY 1955. RPU requests TDY 2 days to Chipola, FL start 10 MAY.
71. 9 MAY 1955. Lt. Col. Harry S. Beamis of AFAC submits to Classification Review Board, HQ USAF justification by my new AFSC 8691 (RQD Officer, Special).
72. 17 MAY 1955. RPU requests TDY 4 days to Marianna & Gainesville, FL start 19 MAY.
73. 25 MAY 1955. CONAC relieves RPU of assignment.
74. 1 JUN 1955. RPU personal affairs statement 109 2nd St., Niceville, FL, Box 476.
75. 6 JUN 1955. RPU issued U.S. Gov't. Operators Permit. Now 155 lbs.
76. 9 JUN 1955. HQ USAF considering RPU for promotion to 1st Lt.
77. 15 JUN 1955. RPU provide input re promotion.
78. 22 JUN 1955. RPU requests leave 6 days to Nashville, NC effective 5 JUL 1955.
79. 6 JUL 1955. HQ USAF approves RPU AFSC 8691 (entry level).
80. 14 JUL 1955. RPU requests TDY 4 days to Univ. FL, Gainesville begin 20 JUL.
81. 26 JUL 1955. RPU requests TDY 1 day to Perry, FL on 29 JUL.
82. 26 JUL 1955. RPU requests TDY 7 days to Univ. CA-Davis to collect information begin 13 AUG.
83. 12 AUG 1955. RPU requests TDY amends authority for Item 81.7 OCT 1955.
84. 7 OCT 1955. RPU certified in JUDO.
85. 14 OCT 1955. HQ AFAC Special Order No. 192. RPU promoted to 1st Lt., USAF. Date of Rank 14 OCT 1955.
86. 14 OCT 1955. RPU requests TDY 4 days to Univ. FL start 19 OCT.
87. 15 NOV 1955. Paperwork to change RPU AFSC from 8691 (Project Engineer) to 8696.
88. 16 NOV 1955. HQ USAF clarifies my status referring to my letter of 13 JUL 1955 addressed to CONAC (I do not find a copy of my 13 JUL 1955 Ltr).
89. 17 NOV 1955. AFAC awards RPU AFSC 8696 and designation of P & DUAISC.
90. 28 NOV 1955. RPU requests TDY 4 days to Univ. FL on 3 NOV.
91. 13 DEC 1955. RPU requests leave 4 days to Raleigh, NC. on 11 JAN 56 (in conjunction with TDY).
92. 15 DEC 1955. AFAC Spec. Ord. 236 - TDY - to attend WSSA, New York, NY. Depart o/a 2 JAN 1956.

93. 23 DEC 1955. Request for a pass 3 days Jung Hotel, New Orleans, begin 16 JAN 1956.

YEAR 1956 - ON ACTIVE DUTY

94. 19 JAN 1956. Special Order 12 AFAC RPU & Maj. Plecha approved 5 days TDY Univ. FL, Fl State Univ., SRI Birmingham, Univ. AL, Tuscaloosa start 23 JAN 1956.
95. 8 FEB 1956. Technical correction Item 92.
96. 21 FEB 1956. Letter Orders No. 233. RPU authorized to inventory unit fund property - delete 1st Lt. Heyward H. Strong.
97. 27 FEB 1956. RPU requests TDY 4 days Univ. FL begin 29 FEB.
98. 9 MAR 1956. Special Orders No. 47. RPU & Maj. Stanley L. Plecha 3 days begin 12 MAR to SRI, Birmingham, AL.
99. 14 MAR 1956. RPU requests TDY 3 days to HQ USAF, Washington, DC, Pentagon. Start 15 MAR. Hand carry secret material and coordinate AFAC BW-CW Program.
100. 7 MAY 1956. Special Orders 89. RPU & Maj. Jerry P. Moore 5 days Blountstown, FL & Gainesville, FL. Begin 8 MAY.
101. 11 MAY 1956. Sp. Ord. No. 93. RPU & Lt. W. C. Pierce 5 days start 15 MAY SRI Birmingham.
102. 26 MAY 1956. RPU authorized 10 days emergency leave, c/o H. W. Sledge, Nashville, NC. - Reason H.W. Sledge (father-in-law) heart attack.
103. 28 MAY 1956. Sp. Ord 105 - confirmed Item 102.
104. 4 JUN 1956. Pers. Action Memo 93. RPU Service Category changed from 4 to 3.
105. 13 JUN 1956. Pers. Action Memo 102. RPU FC changed 57000 to 5700020.
106. 21 JUN 1956. Pers. Action Memo 108. RPU o/s Deferment changed from No Deferment - Code M to Deferred more than 1 year. Code L.
107. 6 JUL 1956. RPU given pass 3 days effective 10 JUL to W. K. Porter, Dept. Bot., LSU.
108. 30 JUL 1956. SO 148. RPU TDY 6 days Fort Detrick begin 5 AUG.
109. 1 AUG 1956, SO 150. RPU & Maj. Jerry P. Moore TDY 1 day to Chipola, FL start 2 AUG.
110. 9 AUG 1956. SO 156. RPU promoted to permanent grade 1st Lt. Effective 1 JUL 1955.
111. 11 AUG 1956. RPU & 1st Lt. Wellington C. Pierce approved 2 days TDY to SRI, Birmingham, AL start 15 AUG.
112. 15 AUG 1956. Pers. Act. Memo No. 141. RPU Primary Duty Assn. Changed Proj Eng 8696 Bio-Chem. Br. To Disp. Measurement Sec., Bio-Chem Br. Eff 1 FEB 1956.
113. 22 AUG 1956. Maj. Moore requests RPU be confirmed as fully qualified AFSC 8696 PERAM 181 17 NOV 1955.
114. 29 AUG 1956. RPU requests 4 days TDY to Univ. FL start 4 SEP.
115. 1 OCT 1956. RPU requests 1 day TDY to Chipola, FL start 5 OCT.
116. 8 OCT 1956. HQ USAF approves AFSC 8696 fully qualified.
117. 5 NOV 1956. RPU requests TDY 6 days to attend Amer. Soc. Agron., Cincinnati, OH start 13 NOV.
118. 19 NOV 1956. RPU certified he was briefed re Officers Augmentation Act.
119. 10 DEC 1956. RPU requests leave 14 days start 17 DEC address H. W. Sledge.
120. 13 DEC 1956. 5 officers incl. RPU in Bio-Chem. Branch assigned to Physical Sciences Branch eff 1 SEP 1956.

1 JAN 1957 - MID APR 1957 - ON ACTIVE DUTY

121. 14 JAN 1957. RPU requests 6 days TDY to attend Southern Weed Conf. Augusta, GA start 22 JAN.
122. 4 FEB 1956. RPU requests 4 days TDY to Univ. FL start 5 FEB.
123. 19 FEB 1957. RPU requests 2 days leave start 25 FEB (stayed at home).
124. 28 FEB 1957. RPU Ltr to NC request re vacancy in Reserve for AFSC 8696 (R & D Officer, Special).
125. 11 MAR 1957. RPU Ltr to AFAC requests a reserve mobilization assignment within ARDC.
126. 12 MAR 1957. RPU requests 2 days TDY to HQS ARDC, Baltimore, MD to coordinate project 88501 start 17 MAR.
127. 14 MAR 1957. Report of RPU Medical Exam.
128. 18 MAR 1957. Lt./Col. Farmer S. Smith, Raleigh, NC. Ltr to RPU - No Vacancy for pay purposes.
129. 18 MAR 1957. Action on request for RPU Reserve Assignment.
130. 1 APR 1957. RPU Secret Clearance filed 4th District OSI, Bolling AFB 29 DEC 1954.
131. 1 APR 1957. Report of Discharge DD Form 214.
132. 2 APR 1957. RPU Extract from 201 File.
133. 2 APR 1957. SO No 64 Discharged.
134. 10 APR 1957. Certificate of RPU Service.
135. 10 APR 1957. RPU Leave Record.
136. 10 APR 1957. More re RPU Leave Record.
137. 10 APR 1957. Farewell message to RPU from my branch.

1957 - MID 1957 - 31 DEC 1957 (BACK IN NC)

138. 15 APR 1957. HQ ARDC, Baltimore, MD - RDSRP. This is unit to which I am now assigned. They request input from me which was sent 6 MAY 1957. Primary AFSC - 8696 request for 464 pending.
139. 5 AUG 1957. Ltr RPU to ARDC asks for clarification on possible assignment to a Raleigh, NC. unit.
140. 13 AUG 1957. Ltr ARDC to RPU in response to Item 139 - No help.
141. 15 OCT 1957. ARDC reports on training options. RPU replied negative 18 NOV 1957.
142. 20 SEP 1957. ARDC initiates annual survey. RPU responded 18 NOV 1957. Apparently my AFSC changed to 8464.

1958

143. 15 MAY 1958. HQ Air Reserve Records Center (CONAC) USAF - Denver. RPU promoted to Captain effective 15 MAY 1958.
144. 26 JUL 1958 ARDC Reserve Orders No. 26. RPU assigned from ARDC to HQ (ISLRS) ARRC Denver, CO & from Ready Reserve to Standby Reserve.

1959

145. 11 MAR 1959. ARRC. I am being placed on Inactive Status List for the first time. I elected retention in inactive status list reserve section.
146. 28 Aug 1959. ARRC needs my birth certificate. I forwarded same.
147. 31 AUG 1959. ARRC reports I have completed my Ready Reserve Service Requirement.

1960

148.26 SEP 1960. ARRC changes my primary AFSC from 869 to 274 R & D Officer, Special.

1961

149. 27 APR 1961. ARRC indicated I am about to be discharged.

150. 11 MAY 1961. RPU rebuts item 149.

151. 12SEP 1961. ARRC says I can stay based on evidence I supplied.

152. 17 OCT 1961. ARRC assigns Primary AFSC 2692 Scientist Special.

1962

153. 20 NOV 1962. ARRC RPU assigned to HQ CONAC. This center.

1963

154. 23 APR 1963. ARRC reports my inactivity deprives me of certain advantages.

1964

155. 21 SEP 1964. ARRC reports my Primary AFSC has been changed from 26912 R & D Director to 26912 Scientist, Special.

1965

No Documents Found

1966

156. 6 DEC 1966. Dept. of AF., HQ ARRC (CAC), Denver, CO. I have been assigned to Inactive Status List Reserve Section.

157. 9 DEC 1966. My response to Item 156. Request retention on Inactive Status List.

1967

158. 29 MAY 1967. Dept. of AF says my discharge being considered.

159. 20 JUN 1967. RPU changes address.

160. 20 JUN 1967. RPU rebuts Item 158 & submits information.

161. 21 AUG 1967. Board met re RPU & recommended RPU be discharged. Details provided to RPU.

162. 27 SEP 1967. Report on RPU Discharge incl. Copy of Discharge.

163. 9 OCT 1967. Notification of Discharge.

164. 24 OCT 1967. RPU returns identification cards.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

165. UNDATED Maj. Jerry P. Moore requests RPU AFSC be changed from 8696 to 464. This request was in the 2nd year of my active duty and likely in the last 6 months. Possibly in FEB 1957.

166. UNDATED. Response of HQ USAF to Item 165. They approved AFSC 8464 - fully qualified - but again no date is given, but probably 1-2 months after Item 165.

EGLIN AFB BACKGROUND PUBLICATIONS - LIST

1. Air Research and Development Command (ARDC). A booklet on the overall command to which I was assigned while on active duty and later. Headquarters - Baltimore, MD. The Center where I was AFAC at Eglin AFB - described in this booklet along with other centers.
2. Information Booklet - Eglin AFB, Florida, JUL 1954 describes the Base and its units and functions.

3. Air Force Armament Center. A New Testing Facility. This booklet describes AFAC after one year of operations. This booklet predates my arrival on the Base in April 1955.
4. Air Armament AFAC - USAF, Eglin AFB, FL. APR 1955. An update of Item 3. Major Stanley Plecha is pictured in this booklet.
5. A sheet with notes made by RPU - probably in APR 1955. These notes were, no doubt, made by RPU when he met Maj. Stanley Plecha in the Personnel Assignment Section at Eglin AFB upon arrival. This important chance meeting led to RPU being assigned to the BWCW Branch in AFAC and thus to an effective two-year tour of duty.

ACRONYMS

DOCA - Date of current appointment
DOPG- Date of present grade
P/R - Permanent residence
YOB - Year of birth
DPS - Dept. of Prior Service
EDCSA - Effective date of change of strength accountability
TDY - Temporary Duty
PCS - Permanent change of station
TDN - Travel directed is necessary in military service
DR - Date of rank
ETS - Expiration term of service
CDT - Commission termination date