

KOREAN VETERAN BARRY BUSHBERG

By Richard Long

After high school, living the high life in Honolulu, 18 year old Barry Bushberg was about to see major change. The Korean War was winding down but the draft was still in force and Barry was going to be drafted. He enlisted instead and began basic training at Fort Eustis VA. Upon completion, he was assigned to San Antonio for training as a light aircraft mechanic.

Barry's first duty station: Korea! Arriving in Seoul via ship, he proceeded to a small base very near the southern border of the Korean Demilitarized Zone. His primary job—fueling the Observation Planes as they returned from missions in and around the DMZ. He also worked on those same planes as needed and remembers seeing bullet holes in their “skin”.

After several months, Barry's assignment base closed. The Base Commander, a pilot, and Barry were the last two persons to be moved to their new location a short distance away. When they arrived, either the commander neglected to put the landing gear down or it simply failed. Barry recalls it was a very HARD landing. The prop stopped upon touching the ground. Other than that, everything was fine. He considers this his first stroke of luck.

Barry's Korea duty ended. Next assignment—Honolulu. The flight from Japan to Honolulu went fine. However, the flight right before, one he'd easily have been on, crashed into the ocean. His second stroke of luck!

Barry, we honor you and thank you for your service.



Barry Bushberg