

VIETNAM VETERAN COLONEL JAMES DUBOIS

BY Richard Long

One Morning, with a twinkle in his eye, Jim DuBois shared his 29 years of service in the United States Air Force with me. It began after graduating University of Nebraska in 1955. His degree was Business Administration, but his first choice was to fly. He immediately commissioned into the USAF. After basic training he attended pilot training flight school in San Antonio, Texas.

Upon completing training, he was assigned to Air Defense Command's 319th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Bunker Hill AFB (now Grissom) just north of Indianapolis, Indiana. Jim trained to fly F-86's, F-100's and F-4's. After Bunker Hill, Jim reported to Hahn AFB Frankfurt, Germany and then transferred to Thailand.

From his base in Thailand, Jim completed over 200 missions in Viet Nam. Targets were mostly bridges, roads and other infrastructure that supported North Vietnam's supply efforts. The great-est risk during every mission was SAM (surface to air missiles). Jim proudly refers to this risk by saying "I dodged missiles for a living". Obviously, he was good at it! Fighter planes had either one or two seats. He jokingly refers to his co-pilots as GIB's (Guy in back).

One Washington DC visit, fully decorated Officer Dubois was on an elevator with a lady and several other officers. The lady somehow made her cell phone ring and answered "Yes, Mr. President". Jim thought "I need to meet this lady!" Most of you know her as Mrs. Dubois!

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



JAMES DUBOIS