

## Retired Air Force Veteran Earl "Joe" Shambo

After Air Force basic training in San Antonio, and aircraft maintenance training, in Amarillo, it was off to Ramstein AFB, Germany where he spent the next four years. (Ramstein Air Base is part of the Kaiserslautern Military Community -- the largest American community outside of the United States)



Joe re-enlisted and was sent to Cam Rahn Bay, AFB, Vietnam. During this time, he and his brother Tom met up for a few days of R & R at Cam Rahn Bay. Cam Ranh Air Base served as a United States Air Force tactical fighter base, the first in South Vietnam to base the F-4C Phantom II tactical fighter-bomber.

Next up was Bitburg AB, Germany. From 1952 until 1994, Bitburg Air Base was a front-line NATO air base. It was the home of USAFE.

After over 5 years in Germany, he returned to the United States, Davis Montan AFB. It was established in 1925 as Davis–Monthan Landing Field. The host unit for Davis–Monthan AFB is the 355th Wing assigned to Twelfth Air Force, part of Air Combat Command.

After that, Joe was off to Germany stationed at Frankfurt AB for his last five years.

Once he retired from the Air Force he went to work at the University of Arizona and Joined the VFW. Joe reached the rank of Senior Vice Commander of Post 10188. Later he was Certified as a Service Officer assisting Veterans applying for disability ratings and promoted to "District Service Officer." Joe then served in local Veterans clubs such as Sunflower Veterans Club, Sun City Veterans Club, and the Marana Veterans Club to assist their members applying for disability ratings.

Thank you, Joe Shambo, for your service to the Country, and our community!