

Eldon DeVere Henderson (DeVere)

Loveland HS Class of 1959

US Air Force

June 26, 1959 – November 26, 1986

First LHS graduate to attend the United States Air Force Academy
graduating June 5, 1963 as 2nd Lieutenant.

Tactical Zone Forward Air Controller, Kontum, South Viet Nam, 1966-67

Retired from the Air Force as an O-6, Field Officer, Colonel, November
26, 1986



I was born at Larimer County Hospital, Fort Collins, Colorado on April 1, 1941. My father was a graduate of Fort Collins High School and my mother attended Loveland High School. I attended first and second grade in Fort Collins schools, and grades three through eight at Fort Logan Elementary school. We moved to Loveland during June, 1955. While at LHS I was northern Conference wrestling champion my junior and senior years, and placed second and third in state my junior and senior years. I also lettered in football, sang in the choir, and was active in student council. At the beginning of our senior year Mr. Harold Ferguson, our principal, asked me where I was going to go to college. I told him I planned to go to Colorado School of Mines on a wrestling scholarship. He asked me if I had ever considered the Air Force Academy. I applied and with the help of the wrestling coach, Karl Kitt, I was given an appointment to the academy. I graduated from the Academy and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, United States Air Force, 5 June 1963, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Basic Science. I married Sharol Rowland, LHS Class of 1958, and we were married at the Loveland Methodist Church on 22 June 1963. We had three sons, Mark, Matthew and Patrick.

Our first assignment was to pilot training at Williams AFB, AZ 1963-1964, where I was trained to be a fighter pilot. Our succession of assignments was: 445th Fighter Interceptor Squadron (FIS) (F-101B),

Oscoda, Michigan, 1965-66; Forward Air Controller/O-1E training at Hurlburt Field, Fort Walton Beach, FL., 1966, 24th Tactical Zone Forward Air Controller, Kontum, South Viet Nam, 1966-67; 59th FIS (F101B), Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, OR, 1967-1970; student, Master of Science, Aeronautics and Astronautics, Stanford University, CA, 1970-71; Associate Professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences, United States Air Force Academy, 1971-74; student, graduated with Highest Distinction, Naval Command and Staff College, Newport, RI, 1974-75; 49th FIS (F-106), Griffiss AFB, Rome, NY, 1975-1977; Project Checkmate, Pentagon, 1977-1980; National War College, Fort McNair, Washington, DC, 1980-81; Commander, 6171st Air Base Squadron, Kwang Ju Air Base, Republic of Korea, 1981-82; Deputy Commander of Operations, 18th Tactical Fighter Wing (F-15C and RF-4C), Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan, 1982-85; Vice Wing Commander, 325 Tactical Training Wing (F-15C and T-33), Tyndall AFB, Panama City, FL, 1985-86. I retired from the Air Force as an O-6, Colonel, on 26 November 1986.

After retiring from the Air Force, I worked for a small company providing systems engineering and technical assistance to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency on experimental aircraft programs. After earning my PhD in Systems Engineering at George Mason University, 1999, I became an Adjunct Research Staff Member at the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA). While in that position I volunteered in 2006 to go to Iraq for three months to evaluate technologies intended to negate the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) threat. I retired from IDA in 2013. Served as a member of a Wild Fire Type 3 Incident Management Team, 2015-19, and on the County Planning Commission, 2017-19. I am now fully retired and enjoying my family and friends.



USAF pilots in Pleiku, Viet Nam 1966. I am second from the right. To my left is Mike Dugan who later became Chief of Staff of the US Air Force.



This is me and USAFA classmate, an A1-E pilot, sitting among stacks of Cluster Bomb canisters.

In what was to be the last TRIAD Exercise with United States, Australian, and New Zealand Air Forces during October 1984, I led the 12th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 18th Tactical Fighter Wing, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, with eight F-15C aircraft to the Royal New Zealand Whenuapai Air Force Station, a short distance from Auckland on the north Island. I was the 18th Wing Deputy Commander for Operations, a Colonel.



This is me (front row, fourth from right) with the Lieutenant Colonel Squadron Commander, on my left, and his pilots, with F-15C and base operations in the background.



This is a photo taken by a local journalist that was published in the Auckland newspaper. It shows an F-15 creating vapor streamers, by pulling a high G load, against the background of a full moon. The Squadron Commander and I (on the left) are holding the photo with the young captain and major pilots behind us.



This is me (front right) at Kwang Ju Air Base, Republic of Korea, as the 18th Tactical Fighter Wing (F-15C and RF4-C) Deputy Commander for Operations, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa. I am escorting the USFK Combined Forces Command Commander and his subordinate commanders and senior staff during Team Spirit 1984.