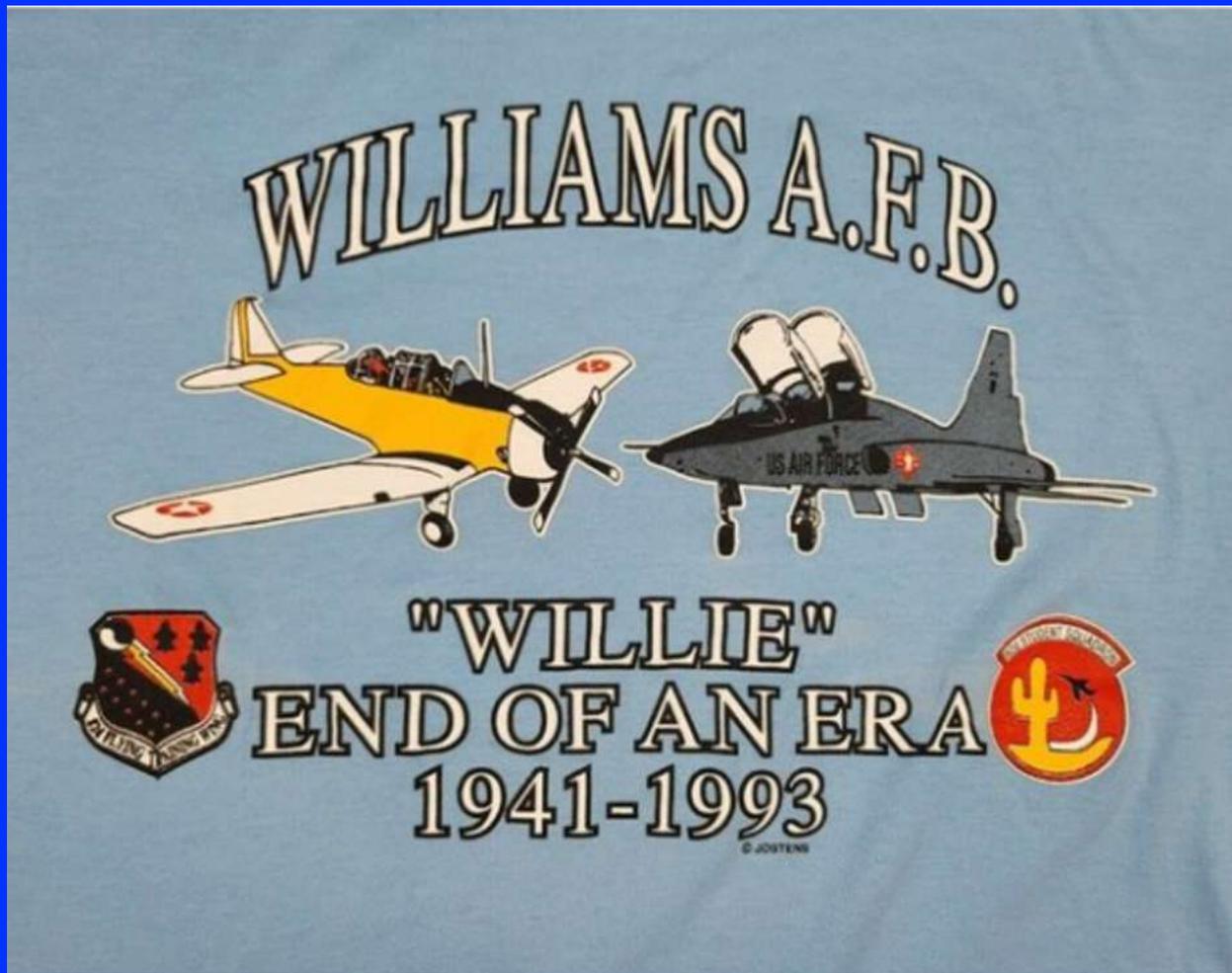


Willie Flight 822



Willie was initially named **Mesa Military Airport**. the name was changed October 1941 to **Higley Field**, the base being in the proximity of the town of Higley, Arizona. In February 1942, the growing military airfield's name was changed to **Williams Field** in honor of Arizona native 1st Lt Charles Linton Williams (1898–1927). Lieutenant Williams died on 6 July 1927 when his Boeing PW-9A pursuit aircraft crashed near Fort DeRussy, Hawaii. Williams Field was re-designated **Williams Air Force Base** on 13 January 1948. The Base was closed in 1993 and officially reopened as Williams Gateway Airport in March 1994. In 2007, the name of the Airport was changed to Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport.



WILLIE FLIGHT 82
Order of Daedalians
 P.O. Box 11261, Chandler, AZ 85248
<http://www.willieflight.net>



December 2022



FLIGHT CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Happy New Year fellow Daedalians!

Thank you for trusting me with the flight. The last time I served as flight Captain was 2001-2002.

Many things have changed since then. Notably, the paperwork for the Flight increased as Federal banking laws made financial transactions reportable beyond the IRS charity rules.

The War on Terror made flying less approachable to young people, decreasing the enthusiasm for “slipping the surely bonds of Earth”.

Continuous deployments around the planet have worn the military aviation ranks to few numbers, impacting the recruiting and training of future war fighters.

Luke Chapter closed their doors, reducing the support for the Daedalian Flight ROTC scholarship program.

We have our work cut out for us!

Financially, we are OK. The flight has double the resources from 2002. National has 8 million dollars to support the scholarship programs, assisting the Flights with matching scholarship funding.

Daedalian membership is open to more categories than ever before!

The commercial aviation sector is strapped for pilots, too. Pay and works rules are pushing the safety limits on career pilots.

We may be getting older, but we are wiser. We have several important areas we can make significant contributions.

Sig Nelson

Still flying!

NEXT MEETING:

It will be on Saturday, 11 February at The Doubletree by Hilton Phoenix Mesa. The address is 1011 West Holmes Ave. Mesa, AZ 85210.

Speaker Topic: “Battle of Dak To”

Time: 1100 Social Hour, 1200 Lunch

Meeting Dress: Dressy Casual

Price: \$35 per person.

Note: Scholarship Raffle tickets are 6 for \$5.

Reservations: To make a reservation, please contact your Element Leader (page 6), by Friday, 3 February. For questions, please call Tom Waldron (480-883-0853 or 602-743-3661).

Cancellations: If you have made reservations and you cannot attend, please contact Tom Waldron (480-883-0853 or 602-743-3661) as soon as possible, so he can notify the restaurant. Cancellations made after the Sunday before the meeting will incur a \$35 charge.

Need a ride? Art Stark for help; 480-277-4700.

2023 Meeting Calendar			
11 Feb	General Meeting	16 Feb	Staff Meeting
11 Mar	General Meeting	16 Mar	Staff Meeting
8 Apr	General Meeting	13 Apr	Staff Meeting
13 May	General Meeting	18 May	Staff Meeting

Officers & Staff:

Elected Officers:

- Flight Captain: Sig Nelson, 602-793-4367
- Vice Flight Captain: TBD **HELP!**
- Treasurer: Gary Schooler, 480-208-6615
- Scholarships Chairman: Jay Norton, 480-897-0379
- Provost Marshal: Rick Drown, 480-857-1757

Appointed Staff:

- Flight Adjutant: TBD **HELP!**
- Elements Co./Chaplain: Tom Waldron, 602-743-3661
- A-V Support: Art Stark, 480-288-9301
- Webmaster: Kurt Gearhart, 480-329-1936
- Biographies: Gary Klein, 480-650-5522
- Asst Scholar./Awards: Gary Zettl, 480-415-6854
- Newsletter Editor: Bill Follette, 602-619-5445

January Meeting







Captain Carole
Leigh Litten USN
(Ret.)

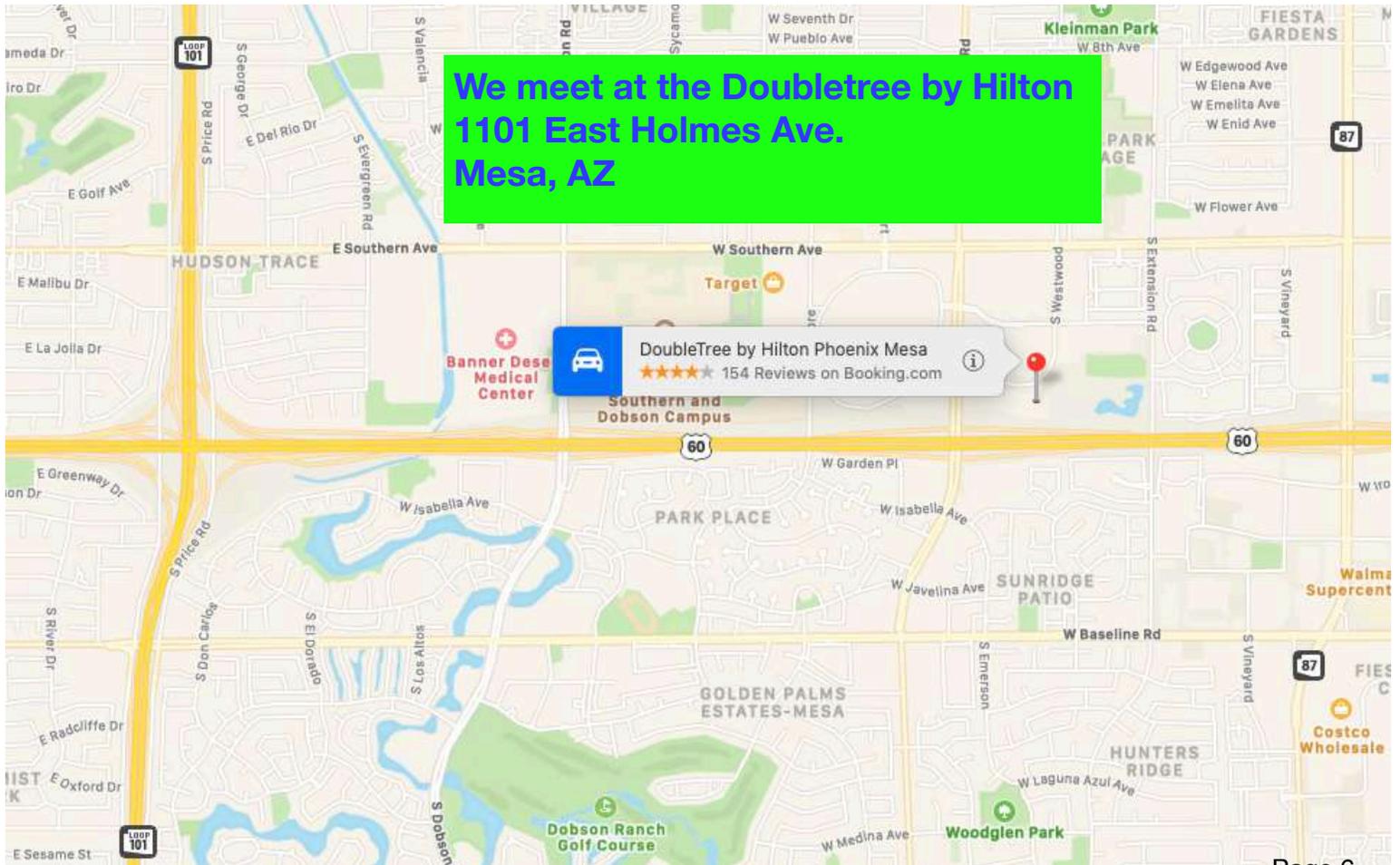


Attention All : Your element Leader may have changed; be sure to check it out!!!!

Flight 82 Dinner Reservation Procedures:

When you get this newsletter, please contact your Element Leader (shown below) to make a reservation by the Saturday prior to the meeting. If that does not work, please contact Tom Waldron (480-883-0853 or 602-743-3661).

MEMBERS	ELEMENT LEADER	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
ALLEN TO BURKE	SIG NELSON	sig.nelson@cox.net	602-793-4367
BUSHKO TO FOLLETTE	ART STARK	artstark6160@gmail.com	480-277-4700
FRANKLIN TO JOHNSON	GARY ZETTL	gzettel@msn.com	623-680-2603
JONAS TO OLDROYD	BILL FOLLETTE	bill@strategicquality.com	602-619-5445
OLNEY TO STARK	TOM WALDRON	mojack7@msn.com	480-883-0853 or 602-743-3661
SULLIVAN TO ZETTL	RON PERKINS	rbperkins@cox.net	602-295-3880





**Outgoing Flight Captain Ron Perkins
swearing in our newly elected Flight 82
Officers for 2023.**

Elected Officers:

Flight Captain:	Sig Nelson, 602-793-4367
Treasurer:	Gary Schooler, 480-208-6615
Provost Marshal:	Rick Drown, 480-857-1757
Scholarships Chairman:	Jay Norton, 480-897-0379

Our February Speaker



Willie Flight Daedalians

Lt Col Jake Sorenson's Biography

Command pilot with 4993 hours jet fighter time which includes 367 hours of combat, 100 missions over North Vietnam and 67 missions in support of US troops in South Vietnam. Aircraft flown include T-28, T-33, T-37, T-38, F-80, F-89D, H and J RF-101, F-4C, D. Duty tours in Iceland, France, Japan, Viet Nam. Awards: Meritorious Service Medal, DFC w/3 OLC, Air medals W/13 OLC, Purple Heart, Combat crew medal, Good conduct medal and other lesser awards and decorations. Won the 1964 international Long-Range reconnaissance (Royal Flush) contest in Europe. Served as Chief of Stan Eval and Squadron ops at Williams AFB. Served as AF Liaison to Commander 7th Fleet. After retirement practiced as a Real Estate Broker. Test conductor and project manager in checkout and acceptance operations on the B-1B bomber, Rockwell International. Flight Test director for the C-17 Aircraft, Mc Donnell Douglas. After setting up the ground test equipment and sound proofed facilities, retired.

One more thing: While assigned to DaNang AB in 1967, I flew 176 combat missions of which 100 were over North Vietnam. I was shot down by hostile ground fire while supporting ground forces in contact near DakTo in South Vietnam near the Cambodian border on December 31st and both me and my GIB (Guy in Back) were rescued by an army helicopter crew.



A Happy rescued pilot returning to home base



If you have not yet paid your Flight 82 dues (\$25), please do so soon, at the luncheon meeting or use the form below and mail it in.

NOTE: National dues are collected separately -- if you are not a life member, Daedalians' HQ will bill you directly.)



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FLIGHT 82 DUES FOR 2023: If you need to pay your local dues, please pay it at the next meeting or print out and complete the form below, clip at dotted line, and send to:

*Willie Flight 82
P.O. Box 11261
Chandler, Arizona 85248*

Enclose a check for Flight dues (\$25) and add any scholarship donations you would like to make. Please make your check out to "Willie Flight 82"

NAME: _____

(First) (Last)

RANK: _____ SERVICE: _____ ACTIVE _____ RETIRED _____ or OTHER _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-Mail: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: Annual Flight Dues (\$25): _____

Scholarship Donation: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Reminder:

Local Flight 82 dues are now \$25/yr

Luncheon Meetings are now \$35



DID YOU KNOW.....



**BEER AND WINE IS AVAILABLE
AT THE HOTEL FRONT DESK
DURING OUR LUNCHEONS**

When is a raffle really not a raffle??

**Reminder: Our raffle is really a method to
collect donations for our annual ROTC
scholarship fund.**

“Normal Donations” are always welcome too!!

Cash, Check, Memorials, etc.

**No size restrictions! A few years ago a member
gave us a \$10,000 donation!!**

!!SPEAKERS!!



"CALLING ALL SPEAKERS"



Do you have a presentation pent up inside you??

Do you have an interesting "I was There" tale of your aviation experiences?

Do you know of someone that does and might want to share it with our Flight?

Have your heard an interesting military aviation presentation at another organization you belong to?

We need YOUR help in generating speakers/ presentations for our future meetings?

VA Hotlinks



Podcasts: The Way to Learn About Issues Critical to Veterans

Many podcasts and radio stations feature shows that focus on Veterans' topics, such as the PACT Act, health care news or career advancement programs. You can also hear entertaining and inspiring stories about Veterans. A lot of Veteran-theme shows are now airing on radio stations and podcasts.

[READ MORE](#)



[North Face](#) 10% off online and in-store. Available for active duty, reservists, Veterans, retirees, and spouses and dependents of active duty military.

[Asics](#) 40% off retail price online.

[Timberland](#) 10% off select styles online with valid credentials. Available for active duty, Veterans, reservists, spouses and dependents.

[VIEW ALL DISCOUNTS](#)



How Telehealth Can Help Treat Depression, Anxiety

Are you experiencing signs of depression and anxiety? An Army Veteran explains how she manages her mental health through a combination of VA telehealth therapy sessions, physical activity and medication.

[WATCH AND LEARN MORE](#)



Take Charge of Your Life and Health

Whole health is changing how VA provides care to Veterans--empowering and equipping you to take charge of your life and health. You answered the call and fulfilled your mission. Now it's time to focus on what matters most to you!

[LEARN MORE](#)

[WATCH](#)

Aviation News



Pentagon receives additional UFO reports, no sign of aliens

By Tara Copp, The Associated Press with Defense News

The U.S. has now collected 510 reports of unidentified flying objects, many of which are flying in sensitive military airspace. While there's no evidence of extraterrestrials, they still pose a threat, the government said in a declassified report summary released Thursday.



Can You Actually Live in an Aircraft Hangar Like Top Gun's Maverick?

By: Stefanie Waldek with
Popular Mechanics

If you, like many others, were captivated by the summer 2022 blockbuster Top Gun: Maverick, you might've noticed one pretty cool detail in the film. Maverick, played by Tom Cruise, lives in the aircraft-lover's dream home: an aircraft hangar where he also parks his vintage World War II plane. (Fun fact: that P-51 Mustang actually belongs to Cruise, who earned his pilot's license after filming the original 1986 Top Gun.)



Pentagon racing to restore US superiority in hypersonics

By: Courtney Albon with Defense News

WASHINGTON — In 1959, the U.S. Air Force and Navy partnered with NASA to fly a piloted hypersonic test aircraft, the X-15, for the first time.

During that flight, the high-speed vehicle designed to travel at speeds of at least Mach 5 was dropped from under the wing of a B-52 bomber flying over the Mojave Desert in Southern California. Pilot Scott Crossfield carried the aircraft to an altitude of 52,341 feet and reached a peak speed of Mach 2.11.



The Military Aviation Quiz 128

Welcome to the Military Aviation Quiz! How well do you know your modern military aircraft?
Test your aircraft recognition skills here

MAYBE YOUR PURPOSE ON THIS PLANET ISN'T ON THIS PLANET.

The FY20 National Defense Authorization Act approved a new, independent Space Force within the Department of the Air Force. As this new military branch takes shape in 2020, we'll be recruiting the brightest minds in science, technology, aerospace and engineering to meet its needs. Join us. The future is where we'll make history.

GET STARTED



**Foulois Facts: Commemorating the first military flight
By Steve Elliott 502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, Texas –**

March 2 marks a monumental day in the legacy of aviation. On that day, 107 years ago, a young Army lieutenant named Benjamin Foulois made history when he piloted the Army's first aircraft, Signal Corps Aircraft No. 1, over Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

The original Signal Corps Aircraft No. 1 was a Canard biplane with a four-cylinder Wright 30.6 horsepower engine driving two wooden propellers via a sprocket-and-chain transmission system. "Old Number One," America's first military airplane, was an earlier machine than the Model B the Wright brothers began building in their Dayton factory in 1910.

USAF Believes It's Making Progress Training New Pilots

FlyingMag.com | 20 Nov 2018 | by Rob Mark

U.S. Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson recently told a Senate Armed Services readiness and management support subcommittee that the branch trained 1,160 new pilots in fiscal 2017, and expects to train 1,311 in fiscal 2019, before expanding further. The Air Force wants to train 1,500 new pilots each year by fiscal 2022 as part of its effort to solve its troubling shortage of aviators. Increased pilot training capacity will become even more important as the Air Force seeks to increase its number of operational squadrons from 312 to 386 by the end of 2030.

The Air Force said it's taken several steps to try and improve air crew's quality of life and quality of service, one of the problems that leads some aviators to leave the Air Force. Wilson highlighted efforts to reduce operating tempos, revitalize squadrons and restore support staff so air crew can concentrate on flying, as well as generous incentive pay and bonuses. [Read more.](#)

JCS CHAIRMAN Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr., the Air Force chief of staff, and Gen. David Berger, the Marine Corps commandant, are the leading candidates to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, according to The Wall Street Journal. Army Gen. Mark A. Milley is scheduled to step down from his role as the Pentagon's top uniformed officer when his four-year appointment ends Sept. 30. President Joe Biden is expected to announce his nominee for the position this spring.

National Guard Association United States (NGAUS)

e-mail blast 24 Jan 2024



Fighter pilot to receive Navy Cross more than 70 years after classified dogfight with 7 Soviet jets

By Max Hauptman, Task and Purpose
More than 70 years ago, Navy Capt. Royce Williams flew in one of the greatest dogfights of all time, taking on seven Soviet jets alone in an engagement that remained classified for decades.



This is on the internet, so it **MUST be true!!!**

What do soldiers think of non-combatant military personnel?

Depends.....

Chaplains: across the board respect. Enough said.

Physicians/Nurses/Medics: Respect

Judge Advocate General attorneys: Wary avoidance. Don't want these people anywhere near you.

Military Police/CID: Incandescent hatred down to insolent disrespect. Most suffer from Cartman's Disease ("You will respect my authority!"). They are the only personnel who move around constantly with firearms, but they've got badges and act like tinpot dictators. Like civilian cops, they are never around when you need them, and they are always around when you don't. They are not combat troops and do not fight or participate in combat operations. They also do not train with the rest of us, and live in separate areas on base as part of their job.

Then comes combat-service support soldiers, such as quartermasters, transporters, signals/communications, cooks, combat engineers, maintenance/mechanics, and all the others whose primary duty is not to fight, but to function within the combat areas. The straight combat-arms folks look down on these people, but grudgingly admit that they at least work or move on or near the front lines.

Moving on, there is the field artillery, a combat arm that sits wayyyyyyyyy behind the front lines, and so are ever so slightly denigrated by armor and infantry. Armor (tanks) is second in attitude only to infantry.

Infantry are the foot soldiers, with traditions into pre-Roman times, and so believe that they are the ONLY true soldiers in any military organization. They're not wrong, but . . . dude, if you ride into battle in an M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, or fly in on a Blackhawk, then you're a tenth of a degree above a tanker. Sit back down on your steel bench and shut the f**k up.

Straight leg infantry is next higher, because (to them) it's a badge of honor that they have to walk everywhere they go. Strange thing to be proud of on a modern battlefield, but hey.

At the top of the pecking order is the Airborne. Because (to them - and, honestly, many others) if you ain't Airborne, you ain't sh*t. The 82nd Airborne is perhaps the most needlessly arrogant organization in the entire Army. They act like the next Normandy drop is just around the corner, calendar-wise, and they stand ready to perform a 20,000-strong mass tac drop on Wuhan City tomorrow if necessary. The fact that the Air Force doesn't have anywhere near the planes required for even 3000 jumpers is irrelevant - they are THE Airborne, by God, and you, buddy, are a dirty leg who can only aspire to the greatness that is the All-American Division. I have actually been told this to my face by a young female 82nd private, who had the uniform cranberry beret but did NOT have jump wings. The fact that I wore wings and had upwards of 18 jumps under my belt was, to her, beside the point.

Stay the hell away from the Airborne. Unless you're SF or Ranger, Airborne is practically irrelevant on the modern battlefield. They will NEVER jump mass-tac WWII style again, but like ostrich heads in the sand they refuse to acknowledge it.

Did I say top of the pecking order? Aviation is the bastard step-child of the bunch. Never in uniform, always late, every excuse in the book why their bird can't mission just now. Yet their noses sit higher than anyone's, and that's because these. people. fly. In flying machines. Machines that fly. Way up there, above the rest of us. Pilots. Copilots. Crew chiefs. Flying. It's magical, isn't it? And they need their crew rest, dammit.

(P.S. The above holds much truth, and most veterans will recognize it for what it is: typical ball-busting among service branches within the Army. Please do not type back at me angry to defend your MP detachment's honor. I'll buy you a beer - once I determine that you're not on duty and will not issue me a post ticket. Snoogins.)



Our new Flight Captain

...a few years ago

Sigsbee Nelson



Member Memory Pictures

Steve Mefford

A shot from back
in the day: C-130



**What Did You Fly?
Got any Pictures? Hero Pictures?**

Kurt Gearhart, fellow Willie Flight member and Master Webmaster, has been diligently working to vastly improve our web site. He has asked for photos of our members with the airplanes they flew. We would like you to send photos to both him at kurtgearhart@mac.com and Bill Follette, Newsletter Editor, at bill@strategicquality.com

Art

F-4 Phantom II,
Killer Fighter Jet

Bill Follette

Special Ops
CH-3E

