

My name is Christopher Allen Ward

I was born on May 15, 1950.

As a young man I lived in Hawthorne California until my 19th birthday. On May 6, 1969, I enlisted in the US Air Force. While in Basic Military Training I turned 19, but there was no cake or celebration, only the incessant marching, learning to salute and firing rifles.

After completion of BMTS and Technical School (I was selected to become a Security Policeman. I was at home in September 1969 for 30 days before being reassigned to Suwon Air Base in South Korea. I remember watching the moon landing with my family.

My years of service in the US Air Force span 26 years. Specific dates were 05/06/1969 to 05/31/1995.

After a 13-month tour at Suwon AB Korea, I returned to the US and was assigned to Edwards Air Force Base, in the Mojave desert. I loved that Security Police Squadron and base. I guarded the flightline aircraft and responded to in-flight emergencies. The rocket propulsion laboratory was 26 miles from the main base, but still on the base. The sled that Howard Hughes was part of was still on the base, as well as other experimental equipment from an earlier age.

Other assignments during my 26-year career were two more to South Korea, Assignments to Whiteman AFB in Missouri, also at McGuire AFB, New Jersey.

I was assigned to Camp New Amsterdam, the Netherlands from 1984 to 1988. While there, I was selected to attend President Ronald Reagan's historic visit to Bitburg Air Base, Germany. There he met with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

From 1988 to 1990, I was assigned to Iraklion Air Base, Crete, Greece.

Upon my return to the US, I was assigned to Falcon AFB, Space Command, in Colorado. That's where I completed my military career.

My decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two oakleaf clusters; Air Force Commendation Medal with three oakleaf clusters; Navy Expert Pistol Medal; Air Force Achievement Medal; Air Force Training Ribbon; Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon with two devices; Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon with one device; National Defense Service Medal with one device; Air Force Longevity Service Award with five devices; Humanitarian Service Medal; NCO Professional Military Education Ribbon with two devices; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with one device; Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with device; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with two devices; Air Force Good Conduct Medal with seven devices.

I retired from the US Air Force while assigned to Falcon Air Base, Colorado. But, while assigned to McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey in 1983, I received temporary orders

to deploy to Grantly Adams International Airport, Barbados in support of Operation Urgent Fury. This was a joint US Military operation in Grenada. I spent approximately 35 days supervising the security police unit we previously deployed to Barbados to protect the airport. I also supervised the first and several transfer of Cuban prisoners from Grenada by US Air Force C-130 aircraft to Grantly Adams Intl Airport. There they were released to the Cuban government.

At the time of my retirement, I was at the rank of Senior Master Sergeant (E-8).