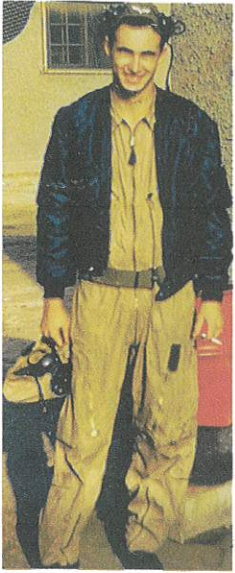


AVIATION WALL OF HONOR

M/Sgt. Harvey N. Rutherford, USAF



Harv was born in Santa Cruz, California in 1932. His schooling was in Santa Cruz and Salinas, California and he graduated from Salinas High School in 1950. During his teen years he became interested in model airplanes and built solid and flying models. This love of model airplanes continued well into his 80's, flying RC models.

He enlisted in the Air Force on 11 May, 1951. After basic training he went to Lowry Field, Denver, Colorado to remote control turret school to learn the gunnery system on bomber aircraft. After being assigned to a B26 combat crew, he went to Korea in Feb., 1952 and flew his first combat mission on May 17, 1952 over Hamhung, North Korea. He flew a total of 50 combat missions over North Korea in B26's as an aerial gunner, with the last mission on Sept. 11, 1952. Enemy flak was encountered on every mission. On some low level missions (100-200 feet) the flak was directed at his aircraft from mountains above him. During this tour he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) and Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters for bombing and strafing North Korean convoys, flying low over the targets.

After Korea, he was transferred to Biggs, AFB, Texas, flying B50D's as a gunner. In April, 1955 B50's were phased out so he transferred to KC 97's, remaining in TX as an inflight refueling technician (boom operator/ "boomer").

Subsequent permanent change of station (PCS) include:

- RAF Station, Sculthorpe England in October, 1956, flying KB29P's and from February, 1957- November, 1958, flying KB50's. In March 1958, wing tanks were removed and replaced with jet engines, changing the designation from KB50 to KB50J.
 - Dow AFB, Maine in November, 1958, flying KC 97's
 - Mather AFB, California in July, 1963.
 - Castle AFB, California for KC135 boom operator school. This was included in his time at Mather.
 - K.I. Sawyer, AFB, Michigan in February, 1968 retiring on 1 June, 1972. Between 1963 and 1969, he flew 235 missions over Vietnam in KC 135's as a boom operator.
- During his career he had 6,731 hours of flying time. Of this, 1,135 hours were combat.
As a "boomer", he off loaded over 25 million pounds of fuel. (1 gallon=6 pounds)

Temporary assignments (TDY) include:

- Within the United States- Alaska; Florida; Hawaii; Louisiana; Massachusetts; New Mexico and Oklahoma
- Outside the United States- North Africa; the Azores; Eniwetok Atoll; France; Germany; Greenland; Guam; Holland; Ireland; Italy; Iwo Jima; Japan; Kwajalein; Labrador; Midway Island; Newfoundland; Okinawa; Philippines; Spain; Thailand and Taiwan.

Medals awarded include:

- Distinguished Flying Cross
- 11 Air Medals
- AF Presidential Unit Citation
- AF Outstanding unit award with V for Valor and 4 bronze Oak Leaf Clusters
- AF longevity with 4 bronze Oak Leaf Clusters
- Small arms expert
- Korean Presidential Unit Citation
- AF Commendation Medal
- AF Combat Readiness Medal with 1 bronze Oak Leaf Cluster
- AF Good Conduct Medal with 2 bronze Oak Leaf Clusters
- Army Good Conduct Medal with 3 Loops
- National Defense Medal with 1 bronze battle star
- Vietnam Service Medal with 5 bronze battle stars
- Korean Service Medal with 1 silver battle star
- United Nations Service Medal
- United Nation Observer Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

