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Period 1

Arthur Cobb
Air Force
1968-1972
2016

Arthur Cobb

Arthur Cobb was born on April 15th, 1949 in Pomona, California. His parents Robert and Katherine had a total of three children including Arthur himself. After he graduated from La Quinta High School in 1967, he attended Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. Arthur Cobb considered himself a "Cali Boy" mainly because he enjoyed spending his time surfing in Huntington Beach and he did not really have a defined focus for his future. When Mr. Cobb was drafted in 1968, it really opened his eyes and checked him into reality.

Mr. Cobb was drafted half way through his second year of college during the time period of the Vietnam War. He was then given the opportunity to choose what branch he wanted to enlist in. After taking many mental and scholastic tests, Arthur chose to follow his older brothers footsteps and enlist into the Air Force. After he enlisted, he was sent to bootcamp in San Antonio, Texas with no idea of what his duty would eventually become. The physical aspect of camp was not very difficult for Arthur because he was already in shape from surfing, however the mental aspect was a tough transition for him. Not only was it intense, but it also forced him to obtain more of a disciplinary mentality that would last him a lifetime. During his last three days at boot camp, he learned that he would be attending an electrical school in Denver where he would learn how to fix planes that were involved in the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam War lasted from November 1st, 1955 until April 30th, 1975. Arthur Cobb contributed his time and talent towards being an electronic technician on a Jet Fighter/Interceptor for four years (1968-1972). After attending electrical school for nine months to learn how to do his job correctly, he was stationed in places throughout the United States in places where aircraft would be effective. He was first stationed in Oxnard, California where he was assigned to a repair team. During his time in Oxnard he married his current wife, Paula on May 10th, 1969. He eventually was stationed in Klamath Falls, Oregon and then stationed in Grand Forks, North Dakota for two years. While serving in Grand Forks, he became close to many people and faced very tough weather conditions. He also had a daughter named Carisa during his time in North Dakota. During Mr. Cobb time in the service, he was scheduled to get sent to Korea for duty but his mission got cancelled. The reasoning behind the cancellation is still left unclear, however Arthur believes that it is because he worked on high flying planes which were not effective in that area. He thinks that they needed low flying planes, which is not what a Jet Fighter/Interceptor plane does. His duty technician was to ensure that the fighter jets were ready for battle at all times. Being a Jet Fighter/Interceptor was a very stressful task because any simple mistake could cost a pilot's life. When times got tough, Arthur was fortunate enough to be able to keep in touch with his family and rely on his faith in God to get through it all. Luckily, nothing went wrong during his time in the service because the check and balance system was very efficient.

Vietnam veterans were looked down upon once they returned from the war and the transition back to reality was very tough. Many vets turned to drug abuse to get through the tough times that they had to face on their own. Unfortunately, Mr. Cobb lost a close friend to

heroin when he returned from war because he had lost faith in God and felt as if drugs were the only option that could help him get through the times of discrimination. The disrespect for Vietnam veterans made it tough for Arthur to find a job after his return to reality because there was discrimination against veterans that served.

Amongst his return from service, Mr. Cobb found that many things had changed since the time that he had joined the Air Force. Immorality began becoming acceptable in society. Hippies were also becoming more popular. Despite the changes that were going on around him Arthur still managed to make his marriage work out, raise two children, go back to school, get a job, and buy a house. Arthur was fortunate enough to be able to raise above the influences of society and continue living his life in a healthy.

Being in the service had a huge impact on Arthur Cobb's life. It taught him disciplinary skills that he still uses to this day. It also taught him how to tell the difference between right and wrong. For him, it was a reality check that forced him to transition from a boy to an independent, responsible man. Luckily, Mr. Cobb said, "Being in the Air Force was a positive experience that brought him closer to God." The only negative aspect of his time in the military was the fact that he lost his hearing from working around the loud jet engines.

Nowadays, Arthur can be found at Liberty Church where he is a part-time pastor and teaches the Bible. He also counsels young married couples. He is still happily married to the same woman he married forty seven years ago (Paula) and he still keeps in touch with a few people that he served with. His daughter is a close friend to a 98 year old vet with whom Arthur has grown a friendship with as well. Being able to meet such a wonderful man was honestly such an honor and an experience am very grateful to have been able to be apart of. Arthur Cobb really

made an impact on our life and helped us understand that fighting for what we believe in is very important in today's society.