

Jacob Martin
Robert Yates
Per. 5

Fred Bringhurst
Airforce
26 Years
2018



Fred Bringhurst

Our veterans name is Fred Bringhurst he was born in Salt Lake City, Utah. However when he was four months old he moved to Alhambra, California where he lived until his marriage. When he went to college at Brigham Young University he joined the Air Force R.O.T.C. and when he graduated he received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force. He then began his training as a navigator, because the Air Force was critically short of navigators, in Waco, Texas. Then went through Navigator-Bombardier training in Sacramento. And Kansas. Finally endured survival training in the High Sierras where he was tested physically, and emotionally with realistic training.

During Mr. Bringhurst time in the Air Force he was stationed in seven different bases. First, he was a Navigator Bombardier in B47s in Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. After five years at Mountain Home AFB, he went to Mather AFB as an instructor Navigator. The third place he was stationed in was March AFB as a Radar Navigator in B52s. Then he was brought to Omaha, Nebraska (Offutt AFB) and became an Operations Planner on the Airborne Command Post. Next he was stationed at NORAD headquarters at Colorado Springs, Colorado (Cheyenne Mountain Complex). He became the Airfield Manager at Marquette, Michigan (K.I. Sawyer AFB). His final assignment was at March AFB where he was Chief of Operations Plans. During Mr. Bringhurst's entire career he flew 104 combat missions in B52s. They bombed targets in

Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Their crew was also selected to go on ground and helicopter missions in Vietnam. "The worst part about it was the limited family time.", Fred Bringhurst.

LANDING WITH A LIVE BOMB!!!

"We were doing a routine bombing run and after the bombs were dropped there was still one light that hadn't turned off (lights turn off once the bomb is dropped). The bomb was armed and was stuck inside the carrying unit. The crew needed to decide whether or not to eject from the plane and let it go down. After some conversation we decided to make an attempt to land at the base. As we made touchdown the bomb shook loose from the carrier and began to roll around in the plane.", Said Mr. Bringhurst, "It was the fastest I ever ran 500 feet!!!"

Three of the most important people, locations, organizations and dates in Mr. Bringhurst's life were as follows. First was when President Kennedy had decided to use B47 Planes to make the war end quick fast and in a hurry, the plan was put to a halt when Kennedy was assassinated and V.P. Johnson decided that the plan would create too many problems and pulled the plug. The second major location was called Looking Glass - an airborne command force that would have conducted the leadership role after a nuclear attack. The third and final was the NORAD Headquarters - Cheyenne Mountain Complex.

Mr. Bringhurst always wanted to be a military man, but he wasn't always sure which branch he would like to go into. Once he became a freshman at BYU he joined the Air Force R.O.T.C. and once he graduated from college, he received his commission as a second lieutenant in the Air Force. He picked the Air Force because it was the only R.O.T.C. program available at BYU. It was his dream, but it was also a great way to support his wife. He stated that in the first few days of service he was given 800\$, "I felt like the richest man in the world, it was more money than I had ever seen!", Fred Bringhurst. The great news didn't end there, Mr. Bringhurst

was informed that he wouldn't have to go through boot camp, he only needed to go through the summer camp for the R.O.T.C. program in college between his Junior and Senior year. However, not all his time in the military was smooth sailing.

During Mr. Bringhurst's time in the Air Force there was four instances that he was almost killed. One of which was when they needed to land with a live bomb rolling around on the plane. The second time that he almost died was when the plane had a severe amount of ice on the wings of the plane, the pilot needed to do a nose dive and pull up on the yoke just before they crashed, Mr. Bringhurst states, "There isn't words to describe how close I was to pulling my shoot." Another very close call was while they were refueling mid flight (one plane flies above and sends fuel down to the other.) the plane stalled and started to descend at high speeds. Another very close call was a time when the B52s were taking off and the plane right after theirs crashed and exploded. Other than those instances he flew 104 combat missions in the Vietnam war (Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia) in B52s. For those missions he received ten medals and awards: Meritorious Service Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with One Oak Leaf Cluster, Combat Readiness Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, AF Longevity Service Award Ribbon with Five Oak Leaf Clusters, and Small Arms Expert.

Mr. Bringhurst loved his time in the Air Force, but it was difficult to be so far from his family with such limited forms of long distance communication. It was only communication by letter or an operator line. "They were some of the greatest years of my life." Fred Bringhurst.