



**A/1C Joseph P. McClain,
21st Field Maintenance Squadron
Chambley AB, France
Nov. 1954 to Nov. 1957**

A/1C Joseph P. McClain was assigned to the 21st Field Maintenance Squadron, Chambley AB, France as a Jet Engine Mechanic for the J-47 Engines used in the F-86 Aircraft from November 1954 to November 1957. During this tenure he served as the NCOIC to Engine Build-UP and Minor Repairs supervising the assembly and minor repair shop of the J-47 engines.

Joe rotated in 1957 to Westover AFB, Massachusetts and attended training on J-57 Engines after which he became a Senior Jet Engine Mechanic for KC-135 Jet Engines. He also attended graduated with honors from the USAF Leadership School.



In December of 1958 Joe was reassigned to SAC Headquarters and the 34th Air Refueling Squadron, Offutt AFB, Nebraska. Joe was married in February 1959 while assigned to Offutt. During his tenure Joe retrained to a Jet Aircraft Mechanic and was Assistant Crew Chief on the KC-135 Aircraft. He participated in Operation Looking Glass and completed his High School GED.

Joe also participated in several USAF talent contests winning 37 first place trophies and Touring with Tops in Blue. He also appeared on the “Ted Mack Original Amateur Hour” on April 2, 1961. Joe retrained again this time to an Aircraft and Missile Analysis. However Joe was not able to get promoted beyond E-4 so he took his Honorable Discharge in June of 1962.



From June to November 1962 Joe lived in New York City, where he was originally from. Unfortunately Joe could not find a satisfactory job because he did not have a college education and had to work for low wages as a laborer. Joe decided to go back into the service mainly to further his education so in November of 1962 Joe enlisted in the US Army as a Private and went to basic training at Fort Jackson, SC.

In January 1963 after completing basic training Joe was assigned to B Battery of the 6th Missile Battalion, Louisville, Nebraska as Missile Launcher Rail Mechanic. Joe was promoted to PFC (E3) and to SP4 (E4) while assigned here. During this assignment Joe applied and was accepted for a new Army Career Field in Biomedical Equipment Technology (BMET) and was assigned to the Medical Maintenance School, Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado in February 1964.

Joe graduated with honors in May 1964 and was assigned to the US Army Hospital, Fort Polk, Louisiana where he repaired medical

equipment. He Applied and was accepted for the Biomedical Equipment Technician Advance Course at Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center.

Joe arrived at the Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center School in June 1966. He graduated from the Biomedical Equipment Technician Advance Course in January 1966 and was assigned to Womack Army Hospital Fort Bragg, North Carolina. While assigned to Womack Joe attended University of Maryland at night attaining about 18 credit hours. Joe was promoted to E5 soon after his arrival and was wavered on time in grade due to prior service and promoted to E6 six months later. Joe volunteered for combat in Vietnam and was shipped to the 1st Advance Platoon of the 32nd Medical Depot in May 1967.



Joe served in Vietnam from May 1967 to April 1968 seeing combat in Saigon, Bien Hoa, Soc Trang, Tay Ninh, Nha Trang, and Cameron Bay, My Tho, Dion and many other provinces. He served during the big Tet Offensive and received several combat awards.

Joe arrived at Patterson Army Hospital, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey after his Vietnam Tour in April 1968. While assigned there Joe was promoted to SFC (E7) in 1969, attended an additional 39 credit hours of classes at Newark State University.

Joe applied for a warrant officer commission and received his commission in September 1971.

Joe was assigned as Commanding Officer to the 630th Medical Detachment, Fort Meade, Maryland from October 1971 to December 1973. Joe was promoted to CW2 one year after his assignment. While assigned to Fort Meade Joe applied and was accepted for the US Army's Surgeon General Degree Completion Program.

Joe attended the University of Nebraska from December 1973 to December 1975 graduating with a Bachelors Degree in Biomedical Engineering. He graduated on the Deans list with a 3.8 GPA. Joe stayed on at the University in a student status until April 1976 when he was reassigned to the US Army Hospital in Berlin Germany.

Joe was assigned to Berlin from 1976 to August 1979. While in Berlin Joe was once again promoted to CW3. Also during Joe's Berlin assignment he continued his education and graduated with a Master of Science Degree in Human Development Counseling and Organizational Behavior from Oxford England.

Joe was assigned to Walter Reed Army Medical Center August 1979 as the Chief of Biomedical Equipment Technology Branch of the Clinical Engineering Division. Joe retired from the military with over twenty seven years of active



duty on June 30, 1981.

Joe went to work for International Shared Services as the Manager of Marketing for the Mid-Atlantic State and Clinical Engineering Consultant.

In June of 1962 Walter Reed Army Medical Center converted the Director of Clinical Engineering Division from a Colonel to a GS-13 Department of Army Civilian (DAC). Joe applied for the position and was hired by Walter Reed Army Medical Center on July 1, 1982.

Joe served as the Director of Clinical Engineering Division from July 1, 1982 to October 1, 2002. During his tenure Joe was promoted to GS 14 and received his PHD in Business Administration. As the Director of the Clinical Engineering Division (Directorate Of Logistics), Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Joe had the overall responsibility for the planning, scheduling, staffing, directing, implementing, and managing the total installation maintenance and equipment management program for the largest U. S. Army Medical Center in The Department Of Defense, Walter Reed Army Institute Of Research, Armed Forces Institute Of Pathology and all Army Medical facilities in the Military District of Washington involving Clinical, Biomedical, Dental, Communication, Electronic Equipment and Instrumentation. Responsible for the total services on approximately \$250,000,000.00 of equipment and an operating budget of over ten million dollars



(\$4,000,000.00 = pay role & \$6,000,000.00 = services and supplies) annually. Acted as the technical adviser to the Commanding General, the Chief of Staff of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command which covered US Army Health Care Facilities in 21 states. Served as the management representative for the government in negotiations with the American Federation of Government Employees Local 2. He also served as the temporary Deputy Director of Logistics whenever the position was vacated due to military reassignments. The Deputy Director is a LTC (Lieutenant Colonel - 05) position.

Joe retired for the final time on October 31, 2002 with almost 49 years serving the US Air Force and Army. Joe has 5 children. He was divorced in 1991 and remarried to Josephine M. Gomez. His second wife Josie died in September of 2003.

Joe remarried again in February 2007 to his present wife Barbara Ann Barth. He and Barb presently reside in Gilbert, Arizona and he is the web master of the Chambley AB web page as well as many other retirement hobbies.

