



David A. Mangan

Currently the Veteran Service Officer for the Town of Wakefield Massachusetts, Served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War from 1969 – 1970. He is active in providing navigational direction for Veteran Benefits for Veterans from WW2 to Afghanistan. As a Jet aircraft mechanic specialist on the F-105 Thunderchief, he performed maintenance as a crew chief on three aircraft that were nuclear strike bombers during the Vietnam War from a remote base along the Cambodian Border in Thailand and in the central highlands of Thailand.

Right out of high school in 1968 he was drafted, but went into the Air Force because prior to his enlistment he was a volunteer in an auxiliary known as Civil Air Patrol, a search and rescue component of the United States Air Force and an avid mechanic on race cars. As an officer in this program it gave him insight into military discipline and leadership towards directing his team in Vietnam towards successful missions. He was promoted rapidly to staff sergeant at the age of 19 and was responsible for turning aircraft around for missions within 12 hours. The combat support out of Thailand was Secret and virtually unknown to the American theatre. We lost over 325 F-105 aircraft alone from Thailand and the majority of the prisoners from downed aircraft were pilots from these bases.

Prior to his induction he was a photographer and developer at The Complete Photo Service in Cambridge Mass. where he was offered a full scholarship to the Rochester Institute of Technology photography school in New York. Unfortunately, it did not come with a deferment. He took several photo's while serving in the War and has compiled them into a power point presentation dedicated to his best friend Michael Guzzetti U.S. Marine who was killed just a few weeks upon his arrival at Quang Nam province while on patrol in Vietnam.

David currently serves on the Veterans Advisory Board for the town of Wakefield and prior to living in Wakefield he lived for over 34 years in Melrose Ma. He started the Junior Achievement program in Melrose and was the program director for over 10 years teaching at the Beebe and Lincoln Schools 2nd and 3rd grade classes.

After retiring from Boston College as the Catering Operations manager in dining services for over 25 years, he found a place to assist and help Veterans find support and direction as they re-enter into society looking for their benefits.