

Misty 4 Biography, Gary Tompkins

Name: Gary R. Tompkins

Nickname: Panther Lead (when CC of the 353TFS)

Date of Birth: 12 February 1938

Highest Military Grade held: Colonel, 06

Home Town: Culver City, CA; Lake Arrowhead, CA for the last 34 years

Education

1. Civilian:

BA (Geography) UCLA 1960

MA (Public Administration) Auburn - with ACSC- 1972

2. Military:

AFROTC UCLA Det. 50

UPT Craig AFB AL, Class 62F

Advanced Fighter Training (F-100) Luke AFB, AZ 1962 (early graduation due to Cuban Missile Crisis)

Air Command and Staff College Maxwell AFB, AL 1972;

A-7D transition, Myrtle Beach AFB, SC

Air War College (Seminar program at Myrtle Beach AFB, SC)

Parachute training USAFA

MANY TDY courses from COIN School, to weapons and tactics etc.

Units assigned (Dates – Unit - Aircraft, if applicable):

Mar. 1961- Mar. 1962. Craig AFB, AL. Undergraduate Pilot Training. T-37, T-33

Apr. 1962- Dec. 1962. Luke AFB, AZ. Fighter Training. F-100C

Jan. 1963-Jan. 1967. Hahn AB, FRG. 50 TFW, 81st TFS. F-100D

Feb.-Jun '67 & Oct.'67-Mar.'68 Bien Hoa AFB, RVN; 3rd TFW; 90th TFS; F-100 D/F

MISTY 04: 16 Jun. 1967- 16 Oct. 1967 Phu Cat AFB, RVN (det. 1, 416 TFS); F-100F

Mar. 1968- Jun. 1971 USAF Academy, CO; AOC Cadet Squadron 02; Flew T-33 for USAFA orientation flights and also IP for ADC at Peterson AFB; Cessna 172 for cadet pilot training.

Jun 1971- Aug 1972 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL (stayed on to finish MPA); no flying.

Aug. 1972- Oct. 1974 England AFB, LA. A-7D

75 TFS- Assistant Operations Officer; Instructor A-7 SAR School

76 TFS- Operations Officer

Oct. 1974- Jun. 1977 Myrtle Beach AFB, SC 353 TFS- Commander A-7D and 355 TFW- Chief, Stan Eval

Jun. 1977- Mar 1982 USAF IG Norton AFB, CA

Mar. 1982: Retired

Decorations:

Silver Star (2), one with Misty, one with 90 TFS

Distinguished Flying Cross

Air Medal (16)

Meritorious Service Medal (2)
Presidential Unit Citation (2)
National Defense Service
Vietnam Service
Combat Readiness (2)
RVN Gallantry Cross (stars, device etc.)
Vietnam Campaign + several I can't figure out!

After Retirement.

Mar. 1982 - Jun. 1983: CSUSB Teaching Credential
Sep. 1983- Jun 2008: Taught AP History, Government, Economics at Rim of the World High School, Lake Arrowhead, CA.

Now retired, retired.

Truly Important Stuff: Family.

Married to Patricia Susan Astello Tompkins since July 1960
Children: Charles (born Craig AFB, May '61; died Mar. 2011);
Eve (Born Luke AFB. Nov. 1962), Larisa (Born USAFA 1969)
six wonderful grandkids including one boy who loves airplanes and wears a Misty hat.