

## David Roy McCormick

Born: Apr 24, 1938  
Island

Died:

Svc # AF 16 549 483

Period of Service: Korea  
Air Force  
Sources: Carol and ED  
O'Neill

David graduated from high school, registered for the draft at 18, but enlisted in the Air Force on July 31, 1956. He took training at Park Air Force Base in Haywood, CA, and thereafter was sent to Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas for four months advanced training to become a photo interpretation specialist. He was then assigned to the 15<sup>th</sup> Recon Techron at March Air Force Base in Riverside, CA for the Strategic Air Command (SAC). In 1958 he received his TOP Secret Clearance. His unit was a precursor to today's NSA. He cannot talk about his work because it was and still is classified.

David said security was tight at March Air Force Base. Armed guards were posted and you had to show your ID before entering the building, although he had one story about "lax security". One day the commander of SAC, General Curtis LeMay, flew in unannounced. He walked right into the ReconTech building, right past the sentries and into the room where David was working. An officer shouted 'ATTENTION' and everybody looked up. The room was full of highly flammable photos and negatives hanging down from the ceiling. Casually General LeMay pulled out and lit a cigar. After a few puffs he turned and said, "Doing a good job, men." Then he turned around, walked out and disappeared. Later we were informed that everyone in the building was restricted to base for the weekend because no one challenged the General when he entered the building.

Dave was honorably discharged at March Air Force Base on July 20, 1960 and awarded a Good Conduct Medal.

In 1961, Dave took a job at Fairchild Air Service mapping Afghanistan. He also worked in Saudi Arabia but most of his post Air Force life he was in California as a draftsman.

In 2005, he moved back to Washington Island, where he lives today. While he does not count his service as valuable as those of combat troops, his service helped in the Cold War; it was from aerial photos that the Russian buildup of missiles in Cuba was discovered and countered.