

The Military History Of

Gary Edward Rosing



Proud American Veteran



Three Rivers, Pittsburgh, PA

Military Service Summary:

- United States Air Force (USAF), 22 yrs 1 mo, as both enlisted (7.5 yrs) & officer (14.5 yrs)
- Joined USAF, 2 Mar 1964, Pittsburgh, PA
- Retired USAF, 1 Apr 1986, Sacramento, CA

Military Discharge: Honorable

Military Chronology:

- Enlisted: 2 Mar 1964 – 15 Sep 1971, achieved rank of Staff Sergeant
- Officer Training School: 22 Jun – 15 Sep 1971
- Officer: 15 Sep 1971 – 1 Apr 1986, achieved rank of Major

Education:

- B.S. Electrical Engineering, Widener University, Chester, PA, Jun 1969 – Jun 1971, selected under Airman's Education & Commissioning Program (AECPP), Magna Cum Laude (3.73 GPA)
- M.S. Systems Engineering, Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), Dayton, OH, Sep 1971 – Mar 1973, Cum Laude

Military Medals:

- Small Arms Expert ribbon
- Air Force Longevity Service Award ribbon with four bronze oak leaf clusters
- National Defense Service Medal
- Air Force Good Conduct Medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster
- Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with two devices
- Air Force Commendation Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster



Military Photo:

- 5 Jul 1984, Major, the last Formal Military Photo taken for Personnel Record



Military Security Clearances:

- Held both top secret (with special handling) and secret clearances, which required Office of Special Investigation (OSI) and other background checks as to personal character, finances, family, etc
- Maintaining security clearances, which required constant vigilance & dedication, was a significant personal achievement, with no smoking or drugs involved on my record, then and now.

Military History by Dates:

1. 1 Nov 1945: Birth, St. Joseph's Hospital, Southside in Pgh, PA, as **Edward Gary Koppitz** ... named Edward in honor of my uncle, who died on a flight leaving China after the Japanese had surrendered. He died a mere 34 days prior to my birth. It's a long story to now be called Gary Edward Rosing.
2. 10 Jun 1963: Graduated Baldwin High School, Pgh, PA, top 10% of 450+ class; accepted to Penn State University for enrollment in Sep 1963; family unable to come up with finances; did not attend.



Senior Photo



Graduation – Siblings

3. 2 Mar 1964: Enlisted in USAF from Pgh, PA. Sent to Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX for basic training. Selected as squad leader & received Outstanding Airman of the Flight Award.



4. Apr - May 1964: Do not know the date when I completed basic training. Went downtown San Antonio to the Alamo upon graduation. Traveled by bus from Lackland AFB to Keesler AFB for Technical School training. During that bus trip from Texas to Mississippi, I witnessed the heart of the Civil Rights Movement (e.g., bathrooms at gas stations labeled white men, white women, and “black”).



Gary on Left with Friend

5. May – Sep 1964: Technical School training, Morse Intercept Operator, Keesler AFB, Biloxi, MS. Housed in old 2-story WWII barracks ... 20+ guys per story with beds laid side-by-side in two rows with no privacy ... especially in the single latrine for both floors. Peeled many potatoes for KP (Kitchen Patrol) duty and cleaned the grounds around the buildings many times. Wisely, the Air Force eventually hired contractors to perform all the KP duties and let the airmen do what airmen should do.

Note: To pass Tech School, you had to be able to copy Morse code at 22.5 wpm ... would you like to hear what code being sent at that speed sounds like? It was not easy ... try it by going to this [Morse Code Translator](#) website. Type in a fairly long phrase into the Input, like “Now is the time for all ...” Hit translate to see what the code looks like in the Output, type in 22.5 in the Speed/wpm field, then hit Play to hear what the speed sounds like. Could you do it?



Gary w/photo in shorts w/Friends



My WWII Barracks

6. 3 Nov 1964 – 29 Oct 1965: Assigned to USAF Security Service Command, Shemya AFS, Alaska, a 1-year remote tour on a 2x4 mile, 2nd last island on the Aleutian Chain, about 90 miles from Russia. Copied Russian Morse code with Army personnel to monitor & track Russian space launches and nuclear weapons tests ... race to the moon was underway.

Barely 19, Shemya changed my life forever. Petula Clark's "Downtown" album was my mental getaway. I became a barber and cut hair for 95 cents to raise money to send home, as I did with the "candy concession" at work plus the "movie theater concession" on my off time.

As a 1-stripe airman, we all were assigned lots & lots & lots of KP to feed the 1200+ military & contractor personnel on-site. Besides your main military job up at the very top secret building copying code ... where you switched shifts every 4 days from days, to swings, to mids ... KP duty was assigned about every 4th day and that lasted for 23 hours ... with four meals being available to all every day ... no one wanted the hot, humid "washing the dishes" job. Guys would sell that 23-hour shift for \$25, which I took advantage of on many occasions to send more money home.

I experienced the 3rd largest earthquake ever in the U.S, magnitude 8.7, on 4 Feb 1965 (Rat Islands, Alaska). We watched the island heave up & down into the ocean. We all feared that the expected tsunami would have killed us all if it came at full intensity. The island was only a max of 70 feet above sea level ... we felt the joy when still alive at daybreak.

7. A great website on Shemya's history is <http://www.hlswilliwaw.com/aleutians/shemya-homepage.htm>. I took the photo below upon leaving Shemya. It also appears in the Shemya website.





Gary on Right w/Friend



Gary's Room w/Friends
(3 beds & lockers to a room)



Map of Aleutian Islands

8. Nov 1965 - Dec 1968: Assigned to USAF Security Service, Brooks AFB, San Antonio, TX to monitor & track special 'Looking Glass' aircraft conversations, other Air Traffic Control traffic, and to travel throughout the U.S. to tap government phones to monitor & track unauthorized classified conversations.
9. 1966 – 1968: Enrolled at San Antonio Jr. College to obtain 30+ credits to apply for the Airman's Education & Commissioning Program (AECP). Under this unique military program, selected military persons were to receive a full scholarship to attend a university in their home state.
10. Jan 1969 – Jun 1971: After a grueling selection process (testing, interviews, straight A's for all courses), I was one of about 200 out of 2500+ AECP candidates selected to the program; sent to attend Widener University, Chester, PA (actually, it was named Penn Morton College at the time). Received B.S. in Electrical Engineering with an emphasis on a new "Systems Engineering" curriculum. Attended classes all year long. To help the family financially, I worked at the Philadelphia Airport as the weekend midnight manager to clean all areas of the airport. Also, worked as the Maintenance Manager at a large, nearby apartment complex. Went through all this with my good friend, Donald Kosco.



Graduation Day w/Family & Friends in our Apartment



Graduation Day Photo

11. 22 Jun 1971 – 15 Sep 1971: Attended Officer Training School (OTS), Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX, Class 72-03. Upon completion, became 2nd Lt. Completed Road Runner program, ran the fastest quarter mile, lost much weight, was bed-posted for hiding chocolate chip cookies, and was the OTS Kazoo Band Leader, authorized to wear the Mickey Mouse headgear after each Saturday morning parade in front of the entire OTS group.



Graduating Flight Photo



Just Commissioned 2nd Lt.



Leading OTS Kazoo Band

12. 21 Sep 1971- 21 Mar 1973: Assigned to the Air Force's Institute of Technology (AFIT), Wright Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH, to obtain a M.S. in Systems Engineering degree. Class photo & thesis project shown below. I was lead editor for the final 2 volume, 1200+ page classified document.



Thesis Cover Page



Master's Group Photo

13. 12 Apr 1973 – Jun 1977: Assigned to the Air Force Logistics Command (AFLC), San Antonio Air Logistics Center, Kelly AFB, San Antonio, TX ... as an avionics reliability engineer on the massive C-5A cargo aircraft. I was also tasked with programming the C-5's critical on-board flight computers. As a volunteer, I also gave tours of the C-5A to many community groups.
14. Jul 1977 - Dec 1980: Assigned to Wright Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH to HQ AFLC. Worked as an avionics engineer on several operational aircraft programs. Assigned to the tri-service program to put the **first 4** of 24 GPS satellites into orbit, a technology that has since proven to be a great benefit to the world in many areas. Personal achievement was being given the privileged assignment of escorting Dr. Edward Teller, renowned "father of the H-Bomb", during his 1-week visit to the annual meeting of the high-level Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), which makes recommendations to the President on what new technology should be funded. Dr. Teller signed his SAB place card and gave it to me.



Dr. Edward Teller's Note



White Mess Dress

15. Dec 1980 - Jun 1983: Re-assigned as senior engineer in AFLC to the Command's Inspector General's (IG) Team to travel around the country evaluating engineering policies & management effectiveness at all AFLC bases around the country, which included the Sacramento Air Logistics Center (SMALC), Sacramento, CA. Created the new Weapons System Management Inspection (WSMI) program to evaluate AFLC's support for operational aircraft systems, e.g. the A-10. Diploma received on 21 Jun 1982 for completing Squadron Officer School program.



Gary, as Captain, on Right

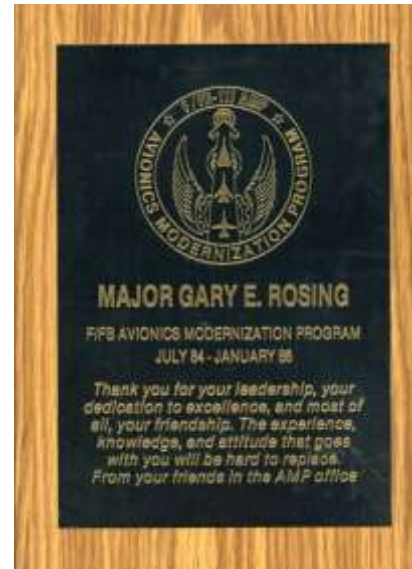


Mess Dress Dinner Night

16. Jul 1983 - 31 Mar 1986: For being on the very demanding and much traveled IG team, I got to choose my next assignment, which was SM-ALC, McClellan AFB, Sacramento, CA. I was assigned to manage the F-111 engineering program office. I was later assigned to become a co-program manager on the [F/FB-111](#) Avionics Modernization Program (AMP), a major Air Force modernization effort involving many U.S. companies & sub-contractors. Created a new way to evaluate both Air Force & contractor logistics performance. As a result, I was awarded my 2nd Meritorious Service Medal, which depicts one of the highlights of my military career for it represents all the hard work of the 22 years.



FB-111A Aircraft



Special Plaque from the People of the AMP Office



Unfortunately, my last 5 months on active duty was spent either in a hospital or recovering at home from a botched colon sigmoidoscopy on 31 Oct 1985 at Mather AFB, Sacramento, which resulted in extreme peritonitis and almost my death. Emergency surgery was performed at David Grant Medical Center, Travis AFB, Fairfield, CA, about 70 miles away. It changed my life forever, and regretfully, I never had the formal retirement ceremony with a military parade afforded to all retirees. My family, neither here in Sacramento nor back East, never got to witness this special moment with me.

17. 1 Apr 1986: Retired from active duty as a Major with 22 years of service. I was on an USAF Special Order, approved for promotion to Lt. Colonel, but declined it as I would have incurred another 3 years of active duty service. Expecting my next assignment would be the Pentagon, I was ready to retire.

POST-RETIREMENT

18. Apr 1986 – Apr 1990: 1st job post-retirement, hired as Program Manager for a Sacramento company, Logistics Systems Architects, in support of the highly classified **F-117 Stealth Fighter** Program, being managed by the AFLC at a nearby secret & secure location at McClellan AFB, Sacramento, CA. The F-117 was flown operationally, under cover of night and out of Russian satellite coverage, at the infamous AREA 51 outside Las Vegas, NV. My task was enriching ... but totally unknown to my family ... the intriguing story behind this is interesting, involving President Reagan and lost engines.

SUMMARY

The USAF offered me an opportunity to achieve my personal goals of an education, career challenges, mental & physical discipline, a patriotic mindset, a respect for my family who served and died, and a respect for the “salute” ... the greatest gesture that one can give to the fallen, to our flag, and to our country.

The USAF also offered me and my family an opportunity to travel around the country and to experience the joys and hardships of being a military family. My daughters will always remember.

USAF, thanks for the memories! For love of country,

Gary E. Rosing, Major, USAF Retired

P.S. With so much turmoil in the world this year of 2007, when former active duty & reserve members are called back to duty to serve and protect the United States of America, please remember these words:

“SLEEP WELL TONIGHT AMERICA ... YOUR **U.S. AIR FORCE** IS ON GUARD!



With humor ... I did not know this pilot



May 2007 Photo – Kathleen and I – Married 8 Sep 2001

END OF STORY