

## ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Curt Fouts.

Curt was born and raised in Assumption, Illinois, the son of Roger and Rhea Fouts, and grandson of Maria Haizeruk. He enlisted in the Air Force in August of 1982, and he retired as a Senior Master Sergeant in 2007.

Upon completing technical training as a Space System Technician at Lowry AFB, Colorado, he was assigned to the 2162<sup>nd</sup> Communications Squadron, Buckley ANG Base, Colorado as a Satellite Readout Station crew member and later assistant crew chief.

In May 1985, Curt was reassigned to the 1978 Communications Group, Howard AFB, Panama, where he tracked weather satellites. He served a three month tour at US Army South Headquarters assigned to Joint Task Force Panama, monitoring the increasingly volatile situation in the country leading up to the US invasion and ouster of General Manuel Noriega.

In January 1990, Curt was reassigned to the 4th Space Warning Squadron, Holloman AFB, New Mexico as a Mobile Space Systems Crew Chief. He deployed for Operation Desert Shield that same year.

In April 1995, Curt was reassigned to the 3rd Space Communications Squadron, Kapaun AS, Germany as a Crew Chief and later Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, where he led his team to command-level awards and error-free inspections. His proudest technical achievement was planning and installing the unit's four-building, 100-node computer network.

He was promoted to Master Sergeant in May of 1998, and was reassigned to Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, where he filled various assignments at Air Force Space Command and 21st Space Wing Headquarters managing Missile Warning, Strategic Satellite Communications and Space Control programs.

He deployed to South America in 2001 and 2003 in support of counter drug operations, and in March 2005, he left for a 1-year tour as Superintendent of CENTAF-Forward Communications Operations and Engineering Division, Southwest Asia. He supervised over 120 deployed personnel and led deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan to improve radio communications that directly supported the war efforts in those countries. He received the 2006 Air Force Science and Engineering Award for his part in the Radio Over IP project that improved communications for Iraq's treacherous convoy routes.

Curt married the former Gilma Solis of Los Santos, Panama on 8 February 1992. They have three children, Maria, John, and Ana. They live in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where Curt works as a Satellite Communications engineer supporting Protected Milsatcom Command and Control nodes.

His Awards and Decorations include: Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2 oak leaf clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal (3 oak leaf clusters), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Recognition Ribbon, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Ribbon, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border

Thank you, Senior Master Sergeant Curt Fouts, for what you gave for us and sharing your story.

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