

## William H. (Bill) Ernst

I was born in St. Louis, MO 13 Dec 1932 and grew up in Kirkwood, MO. Graduated from Colorado A&M and commissioned as a 2Lt in the AF Jun 1954. Called to active duty in Aug for primary pilot training in Bainbridge, GA. I earned my pilot wings at Williams AFB then went to advanced training at Randolph in the B-29. I was transferred to Whiteman in Dec to fly the KC-97 and T-33. In 1962 at Lockbourne, I transitioned into the KC-135 as an AC and IP, later attending CFIC and IPIS. In '66, I was moved to Eielson as an IP to fly the RC-135. Was checked out in the RC-D,E, and S-models as well as the KC-A, Q, PQ and my old friend the T-33. In Oct '69, I was off to 5th AF AVDVON, Osan, Korea as a Tactical Ops Officer and flew T-33 Faker missions. Nov 1970, I was assigned to 15<sup>th</sup> AF/DOR and was an instructor in the T-39 flying DV's around the country. In July '73, was transferred to Offutt to command of the 343<sup>rd</sup> Strat Recon Sq and added the RC-135C, M, T, and U models flown. In Feb 76, I was moved to the 55th Wing ADO position. In Jul '76 was transferred to RAF Chicksands, UK to command the 6950 Sec Gp and 12 OL's throughout Europe. In Aug '78, I returned to Offutt as the chief of RC-135 operations around the world in SAC/DOR as well as having oversight of the RC-135 modernization programs. Since retiring from the AF in Aug 1984, I worked with E-Systems and Raytheon until '97 and then consulted for Riverside Research, L-3 Communications and Sierra Nevada Corp until Jan 2018. In 1996, I was elected President of the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW Association, a position I held until 2005. I left Omaha in 2018 and moved to Sarasota, Fl.