

Alan J. Grill COL. USAF, RET. D.ED, M.ED, MBA

Government



Alan J. Grill graduated from Collinwood High School in 1949. After he left Collinwood, Grill was a professional musician with the Buddy Bair Dance Band, the Guy De Leo Swing band and the Six Fat Dutchman RCA Victor Recording Band from 1949 – 1950.

In 1950, Grill became a member of the United States Air Force and the USAF Band, where he performed as a saxophonist/clarinetist in marching band, orchestra and stage bands.

In 1953, Grill was an Armament Operations Officer. He provided oversight training and proficiency of aircrew personnel in techniques of bomber (B50) defense. He was also Assisted Operations Officer in planning tactical and training missions. Grill maintained a running analysis of Squadron Gunnery Performance.

In 1956, Grill became a Pilot of F89 and T33's and was a Flight Commander. He performed cockpit and hanger alert duties, flew ground controlled aerial intercepts of unknown/suspicious aircraft under all weather conditions, plus supervised and scheduled fourteen crew members.

In 1961, Grill was a Jet Flight Instructor of T33, T37 and T38's and was Tactical Training Officer and Director of Officer Training where he served as Captain. He served as flight and classroom instructor for officers in Undergraduate Pilot Training, and supervised all areas of officer training for approximately 350 student pilots. He helped to develop a comprehensive new military training program as the pilot student body transitioned from non-commissioned aviation cadets to officers commissioned through AFROTC and the USAF Academy. Grill also received a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Chicago in 1962.

In 1965, Grill was Operations Staff Officer and Chief of the Command Post Division at Headquarters Air Training Command. He managed the command and control system within Air Training Command. Grill served as Command Operations Officer for local base rescue helicopters, helicopter special missions, use of aircraft for emergency operations, Command directed airlift and Command contingency plans, all while maintaining his flight proficiency in T39 aircraft.

In 1967, Grill was a Forward Air Controller in Thailand. He flew low level reconnaissance missions, seeking evidence of enemy activity in Laos and Viet Nam. He marked enemy targets, directed air strikes and performed additional duties as Assistant Operations Officer and Instructor Pilot.

In 1968, Grill was a Flight Commander in Viet Nam, where he supervised eight field grade pilots and scheduled 24 pilots assigned to the Jet Division. He performed as T39 Aircraft Commander and Instructor Pilot in a unit that flew high priority passengers and reconnaissance materials through Southeast Asia.

In 1969, Grill was Operations Staff Officer and Head of the Program Control Division in Germany, where he coordinated development of USAFE plans and programs. He monitored implementation of plans and

redirected action when dictated by exigencies or variations from program milestones. Grill was cited for exceptional performance in planning and coordinating the phase down of Wheelus AFB, Libya.

In 1972, Grill was Operations Staff Officer at Air Training Command Headquarters. He prepared feasibility studies related to major operational changes in the Command Mission. He performed special evaluations of operations and training programs, plus coordinated training and operation programs with major commands and other armed services.

In 1973, Grill was Professor and Head of the Department for Aerospace Studies at Pennsylvania State University. He administered the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program to recruit, select and train candidates for commission in the USAF. He developed budgets, recruiting programs and curriculum and faculty utilization schedules. Grill served as a member of the University Faculty Senate, Presidential Appointee to the University Hearing Board for Disciplinary Matters, member of the Advisory Committee to the University Space Science and Engineering Laboratory and Primary Advisor to the 1976 Arnold Air Society National Conclave.

From 1977 – 1979, Grill was the Commander of the 3785th Field Training Group at Sheppard Air Force Base where he provided oversight of quality training for maintenance of aircraft and related systems at 87 operational detachments throughout the world. He was responsible for quality control of more than 800 technical courses and 1,400 Instructor personnel, worldwide deployment of sophisticated training equipment, development and control of budget, coordination with industrial contractors and negotiations of civilian working conditions with Union Officials. Grill was cited for outstanding leadership and judgment during unit reorganization and reduction in force.

He supervised headquarters staff of 100 military and civilian employees.

For the next 16 years, Grill was Assistant to the Dean of Human Resources and Administrative Services at the College of Education at The Pennsylvania State University. He received his Masters of Education in 1984 and his Doctor of Education in 1988. From 1979 – 1995, he provided oversight of administrative service for 250 faculty, staff and clerical employees, acted as College liaison with the University Alumni Association and the Offices of Development and Public Information, provided editorial direction for the Alumni News, a biannual publication serving more than 35,000 College Alumni, directed and coordinated fundraising efforts, including development of a national network of alumni volunteers, served as Executive Secretary for the College Alumni Society and the Faculty Council, and was a member of the University Committee on Human Resource Development.

Alan J. Grill and his wife, Claire have 5 children – David, Christy, Kelly, Derek and Kathleen. They also have 4 grandchildren – Kady, Hannah, Rebecca and Ramona.