

James Hannam, Colonel, USAF (Ret.)

Government



James T. Hannam graduated from Collinwood High School in January 1959. His mother, sister Maureen ('61), and brother Timothy ('64), all graduated from Collinwood. While at Collinwood, Jim, volunteered in the Key Club service organization, played in the Marching Band and Orchestra, was selected to the National Honor Society, elected as Bank Comptroller and Senior Class Treasurer, and graduated as class salutatorian.

He then attended Case Institute of Technology for one semester, while he applied for an appointment to the USAF Academy in Colorado Springs. He entered the Air Force Academy in June 1959, graduating in June 1963 in the top 15% of his class with a 2nd Lieutenant's commission and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering Science. President John F. Kennedy was the

Graduation Speaker.

In 1964, Hannam graduated in the top 10% of his class from a year-long Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training Course at Williams AFB, AZ, where he flew T-37 and supersonic T-38 jet aircraft. After attending Air Force survival school, he graduated from an 8 month F-105 Fighter Flying Training Course at Nellis AFB, NV. He then transferred for the next 1½ years to the 49th Tactical Fighter Wing, Spangdahlem AB, Germany, flying training missions during the Cold War throughout Europe and North Africa and sitting 15 minute Nuclear Alert in the F-105.

With the Vietnam War heating up in 1967, Hannam transferred to the 388th TFW at Korat AB, Thailand and for the next 7 months flew 100 combat missions over North Vietnam, against the most dense and deadly air defense environment to that time. Hannam was awarded 7 Distinguished Flying Crosses and 18 Air Medals and completed his combat tour in August 1967. His next assignment was to the 23rd TFW at McConnell AFB, Kansas where he was an F-105 Instructor Pilot and Flight Examiner.

Selected for promotion to Major three years early, he was next assigned in 1969 to attend Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, prior to joining the faculty at the United States Air Force Academy. He graduated from Stanford with a Master of Science in Applied Mechanics in June 1970. For the next 3 years, as an Assistant Professor he taught cadets various Undergraduate and Graduate level Engineering Science courses in the classroom, flew as an Instructor Pilot teaching cadets to fly in T-41s (Cessna 172s), in Soaring courses flying sailplanes, and in T-33 jet trainers for cadet motivational rides. Next, he attended the USMC Command and Staff College at Quantico, VA, one of two Air Force officers selected for this sister service college, graduating in June 1974. He then trained in the Mach 2, F-4 Phantom II at Luke AFB, AZ prior to moving to 432nd TFW at Udorn RTAFB, Thailand as a Flight Commander.

With the Vietnam war winding down, he flew F-4 training missions as an Instructor Pilot in Thailand and on one combat support mission flown in support of the evacuation of Saigon on April 30, 1975.

Hannam transferred to Headquarters Tactical Air Command at Langley AFB, Va and for the next 4 years was a Requirements Staff officer and flew T-39 Saberliner Operational Support Missions. While there he authored

the Air Force requirement and operational concept for the Ground Launched Cruise Missile System, that when deployed to Europe during the Reagan Administration, ultimately resulted in the USSR agreeing to an Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and eliminating a whole class of nuclear weapons delivery systems. In 1979-80, he attended the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama and also earned an MBA from Auburn University. He then transferred to an assignment at Air Force Fighter and Weapons Requirements at United States Air Force Headquarters in Washington DC, and was selected for Colonel.

Beginning in 1982 Hannam had a series of assignments and moves within Europe. He was assigned as Director of Operations, 406 Tactical Fighter Training Wing, Zaragoza AB, Spain for two years, flying the F-4 Phantom II, then the F-16 Fighting Falcon, and being responsible for operating a Gunnery Range for all US fighter aircraft in Europe. He then moved to United States Air Force Headquarters in Ramstein AB, Germany as Command Director of Inspection, directing a team of 100 inspectors, and evaluating Operational Readiness, Management Effectiveness, and NATO Tactical Evaluations to 15+ AF Units in throughout Europe. In 1985 he was privileged to be selected as commander, 40th Tactical Group, Aviano AB, Italy, located about 60 miles north of Venice and continued to fly the F-16. He commanded approximately 3000 United States Air Force personnel at Aviano and 4 other Italian bases, and was responsible for the F-16 Nuclear Alert force at Aviano. Hannam then moved back to Langley AFB, Virginia as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Requirements at Tactical Air Command, a General Officer position. In this position he was responsible for developing user requirements for new weapons systems and monitoring ongoing acquisition programs to ensure they met user requirements.

Hannam retired in 1989 as a Colonel after 26 years of service and was awarded a second Legion of Merit decoration.

For the next 16 years Hannam worked for Texas Instruments, then Raytheon in Business Development as Director of Air Force Programs and Director of Mission Support Systems, retiring a second time in 2006. At the same time he volunteered with the Air Force Association, a 125,000 member non-profit, education organization dedicated to a Strong National Defense through Aerospace Power. He has served as an Air Force Association Chapter President, Region (VA, MD, DE, DC) President, and on the National Board of Directors. Currently he services as National Vice Chairman of the Aerospace Education Council and Virginia State Vice President for Education.

Currently, Hannam resides in Burke, Virginia with Maureen, his wife of 42 years. They have three children: Dr. Kristina Hannam, Associate Professor of Biology, SUNY Geneseo, NY; LT. (USCG) James J Hannam, a JayHawk Rescue Helicopter Instructor Pilot at Mobile CGS, AL; and Michael Hannam, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Washington.