



## Donald J. Blue, Sr.

### Communications

Donald Blue joined the US Army Signal Corp in April 1953, and completed basic and technical training at Camp Gordon as a Field Radio Repairman. He was assigned to Germany in the 102nd Signal Battalion as a fixed station radio repairmen and operator. Highlight of his service in Germany was meeting and marrying his wife, Elsa. He completed his active-duty service and was discharged from the Army in April 1956.

His first job after Army discharge was at the Lakehurst Naval Air Station as a technician on the Navy's Flying Wind Tunnel research project on a specially modified ZP2G airship equipped with a retractable low speed wind tunnel post. He then worked at the US Army, Combat Surveillance and Target Acquisition Lab (CS&TA) Lab at Camp Evans, New Jersey. His initial assignment was as an electronic technician conducting airborne Research and Development projects using two DC3/C47 aircraft. Blue also worked on a number of multi-Sensor aircraft equipped with Side-Looking Radar (SLAR), an Infrared camera and a Visible light camera with electronic flash capability for nighttime missions. He accepted a transfer to the US Army Calibration Agency, Pirmasens, Germany as a bench calibrator.

While in Germany, he and his family attended the 1972 Munich Summer Olympics, site of the infamous terrorist attack. After 5 years in Germany, Blue returned to his prior job in the CS&TA Lab at Ft Monmouth after his tour ended in 1973. He resumed working on the C47 Multi-Sensor aircraft and the Remotely Monitored Battlefield Sensor System (REMBASS) program. Donald then accepted a promotion and transfer to the

Project Manager (PM) REMBASS which later merged with PM Firefinder. The PM was tasked by the Department of Defense to provide support during the 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, New York.

Blue provided on-site physical security technical support to help protect the Olympics Village and its world-wide athlete contingent during Olympics via multiple sensors, TV monitors, radars and data links. Approximately 60 sensors configured in twelve strings were used during the Olympics. Other surveillance equipment such as Camp Evans developed AN/PPS-15 radars, and closed circuit TV cameras, etc. were also part of the configuration. To ensure the sensors remained operational during the 30-day mission, an external, weatherproof battery box for the new BA-5590 Lithium Organic battery was developed and tested by personal from Firefinder/REMBASS and CS&TA lab. The protection system worked flawlessly throughout those Winter Olympics. His work at Lake Placid prior to, during and after the Olympics was physically hard, very demanding and absolutely rewarding.

Blue ended his Civil service career by promotion and transfer to the Project Manager Satellite Communication Agency (PM SATCOM) as a Logistics Manager in the Tactical Satellite Communication (TACSAT) division. He retired after eight years at PM SATCOM in 1988 and later took a contractor support position with PM Common Hardware Software (PMCHS). He permanently retired in 2004.

He and Elsa have two children, Donald Jr and Christa; plus five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Visit us: use  
your phone  
camera and  
this image  
to go to our  
website.

