

# Phillip L. Larson

**Chief Master Sergeant  
U.S. Air Force**

**Southeast Asia  
Support: Desert Storm and  
Desert Shield**



## **Positions:**

Non-Morse intercept operator

J-2 Intel NCO, 1131 Special Activity Squadron

Prepared DISSUM (Daily Intel Summary) Disseminated to White House

Television Production Specialist ( Camera Operator, On Air Talent)

Military Training Instructor – In charge of 50 Airmen every six weeks

Military Drill Instructor – was responsible for Drill & Ceremony for entire Squadron

Physical Training Instructor – Conducted PC for entire Squadron

Section Supervisor – In charge of 200 Airmen and 12 Instructors

Training Superintendent – in charge of 1000 Airmen and 60 instructors

Commandant of MTI School – Trained all newly appointed MTIs

Chief, Standardization Division – Evaluated 10,000 Airmen & 500 -600 Instructors

## **Decorations:**

**Meritorious Service Medal** with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal, AF

**Commendation Medal** with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster. AF Achievement Medal. AF

**Outstanding Unit Award** with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster.

**AF Organizational Excellence Award** with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster.

**AF Good Conduct Medal** with 1 Silver and 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster.

**National Defense Service Medal** with 1 Bronze Service Star.

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.**

**Vietnam Service Medal.**

**AF Overseas Short Tour Ribbon.**

**Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon** with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters.

**AF Training Ribbon.**

**Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Unit Citation.**

**Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross** with Palm.

Served in Support of Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield from 2 Aug 1990 -31 Mar 1994.

I was Honor Graduate at both Leadership and NCO Academy. I had the distinct honor of hosting The Vice Premier of China, The Secretary of Defense, Secretary of The Air Force, Generals from all Commands. I represented the Air Force by taking a Flag Mass of Basic Trainees and 50 Military Training Instructors to Andrews AF Base to March in Commanding General Welch's retirement ceremony.

After retirement from the Air Force, I taught High School at John Jay in San Antonio, Texas for 18 years. I am married to the former Jolinda Morales of San Angelo, Texas and we have four sons, Philip Jr., Brandon, Eric and Ryan.

I went to Ft. Bragg for Army Basic 1966, and Ft. Lee for advanced training. Then to Lackland AFB in Texas for AF training, Keesler AFB, Mississippi and Goodfellow AFB in Texas for advanced training. I had no injuries from the war. When I re-

turned I couldn't discuss anything because of a Non-Disclosure Agreement from the government. The job I had was complex—our office in Southeast Asia was to carry out our part of the war. We had many missions—to locate and rescue downed pilots, track POWs, and locate and destroy enemy targets—all of which was reported daily to White House Comm room.

Every GI gets pimped when you're new. I was thinking of home after my assignment to this unbelievable highly secured compound. So one of the guys asked me if I wanted to call home? Of course I did! I asked how do I do that? There is a phone right on that desk. So I approached it, suspicious (because it was red). I picked it up and the voice on the other end said, "White House Communications." As I slammed it down the whole room erupted with laughter!

I later learned you needed to go to the MARS station and go through several stations to get home, and you had to say "over" every time you spoke. Usually my calls went through Philippines, Japan, Hawaii, San Francisco, San Antonio and then San Angelo Texas. You were limited to five minutes. So you didn't call home often!

I didn't like the way we were received upon returning to stateside. Making it worse was the fact I couldn't discuss anything for years. Our information was collected from Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian, and Air America sources, then analyzed and sent to DC. We were a twenty-four hour a day, seven days a week operation.



**CMSAF Pflugston with CMSAF Phil Larson at Phil's Retirement**



**Phil presents an American Flag to Chief of Staff Larry D. Welch on Behalf of the Enlisted Corps of the Entire Air Force**



**Airmen on Parade in Honor of General Welch**



**Phil with the SR-71 Blackbird. Requested by Phil for a Flyover for a Graduation Ceremony**