

**By Milt Puckett, CMSgt, USAF (Retired):** Chief Chedd was my chief during my first 4 years in the Air Force. He was a very strict Chief with lots of pull with the Wing Commander. As a SAC base they were very strict on fire prevention and safety and had a rating system which fires, crashes, and the number of fire hazards reported weighed very heavy against the wing's ratings. The Wing Commander had an open door policy with Chief Chedd due to his position and importance in helping keep him out of trouble. Chief Chedd was very influential and carried a lot of weight.

The base had 2ea B-47 Bomb Wings and experienced several crashes both on and off base. There was always excitement with the B-47s. One crash in particular was the one where a B-47 crew detected smoke in the cockpit immediately after takeoff, declared an emergency, and had to return and land with



such fast air speed due to the heavy fuel load that he couldn't stop on the runway. The drag chute burst open immediately after deployment on landing and then the aircraft slid down the runway leaving tires and wheels on the runway until it crashed on the overrun and burned. An O-10 crash truck bogged down on setup and also burned. When it was all over, I think we saved a part of a wing. There was also one of the weapons on board that we didn't know about.(scary). I was riding rescue that day and lucky for me the crewmembers were able to exit on their own.

I was on duty the day Col McCoy (Wing Commander) crashed just north of the base during a bomb competition in which the British were participating.

Col McCoy was the pilot and had the British Commander (Joyce) on board with him. The entire crew perished. The base was then renamed from Pinecastle to McCoy AFB In honor of Col McCoy. I was there during the dedication ceremony.

During that era the Air Force had no dedicated rescue vehicles. Chief Chedd developed his own with a one- half ton pick-up truck equipped with 4 ea 50 lb CO2 bottles and the limited emergency entry tools we could carry. The rescue vehicle was Chief Chedd's pride and joy. He always said " If I am not the first to arrive at a crash site, the rescue vehicle had better be the first".

I don't know if Chief Chedd was one of the people who helped make the Broken Arrow Film but I think he was one of the co-authors of the Broken Arrow Procedures and TO:11N-20-11. He was truly a pioneer in AF Fire Protection. I could go on and on about Chief Chedd and my experiences with him and the tenure at McCoy AFB but I know it would just take up lots of time. To sum it up, he was a very well known and popular Fire Chief, and I will never forget my experiences under him and the influence he had on my career. He attended my wedding at the McCoy Air Force Base Chapel.

I was very surprised that after his retirement he chose to live such a quiet life that none of us retired fire chiefs knew anything of his whereabouts. He could have added so much to our gatherings. I have thought of him often and wondered where he retired and what he was doing. Guess this is just another chapter in our lives where one of our comrades answered the final call.