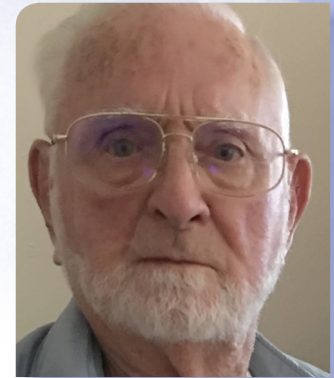


The perspectives of Retrac's Protagonist/Author — John M. Comer



My perspectives were formed during the first phase of his adult life: Age 20–25 as a USAF Pilot – **Combat Aircraft Commander** – B-26 Invaders. The B-26 Invader was the most versatile combat aircraft in the USAF inventory and the only twin-engine combat aircraft in the U.S. Military Arsenal that had only 1 Pilot.

- During a B-26's primary mission, it had 14 forward-firing 50-Calibre machine guns + six 5" Rockets hanging under the wings + ten 500 lb. Bombs in the Bomb-bay. The Navigator/ Bombardier sat in the right seat and the Gunner sat in a cell behind the Bomb-bay with flush turrets top and bottom with twin 50s each. His job was to keep defenders' heads down when we pulled off a target.
- We hunted alone in assigned geographical areas generally below 1,200' for targets-of-opportunity — 3-hour shifts or until we ran out-of-rockets, bombs and ammunition. We also did Norton-based high altitude bombing in rugged terrain. The B-26 was exceptionally maneuverable and was red lined at 425mph. When you went over-that the controls got very stiff. We occasionally rat-raced with friendly fighter flights. I could hold my own.

- I buried 3 Comrades-at-arms under the Flag of my Country, the USA. Jim's son never met his father who graduated from Princeton when you had to be able to read + write + do arithmetic to graduate from an American university and I have little patience with those who dishonor/disavow our U.S. Constitution, violate the 9th Commandment, and/or line-their-pockets at Public Expense – *literally or figuratively.*

As far as my Academic history goes, I am the 13th generation to graduate from an American University – starting with UPenn when Ben Franklin was President of the School Board. Quakers had no ministers, so needed no Universities to train ministers.

- My lineage includes a President of Swarthmore. My Quaker ancestors had more military service (Medical and support) than the total population of today's U.S. Executive Branch. My grandfather, Dr. Carter, ran a MASH unit in the Ardennes during WW1. Great Aunt Alice graduated from Cornell in 1887, and my Mother graduated from UC-Berkeley in 1924.
- The State of California gave me credit for 105 Units beyond my BA. I hold two California Lifetime Teaching Credentials:

A General Secondary, all subjects – High School, and a Lifetime Community College Credential in Communication Technology, including Printing, and held 8-other Special Subject Credentials, and was a CSU Adjunct — taught graduate requirement Classes in Graphic Arts.

- When I taught College Prep High school, my home phone was on the Rolodex in the Harvard Admissions Office. Harvard's Western Rep proposed to his wife on the couch in my living room. The members of my sponsored high school chapter of the *Junior Statesmen of America* held 4-out-of-5 of the Statewide Offices in the California Chapter of the *Junior Statesmen of America*. I was a part of Stanford University's Teacher Prep Program and my college Prep students had free access to the Stanford University Library. The boys went to improve their grades and the girls went to get a date for their Senior Prom.

Once upon a time, I was listed by *Dun and Bradstreet* — but that was in my parallel Private Sector Life.



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"By failing to Prepare, you are preparing to fail." Ben Franklin