

Col. B. Dean Smith, USAF (Ret.)  
MOWW Commander-in-Chief 1995-1996

Bertrand Dean Smith was born in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, a small rural town beyond the suburbs of Philadelphia, on November 20, 1929, just as the depression got underway. He attended high school at the Academy of the New Church in Bryn Athyn where he was the first football player ever selected to the Philadelphia area "Team of the Week" four weeks in a single season. That same year he was selected to the final All Scholastic football team as a halfback, and won the coveted Robert W. Maxwell Award for "Sportsmanship and Play on the field". He graduated in 1948.

He then attended Bullis Preparatory School in Silver Spring, MD from where he earned an appointment through the Naval Reserves to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. At Navy, he continued his football activities, setting a scoring record with the 150 pound football team ("The Middies Mighty Midgets") which averaged 60 points per game and went undefeated. He was invited to join the faltering Navy varsity team where he managed the following year to be the high scorer on the team and leading pass receiver. It was here that he experienced the thrill of scoring against the perennial opponent, Army. He claims that the Navy never lost to Army while he was on the team.

After graduation Dean received a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force and married the former Catharine C. Arrington who was raised in the same community and also graduated from the Academy of the New Church Girls' School.

Following primary pilot training at Maiden Air Base, Missouri; basic training at Vance AFB, Enid, Oklahoma where their eldest son, Stewart, was born; and advanced training at James Connally AFB; in Waco, Texas, Dean was assigned to the Military Air Transport Service (MATTS) where he had tours at Charleston, SC, West Palm Beach, Florida, and then Johnson Air Base outside Tokyo, Japan with the Air Rescue Service. There Dean participated in converting Japan from a war defeated nation to one of the world's economic giants. The next two of Dean and Cathy's sons, Christopher and Matthew were born in Japan.

Returning from Japan, Dean was assigned to Patrick AFB near Cape Canaveral, Florida where he helped with the birth of the missile development and space exploration age. On one project, actually conducted at Brooks AFB, San Antonio, Texas, he was testing NASA's space suits that were to be used in the GEMINI program. During the test, they experienced a pure oxygen fire in the space chamber which destroyed the chamber and nearly Dean and his partner. It was the first such fire any NASA sponsored project had experienced. Col. Smith has written a book on the experience title "The Fire That NASA Never Had", which will be published in March, 2006.

In 1962, he was reassigned to the Pentagon with Air Force Headquarters, where he helped pioneer the use of computers in wargaming. In 1965 he was assigned to George Washington University where he earned a Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA). During this period, Dean and Cathy's fourth son, Aaron, was born in 1967 at the National Naval Hospital Center in Bethesda, MD.

School was followed by a tour in Vietnam in 1968 where he scheduled all heavy tactical airlift in-country. In 1969 he returned to Air Force Headquarters and Operations Analysis at the Pentagon to develop airlift doctrine. From there to Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland where he was assigned to the Air Force Systems Command as Chief of the Weapons Development Division working on the concept of modular weapons. Off to the Air War College in Montgomery, Alabama in 1972,

followed by a return to the Pentagon and the Joint Chiefs of Staff as a Division Chief for Logistics in J-4.

Throughout his career, Dean filled numerous pilot positions at the Squadron, Group and Division level, retiring in 1974 as a full Colonel to go into private business as Vice President of Cranston Research, Inc.

Three years later he started his own Company, Capital Safety Associates, Incorporated and in 1989 joined forces with his sons to form Smith Consolidated Services Corporation (SC2). Col Smith's four sons, are all Perpetual Members of the Military Order.

Colonel Smith was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Military Order at the Convention in Louisville KY in August of 1995.

One of Dean and Cathy's sons, Christopher, is serving as a helicopter pilot with the 160th SOAR at Ft. Campbell, KY and has served combat tours in Desert Storm, Mogadishu, and 2 combat tours in Iraq. Their youngest, Aaron, flies the Chinook (CH-47) Helicopter for the Army Reserves and served a combat tour in Iraq with the 75th exploitative Task Force. In his civilian job he flies the MDHI 520N Notar police helicopter for Prince George's County MD. Their eldest son, Stewart is an Architect practicing in Maryland and their third son Matthew, has taken over his father's business and lives in the Maryland area. Dean and Cathy have 7 Granddaughters, 8 Grandsons and 2 great Grand sons.