

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with James Boddie

PERSON

Boddie, James , 1931-

Alternative Names: Boddie, James , 1931-

Life Dates: October 18, 1931-

Place of Birth: Baltimore, Maryland

Residence: Plano, TX

Occupations: Brigadier General, U.S. Air Force

Biographical Note

U.S. Air Force Brigadier General James T. Boddie was born on October 18, 1931 in Baltimore, Maryland. Boddie graduated from Fredrick Douglass High School in Baltimore in February 1949. Boddie received his B.S. degree in chemistry from Howard University in 1954, and his M.A. degree in public administration from Auburn University in 1975. In addition, Boddie completed military studies at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1971, and the Air War College in 1975.

Boddie received his U.S. Air Force officer's commission through the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program at Howard University, and then earned his wings in 1956. His first operational assignment was with the 560th Strategic Fighter Squadron at Bergstrom Air Force Base that was equipped with the F-84 Thunderstreak fighter plane. Boddie reported to Nellis Air Force Base in 1957 for gunnery and weapons delivery training in the F-100 Super Sabre. Upon completion, Boddie was assigned to the U.S. Air Force Europe Weapons Center in Tripoli, Libya where he served from until 1961. After his return to the United States in February 1961, Boddie assumed responsibilities as commandant of cadets at the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program at Tuskegee Institute. In 1966, Boddie volunteered for combat duty in Southeast Asia, and was assigned to the 559th

Tactical Fighter Squadron at Cam Ranh Bay Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam. In addition to his duties as operations and scheduling officer, Boddie completed a total of two-hundred and one F-4 combat missions, fifty-seven of which were flown over North Vietnam. In 1980, Boddie was promoted to Brigadier General. He then served as aviation director in the Aircraft Management office, at NASA Headquarters, from 1991 to 1996; between 2006 and 2008, Boddie served as president of Texas Southern University.

Boddie's experience as a command and combat pilot includes over five-thousand hours in the jet fighter aircraft. His military decorations and awards include the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal, thirteen Air Medals, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award ribbon, the Combat Readiness Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. Boddie also wears the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff badge.

U.S. Air Force Brigadier General James T. Boddie, Jr. was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 28, 2013.

Related Entries

Boddie, Jacob [GRANDCHILD OF]
Paternal Grandfather

Branch, Martha [GRANDCHILD OF]
Paternal Grandmother

Strickland, Rossie [GRANDCHILD OF]
Maternal Grandmother

Moore, James A. [GRANDCHILD OF]
Maternal Grandfather

Boddie, Marcia [SIBLING OF]
Sibling

Boddie, Vashti [SIBLING OF]
Sibling

Boddie, William [SIBLING OF]
Sibling

Moore, Emery [CHILD OF]
Mother

Boddie, James [CHILD_OF]

Father

Howard University [STUDENT_OF]

[from ? to 1954-04-06]

B.S.

Auburn University [STUDENT_OF]

[from ? to 1975-08-30]

MPA

Harvard University [STUDENT_OF]

[from ? to 1981-08-30]

SMG

Operational Technologies Services, Inc. [EMPLOYEE_OF]

[from 1988-10-01 to 1991-06-30]

Vice President

Texas Southern University [EMPLOYEE_OF]

[from 2006-10-01 to 2008-03-30]

President

United States Air Force [EMPLOYEE_OF]

[from 1954-04-06 to ?]

Fighter Pilot

NASA Headquarters [EMPLOYEE_OF]

[from 1991-07-01 to 1996-07-01]

Director SES-3

Link Flight Simulation Co. [EMPLOYEE_OF]

[from 1983-09-01 to 1988-09-01]

Director

Military Officers Association of America [MEMBER_OF]

Life Member

Veterans of Foreign Wars [MEMBER_OF]

Life Member

American Legion [MEMBER_OF]

Member

Military Order of the World Wars [MEMBER_OF]

Life Member

Alpha Phi Alpha [MEMBEROF]

Life Member