

**Lieutenant Harold Lee (Cowboy) Harris**  
**72nd Fighter Bomber Squadron**  
**Chambley Air Base, France**

The United States Army Air Corps was a small, under-developed air force on December 7th, 1941. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor and the United States eventual entry into the war, the Army Air Corps grew into the most formidable air force in the world. When the United States entered WWII, the Army Air Corps was in need of skilled pilots so it established a Pilot Training Program to meet these military requirements. Harold Lee (Cowboy)



Harris enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1943. He was one of the elite chosen to attend the Army Air Corp Pilot Training School. Cowboy graduated from this training in August of 1944. He served his tour and got out the service. From the end of WW2 to Korea Harold Lee Harris was a professional Rodeo Cowboy attempting to ride bronco's & bull's plus he also did some bulldogging. This is where he obtained the nickname "Cowboy".

Cowboy was recalled to active duty in 1951 with the 186th Montana Guard at George Air Force Base, Victorville, California flying F-51s during Korea.

In 1957 Cowboy was in route to become the maintenance officer at Prestwick, Scotland but was reassigned to the 531<sup>st</sup> Fighter Bomber Squadron to the F86 after one of their pilots was injured. He was the reassigned to the 416<sup>th</sup> Fighter Bomber Squadron where he ran the base

flight instrument school working with the T- 33 trainer, which was the same job that he had done previously at George Air Force Base in Victorville, California. He was also an F-86 pilot, an instrument instructor pilot as well as the maintenance officer.

He left France in about 1959 and was assigned to the Maintenance School Chanute Field in Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois. In 1960 Cowboy was shipped to McClelland AFB, Sacramento, California as a test pilot. He also was the Chief of Quality Control until approximately 1963. (AFSC's 4343 & 4344)

He was then assigned to Tacikawa Japan, Norton AFB, California and then Vietnam as a Quality Control Pilot. He then returned to Norton AFB, California as the Maintenance inspector USAF IG and the T-39 Flight Examiner with the 63<sup>rd</sup> Military Air Lift Wing.

He married but then remarried to a wife that Cowboy says “He can get along with!”. He is presently married to the later.

After Cowboy ended his many honorable years with the US Air Force he became an entrepreneur and owned his own charter boat, had a Construction Co. and was Big Game Hunting guide. Plus a number of other miscellaneous things.

Cowboy 5 wonderful children, four beautiful daughters and one handsome son. Unfortunately one of his daughters was killed in a accident about in the early part of 2008.

Cowboy is an avid Skeet Shooter and has shot on numerous Air Force Skeet teams.

In 1964 he shot on the US Air Force team that won the World Five Man Team Championship. He still shoots and in May of 2007 shot in the Armed Forces Skeet Championships at Tupelo, Miss.

For all intensive purposes Cowboy is now retired and enjoying life as an 84 years young man, living in Livingston, Montana since 1972.