



ONWARD and UPWARD BG Charles McGee Story EDUCATION KIT



Top: Charles holds up 7 fingers to mark his Fighter Group's 7,000th mission in Korea



Top: A rare color photo of Charles and Crew resting with an F-51 Mustang

Bottom: Different war, different airplane, same name — Charles and crew in front of their F-51D "Kitten" some time during the Korean Conflict

Bottom: Charles and pilots make a football line in front of their F-51 Mustang





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Education is part of life

Flying fighter aircraft and performing complicated, sometimes dangerous, missions requires continual practice and training to stay sharp and safe. The photo above is from the Far East Air-Ground Operations School and was considered an “introductory” course. Note the date — this was AFTER Charles had already served combat time in the Korean Conflict! Also note that all of those pictured were of Major or Lt. Colonel rank — this meant the men would likely be expected to share what they’d learned with lower rank officers (Captain, Lieutenant) and enlisted airmen at a later date.



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Top: Charles McGee's family

This picture was taken very close to the time of Charles' mother's death in 1921. It shows his older brother Lewis and younger sister, Ruth. Charles is seated next to his sister.

It's important to note that at this time in history, women played the strongest role in family-making. As a single-parent, Charles' father had to earn a living as well as be the primary caretaker of his family.

Top - Mr & Mrs. McGee

Frances and Charles were married in October of 1943 right before Charles was accepted for flight training. Frances knew that her husband may soon be sent off to war but was confident in her husband's ability to be an excellent pilot.



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Top top: Charles and “backseater” Name Name in front of his RF-4C in Vietnam

Top: Charles does aerial refueling in his RF-4C

Top Right: Charles meets a modern-day F-22 pilot and gives him a copy of his autobiography

Right: Charles returns from a flight in an F-16

It's important to know that Charles McGee loved aviation and kept up with the progress in technology. The first airplane he flew was a PT-26 biplane — a far cry from the Mach 2 capable air superiority fighters that he flew at the end of his career.