

May 1960 to May 2021: And Some Days in Between

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This day in history stands out as a rememberable time noting my reward for four years in college was a degree and a brown bar (a commission) in the United States Air Force. Have been reflecting this day, and a few more days in the month of May over the last 61 years. Today, I look back with a sense of pride and a sense (or hint) of forbearing – The days of May have turned out to be an almost inauspicious month.

Some dates that stand out while I was mostly wearing a flight suit.

May 29, 1960 – Graduation from Oklahoma State University

May 11, 1961 – Started Air Force pilot training at Webb AFB.

May 11, 1962 – Graduation from pilot training.

May 11, 1966 – Resigned commission in the AF and joined the Ohio Air National Guard.

May 11, 1969 – Flying a F-100 in Kunsan, Korea back on active duty with the Air Force.

– I was too busy to see what was happening...

During this time Oliver Stone and Peter Kuznick in their book *The Untold History of the United States* cite some issues from chapter 8 titled “JFK: ‘The Most Dangerous Moment in Human History.’” Some dates:

April 17, 1961 – Bay of Pigs, where 114 were killed and 1,189 were captured.

November 1961 – the Kennedys unleashed Operation Mongoose, a terror campaign against Cuba.

October 1962 – Cuban Missile Crisis, Kennedy opted for a blockade of Cuba.

October 22, 1961 – SAC went to DEFCON 3.

October 27, 1961 – USS *Randolph* dropped depth charges near a Soviet B-59 submarine (carrying nuclear weapons). One of the officers Vasili Arkhipov convinced the commander Valentin Savitsky to not shoot – single-handedly preventing nuclear war...it was that bloody close.

November 20, 1961 – the crisis ended.

April 1963 – Kennedy approved the plan to withdraw the troops from Vietnam. This was NSAM 263.

November 22, 1963 – We may never know who was responsible for killing the President.

For what it is worth, on October 7, 1963, the Senate passed the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. The hands of the Doomsday Clock were moved back to twelve minutes before midnight, or **23:48:00**.

My inauspiciousness was struck with this history as I have been too busy to see it happening...well, not really as Stone’s next chapter is about “LBJ: Empire Derailed” and I know how this comes out and why. Has to do with why I was in Korea. Has to do with studying what Lyndon Baines “GD” Johnson moved us into and why we are in the pickle we are in today.

Couple of dates to illustrate:

November 3, 2020 – the election.

January 6, 2020 – the storming of the Capitol.

March 17, 2020 – US Lockdown, and away it goes...

So today being 29 March 2021, how are we doing? Is our mask wearing, vaccines, the economy, and threat of war with Iran, Russian, or China any worse than what we went through in JFK/LBJ’s time?

Today in May, would you believe the time on the Doomsday clock? *It is set at 100 seconds: 23:58:20...*