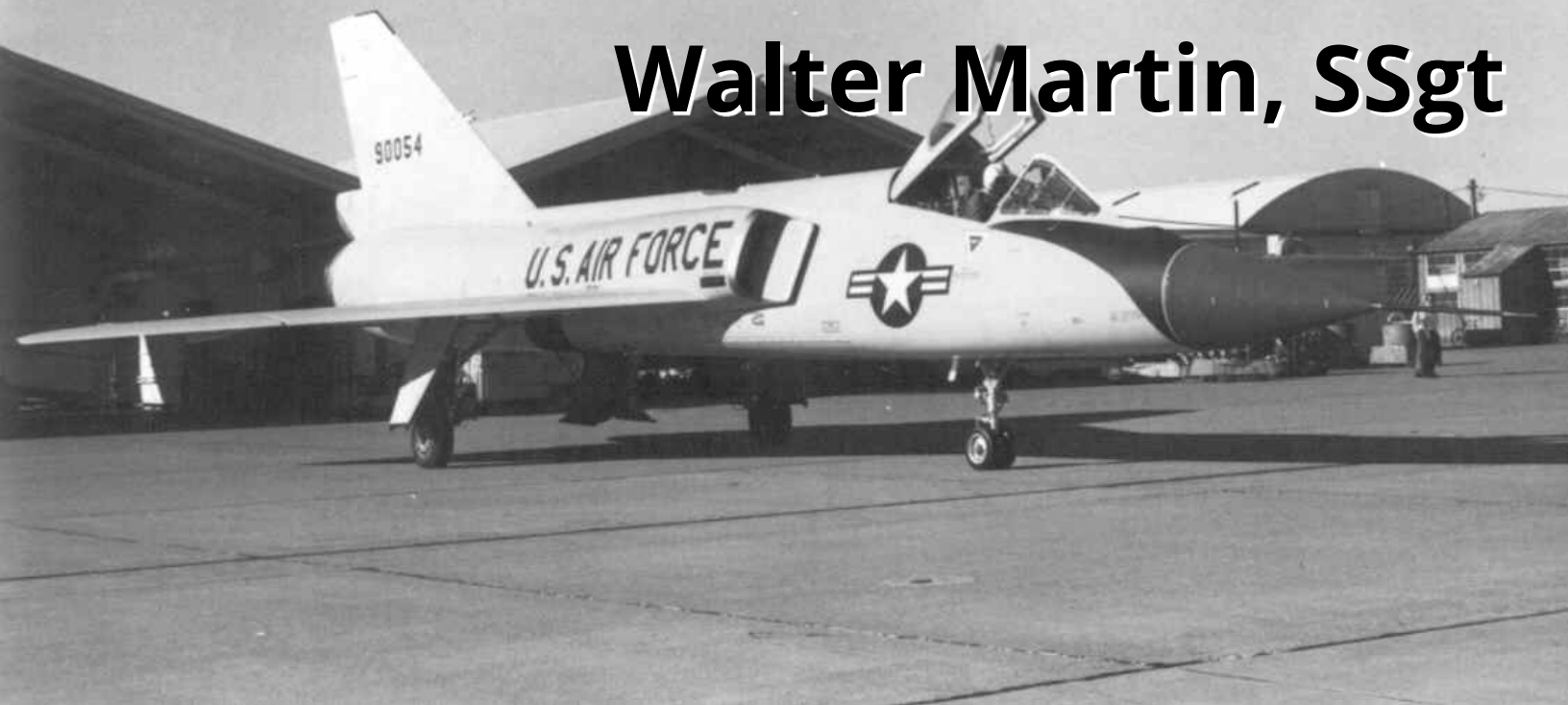


59-0054 Almost Catch's Fire at Osan AB

Walter Martin, SSgt



F-106A 59-0054 Almost Catches Fire While at Osan AB 1968

59-0054 Fire Averted at Osan AB 1968

By Walter Martin, SSgt 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron

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Assigned 48th FIS, June 1966.

While assigned to Osan AB, Korea in 1968 my plane 59-0054 (a 318th FIS jet left in Korea during the 318th – 48th Deployment rotation) was scheduled to have the engine replaced.

While the engine installation was being performed the aircraft was on jacks.

A metal sign denoting 'aircraft on jacks' was somehow placed on top of a ground power unit. When I approached the aircraft and saw the sign, before I could remove it from the ground power unit, two 51st TFW F-4's came in for a landing.

My plane 0054 was on the 1st pad off the active taxi runway. Both of the F-4s turned their tails toward 59-0054 to blow off their drag chutes at the same time. The force of their exhaust blew the metal 'aircraft on jacks' sign into the internal fuel tank slicing a 6 inch gash directly into the fuel tank.

I immediately yelled to the engine troops to move away from the aircraft while I ran down the road to get out of the way.

By this time fuel is pouring from the tank. The sign dropped to the ground and was then following me down the road and did catch up with me.

I notified the expediter truck and a fire truck was dispatched to the scene.

Thankfully no one was injured and the plane did not catch on fire. Col. Bailey was notified of the situation and within a matter of minutes he was on his way to the F-4 squadron - I can only imagine the choice words he used to explain the situation.

With the help of a great sheet metal expert, the aircraft was repaired and put back in service within a week. What a privilege it was to serve my country and to be fortunate enough to be an F-106 Crew chief. Thanks for the web-site www.f-106deltadart.com and all the memories it brings back to me of those great days.

Long live the memory of the Ultimate Interceptor.

*Walter Martin, SSgt
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