



Marlers Ready to Relocate Again

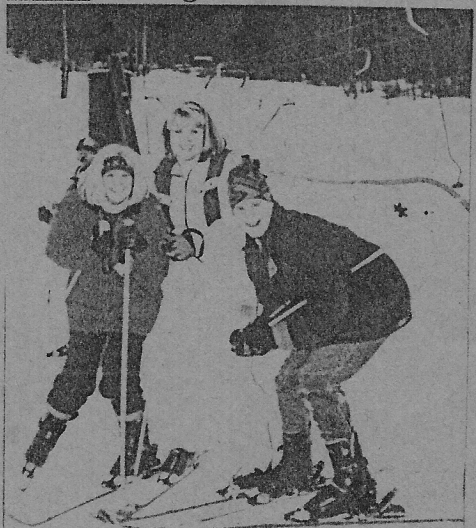
Another year almost in the history books, which brings us to another newsletter. Because of printing and mailing time we left out details of December, so before we can start telling you about 1994 we need to back up to the last of 1993.

Kristy left her job at Computers/Associates on the 15th to be able to go to my graduation and prepare for the move to Alabama. She flew to Dothan and drove the 30 minutes to Fort Rucker.

We had already been assigned on post housing so we knew where we were going to be living for this year. I told Kristy to come pick up the key but she was afraid I would get in trouble for a visitation violation. I was still in Warrant Officer Candidate (WOC) School at the time. I finally graduated on the 16th as the Distinguished Honor Graduate (#1 in my class of 52). I was commissioned on the 17th and reassigned to another company for flight training. Kristy pinned me at the graduation ceremony.



Above: WOC Grad. Ceremony
Below: Skiing in Colorado



We dropped off some stuff at our quarters and flew back to Oklahoma. We visited Enid for a few days then drove to Colorado for the 24th-26th. We went snow skiing for the first time at Keystone. No broken bones. Back to Enid, Oklahoma for another quick visit; pick up the dogs in Norman (at the doggie day care-VETS); and we were off to Alabama.

We arrived at our new home two days later to discover that both the heater and refrigerator were broken. The fridge was warm and the house was cold. Since all four of us couldn't fit in the fridge, we slept in one of our closets to try to conserve our body heat. We slept on sleeping mats, on top of our dirty laundry for more padding, while wearing sweats and stocking caps. Quite a night! So much for December.

Now on to 1994. I started flight school in the middle of January about the time that we confirmed that Kristy was pregnant. We had planned that once I was back in the military we would start trying to have a baby. Well after being separated for two months, while I was in WOC School, it didn't take long. So while I was busy starting to learn about helicopters Kristy was getting involved with the Spouse Support Group, more commonly known as the wives group. Kristy volunteered to be the Secretary of our classes support group. She later became the social coordinator for her class.

Unfortunately life throws you a curve now and then. During Kristy's ultrasound the technician had difficulty finding the baby at first. We eventually found it and the baby measured properly. Later that evening, after reviewing the test, the doctor informed us that the baby had no fetal heartbeat and therefore had stopped developing. He called it a spontaneous abortion. The doctor said it was fairly common for women to spontaneously abort during the first trimester. He said some women abort so soon after becoming pregnant that they don't even miss their period. We had a second ultrasound to verify that the baby had stopped developing, and then Kristy was scheduled for a D and C. She spent two days in the hospital and then was released. They say "Time heals all wounds" and although that is not entirely true, it does numb the pain. We decided to give Kristy's body at least 6 months to get back into fighting shape before trying again. As time went on we decided to not get pregnant until we knew that we were getting stationed together after flight school finished. The fact was that I could get stationed in Korea unaccompanied for a year and I might miss the baby's first year.

As spring turned to summer we headed to Fort Benning, Georgia on a road trip. I had spent four months there in 1986 training to be in the infantry and wanted to show Kristy the base. The building

I had lived in was torn down years ago and was now a forest, but the rest of the base was really interesting. We even had a chance to stay overnight in the Visiting Officers Quarters, because our car broke down and we had to wait until the next day to get it fixed. Kind of funny when I look back on it now. About that time I finished the instrument phase and began Basic Combat Skills (BCS) in the Huey. I think this was the most difficult phase of flight school.

I got a break during BCS when Hurricane Alberto stalled out over Alabama and Georgia for a couple days. The base got so much rain that the roads were impassable for days. So even though I didn't have to go to work, we couldn't go anywhere because we were stranded on post. I have never been so tired of TV in my life.

In July Kristy's mom and dad came to visit us for three weeks. We surprised them by having her sister, Kerri, and husband, Jonathan, drive in from Colorado for a week. It was the first time their entire family, including both husbands, had been together. I showed them all there was to see on Fort Rucker and we also went to Pensacola Naval Air Station, Florida on a road trip. Jim, my father-in-law, had been stationed there during his Navy career. We visited an excellent aviation museum there. We celebrated our sixth wedding anniversary soon after the family left by going to Six Flags in Atlanta, Georgia.

In August Kristy hosted a Luau for all the flight student spouses (100+) in my company. She began organizing and gathering decorations with

We would like to thank everybody who has told us how much they like our annual newsletter. It really makes all the hard work worth it. We would like to send out a special hello to old friends in Hawaii, recent friends in Oklahoma, and our new friends in Alabama. With all these new friends our circulation keeps on rising. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. Keep those cards and letters coming. Luv Ya, K & J

Marlers Moving to Germany (continued)

the help of a few other spouses in my class for weeks prior to the event. Since Hawaii was her home, she was asked to be the Master of Ceremonies. As well as directing the evenings activities, she taught Hawaiian words and phrases to the spouses and gave a small briefing about the islands. Kristy even convinced two male flight students to dance a Hula in skimpy outfits as part of the entertainment. Needless to say that was the highlight for most of the wives. Kristy is certain the bar helped everyone "Hang Loose."



While waiting for the last phase of flight training I finally received my orders to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. My first choice of stateside assignments. Since I wasn't going to Korea we decided to get a new car. The joke was you would get assigned to Korea if you got married, had a baby or bought a new car. We got a real good deal on a 1995 Ford Taurus for Kristy. Neither of us has ever owned a new car and we thought it was classy and roomy enough for our future family.

Nights was the last phase in flight school. I learned to fly and navigate really close to the ground using night vision goggles. Later that month we had a big Halloween party to celebrate my 28th birthday and almost being done with flight school. I dressed as a dinosaur (no Barney jokes please) and Kristy was a cavewoman. The party was great fun even though we missed all our old friends from Norman.

Two weeks later, right before my final checkride, the top five pilots in my class got advanced helicopter transitions and new assignments. Luckily I was #1 in my class at the time, so I was reassigned to Germany in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. The #2, 3, 4, & 5 guys got Korea. Kristy was very, very excited; I was a bit disappointed. Although Germany was my first overseas choice, and my 2nd overall choice, I was all set to go to Fort Bragg. I am getting more excited about going to Germany the closer it gets. The good part is by getting my transition now I will be less likely to be affected by any drawdown later. The bad part is I have to stay at Fort Rucker for two more months. I was really getting ready to leave here.

I start Warrant Officer Basic Course (WOBC) the week of Thanksgiving and will finish on the 18th of December. We are going to be working weekends to be able to graduate before Christmas. On the 19th there will be a formal military ball for all the graduating pilots, spouses and guests. This is the highlight of the year as far as Kristy is concerned. Although some of my original classmates will have graduated around Thanksgiving, there will still be enough people we know to make it a heck of a party. The next day is the actual graduation and is when we will have our wings pinned on.

After graduation I will be assigned to yet another company for my UH-60 transition from 11 January to 23 February. We won't be taking vacation at Christmas so we can do our visiting right before leaving for Germany.

We do not know our German address yet. All overseas addresses are APO numbers usually through New York. We do know we are going to Katterbach (pronounced Cot-ter-bock), Germany. It is a small town near Ansbach (Ons-bock). Ansbach is a medium sized town west-southwest of Nurnberg. Nurnberg is a large city in southern Germany.

So until next year, auf Wiedersehen (Good-bye).



FAMILY MATTERS

LAPPINS - Jim & Mary

Enjoying their home in Maryland and excited to see us before we go overseas to Germany.

HINKLES - Jonathan & Kerri

Moved into their brand new house in the fall. Jonathan gave Kerri a Bassett Hound puppy (Molly) for her birthday. Jonathan is now in Sales at his business. Kerri substituted at the local schools.

ADDRESS: 6678 Monaco Way Brighton, CO 80601

MARLER - Lucille

Moved into the house next door to her mother to be closer.

ADDRESS: 1213 N 10th Enid, OK 73701

MARLERS - Kelly & Natalie

Moved into their brand new house in November. Kelly bought into another KFC store. Kelly & Natalie had their second son, Garrett, in December 1993. Nicholas is enjoying being the big brother and playing soccer.

ADDRESS: 12 Silver Meadow Lane Enid, OK 73703

MARLERS - Randy & Tracie

Got married in Las Vegas in early October. Congratulations!

ADDRESS: 1112 W Elm Enid, OK 73703