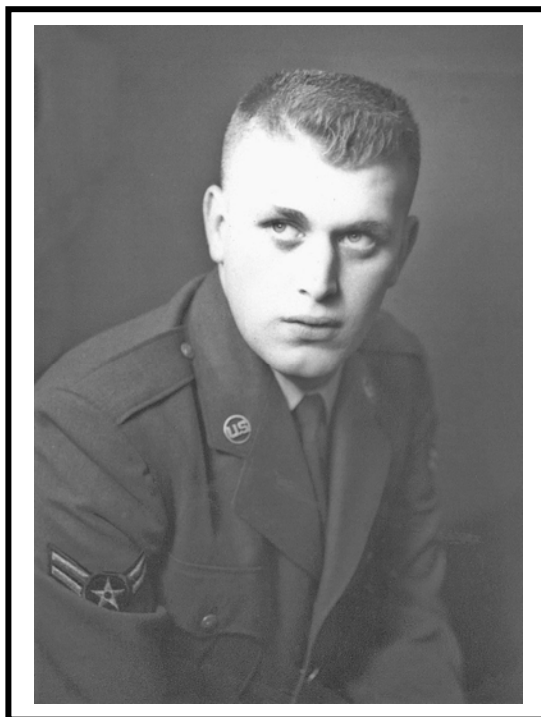




Military Air Transport
Service



Robert Elias Bastian
Airman 2/C U.S. Air Force
22 July 1960 – 21 April 1964

Robert was born on 4 August 1942 in Wescosville, Pennsylvania. He attended grades 1–3 in a two-room schoolhouse in Minesite, Pennsylvania (1948 to 1950), and grades 4–8 at Lower Macungie Elementary School (1951 to 1956), and graduated from Emmaus High School in 1960. He enlisted in the Air Force in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 22 July 1960 as an Airman Recruit, and underwent recruit training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, for three months. He was then ordered to Laon Air Force Base in northern France, where he was assigned to the 66th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing (TRW). The 66th TRW had been previously deployed from Germany in 1955 after the French required the U.S. to withdraw its nuclear-equipped B-57s from French soil. Robert served there as a Fuel Specialist refueling RF-101C Voodoo photo-reconnaissance aircraft engaged in Cold War photo-reconnaissance missions from 16 October 1960 to 17 October 1963. He then returned to the States for reassignment to the 1607th Supply Squadron, Military Air Transport Service, at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware.

While at Dover, Robert refueled F-102 Delta fighter aircraft until his release from active duty there as Airman 2/C on 21 April 1964, and assignment to the Air Force Reserves for two years. He was discharged from the Reserves on 21 July 1966. After he returned home from Dover, he went to work for John Ramsey & Son Machine Shop in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as a Machinist until 1969. At that time Robert was hired by Western Electric Company in Allentown, also as a Machinist, until his retirement in 1997. Robert married **Elizabeth Marie Salabsky** (born 4 January 1944) in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, on 4 June 1966. They established a home in Upper Macungie Township, Pennsylvania, where they settled. Robert and Elizabeth had two children, **Jean Margaret** and **Robert Brian**. Robert's parents were **Elias Brian Bastian** (18 February 1911 – 25 July 1989) and **Eva Mary Wenner** (9 August 1909 – 30 June 1992).



RF-101C Voodoo



F-102 Delta