

## Meet Cam Mette

An Army brat, I lived in 9 different states and 2 foreign countries before graduating from college. Between high school and college, I worked several part-time jobs, one bottling RC Cola and Nehi soft drinks and another working at Mt Vernon during several summers. I went to a military school in New Mexico and graduated from U of A with a degree in accounting and subsequently an MBA from Syracuse. I served with B and C Batteries of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion 42<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery (155 medium towed howitzer BN) at Ft Bragg and in Vietnam and was a gunnery instructor at Ft Sill.



Me firing a 115mm Howitzer



Me in the jungle as a forward observer

I went from active duty to civilian service at Ft Huachuca during the '70s. I was then transferred to the Pentagon, where I worked for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics of the Army. I finished my career as the comptroller of the Savannah District of the Corps of Engineers. My Pentagon service was in the early '80s and my first assignment in the Pentagon was on the first floor in the E ring (outer most ring) and in the location where the plane flew into the Pentagon. As far as I know, none of the people I worked with or knew perished in the 9/11 disaster. My second job was in the A ring (inner most ring) where I could look out the windows at "Ground Zero," the name for the inner courtyard of the complex and where a fast-food service served lunch daily.



Me in my Pentagon years

I convinced my wife that she should find a job in Arizona, and upon my retirement, she moved us to Yuma and then to Phoenix. And upon her retirement we moved to Tucson.

I started playing bridge in college and played duplicate bridge in the '70s at Ft Huachuca. I did not play in the '80s and '90s and had to relearn how to play bridge in the early 2000s. I re-learned bridge at what is now Bridge on Shea, by playing with and against a number of professionals who live in that area. I played on-line bridge, hoping to learn 2/1 and took a lot of on-line lessons. I played with people from Hong Kong, Norway, Brazil and Turkey while learning 2/1. I made lasting friends from on-line games and one, a retired British Marine who lives in Norway, called me once to say hello. Claudia Vargas, whose husband was the Brazilian Ambassador to both Germany and Argentina, met me in Long Beach to play in an NABC. I even re-connected with a friend from my Pentagon days, playing on-line.

Another bridge story: You may have heard of Aileen Osofsky of ACBL Goodwill fame. Her brother-in-law is Hy Osofsky who plays at NW and TCBC. Aileen came to Scottsdale during the winter, and I enjoyed partnering with her. But my story is that during sectional and regional tournaments, she would play with Ken Barbour, one of the better teaching pros in Scottsdale. Aileen would invite me and my tournament partner to join her when she had lunch with Ken between games, where Ken would go over each hand and tell us how it should be bid and played.