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Interviewer: Mike Downs

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Q. When were you born and where?

A. 5/16/46, Lovely, Ky.

Q. How large of a family do you come from?

A. I have two brothers living and one sister.

Q. What was your father's occupation?

A. Coal miner.

Q. Are you married?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you have any children?

A. Yes.

Q. And you are employed?

A. Yes.

Q. Where do you work?

A. I have an Insurance Agency in Inez.

Q. You said you were born in Lovely, Ky., is that where you went to school?

A. Yes, I went to Moorefield High School.

Q. When were you in high school?

A. I graduated in 1964.

Q. So you went to high school during the Kennedy years?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember much about that time; do you ever remember hearing anything about Vietnam when you were in high school?

A. No.

Q. What did you do when you got out of high school?

A. Went to Morehead.

Q. What year was that?

A. I started Morehead in the summer of 1964. And I finished in the spring semester of 1968.

Q. Did you graduate then?

A. When I left Morehead I lacked 11 hours graduating.

Q. Why did you leave?

A. I joined the Marine Corp that summer. I'd gone four years and I felt it was time for a change.

Q. So you joined the service then?

A. Yes.

Q. Was that the reason you joined?

A. Actually I had no particular reason as to why I joined. I was twenty-two, wasn't married and wasn't planning on being married so I just thought that I'd give the service a try.

Q. You joined in 1968, at that time had you heard anything about Vietnam?

A. Oh yes. I had a friend that I lived right next door to that was killed in Vietnam in 1966 one of the first big offenses in Vietnam he was killed. So I was well aware of it. Vietnam was a big thing, I kept up with it.

Q. What had you heard about it as far as why we were over there?

A. The thing when you're my age, at that time and the attitude that I had, I guess the only thing that you really thought of was to stop the spread or take over of communism. The people of South Vietnam wanted to be independent and communist free.

Q. You went in the service of 1968, when did you go to Vietnam?

A. I left the states January 5, 1969 and I was in Vietnam about 5 or 6 days later. I left California went to Okinawa and was processed then went on to Vietnam. I stayed in Okinawa I guess 3 or 4 days.

Q. Before you went how far in advance did you find out that you were going?

A. I found out the day that I got out of boot camp, they gave me my job occupation and told me that I had west Pak orders, which meant Vietnam, so I knew, that was September of 1968.

Q. You had three or four months notice then?

A. Yes. I graduated from boot camp I think it was September the 19 or 20, then before we went on to our mission advanced training, they told us what we were going to be doing. I got what was called O3 orders which was infantry, along with west Pak, they told me I'd be going to Vietnam when I finished.

Q. So your MOS was infantry?

A. I ended up, after I finished ITR then they give you your speciality training and I ended up what was called North 311 which is a rifleman, so I was an infantry rifleman.

Q. How did you feel when you found out you were going to go?

A. I was expecting it. I wanted to go, from the time that I joined I wanted to go but actually I didn't think that I would be in the infantry. I knew that it was going to be a lot harder than I had previously planned. I thought of it and knew that I'd be going, but I didn't think I'd be going as an infantry man.

Q. The last fella I talked to, he had a couple years of college, he was in the army and he had the same feeling, he said I'm a little bit better educated than most I won't end up in the Infantry but he did.
So you stopped over in Okinawa?

A. Stopped in Okinawa and stored some of my stuff that I had and then went on to Vietnam.

- Q. What about when you first stepped off the plane, did you have any first impressions or anything?
- A. The thing that I was impressed with was all the confusion. It was all confusion no one knew much about what was going on. What about the heat when you step off the plane. I got there at night and we stepped off the plane and I thought in California it was cool and in the winter it was cool, but when I got off there the humidity was very bad and I thought this is going to be fun!
- Q. What about the age range of the people with you - you were 22 when you went in - were you older than most of them over there?
- A. I think there was one other guy in my platoon that was older than me and he was a draftee. He had a masters degree and was from Cincinnati. His degree was in business and he was married. He was drafted into the Marine Corp. He was in the infantry just about every guy in my platoon except for a couple of guys that had aviation gurantee and then a couple of guys I guess they gave them different jobs because they had a little trouble with some of the physical aspects. At that time, I guess the infantry was in need of a lot of individuals because the kill ratio and the death ratio was pretty high.
- Q. I know the army didn't do this bad maybe the Marines are different. When you got over there did they give you any kind of indoctrination or anything? Did they explain to you why you were there or anything like that?
- A. No.
- Q. Didn't give you any history of our involvement?
- A. No. Now this might of happened but I don't remember it. If it did it didn't stick with me, I don't remember. I stepped off the plane and we went into our barracks and tried to sleep and then the next morning we had breakfast and they got us all together, then they put us on a transport plane and took us to Chu Lai. I was assigned to the 3rd battalion 26th Marines and they were on what was called a float base. They were on the USS Tripoli. Got on a plane and went to Chu Lai, then I got on a helicopter and went to the plane and I was on the plane for four or five days, my outfit was in the field performing operations, Operations Taylor Common, and I got my stuff and they took me out into the field. I was out in the field I guess for thirty days and then they brought us back and we went on another operation, so there was no indoctrination for me.
- Q. You were assigned to a unit before you got there?
- A. No, when I got in Vietnam, the following morning they assigned me to a unit. Actually I had an idea where I was going but I didn't know for sure, I thought I was going with 9th Mav but it didn't work out that way, I got with that other unit because some of the other guys that went to 326 and 226, knew that they were catching a lot of activity. When I got them I knew that my life was continuing.

Q. The way we did it, we were brought in company and were all thrown together, just so many bodies. Then two or three times a day they'd call us out in formation and they'd just call names and randomly send us wherever a body was needed. Is that the way it was done there too.

A. No. After we ate and everything, they got the guys together and they told us you're going to be going here and you, you, you and you are going to be going here. When I went in the country, of the guys I was on the plane with, there was - it was mixed up, there were a lot of guys that had been in service quite a while, fellows that I went through what was called staging battalion, that was where they give you a little more training. After I came home on my leave and went back to California we had like 10 more days of training -- called staging and there were guys that had been in the service several years who were in that staging battalion and there were just a few of us guys that were in the infantry that was in that staging battalion. We went on over to Okinawa and then on to Vietnam, there was E-4's, 5's, 6's, 7's so we went to different places.

Q. You didn't go over as part of a unit then?

A. No.

Q. One of the criticisms of the war is whole units weren't sent over like they were during World War II, it was just a man here and a man there and really there wasn't any unity, you didn't know anybody. The average soldier had a feeling of bewilderment because he was over there with a bunch of strangers.

A. Now, when I went to 3rd battalion 26th Marine _____ there were ___ when I came home on leave I got twenty days leave, normally you just get a fifteen, so that put me five days behind most of the guys I normally would have been with. I would have been with several guys if I'd gone back at the end of my fifteen days. But I went to Ashland and talked to my recruiter and he got me five more days, so in reality after I got to 3rd battalion 26th Marines there was a lot of guys in there that I was in boot camp with and In ITR, my same outfit from bootcamp to ITR to Basic Infantry Training School (BITS), we were all together, because out of all of us guys that started out in boot camp, all of us were together except for about 4 or 5 of them. So most of those guys that got 3rd Battalion were about 5 days ahead of me. Some of my buddies were 2nd battalion. But the ones in 3rd battalion were 5 days ahead of me, so when I got in my unit there were several guys that I knew.

Q. Made it a little bit easier didn't it?

A. Yes, there were probably 15 of them. One of my best buddies was in the 2nd battalion 26th Marines and he was in the country when I was there. Three months after we got there his legs were blown off and I didn't know about it until I was coming home.

Q. You were in the 3rd marines then?

A. I was in the 3rd battalion 26th Marines.

Q. Where was that?

A. When I first joined the marines they were performing operations off of a ship. Getting on a helicopter and going in to different places.

- Q. The last guy I talked with he was with the Riverine corp, 9th Infantry. Did you all stay on the ship?
- A. I wasn't on the ship, when I got over there I was on the ship I guess four or five days when I got my gear. They were bringing these guys in that were injured, we could see all that, it was really an experience, they would medivac guys in. One day we walked through a mine field and they took a lot of casualties, about all those guys went back to the ship and we'd stand out there and see them lower them down and bring them in, and then I went out and stayed about thirty days and then we came back to the ship and went on another operation and that's the last time I was on the ship. After that, the next operation we came back to what was called hill 55 and we stayed there for several days and then I went to another outfit. I went to this combined action outfit after that.
- Q. Did you operate up around Danang, that far North?
- A. Yes, I was North of Danang.
- Q. Over around the DMZ
- A. Well yes, pretty close.
- Q. You were a rifleman in the marines, I assume you saw plenty of combat. You were talking about these thirty day operations, describe exactly what those were like. Were you in the field for thirty days?
- A. We would probably be responsible, the way I had it figured of course I didn't know where I was going or what, you didn't know anything. We would go on a helicopter and go to a landing zone we didn't know what to expect when we got there, of course you always expect the worst going right into a hot LZ of course after we get there it was a lot of confusion again but you'd be with your fire team and your squad and you'd just fan out, you may march, they called it clicks, you may be responsible for marching so far, but one thing that you always had was the artillery support, fire support, air strike and stuff like that. But you may march all day, stop and take breaks different times. You didn't go very far until you'd take harassment fire, we took a lot of harassment fire and boobey traps. You may go to an area today and three days later you'd look around and be right back in the same area again. We took the same hill three times on the first operation that I was on.
- Q. How often did you come in contact with the enemy.
- A. You had contact almost every day. A lot of harassment. The outfit that I was in when I left to go to the combined action program we lost about 60% of our men.
- Q. Mostly the contact with the enemy was just hit and run?
- A. That's what they did to us 80% of the time. Snipers, just hit and run. But when you got hit by the regular NVA you were in an all day fight. You'd be marching alone and come into a tree line you'd take fire. What we'd do would be call in air strikes or artillery. We had a fire support base if you had any problems, we had a F.O. forward observer lieutenant, they'd call the strikes in, without that we'd be in a bad shape. Then they'd call those in and we'd march through the area, we very seldom ever found a body or anything. Then we might march around for two or three days and come right back through it again and that time you might lose somebody on a boobey trap. You'd have guys that didn't care, it just got to where it seemed like you were run by a program.

- Q. You were talking about you took the same hill three times. What do you think about that kind of strategy?
- A. Well the thing that -- after a while you get to thinking, "well I've got thirteen months of this stuff," when I went the 13 month tour was cut. But then you got to thinking, "Well I'll just have to survive it some way." I really, of course I've never been radical, never spoke of this stuff the way things were run but I really lost a lot of confidence in the way it was done. I would have done it a lot different if I'd been in charge -- I would have done it more, been more for defense instead of going out and beating the bushes and having guys get their legs blown off and having guys get killed by snipers and things like that. And then you'd come right back and do the same thing again that's about like me sitting up here on this hill and somebody comes up here today and whips me, tomorrow I'm going to be expecting it, I'll be waiting on it. They might surprise me today a little. But I lost a lot of confidence in the way things were run, I really did.
- Q. Do you think it would have been better if the American troops had been used more or less to secure areas and then let the Vietnamese troops themselves do the search and destroying?
- A. Well that's the way that I think it should have been done, that way we wouldn't have -- I think we got involved with too many ground troops and the way that we did it, another example of that is, if my car's out there and you want to wash it for me that would tickle me to death, it'd keep me from having to wash it. The way that we fought it we got too many men in it, but it would have been perfect if we could have -- I'd have loved to invade the north, I know it sounds crazy, but something like that to me would have been more accountable than the way we did it. I don't want to sound like I love war or anything like that.
- Q. We've had people express the same opinion, you know if we were going to be there, really our enemy was North Vietnam and we should have invaded the North and supply and staging areas in Cambodia and Laos. That would have been a lot better way to go about it than this search and destroy because that seems so useless. Do you remember any particular close calls you had? Were you wounded over there?
- A. I've got some shrapnel. I've got a purple heart.
- Q. From mortar, rocket or . . . ?
- A. I thought it was a RPG. That was in September.
- Q. You'd been there quite awhile hadn't you?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How long were you in the field?
- A. I spent all my time there.
- Q. The whole 13 months?
- A. No, my tour was cut -- originally when Marines went they spent 13 months, then when I was over there in '69 and that's just about the time they started phasing ground troops out. So they cut our tour down a month and then guys that had been there several months, I think you had to have been there 8 or 9 months, they started bringing them out. A lot of them came back on ships. I spent 12 months over there and out of that 12 months I spent, other than my R & R's I had two in country R & R's in Danang and one out of the country R & R, all my time in the field.

Q. You just got one purple heart? You were pretty lucky then.

A. Yes, when I left the 3rd battalion 26th marines, I don't know the exact figures but we were down, I'd say we probably lost 50-60% of our men from the day I got there. And I went to another unit that was performing operation Oklahoma hill -- we were in the hills and it was different, it was another experience. It really got actually freezing cold at night where we were. Then I went with another outfit ___ and we spent about 2 days cutting an LZ out for a helicopter to land. Guys that were wounded on that operation, they took them up . . .

Q. What kind of equipment did you carry, what kind of weapon?

A. When I first went over I carried an M16 and an M79, you'll find that most of the time when a new man comes in they'll give him that M79, its a grenade launcher. OK, you know the rounds, how many you have to carry plus your stuff, of course, I didn't mind it. Nothing bothered me as far as the country except for them rice paddies. You get into the rice paddies and you've got a lot of gear on, you want to walk on the dyke, you're a new man anyway and you're wanting to walk on the dyke and I didn't care. I look back now and I think maybe that's why I was so lucky because I didn't care -- if I'd had my choice I'd rather have walked on the dyke instead of getting in paddies and trying to carry all that -- I forget how many rounds I carried, I had it in a big ammo bag plus I had all mine and you had to help the machine gunners carry some of their rounds. You have a lot and I was the type of guy when I took a drink of water I could empty a whole canteen at one time -- I carried about 7 canteens.

Q. I think a lot of people got that -- after you've been there a while you do reckless things, walk on the dyke instead of getting down in the water and mud and stuff.

A. I started out that way, I was pretty lucky though, due to the fact that it seems like when I had to walk point for my squad _____ seems like that we were lucky as far as boobey traps go because none of the guys, there was one guy, he was on his 2nd tour and other than that he was the only guy that had much training, all of us were sort of fresh and new. It seems like when we got in the field in a sniper fight or something like that we were pretty lucky _____.

Q. What did you think about the M16's? A lot of people complained about them?

A. I liked the M16 because they were mighty powerful. You could take the M16 and put 20 rounds in your magazine and one in the chamber and you could put that sucker on automatic. I loved it.

Q. The objective of a fire fight is to gain superior firepower.

A. I would rather, well when we went through boot camp we trained with the M14, I never had the M16 until I was in Vietnam. I'd have hated to carry the M14 in Nam because it was pretty heavy.

Q. About 4 or 5 lbs. difference. We had a M14 for night ambush.

A. If I was a sniper, I'd want an M14.

Q. Well that's the only time we ever used one. What about your immediate superiors, were they about the same age as you or were they young, old? Your lieutenant and captains?

A. I had a second Lieutenant when I first went, his name was _____ and he got killed then after that when I left the 3rd battalion 26th Marines we had a seargeant that was a platoon commander, of course we didn't have much of a platoon, just 2 squads. We had a staff seargeant that was killed, but the day that the lieutenant was killed, him and another young man both were shot in the head. We hadn't gone very far, we'd been sitting up camp and we went out on an operation and my squad was in the rear, we had to work our way up and I saw him shot in the head.

I'll never forget that, he was behind the _____ and I helped him, I'm left handed and I held my right hand up, I didn't care if he shot it or not.

Q. Do you think your officers were adequately trained?

A. I don't know. The outfit that I was with, the second lieutenant, he tried to do things the way that he was trained to do and the book said. You've got to improvise. I don't think you can travel the same roads several times and get away with it. Most of the guys that were in the rifleman were younger than I was, 18, 19, or 20 years old. I would say there's only ten of us probably my age or a little older. _____ was my age. The staff sergeant, I would say was 30, he'd probably been in the service a long time, he was killed. Everyone else was right around 18 or 19. You had very few guys that were drafted that were out in the field. This guy I was telling you about from Cincinnati, after we got to Vietnam he never had to go out in the field he got a job in the rear in the office.

Q. Did you ever have much contact with the Vietnamese people themselves, the Peasants?

A. Yes. See when I went to the combined action program that's entirely what it was. I don't know if you're familiar with that or not. What our job was -- when I joined that they sent us to school for I believe seven days. They taught us a little bit of the Vietnamese language, what to do and what not to do. Then they sent us out into the village -- there were eight marines and one Navy corp man and we'd just go into the village and stay with the people. You're with the village popular force group, called PF's and were supposed to pacify, the pacification program, during the day we're supposed to teach them classes on _____, village security, radio classes how to conduct the control and things like that. Then you have the Navy Corp man who takes care of the sick. We were in like a resettlement, there were no houses it was all cardboard shacks and bamboo stuff -- no brick houses, no veneer and stuff. I was in there most of my time.

Q. What kind of impression did you form about the people themselves, did they really care?

A. The people that I was with, I know that the biggest percentage of them were VC sympathizers. I got real close to some of the kids, we had some of them working for us. They are real sharp people -- we underestimated their intelligence even down to the lower peasants I think. That's my opinion and I've kept it to myself. They used us, they used us very well.

Q. Were you aware that the sentiment at home was changing?

A. My wife was going to school at Morehead, when I left there in 1968 people still had short hair and there wasn't too much going on. But in 1969 it got what I call rough on the home front. Then I came home January the 16th, 1970 and right after that I went down to a concert and I couldn't believe the change and I was only gone 14 months. I went to a concern and here comes the girls with no bras, no shoes, stringy hair. I never knew anyone who smoked marijuana, took pills or anything. We drank a lot of beer and stuff, you come back from Vietnam, you're a little used to it and you smell it in the air. I couldn't believe the change that had come over Morehead, which is reserved.

- Q. You hear about that kind of behavior and think they're talking about a foreign country. You were talking about drugs, what about Vietnam, was very much drug abuse going on there?
- A. When I was in the 3rd battalion 26th Marines, we didn't have time. I didn't know of anyone, there was none. They might have done it but I wasn't aware of it. I really wasn't aware of it until I got into villages, when I got in the village there were some guys that did.
- Q. What we're finding out is that the drug use really started around 1970 and later on.
- A. Well to get back to that other question, marijuana was the only thing I saw over there but when the infantry scaled down in the latter part of 1969 when they started pulling the troops out of the field and let the Vietnamese pull the operation. I was out where they went by -- they took the Marines and put them back on the hills, they had nothing else to do, instead of bringing them back processing their butts out of the country and getting them back to the house, they brought them back, left them in the rear for several months. One of the closest calls I had was the coloreds and whites got in a fight. The village that I was in was about a half mile from the hill where a marine outfit was stationed and I would go up there occasionally and eat breakfast and then when they'd have a USO show I'd go up on Sundays. I went up to one and the coloreds and whites got into a fight, I'd say a lot of it was drugs, you've got all these infantry rings on the hill with not much to do.
- Q. Did you have many blacks.
- A. There were quite a few. Now in the combined action program we'd have one or two, I didn't see any problem when it was like that. But most of the people I've ever talked to about that have said when you get them together you have problems. But they got into a fight and one of them threw a rock through the screen, I was in the club and this black guy threw a rock through the screen and it almost hit me and I was innocent!
- Q. You didn't have any trouble in the field though?
- A. No I never. When I was in the 3rd battalion 26th Marines I didn't see any. When I was with the combined action program we'd have 7 or 8 marines at the most and it was just like family, everyone got along real well. One guy would leave and a new guy come in and everybody try to help him out. There was no problem.
- Q. So really then the idleness is what led to the problems -- the drugs?
- A. I think it was. You get a lot of guys -- its just like going through boot camp, you know the drill instructors want to harass you into fights and things and then your other training you know, you'll have certain things that's just . You've gone through training, you're probably aware of getting a bunch of guys together you'll have some people that's got personality problems you'll have -- we had, when I was going through ITR it was just a common thing for someone to be fighting all the time.
- Q. When I went through basic half of my company were from Hazard. You'd hear them at three or four o'clock in the morning wrestling. Why do you think we lost over there? You've already mentioned that you didn't think the search and destroy were the best, but did we have a reason?

- A. I just think that the whole thing from the bottom to the top was just completely like two different worlds. Everything was, I thought, of course I was a 22 year old E3, I don't guess that I was real smart or I wouldn't be in the situation that I was in but you'd come out of the field, you'd been in there a while, and you a come out go to Danang and here was a guy walking around with Bermuda shorts on, short sleeved shirt and driving around in an airconditioned bus from Freedom Hill which is the PX exchange over to China Beach and you see all these guys walking around and you think hell what do we do I must be the fool, this isn't fair. So I just, you know, just like in Vietnam movies, its two different wars, even when I went from 326 to combined action program it was like going from a volkswagon to a cadillac, there was that much difference. We didn't need to have these guys out in the field, the ones out in the field were just being used, even from the second Lieutenants to even the captains on down. They had no business out there. We should have put all our troops, of course, I'm just talking crazy, somebody had to do it, but that really, then take a kid getting off the plane, give him a place to sleep that night, the next morning feed him breakfast put him on a plane and send him to Chu Lai, put him on a helicopter and take him out to a ship, let him get his gear and then go out in the field and this is the only thing he's exposed to until several months later and he changes outfits and he's going to school in Danang and he goes in and gets an in company R & R because its a couple days before school starts, and he's exposed to this other stuff -- that was a shock. You can't believe that there is that stuff going on a few miles away and you come back here and its party time. Disorganization. Then after a guy's out there for awhile it's just a matter of survival then. You hope its the other guy instead of you. Of course you're hurt real bad when you get close to someone and see something happen. That hurts, but you still have to go on just searching for survival.
- Q. Something that you mentioned earlier, your rotation date becomes the big thing, you don't worry about the enemy, that's all you think about. So you came back in 1970, how long did you have left in the Marines?
- A. I had 6 months, I was in the Marine Corp 18 months and four days, now I got out, I got an infantry Cut. They were bringing all the guys back and had no place to put them, all the infantry guys who had a year or less, when they came back in the country got a cut. So I spent, actually I wasn't in the service really. I went to boot camp, ITR _____, home on leave, back to staging battalion, to Vietnam, out. I never pulled KP, I never did any of the things other guys do that's in the service.
- Q. You weren't in peace time army then.
- A. I think I had my uniform on, I wore it home on leave and then when I came back home I flew into Louisville and took my uniform off in Louisville and that was it.
- Q. Did you have any trouble readjusting?
- A. No, I came home January 16, 1970 and I started teaching school. Well I registered that semester for one class at Morehead and I drove down there one night a week from home. And I took a job teaching school on Feb. 4, I got married March 20 and I've never had time to have any trouble to readjust. I had several friends that would come back and _____, but I spent all my time with my fiance, wife now. She didn't want to hear any war stories and I didn't want to tell any so I just more or less put it out of my mind. Then that summer, we moved to Morehead, I took 8 hours and graduated and then started doing graduate work, I did one semester then came back and started teaching again.

Q. What was your major?

A. Physical education.

Q. Did you get your masters?

A. I did it up right on the GI Bill. I got I think close to 90 graduate hours, Rank I, I did it all! On the GI Bill. I think I used all of it except for a couple of months. I worked and was a fulltime graduate student taking night classes.

Q. Why did you get out of teaching?

A. I worked for the phone company in Pikeville. I couldn't get a teaching job, I tried in Rowan County. I aggravated Clifford Cassidy to death. I tried to get a job in Pike Co., my wife graduated and got one there so I followed her up there and tried to get a job teaching and couldn't. So I got a job at the telephone company and worked there four years and then I got to know a lot of people and I got a job as principal like I was telling you before, and then this came up here and I took this. I've been lucky it's really a good opportunity.

Q. When you came home did you have any problem with anybody, any attitudes?

A. They acted like I hadn't been gone.

Q. Nobody gave you a hard time or anything?

A. No. There's a lot of respect, I guess Eastern Kentucky's a lot different than other places, there's a lot of respect for the service man. Even someone that had been to Vietnam even more. I came home and I had no time to have any problems and I've known most of the people in this county at that time, I was just a local boy. I had no problems. There was a lot of guys from here that went to Vietnam.

Q. As you look back on it now do you think our involvement there was a mistake. Looking at Nam and El Salvador and Lebanon today, do you think we are getting in the same type mess, that we won't be able to get out of?

A. Absolutely. Of course there's a heck of a lot of stuff going on that the media doesn't know anything about. You have to be there to know what's happening. We don't have any business, I don't keep up with political aspects of the country until we send troops in then of course you get a little here and a little there, but as far as our troops going in and trying to do police action, that day's over. Because most of these people their big thing is to kill an American when they're in their country. We can't do police action, a person can walk up to you, drop a grenade between your legs and you've had it. What are you going to do to prevent it.

Q. That like the Marines over in Lebanon now, they're just sitting there not doing anything, they're just a target.

A. I don't think that we should be there. I've got a little boy that will be four years old in March and if there was a war, this is the only kid I've got and I was pretty old when I had the kid, you can really understand love if you have a kid. And I would want my kid to join the marines. I would want him to fight if there was a war, but I'd be darned if I'd want him to go someplace like

Lebanon or El Salvador or someplace to do police action. We need police action here in our country! I would really feel bad if I had a kid that was over there, knowing you're sitting there and any guy in the country could do you away.

- Q. It's like, you're familiar with free fire zones and no fire zone. A man shouldn't be issued a weapon and then told he can't use it. I think that's what the problem is.
- A. I'd like to have some sort of token for every time the VC or NVA broke the truce, ceasefire truce, that's when we'd always gear up to expect it.
- Q. More alert during cease fire! As far as this question on the nations _____ security now, do you think the volunteer army is reliable?
- A. I'd rather have the draft.
- Q. You think there should be a draft?
- A. Yes, I sure do. It would be hard for us to fight without the draft, because I think your better soldiers would be guys that are drafted, knowing that they've got a short time. I wasn't around very few people that were drafted, I think now that I'm older, I didn't have this attitude when I was younger, but I think now that the draftee's were good soldiers. The biggest percentage of them. Even though most of them resented it, they still did the job. I wasn't with any but I know a bunch. Several guys from around here were drafted. I'd say if you'd take a poll and check it out, a lot of your medal winners were probably drafted.
- Q. You don't get too many people joining up now. But a lot of people see it as a way out of their economic problems. But during war time you see a lot of people joining for patriotic reasons especially from this area.

One of the reasons for this project, Dr. Hanrahan is concerned with the University's never giving any kind of recognition to their Alumni who served in the Vietnam war as we have for past wars. He was thinking along the lines of having a memorial at the student center (or plaque) or setting aside a section of the library and having a permanent exhibit there where people could donate some war momentos. Would you be in favor of something like that?

- A. Sure
- Q. He's talking about having a dedication or reunion of some kind.

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I think the Vietnam Veterans are taking a lot of abuse because it was so unpopular. Look at T.V. what do you ever see on there, everything is negative.