

Interview

(Q) Michael Downs  
(A) Scott Gillock

178

Scott Gillock  
Morehead, KY  
age 38

interview date: 10/19/83

Q. Are you employed?

A. I am.

Q. Where do you work?

A. Norge Village and Sunshine Cleaners. I'm the owner and manager.

Q. When you entered the service were you drafted or did you enlist?

A. Enlisted.

Q. What was the last grade of school you completed before entering the service?

A. A B.S. at Morehead.

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

A. One sister.

Q. Do you belong to the church?

A. No.

Q. What was your fathers occupation?

A. Truck driver.

Q. How much education did he have?

A. I believe it was fourth or fifth grade, I'm not for certain.

Q. Do you remember about what his income was?

A. He's been dead for several years but I believe his last full year of occupation was between \$20,000 to 25,000. I wasn't home much.

Q. Were you a student when you entered the military?

A. Well, it was late enlistment plan with the college. I was trying to get in the Marine Corp and AirForce at the same time and ended up in the Air Force.

Q. And you were at Morehead?

A. Yes, I enlisted with this recruiter here at Morehead.

Q. What year was that?

A. I graduated in 1968, so that's when I went in.

Q. What was your major?

A. Industrial Technology and Business.

Q. Have you continued your education after your discharge?

A. Yes, it took me ten years and a GI Bill but I completed a masters in 1980. Well certificate in 81 or 82 rather.

Q. Was your major the same?

A. No, it was in vocational education.

Q. Here at Morehead?

A. Yes.

Q. So when you went into the army you weren't working were you?

A. No, well I'd gotten my draft notice also, and I called my draft board to see if I could continue my education and they said fat chance.

Q. What was your MOS in the service?

A. Well, auto pilot, automatic flight control. I don't remember the number though.

Q. When were you in Vietnam?

A. I went over in June of 1970 and Came back the first part of February in 1972.

Q. What unit were you assigned to?

A. 366 AMS, its <sup>electronics</sup> ~~avrinis~~ maintenance squad at Da Nang. While there though I was in charge of a thirty man strike group with the Marine Corp and several other things other than just electronics.

Q. You were over ther about . . . ?

A. Nineteen months.

Q. You say you got your draft notice, then enlisted?

- 180
- A. Well, I was already operating or trying to become OCS or OTS, it depended on which service. And the Marine Corp had such a great draft force and I didn't even consider the Navy or Army. And the Air Force . . . I qualified for OCS but here again they said go ahead and enlist and we'll check with you later. And, I finally got accepted while I was at Da Nang. I told them to cram it, it was three years later. I wanted out, not particularly I wanted out of Nam, it was I didn't want to go in the regular service.
- Q. Did you see any combat while you were there?
- A. Well this strike group that I was in charge of, you got out of KP and some other duties, so I volunteered for . . . they took one or two men out of each shop and ended up with how many was assigned to that shop and during three or five stages of alert they'd call us out on a yellow or something like this. We'd go and there'd be one Marine in each position and on occasions we'd go out, there was three perimeters per se, the first one would be a mile or so out and I guess the second perimeter was as far as I ever went. Nothing hot and heavy, put it that way. About anywhere you got some action, most of it ended up because I'd volunteer to go a lot of places.
- Q. Did you know anything about Vietnam before you were sent there?
- A. Well, you know by being in college during that period of time 1964-68; it was a hot issue. I knew something of what was going on. I volunteered to go over and they kept turning down my volunteer statements because I was already assigned to go over, but I didn't know that, until it was too late.
- Q. You graduated in 1968 from Morehead, what was the feeling here on campus. Was there ever any kind of a protest or anything like that against the war?
- A. None that I can remember, that there was any type of protest going on. I think there was in other parts of the country. If there were any at all I didn't know anything about it.
- Q. Did you understand then, why the United States was fighting in Vietnam?
- A. Well, I guess you might say that once there I learned that we'd been there since, well, Truman really. And I started really getting educated to what actually had taken part. It was a strictly economic type war for us.
- Q. Really, your opinion changed after you were sent over there?
- A. Well to some extent, although while I was there I was still all for it. I thought we had a purpose for being there. It was after several events that happened there that sort of turned me against it, though not particularly totally against, just the way it was being ran. It was found out by many that we weren't there to win. Several occasions we could have made a big dent on the VC and it was entirely passed up.

- Q. Is that the way you feel about it now, have you changed any over the past several years?
- A. Well its, yes, my opinion is if you're gonna do it, do it. If your not, don't bother. El Salvador , we're not going to do it down there. We're going to get some people killed. Same thing in Lebanon, but as far as quote, unquote "kicking some asses we're not going to do it. Politically or whatever reasons I don't thing we'll ever do it.
- Q. What was a typical day like for you over there?
- A. Well there's twelve and twelve, on twelve, off twelve. I worked from midnight till noon because Charlie very seldom ever hit before mignight, if he did he sent a letter of apopogy. In a year and a half he hit twice before midnight, because he couldn't read our clocks is the reason. The major reason I was sent over for was strictly electronics for aircraft and that's what I did, but there's many other things I got into while I was there.
- Q. While you were there did you form any opinions about the Vietnamese people themselves?
- A. Yes, basically they had whole different culture, a whole different outlook on life. The majority of them, their major object of the day was to get something to eat and once they obtained that there wasn't anything more to do but wait for the next meal.
- Q. They really . . . ?
- A. Slide with the flow or ever how you want to state it.
- Q. Yes, they really weren't interested in politics or anything like that were they?
- A. A very small percentage of them.
- Q. What about the Arvins, were you ever around any of the Arvins?
- A. Yes, sure was, I worked with, well it was like sending out a bunch of fifteen year old kids in the whole perimeter, buck and run. Many patrols the first one you'd zap would be your own Arvin, unless you knew them damn well. That's the way, you may remember the tiger division, they were damn good and they were big Vietnamese, as far as physical stature, but other than maybe special units they weren't worth having, they were you know, sliding with the flow, staying alive. And if they didn't go into the Arvin, the VC would come and take them. So which do you want ot go.

- Q. Were you aware that the sentiment towards the war was changing back home? Did you get any hometown newspapers or anything like that?
- A. No, well of course there was the cable system, TV system at Vietnam, of course that was well censored. I did correspond with my sister and parents and they were mostly concerned with myself and people I know that were over there. As far as really knowing what was hot and heavy, what was going on, we knew about it, but there wasn't that much being discussed about it. Then, too, many of us had the attitude, I've said we were there to get the job done and get out and for a long time we thought that that was what was going to happen.
- Q. You were at home during the Johnson administration. What did you think about Lyndon Johnson as far as his handling of the war?
- A. I think Lyndon Johnson got handed a bag of tricks from Kennedy. You know that Kennedy was the one that accelerated the war to the point to where it was either a media cut off or you had to go into it full board. I think in the beginning Johnson thought possibly, you know with a full board, more equipment and more personnel, we could do it and get out. But he had too much against him, one man can't do it. One man can't buck congress. There was too many of them making money off it, simple as that. When you find out that half the arms that's being supplied to the VC is manufactured or subsidiary of an American firm that's owned by Kennedy, it kind of chops you. Or a Rockefeller or several of the others.
- Q. What about President Nixon?
- A. That's a big question there. I honestly wonder about the man's mentality, even today. I know he was under severe pressures but, hindsight is worth a lot. It's hard to say right now what he's being fed and what he actually did and what came out of it.
- Q. As far as his handling of the war, some people are of the opinion that when he was elected he had just made his mind up to get out any way he could, as fast as he could.
- A. Well I say at that point, I guess he'd been there for twelve or fourteen years, hey, I can't blame him, it's time to pull apart. He'd lost 752 thousand people. It's a big price.
- Q. Why did we lose in Vietnam? of Course you've already answered that to some extent.
- A. Everybody wasn't for it. It was kind of a losing situation from the beginning. And then after it'd finally bled over into the American troops that he was there on a futile mission that actually was the coup de gras, there was no more to be done. I remember very well going around, not wanting to be the last troop to die. Many guys I talked with in the field, when it came up you take that tree line, hey, let's call in artillery, let's soften it up some for about three days or we'll think about it.

Q. When you came home did you need any medical treatment?

A. Well, home was something else, No, as far as psychological and all that, I roughed through that myself. The real-chuckle was I'd been in Rantoul, Illinois, which was cold and wet, went to Miami, Florida for twelve, thirteen, fourteen months, which is hot and moist, then went to Danang for nineteen months which was hot and moist, then I went to Tucson, Arizona. You know what a raison looks like? I was bleeding through my shirt sleeves and through my pants and I went over to socialized medicine and said hey, I'm bleeding to death, that's all there is to it. My nostrils were bleeding and I went to socialized medicine and the doctor told me what all my symptoms were and told me to take jergens baby lotion and put it all over my body. and if I wasn't better in six weeks to come back.

Q. How did others treat you when you came home? Any different?

A. You mean general populace?

Q. Yes, did anybody go around calling you a killer or anything like that?

A. Oh, I think there was a couple occasions some fool tried to do that, but immediately was reminded he shouldn't do things like that. Of course the interesting thing here, by extending nineteen months, I didn't know it when I extended, but they gave me a blank air ticket to anywhere in the world, and thirty days free leave, you extended for seven but you spent six months in the country and I didn't know it until after I had signed up and they asked where are you going to go and I went to Vienna, Amsterdam, Copenhagen and several places in Germany. I was in Amsterdam, they tried to get me to go underground and everything while I was there, of course I tried to play down that I'd been there, in fact I was very reluctant to tell anyone, but hell there you stand with a deep dark tan and no hair, and military . . . well, I think I had civilian glasses on, they soon found out. They definitely tried to get me to go underground right there and I refused of course.

Q. A lot of veterans are kind of angry because they didn't get any recognition when they came back. There's always somebody saying something about they didn't give a parade or anything like that. did you ever want anything like that, any kind of recognition?

A. What for? You know I felt that I did what I wanted to do, I did the best damn job I could have done, I did a hell fo a lot more than a lot of guys did while they were there and before then, and now, you might say I'm what you might say a very personal type person. I'm very closed lipped, probably more now than I was and you know I knew what I did and I really didn't give a damn if they knew or praised me or whatever.

- Q. What about today, what is your view on the draft as opposed to the volunteer army?
- A. Well, its obvious what the volunteer army is getting to. Of course they're trying to set their standards higher but they're not going to be able to get enough bodies for that or in that system. I feel the draft will come back. Now, whether it's right or wrong is hard to say. You know, I've enjoyed living in the United States , I've been around the world a couple of times, Mexico, Canada, its the best system going. Now, is it worth your life or worth four years or three years or whatever, to defeat that, it's a big question mark.
- Q. Do you think the country is as patriotic today as it has been?
- A. Well, we're going in cycles, we're back to the cycle of the old red, white and blue. Unfortunately I think we're being led in very questionable ways, but yes I think the country's back to the United States way of life again. Twenty years from now, forty years from now, I don't know, it may circle back to anti-everything again.
- Q. Do you think that T.V. had anything to do with why this country became disilluisioned with war?
- A. Absolutely. I mean from what I understand, from people that told me and I remember when I was in college here watching it on TV there was this news man cutting his flicks , well when I got over there, he absolutely hated the news media. And I still do.
- Q. Do you think they were biased?
- A. Biased? Hell yes! My sister, my mother and my aunt or whatever would send me news clippings of actions that went on around Danang and several of them I was in and it took me awhile to figure out that was it. This night, you know, and everything and all these VC and everything. Kill four or five dinks, what the hell? In the paper there'd be a division, a massive raid or air strikes. First, I do, I guess, now what, eleven or twelve years, nine, I've been out, I can kind of see some of the sensationalism, for the fact that it's not common to blow away people or see them get blown away or watching Napalm being dropped to support your unit. It's really a greusome thing, I guess it comes along with age. But at the time it was an every day event.
- Q. I think one thing about the media coverage, all the things they were showing was what we did. It never showed the other side.
- A. Prime example, prime exambpe, there was a orphange across the bay from Danang and I'd go there, I don't know how many times I went before they finally let me in, but I'm going to tell you about it. And there were orphan children due to the war. There was a priest and twelve or fif=teen nuns and they were international

there were Americans, and whatever. We'd take food over to them. Of course we had to be in flak jackets you know and everything to go over and see them. And the kids would cling on you and bubble gum you and chewing gum you to death, but you knew that's what you were there for. And Charlie came in, this was in late 1971 I guess, and totally annihilated the thing, mutilated the nuns, I think killed two nuns and the priest, they just absolutely bisected them. And that never hit it, they totally destructed it. Several times we went over, the Marines had them at the top of the hill, you could see the fire and action going on, you know a few tracers and things coming down over your head, When this all happened I don't know if the Americans even heard about it. And the question was, why in the hell did they do it? The oldest child there couldn't have been over twelve years old down to infants. Totally annihilated the place and some to the kids there too. I don't guess any of that hit the news, but we are the bad people for being there. Granted back in '47, '45 . . . guess we got in there, 1943 or 44. We had advisors there. My chief for example, from down here in the hills of Kentucky, joined the army air corps, bare footed. He and I had a real hard time for awhile, but we finally got it straightened out. He'd been there five times and he came right from the European theater to right around siagon. Many people don't understand how long we've been there how long things have been going on. How long we'd been in El Salvador?

Q. How do you feel about the way Reagan's handling El Salvador and Lebanon too?

A. Well, in a way they're different and in other ways they're identical. You've got El Salvador is a South American country. You've got high-tempered people, they'll continue to do it with these power structures. If you support one, everybody will go to the other or vice-versa, it's a no win operation. Lebanon is a religious war, hey, there's no way in hell that you'll ever win a religious war. I don't give a damn if you back three parties, there's twelve dozen of them over there. The Moslems, the Sheite Moslems, there's about four other different branches of Moslems there. I don't know how many. There's no way you can count them, unless you drop the egg.

Q.- Do you think it's possible to be the policemen of the world anymore?

A. Absolutely not. No way Jose', for the same fact the major powers of the world don't want a war on their own continent, so they're going to ship it out to some little place that dosen't mean anything, El Salvador, so we lose El Salvador, so what, there's Nicaragua, twelve dozen other little countries. And their attitude, those in world domination, it's not ever going to stop. But the other flip of the coin is when they get up to Mexico's border, when do we start? It's a two sided coin, but somehow, somehow we're going to have to figure a way to a unified leadership in these countries, before we go over there. The key government in Siagon, hell, that was as corrupt as all get out. And it's the same thing in El Salvador and Lebanon.

- Q. Do you belong to any veterans organization?
- A. Yes, I joined this local American Legion, mostly just for local sport. I've been there once, twice in two years and one was to come and vote for this guy that I knew.
- Q. Have you ever taken part in any kind of protest?
- A. No, I don't believe I have, I'm kind of a reserved person.
- Q. You're from Shelbyville?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How'd you end up here at Morehead?
- A. To school?
- Q. What made you come up here?
- A. Well, I guess at the time my brother-in-law, John Blair was a Doctor here in town and his family was here in town. Economics, it was probably the least expensive of schools. It was either here or Richmond really. Of course I guess the social life was better at Richmond. I had a hard enough time the way it was. I was told I wouldn't make it through college, I wouldn't have a prayer at getting my masters, although it took me ten years I did do that!
- Q. Do you think Morehead's a pretty good school?
- A. I would say you'd have to break it down to departments. Industrial Education is a fine school, I suspect that it will grow even more. Morehead has been known for their teachers, now I don't know how they rate as far as other schools with their teachers, but I understand it's a fairly good department. Science, Mathematics I'd say we're probably a little bit short on that. But overall I'd say we're as good as any state supported school.
- Q. Do you think education is shifting away from back in the days when you and I first started college? More emphasis on Industrial Education and less on Social Sciences?
- A. Yes, that's strictly economics. You have to get a Doctorate degree in Philosophy before it's worth ten cents to you. Sociology, of course is the same way, well you can get a government job with a BS in sociology, but it's worth \$12,000 a year, if you can live on that. After four years of expenses that cost \$15,000 - 20,000. I don't know what it costs today to go through college. So, yes it's definitely putting more emphasis on sellable. You're a product when you go through college, you've got to get out where you can sell yourself.
- Q. Did your degree help you any do you think?
- A. Well, you see where I am, no, being in Industrial technology I keyed around two particular industrial fields and after joining

the service, by the time I got out one was completely disproven and the other one jsut wasn't feasible so no, what I'm doing now my degrees no good at all.

Q. Why did you decide to stay in Morehead after you got out of the service?

A. Well, I got an early out of the service by twenty some odd days and came back to work on my masters and found out you can starve to death on a GI Bill and bought into Kentucky Fried Chicken when it was down in the old building. And I went from there into the lumbar brokers business. Quit that and went out of town for a year and ran pallet mills and sales, then came back from there bought this place. Mainly because my family was more satisfied here than elsewhere. And then, I moved my mother up here after my father died and everybody was here.

Q. Do you have any final comments, anything you'd like to say?

A. Well, you asked about public recognition of Vietnam Veterans and I know there was a Veterans of Foreign Wars convention and there was 15,000 to 17,000 people there and there was less than a hundred Vietnam Veterans. I don't think we really wanted anything. I'd like to see some of the guys that got zapped over there or some guys that kind of have their head screwed on backwards helped, but not socially. Currently I've got one friend that I still call. The rest of them are scattered out, no longer at the addresses I have. And, I called him last week, and he'd been to see a shrink, he's been having some problems. One, I guess convient thing about me is that about fif-teen months after I came out of the country I came down with an unknowen disease and it came down to thirty-six hours, I was going to die unless they finally treated me with something. And, they started treating me and they fried my damn brain with steriods and I lost my memory. I've talked to him, he's been down here once and I've been up to see him once. And, he tells me about a night when I ran over top of him and took him out in the truck and the truck was destroyed. I said well hell, the only reason I did that was I wanted something to land on, and I did. But, I kicked another guy out when I went out the door and I don't remember that at all. Just what he has told me. He and I convey quite a bit, I guess we relieve each other.

Q. Well, you develop some pretty close relationships when you're over there.

A. Oh, yes, such as that occasion in the truck, you know, and I don't even remember it. I also, people laugh at me, I don't know what I forgot. I mean how are you going to remember, and other things, even now. I was talking with him and he mentioned something and I said Fred I don't have the slightest idea what you're talking about, and he explained it all to me and it seems like once, when he explains it to me bits and pieces come back. And photos, I've got all kinds of photos and people send me photos of certain actions and things.

- Q. You see a lot of Media coverage about the emotional problems the Vietnam Veterans are having. Do you think that is widespread or just that they play it up so much?
- A. Sensationalism, hell you've got sell newspapers, magazine articles and T.V. series an what else. What speciifc, I mean, I don't really know how many millions went over there, I donknow how many were killed and wounded. But I know exactly 1% of 3 million thats not bad. Look at World War II and World War I, a lot of those guys are still basket cases. But what percentage is that? And the news media, look how much more it is today than it was then.
- Q. I know if you were too young to remember the war, but just get your impression of veterans from the media there's only two conclusions you can come to. Either they're a homicidle-manic just ready to go over the brink or they're a dope addict. And like you say there's never any percentages. They just keep grinding this in day after day.
- A. That's news, it sells, and if you print this story of me you know it's a plain Jane story. Sure I did some things, I got in some action, I got hit one time. But that dosen't sell newspapers. What sells is maiming, you know that's what sells people read this gory stuff.
- Q. Well that's one of the reasons I got into this research. I want to prove that somebody like you or myself, we're the rule rather than the exception and people that you see on T.V having all these troubles are the exceptions.
- A. I do have to agree that probably there was a higher percentage of Vietnam Veterans, well that was the first war we ever fought that wasn't in organized units. We had more people out on a five man recon team, a fif-teen man recon team, you were out in the middle of nowhere with nothing, you'd do things that if you were in a big unit there's no way you could get away with it, For one thing, and then too the whole attitude over there in my opinion was, kind of confusing. Another little interesting side-line was my first trip over, and I was leaving the air base and I had this big black Marine guy tell me that Marines have a buddy system, and it was you take care of yourself and one other at all times. He was almost right, you took care of yourself and if you had time you took care of one other. Thats the individualized war I guess you might say. That's the way I looked at it. I took care of myself as well as I could and if you have time, like I said Fred was in the way, he went out the door with me.
- Q. Well, it wasn't like in World War II when you went in for the duration. When I went over I knew the day I was going to leave. That's what you were fighting more than anything.

- A. yes, it was a whole different concept and I think that's what put a lot more pressures on people. I didn't want to come back, I thought I was nervous when I was there, in fact I only had one nervous period and that was the first month I was there because I didn't know which way to turn, I didn't know what, you know, Charlie running through the damn camp throwing sapper charges.
- The only thing you can do is stuck your thumb up your ass and watch them come through. That's the reason why I got in that unit, and once I got armed where I could take care of myself I floated. And I came back and I was a nervous damn wreck. And there was people going 70 miles an hour in a car and it was legal over here, 30 was the top end and you know a year and a half of that.
- Q. Whatever you could get your bicycle over there?
- A. Oh, Lordy, the most treasured things was a refrigerator and an electric blanket when you had electricity. I mean those things you killed for. When you came back, I guess the worst thing when I came back was there was so many people and they got close to you. All around you. The airports drove me crazy, couldn't stand it, I'd just go in a bar, get up against the wall and chug me a couple and get on the airplane and go somewhere else. That I guess was the biggest problem I had. Then when I went to Tucson, I was plum crazy, that's all there was to it, Stayed drunk most of the time, raised hell, and ripped and teared a lot. I put more wear and tear on my body in those seven months or so than I ever did over there. And Marines had a thing, they'd spend two weeks at Cova going over and two weeks detraining coming back. I don't know if that wouldn't have been a bad idea for everybody. In the Air Force you know everybody says you don't do anything and all that. The Air Force and Marines hated the Navy because they sat off the cost and drank their beer and watched the rockets red glare. But I don't know if it wouldn't have been good for everybody. Particularly the people that had been in close combat. It's a big change, here you are in the jungle and in three days you're in downtown San Francisco. I mean, hell, I don't care who you are you're not going to straighten up that quick.
- Q. It's like the same principle as when the Iranian hostages were turned loose. They kept an awful close watch on the, . . . And I'm sure they didn't go through near what some combat Veterans did.
- A. No, granted they were under the constant fear of being killed at any time or tortured at any time, but yet you knew it was coming or at least you suspected it was coming, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, You know, yet you ate and breathed at any time. While I was there I coped with it, I mean I got where I could cope quite well with it. some guys couldn't, some guys couldn't handle it, they were wild all the time. and then, something interesting you didn't ask is about drugs. Because hell, they were there, everywhere.

- Q. You know that's the one reason I haven't asked that, it wasn't there when I was there.
- A. Probably wasn't.
- Q. I find that odd that it seems like it began in 1970. I was wondering if it was because people going in at that time had been home watching all this on their T.V. It just wasn't there when I was there.
- A. We had a hell of a problem with it. I was one that didn't at all, for the sole reason unless you really got zomped on booze. You're scared enough you'll straighten up. You might not be able to stay there very long, but you at least can function, at least this is what I found while I was there. But, I've seen guys on dope that were catching incoming rounds all over the place and they were just strolling down the street like nothing's happened and other guys ran around like rats, totally terrified, and couldn't even control themselves and I said, you know, when Charlie decides he wants to walk over that fence tonight I'll be ready, or at least have my sanity with me.
- Q. I don't think I would have put up with it or anybody else that I knew. I don't think we would have tolerated it.
- A. Well you see, when I was there there was just so damn much of it, like this midnight to noon shift, of course you didn't have too many lifess or not much, in fact the guy who was in charge stayed so messed up that you just had to drag him around. I'd go drag him out of bed and take him down to the shop and throw him under one of the work benches and leave him until daylight. That's when the strikes started coming in, and I ran the damn shift. We had I think, nineteen on that shift from three to eight o'clock in the morning or seven thirty and there wasn't but eight, we'd lose eleven people that were either stoned or drunk or just too damn dumb to know what they were doing. Well another little thing, in our shop we had eighty some odd percentage, eighty-three or four percent of college graduates and two guys with masters. That made a big difference right there, a big difference.
- Q. That goes against all the research material that says the poor and the black fought the war.
- A. Of the grunts that was probably the truth, see I was in electronics. I worked in the fire systems for the AC19, I worked on DC47's electronic communication ships, A1 spads, single engine recipicating, and in order just to get there you had to have some smarts to you. We had one guy that was a Duchth, by spending four years, he was nationalized. We had one guy from India, he was dumber than dirt, he was in there. There was another guy, I can't remember from what country. But spending four years in the U.S. service you automatically become a nationalized citizen. The Dutch fellow he was as smart as a tack, he'd walk around saying it wasn't his war. The Indian he couldn't even speak English, much less know what he was doing. In a way it was comical, in another way it was sad, very sad.

- Q. When you were talking about the drugs, we had one guy we wouldn't even allow on LP because he snored, so you know, there was no way we were going to let somebody out there that was just out of his mind about half the time.
- A. With this strike group that I got with we had thirty-one people, and anytime we got called up, we'd take fifteen, myself and fourteen others. I was on that for a month and came in charge of it. And, we worked out with Marines quite a bit. They were pretty straight. Then some idiots decided to pull the Marines back, I think it was the third Marines back to the states and pulled in what was left of the big red one. They just got their ass chewed up, up in the fire base. I was glad that I only had about three months left when they got through. We had one guy killed in the shop right after I left because of that. There wasn't anything left of them.