

00:00:06:02 – 00:00:32:27

Unknown

My name is Palmer McKay. I am interviewing Vietnam veteran Bob Paterson, who served in the Army and was in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969. Bob is a trooper, and we're grateful he's here today, despite an untimely accident and a bit of a face injury. Mr. Paterson, this interview will have four sections your life before service, basic training, your time in Vietnam and your life after service.

00:00:33:04 – 00:00:45:10

Unknown

Let's get started with your background. Where did you grow up and what was your area known for? I grew up in South Bend, Indiana.

00:00:45:13 – 00:01:02:03

Unknown

The basic town was famous for the Studebaker Automotive Company, Bendix Corporation, and then the University of Notre Dame.

00:01:02:06 – 00:01:07:16

Unknown

Was our main things that we had.

00:01:07:19 – 00:01:32:06

Unknown

Can you tell me about your family growing up? Grew up? I had well, I had two sisters, had one died shortly after birth. And then I had two brothers. So and I grew up in a predominantly Catholic family.

00:01:32:08 – 00:01:37:14

Unknown

And my dad worked for Bendix Corporation.

00:01:37:16 – 00:02:04:09

Unknown

Would you describe your dad's job as blue collar? White collar or something else? He was a blue collar. He was a plumber, pipe fitter. And then he also did investigations, background investigations for a company called Retail Credit on the side to make enough money to support the family and in everything.

00:02:04:12 – 00:02:26:15

Unknown

Do you have any memories of your father or other men around you telling war stories from World War Two? My dad was in the Korean War for a short period of time, but he had gotten blinded when he was young and had the mumps, and.

00:02:26:18 – 00:02:48:20

Unknown

He did a little bit of, I would say, manipulation of the system because he could memorize the chart. And so he got in the service. But then shortly after he was in the service and he was stationed at Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

00:02:48:22 – 00:03:07:25

Unknown

The memory of Graph Machine blew up or something and got some ink in his face and in his eye, and they took him and found out that he was blind in one eye. So they discharged him. But they really didn't talk a lot about the war.

00:03:07:27 – 00:03:18:19

Unknown

In the interviews or anything, you know. So I'd say not a whole lot.

00:03:18:21 – 00:03:28:00

Unknown

Did you have a favorite World War II movie growing up? No, I wouldn't really say I did.

00:03:28:02 – 00:03:55:01

Unknown

We didn't have a TV for many years until I guess I was, I guess I was probably closer to 12, 13 years old before. We actually haven't had a TV in the house. And then it was black and white. So you watched the things like Fathers Knows Best and stuff, family type environment.

00:03:55:03 – 00:04:25:10

Unknown

A lot of Vietnam veteran memoirs mentioned John Wayne as an influence on their expectations of war. Do you remember John Wayne that way? I remember John Wayne as the cowboy in a few of the war movies that they had had him in, but I just thought he was a movie actor that was trying to.

00:04:25:13 – 00:04:34:01

Unknown

Alert people as to what went on in early America. And.

00:04:34:03 – 00:04:39:13

Unknown

I just thought it was pretty cool.

00:04:39:15 – 00:05:07:21

Unknown

Now, I'd like to move on to the start of your service and basic training. Would you describe yourself as volunteering, being commissioned or drafted? I was originally drafted and then once we got to from Chicago. I was went to the reception station in Chicago, and

then they put us on a train and sent us to Saint Louis and then to on a bus to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

00:05:07:25 - 00:05:19:27

Unknown

And while taking our adverb tests there, I noticed a gentleman at the front that was.

00:05:20:00 - 00:05:30:07

Unknown

Had lived up the street from me, and he was in the service. And I said something to his brother who was there with me. And.

00:05:30:09 - 00:06:02:01

Unknown

He came back down there and asked where we were at and were staying at what building. And he came and saw us after we that evening, and he told us about a program that they had were a few took the third year you'd changed from being a draftee to a regular army, and you get to pick a an MOS job specialty that you could think you'd like better than being in the infantry.

00:06:02:01 - 00:06:08:27

Unknown

And I that took the third year and went on.

00:06:09:00 - 00:06:43:06

Unknown

Can you describe how you learned you were drafted and the thoughts you had in the weeks that followed? Basically while in high school, I work for a company, and they thought I had taken something, and so they were charging me for that. But they found out later that I did not take it. I was given it to me by the assistant manager.

00:06:43:07 - 00:07:04:16

Unknown

And so when that was all, all the legal things were done, they decided that the draft board decided that I needed to go for a updated physical. Of course, I never came home.

00:07:04:19 - 00:07:20:22

Unknown

To jump back for a second in discussing your deal that you took for the Moss position, were you relieved that you were able to kind of pick your job instead of going to the infantry?

00:07:20:25 - 00:08:05:03

Unknown

It was something that I had been thinking about, of joining the service after my little legal ramification, and they just beat me to

the punch. So when that was offered. I was very quick to establish and and take that third year because I wasn't sure that I wanted to stay in the service, but I felt that that was something that was an honorable thing to be in the service and defend my country.

00:08:05:06 - 00:08:10:12

Unknown

Did you expect to go to Vietnam?

00:08:10:14 - 00:08:51:24

Unknown

I did expect it when I was in advanced training at Fort Gordon. I came on orders to go to Vietnam, but I hadn't even finished all my training. So they took me off the orders. And then I ended up staying a little longer after for my advanced training. And then they kept me as a assistant instructor. And when I came down on orders to go to Vietnam, I kind of had a hand in it that I had volunteered to go.

00:08:51:26 - 00:09:08:04

Unknown

What, if anything? Did you know about the country of Vietnam or the Vietnam War before you enlisted? Before I came into service, I really didn't.

00:09:08:07 - 00:09:49:16

Unknown

Look at too much of the Vietnam War and stuff the country. I knew that we were defending the United States rights prior to me getting into Vietnam, and my thought was always, I would much rather fight on somebody else's land than in my own backyard. Some people thought I was kind of weird in that respect, but, why tear up something that we've built to defend something else?

00:09:49:19 - 00:09:56:27

Unknown

And so that's what I kind of believed in.

00:09:57:00 - 00:10:06:09

Unknown

Do you remember anything specific about the last days before your service or the trip to base?

00:10:06:12 - 00:10:31:06

Unknown

Just that the the reception the draft board had said, oh, you're just going to go up for a physical and stuff so you don't even have to pack nothing. Just wear your clothes and you'll be back tonight, you know, Saturday night. And I went, okay. So I flopped down the bus and we rode to Chicago, did the AV stuff.

00:10:31:06 – 00:10:51:02

Unknown

And next thing I know, you know, there's a guy stand in front and says, okay, on your feet, raise your right hand. And this officer came in and we repeated our enlistment to things. And there we were in the Army.

00:10:51:04 – 00:11:09:14

Unknown

So once you got called up, you never went home. I didn't go home till after I had finished basic training. I got to go home and leave for a few days. Between basic and advanced training.

00:11:09:16 – 00:11:51:25

Unknown

Was there a specific MOS you wanted to avoid by enlisting? No, I just thought I wanted something that if I decided to get out of the service after the three years, that it would be something that I could come back to and have another skill, to take over and do things with. Because I'd always heard people say, well, you know, if you're in the military and you get out of the military, generally you get hired back real quick, like, because you've got a skill.

00:11:51:27 – 00:12:00:28

Unknown

I had a skill as a mechanic before I went into service, but.

00:12:01:01 – 00:12:05:28

Unknown

I wanted something else, maybe a little better.

00:12:06:01 – 00:12:46:16

Unknown

How would you describe your boot camp experience? My boot camp experience was different for me than some of the other young kids. I was about two years older than most of them, but they were all shaking in their boots when the drill sergeants would holler and scream at them. And I. My dad was a very demanding, respectful type person that you respected your mother, your father, relatives, older people.

00:12:46:16 – 00:13:14:10

Unknown

It was always yes, sir. No, sir. Yes, ma'am, no, ma'am. And so the household. So when the drill started to screamed, you know, and hollered, they didn't bother me, you know. And so when I first got there, the the drill sergeants wanted to know. You're not scared of me. I said, no, sir. And they do. No, sir. I'm not a sir.

00:13:14:10 – 00:13:33:13

Unknown

I'm a drill sergeant. Dress me as drill sergeant. Yes, drill sergeant, you know, and it didn't bother me, you know, it bothered them that I was not afraid of them. But I enjoyed the additional.

00:13:33:15 - 00:13:46:04

Unknown

Leadership that the drill sergeants gave me during basic training. And also they took the fact that I had a.

00:13:46:07 - 00:14:07:04

Unknown

Driver's license with commercial driver's license, which used in Indiana, was a chauffeur's license at a time when I came into service. So then they used me to drive the different vehicles in in basic training.

00:14:07:07 - 00:14:33:13

Unknown

Was there anything about boot camp in particular that was difficult for you? No, not really, because I, I was just that energetic kid that, you know, you tell me you want me to run a mile. You know, I run a mile. You tell me, run, run two miles. I would run two miles. I might not do it in the time frame, but because I was scrawny little kid.

00:14:33:13 - 00:14:37:01

Unknown

But.

00:14:37:03 - 00:14:47:08

Unknown

I just tried to do the best I could with the situation.

00:14:47:10 - 00:15:09:09

Unknown

I know you said that some others around you struggled more with basic training than you did. Do you remember anyone getting singled out and bullied by a drill instructor or other recruits? I don't recall anybody being bullied.

00:15:09:12 - 00:15:25:02

Unknown

I think the drill sergeants pushed the weaker people harder to try and make them understand that.

00:15:25:04 - 00:15:42:20

Unknown

The military service, you had to toughen up and you had to be tough, and they were just doing their job to make sure that.

00:15:42:22 – 00:15:58:21

Unknown

You were ready to do things. And in a in a set in my mind that I wanted to be a drill sergeant one day to and later on I was.

00:15:58:24 – 00:16:14:26

Unknown

So then what were some of the ways that others around you struggled with boot camp? Say that again. What were some of the ways that others around you struggle with boot camp? Well, you had you had some kids that.

00:16:14:28 – 00:16:35:15

Unknown

That, that, I don't know, that maybe hadn't done sports or something like that. So they weren't in physical shape. You had some kids that were a little bit overweight, you know, so they're trying to get them down to.

00:16:35:18 – 00:17:15:03

Unknown

The specs that they, they wanted to. So you saw some of the, some of the young gentlemen, because we had all males in our basic that actually, you know, couldn't keep up with the, with the total group. And so they'd lag back. And a lot of times you had to another soldier would go back there and help them and push them a little bit to try and keep them going.

00:17:15:06 – 00:17:50:03

Unknown

Between basic training and deploying to Vietnam. What additional training did you receive? Basic training. Got to go home for a two week period of time. Then I reported to Fort Gordon, Georgia and my advanced individual training was multi-channel communications operator. And I went through that training and like I said, they put me on orders for Vietnam before I had actually graduated.

00:17:50:03 – 00:18:24:08

Unknown

So then they had to revoke those orders and I finished school. And then because I didn't have orders to go anywhere, they kept me as an assistant director, and I got to learn about a new radio that was coming in at that time, and I got to know the cattery and was able to bond kind of with some of the senior NCOs at that time.

00:18:24:10 – 00:18:34:02

Unknown

I'd like to move on to your time in Vietnam. What month did you arrive? In 1968.

00:18:34:04 – 00:18:43:01

Unknown

I think I said October 68th is when I arrived in country.

00:18:43:03 – 00:18:52:16

Unknown

Could you describe your first 24 to 48 hours in Vietnam?

00:18:52:19 – 00:18:59:25

Unknown

Well, they they kind of.

00:18:59:27 – 00:19:35:06

Unknown

Set you down and said, okay, this is what happens and stuff. But it was a hustle and a bustle, and I ended up going to 52nd Signal Battalion and very fortunate for me. The people that were in charge of the multi-channel communications was a couple of the instructors that I had, senior CEOs that I had been at Fort Gordon with.

00:19:35:10 – 00:19:46:19

Unknown

They had left a little bit before me and they were there, so I got to.

00:19:46:21 – 00:20:04:25

Unknown

I guess what I'd say I got the kids gloves type environment. Hey. You're back. Was good to see, you know, and just to keep telling me to keep my head down, you know, and stuff like that.

00:20:04:27 – 00:20:09:24

Unknown

What was the heat like?

00:20:09:26 – 00:20:24:18

Unknown

I guess I'd say the heat. When I, when I arrived, was kind of like a knight in Florida. It was hot, but.

00:20:24:20 – 00:20:39:21

Unknown

Me being from Indiana, you have some hot days. But it wasn't. It wasn't like it was there. But if you went to Florida, it was hot. Kind of like a Florida weather.

00:20:39:24 – 00:20:46:19

Unknown

Do you remember any distinct smells?

00:20:46:21 – 00:20:50:13

Unknown
You had a.

00:20:50:15 - 00:21:14:10

Unknown
I don't know, kind of a sour smell in the atmosphere and stuff, but that was because where we were stationed at, there was rice paddies all around us and stuff. So you kind of smelled that that type of a wet environment.

00:21:14:13 - 00:21:35:18

Unknown
Do you remember the first time you saw Vietnamese civilians? Actually, when I was in a at the reception station, when we first landed, there was some civilians there that was doing things for the military. And.

00:21:35:20 - 00:21:41:01

Unknown
When I got down to 52nd Signal Battalion.

00:21:41:03 - 00:22:10:02

Unknown
One of the first things was when they took you around to show you the different things. The Vietnamese were like our barbers. We had what we used to call mama San. She she would help take care of your clothes and stuff like that. And so you had had those people.

00:22:10:04 - 00:22:22:00

Unknown
What did you expect when you arrived, based on TV or stories you had heard?

00:22:22:02 - 00:23:06:12

Unknown
I really didn't have any major expectations. Because my parents always taught me to absorb what she the environments you're in and fit in with them. So I had people that I bunked with for a very short period of time, and I just basically tried to fit in with the fellow soldiers that was there and do what I was told to do, and it worked out.

00:23:06:14 - 00:23:24:09

Unknown
You mentioned in the pre-interview that you had two distinct roles in Vietnam. In the first role, would you describe yourself as being in combat in the rear or somewhere else? Well.

00:23:24:12 - 00:23:57:04

Unknown
Our battalion in the company I was in, I'd have to say we were towards the rear. We were in place called Canto Vietnam. The battalion

headquarters was in the headquarters. The fourth quarter headquarters was in the Encanto, so we were kind of back behind. We weren't in the major, war zones were more to the north of us.

00:23:57:07 – 00:24:32:15

Unknown

We did have ten of 68 was there as well. So they did do some bombing and and things like that. But by the time I got there, the Tet had calmed down quite a bit and we were just kind of a rare thing. Now we had other units of the battalion that were out into the war zone and stuff, and we had to send equipment to them and stuff like that.

00:24:32:15 – 00:24:38:15

Unknown

So, but I'd say we were more in the rear.

00:24:38:18 – 00:24:59:26

Unknown

What kind of work did you do in this first role? Well, I was there for two days in. The battalion commander came through our area and got Ahold of Sergeant Gladney, who was one of the staff sergeants, that.

00:24:59:28 – 00:25:24:14

Unknown

I had made friends with when I was at Fort Gordon in advanced training. And the colonel was talking to him, and when he left started, Gladney says, come on, we got to go get your your driver's license. And I was kind of puzzled at first and I said, what? Why such a hurry? Oh, the colonel needs a driver.

00:25:24:18 – 00:26:08:01

Unknown

His driver went home on emergency leave, said, okay, but I said I didn't come to be the colonel's driver. He said, you'll do the colonel's driver. He said, take it. And so I went and got my license updated and went to see the battalion commander, and was introduced to him. And I basically made the mistake of saying, well, sir, if if I would rather be back in the in the multi-channel communications area, can I do that?

00:26:08:02 – 00:26:43:10

Unknown

He says, I'll tell you what you do, young man. And I said, yes, sir. And so I, I drove for him, did odds and ends. I would I would say that my job entailed being an aide to the, to the battalion commander at that time. And then as the brigadier general, that was the.

00:26:43:13 – 00:26:55:16

Unknown

First Signal Brigade commander would come down to visit. Then I ended

up working for the general and.

00:26:55:19 - 00:27:21:04

Unknown

You know, you think of a lot of times of generals having aides and stuff like that in, in Vietnam, whoever happens to work for them, you know, you do you do everything but that they want you to do. And it was very rewarding job.

00:27:21:07 - 00:27:52:15

Unknown

Can you expand on that and in what ways was it rewarding? Well, you got to instead of being out on the air base where most of the battalion was, I lived on what was called econ compound, and that's where the drivers for the officers and stuff we lived. So we had a little bit better things. We weren't sleeping in a in a hooch.

00:27:52:22 - 00:28:29:19

Unknown

We had a wooden building and stuff. And I got to know some people. And so we actually took one of our air conditioning units that we would keep with our signal equipment that we weren't using. We had extras, we put that into the building. And so we had air conditioning in Vietnam.

00:28:29:21 - 00:28:43:22

Unknown

As you spent time around the Colonel and the general and other people in military command. What most surprised you about them?

00:28:43:25 - 00:28:56:27

Unknown

Well, you know, you hear about colonels and generals and and majors and stuff, all being, you know,

00:28:57:00 - 00:29:04:04

Unknown

I guess I'd say that they're kind of snooty or something, but.

00:29:04:07 - 00:29:32:22

Unknown

The colonel that I work for in all the upper echelon people, they're just like anybody else. They have feelings and stuff, and they treat you with respect. You treat them with respect, and they treat you back with respect. So my time.

00:29:32:25 - 00:30:03:20

Unknown

Was probably different than some of the other people because they they had to go out in the boonies and everything else in a couple times. I

asked the Colonel if I could go out in the boonies and he said, no, you're you're staying here with me. And then one actual time I did get to go with the Special Forces guys because we help support some of their stuff.

00:30:03:22 - 00:30:19:06

Unknown

And I did get to go on a two hour trek through some rice paddies with them, but that's all I could. That's as far as the Colonel would let me go.

00:30:19:08 - 00:30:45:24

Unknown

Can you tell me about the second role you had in country? Were you in combat or the rear? I was in, in in the rear again. The battalion commander became the controller for the first Signal Brigade. And so he went. He moved on up. We got a new battalion commander, and we had.

00:30:45:26 - 00:31:16:06

Unknown

A sergeant first class Chesney, that was our battalion flight coordinator, and he passes back to the United States and they didn't have a replacement for him. Can you tell us what PCs means? That's where you go back to your back to the United States permanent changes station. When he he left, they had nobody to do it. And so the new commander.

00:31:16:08 - 00:31:39:07

Unknown

Appointed me to be the battalion flight coordinator. And I coordinated all the aircraft that came in for supply missions, coming to us and going out to our outlying sites to resupply or take new equipment or refurbished equipment out to those sites as well.

00:31:39:09 - 00:32:08:16

Unknown

How would you describe the people you served with in terms of economic background, race or religion? I would say that we were a collage of every bit of what we had. You had all kinds of races. You had all kinds of nationalities. You had all kinds of.

00:32:08:19 - 00:32:23:14

Unknown

Religious people. And we where we were at, we dealt with other branches of the service.

00:32:23:16 - 00:32:31:02

Unknown

And we dealt with other countries.

00:32:31:04 – 00:32:42:15

Unknown

We had the Korean people. That Rock Army was was in our area. We had the Turkish people that was in our area.

00:32:42:18 – 00:33:13:07

Unknown

And you had all kinds of different countries France, British. I always like the British because that twang that they talk in the way their language and stuff, and it just intrigued me. But we had you could basically say we had the world, was there with us.

00:33:13:09 – 00:33:23:19

Unknown

What proportion of those you served with would you say were white, black or other ethnicities?

00:33:23:21 – 00:33:30:03

Unknown

Oh, geez.

00:33:30:06 – 00:33:35:18

Unknown

I wouldn't say that there was any one.

00:33:35:20 – 00:34:01:12

Unknown

Group that was more than than another group. I mean, we had fellow white soldiers. We had fellow black soldiers. In fact, the the Exo's driver was a black gentleman named Andy. Well, I think his first name was Andrew, but we called him Andy Anderson. And.

00:34:01:14 – 00:34:39:19

Unknown

We just we hung around together, you know, in you in the military. I guess what people don't know, you hang with everybody. Every relation, every ethnic group, because you're in the same boat. And that's just not. And it's not just Vietnam, even after Vietnam. I mean, you know, and then as you, as you.

00:34:39:21 – 00:34:56:12

Unknown

I would say advance in your career, you see it even more so that you you got to rely on everybody, and you don't shun anybody.

00:34:56:14 – 00:35:27:22

Unknown

Do you remember there being Latino servicemen in country? Asian American servicemen and country Native Americans? Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. We've had we had all kinds of I mean, you know, there was one fellow

that was actually an Indian and not from the country, but from the United States. He grew up out West and and stuff. And he was he worked in our supply room.

00:35:27:25 - 00:35:59:28

Unknown

Do you remember any women on base, either Vietnamese or American? Vietnamese. The the they had a oh, I don't know what you'd call them, but they were workers and they did things like the laundries and stuff like that. And we had American women that worked at the USO.

00:36:00:01 - 00:36:10:16

Unknown

In fact, one of the girls that I went to high school with was one of those young ladies that worked in the USO. And.

00:36:10:19 - 00:36:40:12

Unknown

There in Kanto for a short period of time. And then you had some nurses that was there trying to think what other groups. But yeah, you had Vietnamese women, you had Vietnamese or American women there. Did it feel like a sort of reunion when you ran into this woman you knew in high school? Yeah. It was kind of funny because it was.

00:36:40:13 - 00:36:47:14

Unknown

It was. The colonel went to talk to somebody.

00:36:47:16 - 00:37:12:08

Unknown

About getting a USO show to come in to the compound and put on a show for the for the battalion, and. Well, I was sitting in Jeep. This girl comes walking by, and I went.

00:37:12:10 - 00:37:18:28

Unknown

Geez, I think I know her. And.

00:37:19:01 - 00:37:29:14

Unknown

About that time the colonel came out and they stopped and started talking and stuff and.

00:37:29:16 - 00:37:50:08

Unknown

Colonel pointed towards the jeep and and stuff, and she comes over there and goes, yeah. Hey, Bob, how are you? And I go, hey, you know. But he knew that I was from South Bend in, I guess in the inner talking with her.

00:37:50:10 – 00:38:08:20

Unknown

They had talked about different things before. I had gotten there and took over as his driver. And so when he knew that she was from South Bend, so he didn't know if we went to school together or not.

00:38:08:22 – 00:38:29:15

Unknown

Roughly how big was the compound when you were there? Were there hundreds of people? Thousands of people? Eaton Compound were the drivers and all stayed. We probably had 200 people that was out on that compound. But the main airfield.

00:38:29:18 – 00:38:52:07

Unknown

There was probably I'd say there was probably 5 or 600. There may have been as many as a thousand soldiers, soldiers on that installation. Did you or anyone you served with change in terms of faith in the war zone?

00:38:52:09 – 00:39:04:20

Unknown

You know, I never really looked at it in that respect. So I couldn't really come in on that.

00:39:04:22 – 00:39:13:26

Unknown

How did living in Vietnam and meeting Vietnamese people affect you?

00:39:13:28 – 00:39:27:06

Unknown

I think it just accelerated my appreciation for people.

00:39:27:08 – 00:39:56:04

Unknown

Because my, my, my dad and mother and my grandparents always taught me, you know, treat people like you want to be treated and you'll get along well in, in the world. And you can see that some of the people what I had in the United States prior to going in stuff and coming back from it, they didn't have those things.

00:39:56:07 – 00:40:33:24

Unknown

You know, they lived in a hut. I lived in a house. So you kind of felt sorry for some of those people. And yet not everybody was. Was a Vietnam Viet Cong. There was some very nice people there. And so when it came time, you know, in Mama Sam would do our laundry and they would charge us, I don't know, 20 dong or whatever.

00:40:33:26 – 00:40:59:24

Unknown

I always would give them a little more because I knew I could afford it. And they always appreciate it. So they always, if I ask for something to be done quickly or something like that, it was always done. But again, I didn't try to put them down or anything.

00:40:59:26 – 00:41:07:25

Unknown

What do you remember about Vietnamese children?

00:41:07:27 – 00:41:43:04

Unknown

The little, the, the the children that I actually saw in in dealt with occasionally. They were always looking up to the American soldier. And they were always wanting a handout, but they would do anything to kind of please the American soldier and stuff. Do you remember phrases like America number one?

00:41:43:07 – 00:42:08:01

Unknown

Sometimes they they would say that, but most, most of the ones that I dealt with to we had we had interpreters and stuff like that that was in the battalion and stuff. And the gentleman and I call them gentleman.

00:42:08:03 – 00:42:12:00

Unknown

When they.

00:42:12:02 – 00:42:38:13

Unknown

Could, they would bring their families in there and let there let their children see what the Americans do. And there was always that, I guess, mutual appreciation from myself and the colonel in, in our staff that we had there because we.

00:42:38:15 – 00:42:53:18

Unknown

Took and collected things and there was an orphanage there, and we would take stuff out to the to them to take to the families and help them out.

00:42:53:20 – 00:43:27:10

Unknown

Did you know any American men who had Vietnamese girlfriends? Oh, yeah, there was there was several guys that had a girlfriend and stuff. I never had one for simple fact, that is, I was always busy, I didn't have. I got up early, got the Jeep ready and cleaned up, and everything worked for the colonel. And the colonel was always on the go.

00:43:27:13 - 00:43:52:02

Unknown

We might get back in at 6:00 at night and stuff. And then there's there's nights that we were doing stuff until nine, 10:00 at night. So I didn't have time. And then when I was, when I took over as a battalion flight coordinator. Again, I was up all kinds of hours.

00:43:52:04 - 00:44:21:07

Unknown

People would come, come over and rap on my door and say, hey, I need an aircraft. I got something special. Mission. We got to go on, got to, got to get some equipment somewhere. Okay, then then you get up and you start making contact with, the different places and get a get an aircraft to come in and fly a mission for you.

00:44:21:09 - 00:44:29:15

Unknown

Did you witness prostitution in Vietnam?

00:44:29:18 - 00:44:49:20

Unknown

I would have to say. Yeah, there was probably some going on, but, I didn't I didn't put a put any faith in and stuff on what was going on.

00:44:49:22 - 00:44:57:06

Unknown

Did you learn any Vietnamese words or phrases during your tours?

00:44:57:08 - 00:45:05:19

Unknown

Probably a little bit. But over the years.

00:45:05:21 - 00:45:28:09

Unknown

In the different countries that I, that I have been in and in around, I couldn't really tell you a whole lot of the few words or phrases that you remember. Could you give us a sample? Oh, shoot, I really.

00:45:28:12 - 00:45:42:15

Unknown

You put me on a spot there. I really don't think that I've retained. You know. That's okay.

00:45:42:18 - 00:45:51:03

Unknown

Did you experience any culture shock in Vietnam?

00:45:51:06 - 00:46:01:06

Unknown

I wouldn't say culture shock, but it was.

00:46:01:08 – 00:46:11:16

Unknown

It was what my parents and my grandparents had taught me that.

00:46:11:19 – 00:46:55:15

Unknown

You, being an American citizen, were privileged. What we had in my family wasn't that privileged at all, because my dad was always working two jobs to keep food and stuff. We didn't have a car originally. We didn't have a TV originally. So, I mean, we had little things that came along as I was growing up. But some of these Vietnamese people did not have the ability to even get those things.

00:46:55:18 – 00:47:03:12

Unknown

Did you get sick at all in your time and country?

00:47:03:14 – 00:47:07:02

Unknown

I can't recall.

00:47:07:04 – 00:47:12:00

Unknown

I had a little bit of flu.

00:47:12:02 – 00:47:42:07

Unknown

And I did feel a little weird when we got sprayed by Agent Orange, and stuff, but basically I stayed pretty healthy the majority of the time I was there. Well, definitely come back to Agent Orange. Was being in Vietnam your first time being out of the United States? Yes.

00:47:42:09 – 00:48:02:18

Unknown

Well, yes. Yes. And I have to do a caveat. My grandfather lived in Detroit, Michigan, so he did take me to Canada a couple times in my younger age.

00:48:02:20 – 00:48:12:14

Unknown

What was the most interesting food you ate in Vietnam?

00:48:12:16 – 00:48:24:12

Unknown

Probably kimchi, which is Vietnamese and Korean, kind of, but.

00:48:24:14 – 00:48:35:25

Unknown

We we were able to eat mainly American type foods and stuff.

00:48:35:27 - 00:48:41:02

Unknown

Where we were at.

00:48:41:04 - 00:48:49:22

Unknown

Were there any American foods that you missed while in Vietnam that you couldn't have?

00:48:49:25 - 00:49:30:26

Unknown

Well, there was there just about anything that the mess hall would put on and stuff you could get. And then of course, care packages. You know, my mother would bake cookies and ship them to us. And when those, when, when those packages arrived in, I became a very likable guy. Bye bye, everybody. Oh. And then she. And then she would send some cakes and some cookies and.

00:49:30:28 - 00:49:56:03

Unknown

You know, you don't you miss that. But, my family, my grandmother was a was a very, well known baker in her neighborhood and stuff. So we could we'd get some good goods from time to time.

00:49:56:06 - 00:50:02:16

Unknown

Do you remember any distinct animals during your time in Vietnam?

00:50:02:19 - 00:50:11:15

Unknown

Well, the water buffaloes and stuff. And I actually.

00:50:11:18 - 00:50:18:02

Unknown

For the time that I lived on Aiken compound.

00:50:18:04 - 00:50:22:06

Unknown

I found a little puppy.

00:50:22:08 - 00:50:55:18

Unknown

And I raised him. And about a week, I guess it was before the change command ceremony. My little puppy disappeared. But I was told that he became somebody's meal, and that kind of disturbed me. But but.

00:50:55:20 - 00:51:09:09

Unknown

I think I think that's probably about the only animals that I. You know, you see the water buffalo and stuff with the farmers out there doing their things.

00:51:09:12 – 00:51:16:16

Unknown

Do you remember rats in Vietnam?

00:51:16:19 – 00:51:24:01

Unknown

Be honest with you. I don't think I ever saw a rat.

00:51:24:03 – 00:51:46:15

Unknown

Our both both the compounds that I slept are lived on were pretty, pretty clean compounds. You heard of places that had that? But I never really saw them.

00:51:46:18 – 00:52:00:14

Unknown

Did you ever see Vietnamese civilians collecting or using American trash? Yes, they they would go through.

00:52:00:16 – 00:52:29:09

Unknown

You had a certain area that you threw the trash and then mama son in, they would clean up your your rooms and stuff. And they would whatever. If you through some way, they were always looking to see if there was something they could use. It if you watched the Vietnamese.

00:52:29:12 – 00:52:35:14

Unknown

They were, they would use anything they could.

00:52:35:16 – 00:53:08:15

Unknown

To get their hands on to do something with it. You might take a wrapping paper that, that. For instance, when when my mom would send stuff, I take the wrapping paper and I'd want it up and throw it away. Mama, son, say no, no, no, you give to me, okay? And, you know, and they would wrap.

00:53:08:18 – 00:53:17:04

Unknown

They would wrap their food sometimes in that. So they were.

00:53:17:07 – 00:53:22:10

Unknown

You might say they were thrifty people.

00:53:22:13 – 00:54:10:12

Unknown

Did you personally encounter the Viet Cong? When I, when I left. Well, when I was on Aiken Compound, we actually had some people that tried to overrun the compound, and there was a little bit of a skirmish there. So I did come interact with them there. And then when I went out and became the battalion flight coordinator, they tried to overrun that compound, killed a couple of American soldiers, but there was probably two dozen of the VC that were killed.

00:54:10:14 – 00:54:20:20

Unknown

And when we were looking at them, one of them happened to be the barber. They'd been cutting our hair.

00:54:20:22 – 00:54:28:24

Unknown

Did you encounter Vietnamese POWs?

00:54:28:26 – 00:54:46:19

Unknown

I knew that there was some there, but that that area was off limits to most of the Americans, except for the ones that were gardening them.

00:54:46:21 – 00:55:00:09

Unknown

You mentioned off camera one instance when Viet Cong were taken into the woods. Can you tell us about that incident?

00:55:00:12 – 00:55:04:00

Unknown

They basically.

00:55:04:02 – 00:55:16:16

Unknown

Caught a Vietnam become trying to infiltrate the compound. And.

00:55:16:19 – 00:55:37:15

Unknown

The infantry people that were there took them and went off into the woods. Whatever happened? Don't know, or what they did with them, but I never saw him again.

00:55:37:18 – 00:56:15:14

Unknown

So we were talking before about how you experienced some adverse effects after being sprayed with Agent Orange. Can you tell us about that experience? Do you remember seeing Agent Orange being sprayed? We we felt. We felt something and we said we thought it was just that it was rain, but it was just kind of weird that that it it had a tinge of

color, but yet it didn't have color, you know, kind of like on a real heavy thunderstorm, you know, and stuff.

00:56:15:16 – 00:56:52:03

Unknown

And we didn't think anything of it. And then I just had this feeling, you know, and stuff. And the colonel made comment that we needed to take a good shower, get in and take and get ourselves cleaned up and said, okay. And for the next couple of days, I just felt. Yeah. Didn't just felt kind of weird and.

00:56:52:06 – 00:57:27:00

Unknown

Kind of like I was going to come down with something like, like flu or something like that, but then taken after a few days of getting baths and stuff. So just to clarify, you were sprayed with Agent Orange and the colonel you drove commented that you all needed to have a good bath. Good shower, something like you said, you know you need to take clean up good, so I.

00:57:27:02 – 00:57:57:12

Unknown

Thinking back to that time, he knew what was going on in. Like I didn't really know what was going on in later in my military career. Found out that they had when I was a drill sergeant at Fort Gordon. Found out that we had and I knew we had a village out there that they trained some people on before they went to Vietnam.

00:57:57:14 – 00:58:03:21

Unknown

It had been sprayed with Agent Orange. So.

00:58:03:24 – 00:58:46:09

Unknown

That's something that in the back of my mind says, you know, that's why probably the colonel said, get in and take some showers and clean up. Really good. Where were you when you got sprayed? Were you in the compound driving around? No, we were we were actually, myself and him were out on a on a road going between two, two areas that we had and stuff, and it got in it, it was kind of raining and stuff, and we had stopped to talk to some Vietnamese and some rock soldiers.

00:58:46:12 – 00:58:58:03

Unknown

And I said, you know, and I had gotten out of the Jeep stuff and got wet and and he had to.

00:58:58:06 – 00:59:09:03

Unknown

Were you concerned at all at the time about Agent Orange? And you said

you kind of felt bad. It just it just.

00:59:09:06 – 00:59:34:03

Unknown

You know, if you feel like you're going to have the flu or something like that, you, you know, you kind of shrug it off and you try to eat a little bit better food, you know, and stuff like that. At the time, I did not know what Agent Orange was. I didn't know until later and then realized.

00:59:34:06 – 00:59:47:27

Unknown

That that's what has caused part of my medical history and stuff. And this caused me some problems.

00:59:48:00 – 00:59:52:27

Unknown

What were some of the ways you coped with the war?

00:59:53:00 – 01:00:17:09

Unknown

Well, I'll be honest when I say this again, I would much rather fight on somebody else's land than on the land that I'm living in. And so therefore,

01:00:17:12 – 01:00:30:25

Unknown

Going out and looking at seeing how the world was, has been in my, in my livelihood.

01:00:30:27 – 01:00:40:07

Unknown

And I think back in those days that our country.

01:00:40:09 – 01:00:47:10

Unknown

Was more proactive in the world.

01:00:47:13 – 01:00:52:09

Unknown

Than it was reactive.

01:00:52:12 – 01:00:57:13

Unknown

But we've got complacent.

01:00:57:15 – 01:01:03:19

Unknown

From those days till now.

01:01:03:21 – 01:01:10:06

Unknown

Sometimes in two liberal.

01:01:10:08 – 01:01:23:01

Unknown

Do you remember humor or slang or jokes or pranks being part of life in Vietnam?

01:01:23:03 – 01:01:28:09

Unknown

People, my entire life.

01:01:28:12 – 01:01:35:04

Unknown

Have played jokes on people and pranks, you know?

01:01:35:07 – 01:02:00:19

Unknown

On each other. So I don't think it's any different than when I was in Vietnam than being in the United States. You know, I mean, when you play sports, you know, when I was in high school, in grade school, in high school, and you played sports, you know, there was always somebody pulling, pulling a prank on you.

01:02:00:21 – 01:02:08:01

Unknown

Were you aware of active duty military personnel who opposed the war?

01:02:08:03 – 01:02:13:09

Unknown

Probably.

01:02:13:12 – 01:02:18:10

Unknown

After.

01:02:18:13 – 01:02:58:12

Unknown

I came back from Vietnam, I probably had heard that in in saw some people that would go out and want to protest. But my thing is, is if they didn't like this country and they didn't like the way it was running, they could go somewhere else. And that and and that's still my philosophy. They, you know, if you don't like what's going on in the United States, go live in one of those countries and see how well you like it and how soon you're going to be back.

01:02:58:14 – 01:03:07:10

Unknown

What was the most memorable friendship you had during your time in

Vietnam?

01:03:07:13 – 01:03:10:27

Unknown

Getting to know.

01:03:11:00 – 01:03:28:02

Unknown

My battalion commander and getting to know the XO striver, Andy Anderson. And for a short period of time, I.

01:03:28:04 – 01:03:45:26

Unknown

Had a roommate, and I have, somewhere along the line lost his last name. His first name was Doug. But.

01:03:45:28 – 01:04:06:07

Unknown

A lot of those people, you know, you haven't seen again. Do you remember where Andy was from? Andy was from up around Virginia, and.

01:04:06:09 – 01:04:14:12

Unknown

My granddaughter is handicapped. And.

01:04:14:14 – 01:04:23:06

Unknown

They. Her dad is in the Coast Guard. Was in was in the Coast Guard. And.

01:04:23:08 – 01:05:03:27

Unknown

So they had to the Coast Guard was not like the Army. In fact, when I was in, it paid for everything and she had to have specialized training and stuff, and so they had to pay certain amount of money out. And we were helping with that. And I went with my daughter one time, and I thought that we had met his wife because I saw a picture of him and we talked and sure enough, I did find him, but he has since passed away.

01:05:04:00 – 01:05:14:25

Unknown

What was the most beautiful thing you saw in Vietnam?

01:05:14:27 – 01:05:38:12

Unknown

I'd say some of the buildings and stuff that you find, you know, the architecture and stuff like that are between headquarters was in an old bank building and I mean, fantastic marble and and stuff like that, you know.

01:05:38:14 – 01:05:45:20

Unknown

What was the worst thing you saw in Vietnam?

01:05:45:22 – 01:05:55:24

Unknown

I just the worst thing I thought, I think that that I would have to say is.

01:05:55:26 – 01:06:00:28

Unknown

People losing their lives.

01:06:01:01 – 01:06:07:10

Unknown

For some things that.

01:06:07:13 – 01:06:14:22

Unknown

We all should be able to get along in the world.

01:06:14:25 – 01:06:57:24

Unknown

Did you expect to survive the war? My dad taught me two things, and I had to use it when I was there, he said, you got to be able to make split second decisions, and there's three ways you can come home. You come home walking, you can come home injured or you can come home dead. And he said, so when you're faced with a situation and somebody points a gun at you and you know that they're not an American and they're not part of the force on your side.

01:06:57:26 – 01:07:05:06

Unknown

Don't wait for them to shoot. You're going to have to shoot first.

01:07:05:08 – 01:07:15:25

Unknown

Who did you write to or receive letters from while you were in Vietnam? My parents. My sisters.

01:07:15:27 – 01:07:19:19

Unknown

I had a girl that.

01:07:19:21 – 01:07:35:08

Unknown

When I went to Vietnam, her dad and my. And my dad worked together at Bendix. And I had written to her. And then the girl lived next door to me.

01:07:35:10 - 01:08:12:21

Unknown

Do you remember any American TV shows or songs from your time in Vietnam? They had a Armed Forces Network, AFN. They had a star, had a TV type thing, and they had a radio station. So they they played music. But the best thing that I can say for things like that was they had these us o shows like Bob Hope and stuff.

01:08:12:21 - 01:08:48:20

Unknown

We had, when they would come in and stuff and we had a, girl band and I never could remember what the name was, but they must have come to the Fourth Corps, I guess, probably once every 90 days. It seemed like they were back and playing, and they'd play a, a whole evening, and stuff, and then they'd pack up and they'd go somewhere else.

01:08:48:22 - 01:08:59:08

Unknown

But they, they would entertain the, the GIS in the area. Did you go to a Bob Hope show? Yes.

01:08:59:10 - 01:09:25:25

Unknown

Do you remember recreation amenities on base like bowling alleys, tennis courts. Oh, you didn't have you didn't have things like that where we were at, you had a a homemade basketball court, you know, there, but.

01:09:25:27 - 01:09:40:06

Unknown

I can't think of anything else that we had, you know, we had 55 gallon drum that we used as a grill.

01:09:40:08 - 01:09:46:08

Unknown

And stuff like that, but.

01:09:46:10 - 01:09:54:28

Unknown

What was your most expensive or frequent purchase at the.

01:09:55:01 - 01:10:07:13

Unknown

I guess, I guess I'd say the most expensive thing was either the camera that I bought or the stereo system that I bought.

01:10:07:15 - 01:10:25:12

Unknown

You could buy products like Sony products and stuff like that. And I

bought a receiver in a record player.

01:10:25:14 - 01:10:43:14

Unknown

And shipped it home from Vietnam speakers. Did you take a lot of photos? I did take quite a bit of photos. It was all on film and.

01:10:43:16 - 01:11:18:12

Unknown

Some of those photos. Never made it home. Whether somebody confiscated them or somebody wanted them to show people I know when my bag or my stuff was packed up to be shipped back to the States. One box never, never showed up. And it had a lot of my photos that I took, and stuff like that.

01:11:18:14 - 01:11:28:21

Unknown

Did you buy any Vietnamese souvenirs?

01:11:28:24 - 01:11:35:28

Unknown

I cannot think of.

01:11:36:01 - 01:11:50:18

Unknown

I can't think of what it was. I bought my mom something and sent it to her, but I don't remember what it was. It was some.

01:11:50:20 - 01:11:57:20

Unknown

Gosh, it's been so long ago.

01:11:57:22 - 01:12:23:19

Unknown

What was R&R like and where did you go? Did not go to R&R. It was working for a colonel in the general. You didn't have time to go to R&R. And the transition between him and the battalion flight coordinator position. I didn't have time.

01:12:23:21 - 01:12:34:25

Unknown

That's the end of my in-country questions. Is there another story we haven't talked about from your time in Vietnam that you'd like to share?

01:12:34:27 - 01:12:55:08

Unknown

No, I think I think we've covered pretty much everything. Okay, let's talk about your post-Vietnam War life. What relationship in your life was most changed by your service?

01:12:55:10 - 01:13:01:06

Unknown

I think.

01:13:01:08 - 01:13:35:00

Unknown

I would have to say that it makes you appreciate what you have here in the United States. And then also later on in my military career. What other countries, even in, in in the comparison to what, what you have in the United States and the ability to do what you can do in the United States.

01:13:35:02 - 01:13:42:26

Unknown

Did you know any antiwar veterans?

01:13:42:28 - 01:14:18:06

Unknown

Probably over the time frame, probably heard some, you know, but that's that's just like politics now. Okay. I don't try to to talk politics with anybody because what's my thoughts on some, some issues may not be what theirs are. So I don't try to cross those borderlines. So you continue to serve in the military until 1990. In the early 1970s, as the war continued.

01:14:18:09 - 01:14:27:19

Unknown

Did you see morale change or an increase in things like anti-war GI newspapers?

01:14:27:21 - 01:14:59:08

Unknown

When I came back from Vietnam, there was a lot of dissent by the people around us that were not even in the military, and stuff. So but I just kind of shrugged it off and said, hey, you know, that's them, not me any within the military. I didn't really hear.

01:14:59:10 - 01:15:14:18

Unknown

Maybe one, 1 or 2 people would would be downplaying it, you know, why? Why were we there, you know, and stuff like that. But again, that to me that was a.

01:15:14:20 - 01:15:53:27

Unknown

Politics type decision by them. And I believed in our country and I believed honor leaders knew what they were doing. So you talked about how earlier, how in the years after Vietnam, the further along you got with your career, the people that you worked with diversified. What

was the Army like in the years right after Vietnam, when the military transitioned to an all volunteer force?

01:15:54:00 – 01:15:58:19

Unknown

I don't think it changed a whole lot.

01:15:58:21 – 01:16:27:13

Unknown

But you had people that did want to did not want to be in the service, period. I mean, they they thought that they could do better on the outside. And it was intriguing to me to watch some people that, you know, I'm tired of somebody tell me what to do, how to do it and, and stuff all the time.

01:16:27:16 – 01:16:53:27

Unknown

And they get out of the service in 2 or 3 years later. Right. You see that they coming back and getting in service again. Oh, wait a minute. I thought you didn't like this. Why are you back? Do you remember more women entering in the all volunteer force? Oh, yeah. Yeah.

01:16:54:00 – 01:17:04:15

Unknown

You spoke to it a little bit earlier. How did the Army change in terms of demographics?

01:17:04:18 – 01:17:22:19

Unknown

Well, with the women coming to the service and stuff like that. And you had the mentality of, leadership.

01:17:22:21 – 01:18:01:22

Unknown

And how the people would treat the women and stuff like that. Oh, they can't do this or they can't do that, and. Yeah, they can now. Yes, I will agree that there are certain physical restraints on some things, but in some cases the women can do the same thing and the man can. Like in an admin role and stuff like that, you know, they can be a clerk just as well as a guy can.

01:18:01:25 – 01:18:19:28

Unknown

And some of them are some of the women out there are as hard nose as any guy can ever be. In the late 1970s, right after Vietnam. What kind of work did you do in the Army?

01:18:20:01 – 01:18:39:16

Unknown

Well, I went, I came back and I was an instructor in the Signal School

for for a little while. And then I went to Germany and I was again an instructor in the signal school in Germany. And.

01:18:39:19 – 01:19:06:29

Unknown

After I, I guess it was about 8 or 10 months in, I went to work for a colonel there and in bad tells Germany at the Signal School, and he called him, and the sergeant major called me in the office and said, the post commander wants to see you. I said, oh, what did I do wrong? And he said, nothing.

01:19:07:00 – 01:19:28:15

Unknown

He said, go down and talk to him. They want to talk to you about a job. And I thought, what kind of job would they want me to do? You know where this weird signal school? There. There are all kinds of things in the community. Well, talk to Colonel Ferris and Heimer. And he said that the motor sergeant motor officer got caught.

01:19:28:16 – 01:19:59:02

Unknown

Black marketing, gas stamps and PDL lot property. And he was looking for somebody that could run a motor pool. And he saw that I had worked for Kaiser Jeep and was motor maintenance qualified. And he wanted us. And I said, well, a lot of its management. And I said, the people that you got down there just making sure that they managed and they doing their job.

01:19:59:04 – 01:20:22:10

Unknown

So he gave me the job, sent me to I requested to go to school for an understudy, a good motor sergeant for a couple of weeks. They sent me to Nuremberg there, and the colonel was over all the sub lock.

01:20:22:13 – 01:20:34:04

Unknown

Units. He sat down with me and told me what he expected of me, and I came back and I did that for two years.

01:20:34:07 – 01:20:49:22

Unknown

Who since the war have you talked to about Vietnam? Oh, I guess I've talked to a lot of people about Vietnam, you know, in.

01:20:49:25 – 01:21:01:09

Unknown

Because I never got to go to the northern sectors where some of these guys were Dong Tam.

01:21:01:12 – 01:21:32:22

Unknown

And stuff like that. It's always intriguing to me to to hear some of their stories, what they went through, because I, I kind of felt that I was in a sub sub removed unit and stuff. Of course, going to some of these remote sites, occasionally you do in your flying over it, you do see devastated areas and stuff like that.

01:21:32:22 - 01:21:37:02

Unknown

But.

01:21:37:04 - 01:21:44:07

Unknown

Just talk to and listen to some of these people about Vietnam.

01:21:44:09 - 01:22:19:21

Unknown

Have your views on the war changed at all since you left Vietnam in 1969? No, I don't really think that they have changed. I still. Feel that I'd much rather fight in their country than ours, and that our leadership at the time, knew what they were doing. Have you been to the wall in DC? Yes. What do you think of it?

01:22:19:24 - 01:22:49:20

Unknown

I think it's a tribute to those that lost their lives. We've brought the small wall down here with the American Legion. And stuff. But, there's one guy on there that that I knew. It's on that wall, and.

01:22:49:22 - 01:22:58:02

Unknown

Do you remember it being controversial when it was being put up? Oh, you have.

01:22:58:04 - 01:23:36:06

Unknown

You have all kinds of people that are controversial and stuff, and they've got a political opinion. And my dad's favorite saying was, you can have the opinion, but keep it to yourself. Have you been back to Vietnam? No, but I'd like to go back there just to see what it looks like. Now, I've talked to, several people that do hairdressing and do nails and that that are from Vietnam.

01:23:36:08 - 01:23:45:00

Unknown

And they tell me it's it's really beautified.

01:23:45:02 - 01:24:15:07

Unknown

Would you like to go back? Yeah. If I had an opportunity to go back to

see what it looks like and where I was before, I'd love it. What would you like to go see and do? Just. I would travel around and just to see what it looks like. This is my last question. Do you have a favorite book, poem or movie about Vietnam?

01:24:15:09 – 01:24:23:14

Unknown

No. Okay. Well, Mr. Patterson, thank you so much for talking with us and sharing all your wonderful stories. Thank you. Thank you.