

Interviewer: Trent Tosky (A)

Interviewee: Ray Yeatman (B)

Date:3/22/19

A) Alright so first off what's your birthday.

B) December 9, 1932

A) Wow, old man, that's awesome, where did you grow up? You said Tuscaloosa earlier? Born and raised your whole life?

B) all my life

A) That's awesome, did you have any family in the military

A) Did you have any family in the military?

B) Not now,

A) When you were growing up?

B) I had 2 sons, one served in air force, one served in the coast guard, got out and went to university of Alabama and got a degree his nursing and then did active duty, and then did ----- nurse--retired in the air force. Had a brother served in world war 2 and in what they called flied over the hump in bourbon china sector flying supplies to Chiang Kai Shek.

My father served in world war 1 in 167 infantry 147 rainbow division, spent more time in front lines than any other group.

We come from, my wife first husband served in the navy south pacific, then my son served in navy and retired chief petty officer like me

A) Wow that's terrific, came form7 a big military family it looks like, So In your hometown how was the military culture there, was there a lot of military? Not a lot?

B) Well pretty much a military area because we have in the south we produce more veterans probably than anything except New York, and California of course because of the amount of population in there, per capita Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia produce more than veterans than any other group per capita.

A) Were you drafted enlisted?

B) Enlisted

A) When did you enlist?

B) Well I went into the national guard when I was just out of high school in 1951, served there for 5 years after Korea they deactivated this anti-aircraft outfit with 40 mm guns, and went to guided missiles, 40mm guns couldn't keep up with supersonic jets, then I went to join the green beret special forces as a heavy weapons guy e6, and after Korea was totally over they disbanded that and I went into the Seabees

A) So, you wear a green beret?

B) Omg I did not know what

A) And I served in the Seabees and retired as a chief petty officer steel worker

With 2 tours to Vietnam

And a retired in 1975 as e7 senior enlisted in service

A) That's a total of 24 years own!

B) Chief in the sea bees takes the same responsibility as 2 officers in any other branch of service, 2 officer in the marines air force army over a platoon, whereas the sea bees there was one e7 heir and one e6 after him

A) Wow that's a ton of responsibility, good for you, good for you sir, what were your opinions on the Vietnam war draft

B) Well it was a political war, if they let us do what we needed to do, if they let us do what we needed to do, we could have been over there in 6 months' time, but as it was

there were things we were not allowed to do, first off we were not allowed to fire unless you were fired upon, and they say you had a mine above high bond harbor, to keep the other nations from putting other ships on there. We would have put a blockade on the navy and starved them out in less than 6 months, but they didn't do that and allowed it, but it was a total political war, but we served with honor,

Yes 100 percent

A) Do you feel that the draft was needed for the war?

B) I would like to see the draft continue today

Because young men need a sense of direction that some nay younger men today do not have a sense of direction, we can train men to do a job, and to find first thing off is to find respect

Getting respect though the military

And respect for everybody.

Doesn't stop at military, military teaches respect

When we were in classes, we had 100 percent response form the individual, they are there to learn and they have discipline in the classrooms, and you can't teach unless you got discipline in classrooms

A) Mhm gotchya, that's a valid point very valid, What were you doing before the war?

You said came right out of after high school, right?

B) I went into national guard right out of high school weekend and then uh a 2-week summer camp. I made an unusual advancement, I went in and in 3 years and 9 months a had 5 stripes on my sleeve, most men, a got a brother that retired after 21 years and he shad 5 stripes on his sleeve. I was in the right place at the right time. That's where a started out 216 anti-aircraft battalion here at fort Brandon armor, it's nonexistent now, it

was right there on the right-hand side if you're going towards druid city hospital. It was there from 1922 until they destroyed it in about 1990.

A) Mhm gotcha wow, how would you describe a Seabee? How would u describe what they were what they did?

B) Seabee stands for construction battalion, were the guys that built the roads the landing the buildings fields, anything else that required to be built, a was a steel worker chief, a put up numbers of metal structures and kept building bridges as training, and we had as the sea bees we had utility men which were air conditioner, refrigeration and plumbing, had electrical and electrician mates, they did everything to be thought of as electrical and doing interior wiring to manning power generator station. You had your builders that had to do with the budding of anything with a wooden structure and then your mechanics and equipment operators

A) So, you guys made the roads and airstrips?

B) They had the landing strips they had these mats matting which would man landing fields, we had our battalion when a was in Vietnam, last tour over there we built

A) We can just go keep going on that

B) And the steelworker we provide anything to do with metal and metal structures, building air condition vents and focused on that and for any any metal structures they put up butler buildings anything that would need to be built, we built it

A) You learned that in your extra training?

B) I learned that in the Seabees, I already was a master welder?

A) Okay wow

B) And a had credentials in the state of Alabama as a national plumber, so a had 2 national skilled trades

A) Yes, that would work perfect for you!

B) And both of my times with the national guard and special forces and Seabees I did more instruction duties than a did in my own field

A) Wow so that's a lot! Wow so you went from being an infantryman to learning how to do all these trades and went to basically like a military construction worker?

B) Basically, then we had to do the same thing as marines, we went to camp Lejeune and camp Geiger in the Carolinas to California to the Seabee base out there out from seaside

A) Seaside California?

B) Mhm

A) Gotcha

B) Called camp Lejeune,

A) Camp Lejeune, okay gotchya

B) No camp Lejeune is in Carolina, I can't think of the name of the place right now, been about 30 years

A) Yeah, it's been a long time, Was the work hard or was it fun or stressful?

B) We worked 16 hours a day

A) oh, that must have been brutal

B) Temperatures in Vietnam ran up to as 130 degrees

A) Humidity rain.

B) We had to take time in doing our job, we had to program ourselves to how much we can do at one time because if you got exhaustion, heat exhaustion out there you hour of business for work for several days, so we had to take the works as we come and schedule it so that we didn't tax ourselves were we wouldn't work

At 130 degrees you think the stars on yourselves

It's got to take a toll on you after some time,

A) How was the culture among your soldiers and friends, was it sad or bad

Well we had us from every part of the country, to the upper peninsula of Michigan, to California, the east coast, Florida, the \_\_\_ Mississippi, people from every place

A) Did you guys get along? And tender

B) Well when into the group in California, they told me, they mess up write me up, a said no, if a have to write them up that's a reflection of me not doing my job in training, so a said alright we, morale first off we gone have a party

They said u gone have a party. I said all these guy that want beer a said fine they can have the beer, a wont drink the beer, I'll drink coke, and you drink all the beer you want, but if you overdo it you belong to me.

yea

At that party we got

We got cashed

My moral went from 0 to 100, and a first tour in Vietnam, we had 600 men in the battalion for 9 months, Seabees were in for 9 months, out and in back for another 9 months, and out of my 40 guys,

I had out of my 40 guys I had 3 guys that made Seabee of the month out of 9 months over her

A) Wow out of only 9 months that's real good a feel

B) I left 6 months there, that someone else filled in to make Seabee of the month but a had 3 of my guys out of 600 make it

A) How did you feel towards the Vietnamese people, not the soldiers but the community of people?

B) Well I'll give you an example, My platoon adopted a Vietnamese woman and her 4 children and a mother, we went out and got a piece of equipment built the land up to where it was above the normal rain and monsoons would be so they could have a dry house. They built a house and put a metal roof on it

A) Wow that sounds really nice and wholesome!

B) And when they would come into our base, if they were sick we carried them to the sick bay, and they were treated as one of our troops

A) Mhm that's real nice

A) How did you feel about the soldiers on the NVA on the other side

B) I Never met them so a can't say. My job oversaw base maintenance and that was in hue, with the battalion and then in da nang a was in charge of base maintenance for battalion regiment of 2000 troops. It was my responsibility of my guys for my guys to maintain the base, the all the equipment, water purifications, power and generator stations and sanitation. Look their job as builders and keeping the base u and put in building other installations.

A) Did any of your teammates or friends or friends of soldiers have strong feelings towards the enemy in Vietnam or understanding?

B) Well we didn't get involved, our job was to build the roads and so forth, our mission was not to engage the enemy, now we had to maintain our own perimeter, but we didn't go out there to engage the enemy at all.

A) Yeah, you were just building

B) Our responsibility and mission was to build and keep everything moving

A) Were you guys ever like attacked at all during your perimeters or base?

B) Well a didn't say that, we were in hue, we had numerous attacks from 122 rockets which would carry about 100 pounds of TNT in the warhead, we lost several troops from that , we had an individual that walked in the same steps that a did 30 seconds later and he is no longer with us

A) So sorry to hear that

B) In da nang we got a lot of incoming from the mortars, but we didn't lose a man in our 9 month deployment there. One night in our base to the marines, they came took about 35 rounds of mortar inside the camp that night, and our supply officer took a mortar round close enough it opened up his sternum almost got his privates about a half inch deep no blood because it seared his skin so hot,

A) Wow, it cauterized it

B) And he whenever we finally found him, he was paralyzed and all he could do was blink his eyes and when we got back to the states, he was amputated on a cane, so he came close to losing a man out of 900 while we were in Vietnam

We got back to the states and we were in the states less than a week and we lost 3 guys on the freeway.

A) Jeess on the freeway?

B) On the freeway

A) Like back at the states



B) Back at the states, it was safer in Vietnam than it was in the united states, But a mean you can't necessarily say that but I know what you're saying

So basically, you guys were not supposed to engage the enemy

A) No

We had to have the capabilities of defending ourselves if we fell under attack, our mission was not to engage in

B) Yea but you got artillery bombardments form and whatever time to time

A) Were you ever scared for being bombed or were you contempt?

B) Well lemme tell u a little story

We were on the line in the Tet offensive in 1969, and one of my troops asks me and says that you afraid? I say yea, you afraid to die and I say no, not afraid to die, a done settled in between me and the war, would you die for me, yea to save your soul yea, he looked at me and he said a believe you would.

Really

And a would

Lord Jesus Christ died for me, there's no greater love than any man dying for a brother

A) That's very touching to say

B) The top of my shop door in da nang, the troops put a sign on the top of my ship door, there's no profanity that shop chief yatman chops, somebody said well there should none under than u for what a served

A) That's really hard that's touching, so you guys said you had to setup your perimeter?

So, would u guys have lots of weapons there or?

B) Well we had our individual weapons

We had our m16, 45s and what we called crusher weapon, that was put in security group. It wasn't open airstrip for everybody, cruel weapons was loaded for the crews that maned for what they called the fighting in line in perimeter at night or during times of

challenger, everyone was oriented in how to use a cruiser weapon but that wasn't their primary responsibility

A) Yeah a got you but it's for your defense when they were to attack or whatever, when you would be active in those bombardments, did you ever change your mind on your political opinions on the war, or your feelings towards the enemy?

B) No, they were they to do one thing and that was to destroy us, and our job was to destroy them, like a said our major responsibility was to maintain and build and note go engage. I went to asked to come to a school and talk for a while and one of the students asked how many people did you shoot, I said the only time an ever fired a weapon when a was in Vietnam, we had a bar out there and we'd go out and shoot skeet, and that was the only time a fired a round in my time

A) yeah gotcha because u weren't actively engaging the enemy. Were you ever scared of doing a ground invasion on your construction sites?

B) No but we were pretty in both places were pretty secure as far as coming under attack from the enemy

Because we had marines kept the main area and we just keep our own little sectors were our camp was. They took care of all the outlines and stuff, like what a said they sit out there several hundred yards out there and put mortars in our camp but as far as our group, the whole time a was in hue and Da Nang, we never had anybody on our part of the wire

A) What did you miss the most back home

B) Mama, my baby

Just your family did you miss friends

I had twin boys and little girls,

A) Oh so you had kids already

B) I had dolly in the 2nd grade, and my boys were in junior high school

A) Wow so you had a whole established family going on, Was that very hard for your you know wife and kids and parents?

B) Well she had to relocate in California, and she was nursery here and she got a job in community in interior community hospital and served around there overseas

A) Wow, did you guys send letters all the time back to each other?

Repeat

B) Well we got our little recorders and did more recordings,

A) oh, you can do audio recordings and send that?

A) Oh a didn't know that that must have been so sweet to hear your family and friends voices on your tour of duty

B) Well we didn't ignore our after the second time a was over there and then my wife would record rather than writing letters

A) Mhm wow, did you have any good luck charms you're brought with you that was commonplace?

B) I don't believe in good luck charms

A) Superstitions or any?

B) No I know who a served in the community who was in charge of my life,

A) Mhm

B) Luck is literally what you make it

A) I like that quote

B) You can be dumb and luck is going to run out on you

A) Mhm

B) But if you conduct yourselves and use common sense most of the time, you don't have to depend on luck

A) Mhm gotcha

B) That's my prerogative

A) Of course there's outliers in that ha-ha

A) How did you pass the time when you were done with your construction work

B) Well we worked from 6 in the morning to 6 at night unless we got an emergency on the line

I spend 3 days at one time because we were on alert, a didn't have an ounce of sleep in 3 days, they said they had to give me a shot to put me to sleep

A) Wow, did you hang out with your soldiers or friends during your past times

B) Well they had their little things to play cards or their thing, they had a gym and spent a lot of time in the gym, we had the most part of my part time was studying and then a pool table in the chief's club it had beer. I don't gamble with, but they had a way, if you had a straight end shot to the left end pocket, they always bet it wasn't going to make it, but that ball would go down there, and it wouldn't make it.

Yea that ball would go down there it go, it wouldn't go nothing

A) It would miss? It would go the other way.

B) would veer off to the right it wouldn't go in the pocket.

A) It would go the other way?

B) It would veer off in the right wouldn't go in that spot

A) Was it the table or the ball?

B) Idk but it was a shipment we think there was a crack in the slate

A) Ok, a little uneven then there?

A) So you would always bet them a bet you wouldn't make it? That's funny that's funny

So, it seemed like you guys worked out and played games together in your past times

B) In Sunday afternoons we worked to dinner time, we would have intramural ball games,

A) So that's cool you would play sports too?

B) Oh yea, we spent less time on Sunday afternoons and got out there, a was playing one time with this lieutenant on the other team, and he was...nobody liked him and he ended up a way across the line from him and they said that I was to do 1 on 1 on him. And he came my way and when he did come my way a put a block on him and put him on his, we got and said you can't do that and a said a don't see any bars on your shoulder and a said if u can't take the heat get out of the kitchen and everyone clapped, a didn't take that

A) Was that funny moment?

B) Ohhhhyeeeah

A) That's awesome

So enough about your experience in Vietnam, how about when you were coming back to the states, how did you feel when u initially got on the plane, did you feel happy sad,

B) Oh yeah each veah, we made our last flight from Da Nang Vietnam, we were been out of Vietnam idk, this stewardess came bay and she say, a been watching you, she said there's something different about you from any of the rest of you, she said, do you know the lord, and a said a certainly do, she said well praise the lord, she said a don't have to serve, and a said that's great. You don't have to advertise, it comes from the inside, it comes from the soul. I appreciated that

A) You feel proud

B) I had a little Jew boy from California, a get out and pass out on the tracks on the first moment in California from training, and has with us now from our annual Seabee reunions and he got up before and cried to our group one time, a want to tell all something, when we were first in our training, there's this chief with these Christian tracks, I'm a Jew boy and a hated him, but I'm going to tell you today, a have come to respect this man's sandstone and a said thank you, a never had a accolade placed on me like that before

A) Wow that must have made you feel really proud at the time

B) Well it made me feel humble that somebody did notice something different

A) Wow that's great to hear

A) What was the first thing you did when you got home?

B) Kiss my wife, hold my baby, while they were waiting on us when we got back to point lagoon California, 41 touchdowns with eggs and tomatoes thrown at us, calling us baby killers

A) Wow so you didn't get a hero's welcome

B) No, we did not get a welcome parade, meteor fact we got contempt for everyone inside there

A) So you were assaulted and berated, you weren't hugged?

B) No

A) Only from your family?

B) No my family was great they were glad to see me, the other harassers were there in numbers

A) Jeeps like a full on protest almost

B) They were there with their banners and rotten eggs and tomatoes.

A) How did you feel, betrayed when that was happening?

B) Well as had to grit my teeth

A) You gritted your teeth

B) For what we did over there and to comeback, I as a good Christian man, it wouldn't have done well for me to cause anything

A) That's so hard

B) And I was totally physically fit,

A) So you think because u were a good person inside a good Christian morale man you held on to yourself and gritted your teeth, yeah a could assume what would have

happened if you weren't like that, Jews so I was going to ask how you feel about the Vietnam protest but I think you answered that for me

B) Yea... and if you aren't fond of it if u been there, I'm afraid a wouldn't have been able to control my troops

A) Was there anyone who supported you or gave you a hero's welcome

B) No just my family in my environment, was this in California

Yea in fort mcgoo, which is off, you know where standard is,

A) Where?

B) Aramark,

A) I don't

B) Tranard is 60 miles north of los Angeles, 60 miles north of Ia, Santa Rosa and Ventura

Right in that area

A) There was probably a lot of protesting going on in that area already

B) Oh yea

A) So you came to a hotbed of political arguments and instability

B) We had to be careful when we were off the base even though it was a military town, we would see them there and they didn't like us

A) Was there any like you would go into restaurants or go into bars

B) Well a don't go into the bars of a couldn't tell you, We did go out and we got some Chinese food, my children learned to like some Chinese food in California

A) Well that's good you got some good food

A) How about seeing your friends back home that you grew up in high school, how was seeing them coming back, how did they treat you?

B) My family, this area here, they were pretty much pro hi, they didn't have when we got back, this area here a don't run across any negative time vibes

A) So it was mainly your time in California were,

B) Well a hate to say this but California is another type of breed

A) Ha-ha ya a know what you're saying, a grew up there

A) So you didn't feel at home in America you felt at home in Tuscaloosa more like

B) Well when a got off that plane in California a got out idea bunch of them we kissed the ground

A) You were glad to be back?

B) Absolutely

A) But the community you felt was harsh to you, I'm sorry to hear that, Well how was adjusting to civilian life after you were done serving

B) Well a came back as a national welder for hunt oil company, a was on a had permission and signed in on a work site and everyone that was supposed to be in that area had to sign in off that worksheet that a was there to do my job, well this supervisor that was over me was supposed to put a check valve into a pumping system and didn't do it, and a went in to make a weld and a stuck my electrode into the pipe and nothing happened. If a listened to my guardian angel

That a had when a was in Vietnam, would tell me it was time to get up and go while everyone else was asleep, they said what did you get for the alarm didn't go off, well mine did. I had a guardian angel looking over me, well how do you believe what you want to, that third night wake us up, well if a had listened my side field in my welding machine didn't overdrive, went back my trip my sider field and went over as soon as a struck that, with my electrode and a was standing and a was electrified, burned both arms and both legs

A) Wow a can see the scars

B) My twin boys came in the hospital and they looked at me and said who's that? They said that's your father, you're looking at a miracle



My first wife scrubbed me morning noon and night and kept kept the serum off my face, there's no plastic surgery on my face, I'm not handsome but I'm not repulsive to look at

A) Wow a didn't even notice anything

B) I got some over here under my neck

But other than that, the lord blessed, and she did what she knew how to do

A) Wow a think you made a very good recovery given the circumstances what happened

B) Other than that, the lord blessed, and she did what she knew how to do

A) Well a think given you had a very good recovery given the circumstances what happened

B) I still must be careful getting back in the sun, a would blister a little bit, a got baby skin

A) I guess that's good, keeps you fresh you know, what did you learn the most from your service throughout all your years, what was the biggest trait or characteristic you developed that helped you later in life.

B) Leadership, how to control and how to lead men

A) Mhm you got a lot of good leading roles working out here for all those years, did you miss anything from your service?

B) I miss it all, when you put in 24 years, you walk away from it

There was a fella who lost his wife and he said, ray a still dream about my wife, and a say how long were you married, and he said 34 years, and a said, it won't go away, it gone still be there. Like Our trip to Vietnam, ptsd, it doesn't go away, it's always there you must control it

When you came back home did you have effects of ptsd in yourself?

I am going 40 percent with ptsd plus my heart condition,

A) Hmm jeez,

B) a would wake up in the middle of the night still fighting the war, thinking my wife was the enemy, a ended up going to the VA hospital going through the program out there,

when a was with my first wife. With my wife now, went out on a honeymoon in Florida, had a battle and kicked her out of bed, she said what are you doing, a said I'm sorry we were under attack and you were the enemy. So, a sleep on the other side of the bed facing away from her, so if I'm having an attack, I'm attacking my pillow and not her.

A) Wow that's so sad to hear

B) You don't get over that? And a said no,

A) Cause I've seen it you've done it for so long, it's always going to be with you just like what you said with your friend's wife

B) It's still there, you just must learn to control it

It's never going to leave

It doesn't go away

A) Is there anything that helps it?

B) Knowing the lord is one of the things you can do to, call on him to give you a piece of art and mind that other , being able to talk about it, some of the guys that never talk about it, never even come to the point of addressing it, so deep that they don't want to talk about it. In fact, until they get to the point to talk about it, they don't get leave

A) So, you think all veterans should talk about their experiences, it will make them feel better in the end

B) You've got a buddy who experienced the same thing you did, you're not alone

A) So, you think religion and sharing being open with your friends and family would u say are the 2 biggest things that helped you the most coming back to civilian life.

Is there, you mentioned that you throwing down that officer was something real funny that you like to think about, anything reminiscent that you sometimes laugh about?

B) Yeah well as had one of my troops come outside there in the shop there in Danang and put his arm around my shoulder and he said what you say cheefy weefy bacon, a stick my thang and put it on your shoulder and a said woah right there

A) Ha-ha what are you insinuating there

B) I didn't wanna hear anymore

A) Chiefly weefy

B) Yea he done stopped and stepped across the line among possible insubordination

A) Was he an insubordinate to you?

B) Yeah oh yea

A) Like a private or something small?

B) He ended up being one of my Seabee of the month

A) Really? Okay

B) He did his job and he wanted to play a little while

A) He thought that he was above you because he got that little promotion of Seabee of the month

What was your job after the war?

B) I went to hunt oil company after the war

A) Yea you said you were also a minister.

B) Yeah when a came back from Vietnam a was ordained

A) Oh okay

B) And the pastor got a revocation and a worked and a went on a tour of duty with the Seabees in the Bahama islands and a came back, and a helped this welding shop and a would go in the ship down at night, and there was 4 open top drums with liquid in it in my welding shop. And a looked over there and saw it and a Hollard kill it, and that term means everything dies and a told him and a said, come here, what were you not watching these darn drums, and he said no and a said you're over there welding and there's 4 drums over there with liquid in it, and you don't know what's in it, and a said go get your explosion meter and bring it over here. He pumped it up and showed its 100 percent exposure, 4 open topped drums in his shop, he done turned white and his knees

buckled. And he said what we going to do, and a said we gone put a plywood pallet on it and take it back to the safe zone and he said who put it in the shop, and one of them labor man's came by and he said MR. Ray said had to foreman had put that outside, well foreman came bay and he was lightly entertained who put that out the shop, and i said, well a figured it wouldn't take long for him to get to you and a said just go to superintendent who a worked for who set this plant up. Well he said I'm not going and a said well an out to try something else I'll give you a yellow slip and I'll be back I go to the superintendent and a said if a need another ten, fixing to have one less I said, four over topped drums in my welding shop, u fire him and take me out from under your that supervision, or I'm gone, I'm not looking over my shoulder the third time And he said well, my hands are tired they hired him from the home office against my wishes

You know my background of a don't like what a see I'll be back in business Monday morning, he said a don't want to lose you, a depend on you to run your job, u had your parole given out, a said a will not stay under this situation, I'm not going to take a chance with him again. I went over to VA Goodrich and asked somebody and asked if they need maintenance and they asked what you do and a layer 3 certifications on the desk. And they said when u want to go to work

A) It's like that

B) Yeah but you can't get the welding job you're trained to, would u take a pipe fitter job and a said yeah I'll take a pipe fitter job, and they said well you have to take a test and a said, yeah I'll take the test. They said when u finish ill grade it. I did it and called in once I finished the test and they said how did you finish so quickly, a said a cheated. He said u seen this test before, a said no. he said how did you finish so quickly? I said a been teaching this for 20 years. I said what did a make as my score and he said a can't tell you hats against company policy. I said anything on the test might be a little disgraced,

He said what did you use to determine the vacuum? I said well you use a mercury or a clog dependent. He said okay, I can't tell you what u made on the test, but he said a been administering tests for 20 years in Goodrich, and he said there has never been a test that's come like this that's come through this office

A) Really, so you were so good?

B) So a walked from Friday in hunt to Goodrich Monday morning and a went into Goodrich it knew everything there is to welding, pipe fitting and construction work But a didn't know anything about hydraulics new mags and all they equipment they had there

So, a get my little buddy to go to Birmingham to take hydraulics and pneumatics. I ended up doing mechanic work on hydraulics because they don't know what to do. I ended up getting overtime because they didn't know how to do the work.

A) Wow, where did you do this hydraulics work at

B) At Goodrich, as did the trouble shooting down there

And then they asked me if a was going to take over the same trap and energy management down there and a said a can't do it. You take any pipes that are on any ships to work with it I put one on midnights shit, to come work with me make a bunch of folks mad. I ended up in charge of the amen traffic engineer in the last two years, saved about half a million dollars a year. Water and steam, water treated water that we got it down form a million gallons to a 125000 a day. And a retired in 93, I went to one fella who worked at Goodrich going to Shelton state he was a mechanic taking hydraulics. They offered me a spot and a said more money for me. They asked sat can u teach, so they called and a went down for the interview and an asked what's your qualifications. And they said well u need to have a master's in education, and a said well a don't have a masters, a have a social degree and 3 certified national skill trade levels plus my degree of service. They said well we normally don't look at that. They called me

back and asked what you can teach and a said what do you want me to do. When I was in the service, they would hand me a paper and say this is what you're going to teach next week. It was my job to get all the materials and lessons plans and materials and tests. I had to give an evaluator in my class who was there every day when a taught a class. That's the difference between a colloquial school and universities today. We don't have anybody keeping the teachers being responsible for their job. Because if a miss a point a was grade it it. Because so much of what a taught life were lost on it

A) So, they granted me a master's in education to teach from it

A) Wow so you didn't have to go back to school for that. They were just like your qualified, you got it. That's awesome. I don't think a lot of people get opportunities like that but from your work and service

B) No, I taught for about 5 years, a taught classis a Mercedes Benz, did trouble shooting for years that had problems, I'd go in and solve the problem for them

A) Where do you teach these classes?

B) At Shelton state and at Sunday we would teach them at Mercedes Benz

A) And I have one last question, but I think you already answered this question

B)No, well it worked 2 ways, when a went in the national guard, all my buddies done gone to Korea, and I said if a can get above being above private, well a got married, they said can't go, Got married on Christmas eve 11 of December the next year, and a had twin boys. They said you can't go

A) Because you had kids?

B) But when a got in the Seabees in Vietnam in 67, my rate as a sea worker chief was critical and a volunteer for 2 years, a had the chance not just to do a job, a had the chance to witness a art

That must have been a big passion for you to do

I had total respect for my troops, I had one of my troopers they stripped him of his rank, he was in Vietnam first tour and a restored his rank. He told me, nobody has ever done that for anybody a knew, a said you did a job and was responsible, and he said a thank you. Taking a death, I stand up for my troops.

A) So, is there anything else you want to talk about?

B) Well a guess so, I had an experience, a killed my first bird when a was 6 years old. But when we were in camp Pendleton California

A) Yeah that's the marine base?

B) I was coaching, the chief from the firing range from New York, they gave radio on the right radio on the fire right and he squeezed off a round and he marked his target. They give what u call a mag draw; he said a know a know the target. Well a said squeeze off the target and well a said squeeze off another round and nothing happened. I said is it bolted? Revolted and squeezed off another round and nothing happened. And he said what did a do. I said, first thing drops the clip off, and then u gone bolt your round and a live round came out of the chamber, and he said now what. I said were getting of the line to find out what's wrong. And a went back and got off the line, gunnery sergeant said what's wrong a said idk I've been around a weapon along long time. He said tell us what had happened. And he said if another round has fired.... He broke that rifle down, there was no hole in the barrel. A projector had gone up in that barrel and logged. I had that second barrel and if that had gone off it would have blown the breach off and we would have been dead

A) Wow so what happened?

B) Evidently, there was a primer that wasn't loaded to full charge, just enough to load it in the barrel, and don't extend through the barrel

Yea didn't really shoot it just popped up.

And he said if you're that close to the lord he you're not getting out of my sight when u go to Vietnam

I slept on the back of the hut and he slept right next to me for 9 months

A) That's really heartwarming and insane to think, thank god that second round don't go off

B) So, the second round don't go for cause it was a bad bullet?

The second round didn't go off, if it had it would have blown up

A) Do you know why the second round didn't go off?

B) Yep, what happens when that round went into the chamber, it cushioned because of the air in the barrel, it wouldn't let that barrel go all the way in, in what they called letting hit bolt roll and lock. If it had rolled and locked, it would have blown up

A) Wow that's something, you said you don't believe in that luck, there was a guardian angel looking over you

B) That's right,

A) Well we have been talking for a while, a love the stories you told me