

Interviewer: Okay let me start with your name.

Dodd: Leroy Benjamin Dodd

Interviewer: And you're originally from?

Dodd: I was born in McNairy County Tennessee and was reared in Memphis, Tennessee Shelby.

Interviewer: Tennessee and at what age did you go into the service?

Dodd: I was 16 in May and entered the service the following June and that was 45, 1945.

Interviewer: So you were 16?

Dodd: Uh huh

Interviewer: Really? Oh what a scary thought.

Dodd: I fibbed about my age.

Interviewer: It was the Army you went into first wasn't it?

Dodd: No Navy.

Interviewer: Navy okay (screen went blank for several minutes)I must not have pushed it hard enough. Is the red light on? Okay

Dodd: Yeh it's on.

Interviewer: Okay I think that's a good shot. Okay this is Debbie Bratton with the memories of service and sacrifice project on March 15, 2001. And I am interviewing a veteran of three wars today Mr. Leroy Benjamin Dodd a retired Lieutenant Colonel who spend 27 years 9 months and 13 days in the armed forces. Mr. Dodd let's start with when you were 16 when you first went into the Navy.

Dodd: As I have said I was 16 in May of 45 and in June enlisted fraudulently I should say into the Navy. My oldest brother had been a peace time Navy veteran and I was the youngest of four boys and the next to the oldest brother at that time was in the Navy and had been in the Navy since 42. And of course the oldest brother was still in the Navy, had been in since 37. And the brother that's older than I he was turned down from the Navy because of physical condition.

Interviewer: And this was in 1945 right?

Dodd: Right well actually he was turned down in 44 because he was of age to join the Navy in 44 but he failed the physical in 44. And then about the time that I volunteered in 45 he was drafted into the Army and passed that physical.

Interviewer: Oh he did?

Dodd: Uh huh so he was in the Army and the other three of us were in the Navy.

Interviewer: I see what was the condition that permitted him earlier from being accepting?

Dodd: He had bilateral perforation of the ear drums.

Interviewer: Oh yeh

Dodd: Which left him susceptible to inclement weather and infections and during his basic training in the Army at Fort Knox he did develop infection in both ears. Which kept him at Fort Knox for the duration of his Army career Army term. He never left there and we were all in for the duration six months I think is the way they termed it.

Interviewer: Now where did you after you joined the Navy where did you go to basic training?

Dodd: I went to basic training in San Diego and the Army the Navy calls it boot camp or boot training and the Army calls it basic training. And I did my boot camp training in San Diego in 45 and then after my training my boot training and my boot leave I returned to Balboa Naval Hospital and went to hospital core school for a period of I believe it was eight weeks. I was at the end of this training when VE-Day Victory in Europe occurred which I believe you said it was probably sometime in August I don't remember exactly. And then after my basic training or after my training as a hospital core man and my core training I was assigned to the San Leandro Naval Hospital in San Leandro California. Which is just above Oakland actually it's a suburb of Oakland.

Interviewer: What inspired you to become involved with the medical field in your service?

Dodd: Well the Navy at that time had a test that they gave aptitude test and it was strictly based upon my aptitude test where they sent me to train. And I had no desire no past history education or anything in that field. That was just that was just strictly the Navy so the Navy at that point and time decided the rest of my life which I don't have any complaints about.

Interviewer: Sure well I hope not after spending such a great deal of time and of course now when you enlisted in the Navy I know in the Army you're call a private what are you called in the Navy?

Dodd: When you're a basic seaman that's an E1 and then you're a seaman second class that's an E2 and then a seaman first class that's an E3 and then you become and this was the old rank at that time then you went into Petty Officer the Petty Officer class. And a third grade Petty Officer was an E5 excuse me an E4 which would be the same thing as a Corporal in the old Army.

Interviewer: Okay of course you spent two years in the Navy just a two year enlistment came out of the Navy in 1946 what was your rank at that time?

Dodd: I was a hospital core man first class.

Interviewer: Okay and then you spent sometime away from the armed forces until you were drafted in 1950 into the Army.

Dodd: Well after I was discharged from the Navy and WWII of course was over I there was a hospital in Memphis which was my hometown it was called Kennedy Army Hospital. And after the war it was convert to a VA hospital it was call Kennedy VA Hospital and I went to work there as what they finally then called a war boy I think they call them nursing assistants now. And I worked there then until I was drafted in the later part of 50.

Interviewer: Uh huh let's go back though to your service during the duration of WWII. After you had finished your training in San Diego where were you assigned?

Dodd: San Leandro Naval Hospital that's out of Oakland of course that doesn't exist anymore.

Interviewer: Oh okay

Dodd: They had the Oakland O they had the Oakland Naval Hospital and had the Oakland O Naval Hospital and had the San Leandro Naval Hospital. And they were sort of in a line on a boulevard that went from Oakland up to Oakland O.

Interviewer: While you were there did you actually provide medical care for some of the wounded from WWII?

Dodd: Yes that's what that's it was a Naval convalescent hospital the San Leandro was a convalescent hospital these were people that were not able to return to duty physically able to return to duty. And then they were taken care of at that facility until they were either discharged or until they returned to duty and most of them were discharged form there.

Interviewer: Is there anything that you most remember from that experience with the WWII veterans that were wounded?

Dodd: No not really I had a it was a very quite sedate life we didn't have any acute illnesses we were treating all convalescent conditions. Weekend inspection was probably the highlight of our activities. Really it was very uneventful so much more interesting work after I got out and went to work for the VA Hospital. When I was at the VA Hospital then you were treating veterans that a lot of them were acutely ill we had we had a lot of TB and we did a lot of surgery. And I worked in the surgery section I worked on GU surgery for awhile and general surgery for awhile before going back into the Army or before being drafted into the Army. But the Navy as far as taking care of the sick was very sedate.

Interviewer: Since it was a convalescent

Dodd: A convalescent center you were really not taking care of any acute conditions.

Interviewer: While you were at the VA Hospital between the Navy and being drafted into the Army is there any particular WWII veteran that stands out in your memory?

Dodd: No, no one in particular you have to remember we were still taking care in the VA we were still taking care of WWI veterans at that time. And I can remember I don't remember any one particular but just in general we saw quite a few and had quite a few of those patients in and they were the people that were even younger than I am now they were in their 50s and 60s. And of course some of them were older than that but most of them were they weren't indigent so to speak but they were not well off they would have been considered a poor class of people at that time. So they were the laborers of the society but I don't remember anyone particular or anything outstanding from that I guess that was from what 48 to 50 about two, two and a half years I guess I worked at the VA before I was drafted into the Army.

Interviewer: Okay and then when you were drafted into the Army that wasn't long before the Korean War.

Dodd: No this was during the Korean War.

Interviewer: Oh during the Korean War.

Dodd: See when the Korean War broke out this is not common knowledge they were drafting WWII veterans that were not married.

Interviewer: Oh

Dodd: And I know of an awful lot of young people that were of my age or older that got married immediately so that they would not be drafted into the Korean War.

Interviewer: Oh I see. Were you married at that time?

Dodd: Oh no I wasn't married until some years later than that.

Interviewer: You were still quite young though in 1950 you were what 20?

Dodd: 20 I believe when I was drafted 20 or 21 when I was drafted. And I was in for a little over two years.

Interviewer: Where were you assigned during that period?

Dodd: I did what they called at that time advanced infantry training or advanced basic training at Fort Jackson. And Fort Jackson had just been reopened although it was never closed it had just been brought back up to strength it the area Tank Hill was they area that they opened at Fort Jackson. And it they had just opened it to accommodate these veterans WWII veterans that they had drafted and the entire company was comprised of those people.

Interviewer: No you were no longer in your medical

Dodd: No this was just six weeks of basic training then after that based on my past experience I went to Fort Sam Houston Texas Medical Field Service School. And became what they called cadre and we taught basic medics field medics or Company A men seniors to the people that were being drafted and I did that for the duration of the Korean War.

Interviewer: So you actually trained

Dodd: Trained medics

Interviewer: Trained medics that were being sent to Korea?

Dodd: Trained Company A men to go to Korea and I did that for a bit of two years.

Interviewer: Were you sent to Korea later yourself?

Dodd: No I never went to Korea I saw a lot of young men come back to the company and a lot of the young men we trained go to Korea. We had I was cadre vamp seed when they federalized the 31st Infantry Division which was the National Guard Division of Alabama and Mississippi and that was along about the time of integration and there were no black soldiers in that division. And when they brought them in when they federalized them and brought them in then it did not stay intact as the 31st it was the 31st Division but it didn't stay intact as a National Guard Division. So they consequently got a lot of black soldiers in to it and we had some isolated incidents of these people coming to be taught at vamp see and when they were joined by the black soldiers we had a little bit of racial problem there nothing really outstanding that we couldn't handle but it did appear to exist. Some of the few racial incidents I remember in the service.

Interviewer: How would they handle such an incident?

Dodd: Well you just stayed on top of it a fight would break out occasionally between the blacks and the whites between the whites that were of the old division the 31st that came in that were quite racially oriented and the new people then that were being put in there the draftees and volunteers that were being assigned to the division and they were there for their medical training as Company A men which was basically what most were.

Interviewer: Were the black and white soldiers at that time were they starting to move more toward an integrated unit than they were in the 40s?

Dodd: Well the Army had been desegregated at that time that was Harry Truman I believe was the one or maybe it was I think it was Eisenhower acting upon Harry Truman's policy but it was along about the time of the change over there was when they desegregated the military. And the military was no longer segregated although San Antonio was segregated I had isolated incidents of I had people that were in the company that were black and on occasion we would be downtown and I have been accosted by the police where they would check this one individuals ID but they would not check our ID. There was maybe three or four of us and he'd be the only black and you forget sometimes in this situation that you

have a black person with you and maybe you go into a bar or something and at that time he could not go in because it was segregated. And then when you realized this then you would go on somewhere else or go back to the post.

Interviewer: And what location was that in?

Dodd: That was in San Antonio.

Interviewer: San Antonio, Texas.

Dodd: And at that time segregation was well and alive, alive and well in the city now the Army was making the transition. And there was I saw I don't recall with rare exception of any problems we had we had integration in the mess halls in the classrooms no problem.

Interviewer: Starting to make changes?

Dodd: Right but if you went down town if you went down town with people in your company that were mixed race you had to be careful.

Interviewer: When you were in the civilian environment?

Dodd: Yeh

Interviewer: And when you were drafted then were you just drafted for a two year term?

Dodd: Two years.

Interviewer: 50 to 52

Dodd: I did a little I think a few weeks over two years I don't recall but it was a little bit over two years.

Interviewer: Then after coming out of the Army then you enlisted into the Air Force in 1953.

Dodd: I got out of the Army went back to work for the VA Hospital and then enlisted in the Air Force Reserve and remained in the Air Force Reserve during my training as an RN after my training as an RN I requested to be commissioned through the Army was grated this so then I was given a discharge from the Air Force.

Interviewer: I see so you were actually a member of the Air Force Reserve then went through the training to become a Registered Nurse.

Dodd: Right

Interviewer: And then

Dodd: Of course there is active reserve and inactive reserve and when I was in the Army I had reserve commission so I my entire Army career as an Officer was as a Reserve Officer. But I was active reserve.

Interviewer: Right

Dodd: In the Air Force I was reserve but I was inactive reserve. Although in order to maintain your good year status you had to get 50 points so that means you had to have so many days and so much training during that period that one year period of time.

Interviewer: Where did you actually have your training?

Dodd: Air Force or?

Interviewer: During the Air Force when you became an RN?

Dodd: I was I started my RN school at Julia F Burnham School of Nursing in Champaign or Gunna, Illinois. And then after I was there about half of the time, it was a three year program, and after about 16 or 18 months I transferred back to St. Julia Hospital School of Nursing at Memphis where I graduated.

Interviewer: Oh I see.

Dodd: So actually I'm St. Jo graduate I am one of two males from the now nonexistent School of Nursing at St. Jo. That school the school closed about two or three years ago. And the other male is dead he died some years ago Joe McGill.

Interviewer: So did you enjoy being one of two men in that class?

Dodd: That was a challenge but yes it was enjoyable I had no problems so incidents everything it was a great bunch of people. I'm protestant by religion and it's a catholic school of course. And I couldn't ask for better support and better people than the nuns at the school. And who were the teachers and the supervisors of course there at St. Jo the director of the school and the hospital were both nuns and these people were just outstanding people.

Interviewer: And what year did you graduate?

Dodd: Let's see

Interviewer: You came out of the Air Force Reserve in 56 if that helps.

Dodd: I guess I guess I graduated in 58 from Nurses training and then I went I was commissioned in the Army I believe in 60. And I worked about a year, year and a half before I went into the Army as a nurse.

Interviewer: Okay so that would have been around 1960?

Dodd: 1960 I'm pretty sure it was 1960.

Interviewer: And since you had this experience in three branches of the armed forces prior to 1960 what was your rank when you went into the Army.

Dodd: When I went into the Army when I was commissioned I went in as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Nurse Core.

Interviewer: Okay and where were you first assigned then?

Dodd: Well I did my basic went back to Fort Sam Houston and did my basic where I met people that were there that I knew both nurses and the medical field service school MSC Officers that had gone and then come back to Medical Service School. My Company Commander when I was cadre at Vamp Sea, First Army Medical Center, was he was the Captain at the time and when I came back as a Second Lieutenant he was a Colonel. And he was in charge of the unit that gave the basic training.

Interviewer: So you had a reunion of sorts?

Dodd: Quite and I reported to him and he about fainted that I was again in my class of basic nurses taking the training I was the only male. And of course they get out and march out in the square there at Brooks you get out and you march around that's part of your training. It's very little marching

Interviewer: Not PT but marching?

Dodd: Oh yeh this is marching company marching.

Interviewer: Uniform and boots?

Dodd: Uniform well dress uniform you know you get out and do a little drill short order drill. And you march back and forth and when we were marching in line and we were getting up to rear march and I was the first then I would always be out in the front. Then I had to take real sure that when I did it to rear march and I was the last I had to do real short steps. And this Colonel Dorgatey my old commanding officer at vamp see was on the balcony and he saw this and he said stop take him out of there so I was excluded of doing any more marching.

Interviewer: Because he didn't want you to take small steps in the march?

Dodd: Well it was just I couldn't stand off and see it but I can imagine what it looked like you have one person out there that is either way out in front or in the back taking real small steps in the back. And its not conducive to good marching and good technique sort of like somebody with a third had or something.

Interviewer: And that was fine with you?

Dodd: Oh yes that was fine I didn't need the experience I had all the marching experience I needed.

Interviewer: Right were you married at this time now?

Dodd: I was married at the time that I got married before I went into nurses training. When I came I guess the wife was an RN she was a Baptist graduate from Memphis. We met at the VA hospital and I don't even remember what year we married isn't that terrible.

Interviewer: Do you remember how old you were when you got married?

Dodd: I was 25.

Interviewer: 25

Dodd: Yeh if you could subtract that from 29

Interviewer: I can tell you what year 54 1954.

Dodd: 54 I was going to say 54 or 55 was when we got married.

Interviewer: Well when you went into the Army you were as a Second Lieutenant you were what about 30, 31.

Dodd: 31 I suppose

Interviewer: Okay and where did you move after the basic training?

Dodd: We did my wife continued to work at Kennedy VA Hospital in Memphis during my basic training as a nurse. After the basic training she joined me in San Anton and we were reassigned then to Fort Benning Georgia at Martin Army Hospital. And that was my first duty assignment as a nurse and we lived there then until we went to Germany. And I guess we went to Germany in 62.

Interviewer: Of course at this time our country was at peace.

Dodd: At peace.

Interviewer: How long did you stay in Germany?

Dodd: We were in Germany for three years from 62 to 65.

Interviewer: And then Vietnam was just on the edge of starting to brew.

Dodd: Vietnam was going whenever we came back. President Kennedy was assassinated we came back I believe that was in 54 and we came back in 65. And Vietnam was going on then had just started to escalate. I had people that I knew with the 98th in Germany that were killed in Vietnam early on before I ever got over there before it escalated.

Interviewer: What was the name of your unit? Were you part of the 98th?

Dodd: I was the 98th in Germany and I was the 97th, the 98th Vac Hospital in Germany and the 97th Evac Hospital in Vietnam.

Interviewer: I see and when were you first sent to Vietnam?

Dodd: In 67 I went to about June of 67.

Interviewer: That was the first time you had really other than Germany which you took your family when you went to Germany because we were at peace. What did it feel like when you were sent to Vietnam?

Dodd: It very depressing it's a different war it's a different time you're of a different age the enthusiasm the psychology is all different from WWII or Korea. It's just it's just over all generally depressing. Not your I felt withdrawn and very unhappy very depressed over the whole thing.

Interviewer: Were you sent for two how long was your tour?

Dodd: It was a year's term the tour was one year. There was a lot of people extended a lot of people came back and went I was fortunate enough to only have one tour which consisted of about a year and maybe two months something like that.

Interviewer: Where were you sent?

Dodd: I was sent to the 97th General Hospital at Long Bent which is right out of Saigon. The very Long Bent is just a few kilometers out of Saigon. And of course there was base camps and battles but there was no front line as you would see in any other wars the front line was all around you. It was a total it was a riot gorilla type warfare it could happen anywhere. We were right on highway 1 I mean the 97th Evac Hospital I could stand in the containment area and throw a rock and hit anybody on highway 1. And we had rounds that came off of highway 1 and would go through several different departments of the hospital.

Interviewer: Oh dear.

Dodd: We had one oral surgeon and his office was on the front part of the hospital and one day a round came through the wall. He changed his office needless to say.

Interviewer: I bet.

Dodd: But no one was hurt and that I ever recall no one was ever shot from highway 1.

Interviewer: Was the location of that because were we at that time trying to have medical care closer to where the soldiers might need help or?

Dodd: They were just the soldiers would come back with the exception of the outlying base camps but the soldiers would come back into the large cantonments of military where they were. And Long Ben had a large that was Mag V Headquarters.

Interviewer: Mag V military something.

Dodd: Military Command for Vietnam.

Interviewer: Okay

Dodd: I don't really remember exactly what Mag stands for. Mag Military Command for Vietnam but that's what it was the headquarters that oversaw everything in Vietnam. And you get used to just using those

Interviewer: Acronyms

Dodd: Acronyms and you don't remember what most of them are for it's a world of acronyms when you're in that kind of situation.

Interviewer: Right you explained what it was. Did you see very many drugs while you were in Vietnam?

Dodd: The drugs were just becoming apparent by the time I left. I never saw any myself with the I can remember just one incident where we got wounded in and going through the clothing of one of the wounded there was marijuana in the clothing. But other than that I don't remember any instance of drugs.

Interviewer: What type of injuries would you see there most often?

Dodd: It was injuries were due to hostile fire it was explosions, gun shot wounds this type of thing.

Interviewer: Pretty bad stuff.

Dodd: Well it was all mangling you'd get amputees arms off legs off just various types of body injury that you would see in this type of situation.

Interviewer: How did you deal with seeing that day in day out?

Dodd: well when you didn't have any wounded coming in you were just relaxed and when you did get them in you were too busy to think about it. I was there the night of the Tet offensive and the Tet offensive started before dawn it was still dark probably 3, 4, 5 o'clock in the morning. And we had an ammunition dump that was on Long Bend Post and Long Bend was a huge military post had two Evac hospitals the 24th Evac was there too oh about 2 miles from us from the 97th. And this ammunition depot was probably wind between the two of us it was blown up and the explosion was very very large very loud to us even we could very easily hear it. And we got some wounded in from that and that probably started it all and then we I went for 23 hours that I was in the operating room 23 straight hours during Tet. And of course then it slacked down enough where you could then close we had 12 tables going and they closed down to six and started letting people get a little rest.

Interviewer: Well at that time when you were sent to Vietnam as a Second Lieutenant and you were a registered nurse were there other male registered nurses there?

Dodd: Oh yeh yes there was quite a few after I got out of basic training there was quite a few registered nurses I'd say that probably 80 percent of all the registered nurses I knew in the Army were nursing

ethnics and about maybe another 15 percent of those that were left were operating room nurses and a handful that was left were administrative very few did regular floor duty. I only know of a couple that actually worked medical surgical wards.

Interviewer: And what type of triage philosophy did you have when the wounded came in?

Dodd: Well that was quite deceiving too we were taught even during Korea the triage first came to my attention and it was being taught at Vamp See Medical Center by actually by us too in medical field service school that triage a person in triage was so that you could take the less wounded and treat them and send them back to duty. The ones that were mortared well you let them die. This was never put into practice to any extent either in Korea or Vietnam to my knowledge. And I don't ever recall any soldiers that were not seen to promptly based on their condition. You saw the most severe people first and the ones that could wait without endangering their life they would wait.

Interviewer: Are you saying though that when you were training the medics during the Korean War that that's what you were instructed to tell them?

Dodd: That was the instructions and that was the philosophy. The purpose of triage as it was first introduced to me and the purpose of the triage then was if you got ten or twelve soldiers in and you would go around and check these and if you had two or three of these soldiers that you felt were not going to survive you left them. And if you got soldiers that had minor wounds you took care of those minor wounds first and returned these soldiers to the battle as soon as possible. And that was the purpose of triage. I think it's evolved to the point now triage is done where you take care of the more severely wounded patient first and the others then are treated later. But that was not the original concept that was taught to me during the 50s.

Interviewer: Okay so then in 1966 you returned back to the United States from Vietnam right or 65?

Dodd: No I went there in 67 came back in 68.

Interviewer: Okay yes I know what I'm thinking of now you returned from Germany in 65.

Dodd: 65 yeh

Interviewer: And what was it like after you came back after Vietnam?

Dodd: Oh it was it's really hard to describe there was not a lot of enthusiasm there had been a lot of people gone through the ranks when I got back I was assigned to Fort Jackson upon my return from Vietnam. Which was the first time I had been to Fort Jackson since the 50s when I had my basic training there. And as a matter of fact I was treated in the building I was billeted in the building that had converted into quarters of the old hospital at Fort Jackson the building I was treated out of when I was in basic training for an upper respiratory infection. Anyway the chief of surgery when I got to Fort Jackson had been my previous chief of surgery in Vietnam.

Interviewer: Oh dear you crossed paths with many of these people through your military career didn't you?

Dodd: This mans name was Jack Major and he was a major and he went on to become major General.

Interviewer: Was he major Major?

Dodd: Major Major and we used to call him major Major. But he went on to become a Major General and he retired as a Major General and he was the only career physician in the Army that I knew in Vietnam all of the rest of them were drafted.

Interviewer: Really

Dodd: None of them were career he was the only one in surgery in the 97th that I knew. That gives you an idea how much turn over we have.

Interviewer: Right

Dodd: There was an enormous turn over in the military in Vietnam because there was so many people going it lasted so long. But in Vietnam as apposed to now you don't have National Guard and Reserve units going overseas for deployment. I'm not even sure that's constitutionally correct although they do it.

Interviewer: Yeh

Dodd: Like the Tennessee National Guard has been deployed in Kosovo and various other places. Then that's of course we have no draft now so you don't have the abilities to do that the personal now to do this I should say.

Interviewer: When you returned from Vietnam had your son already been born?

Dodd: Yes my son was born in Germany.

Interviewer: Okay so he was about how old when you came back from Vietnam?

Dodd: He was four years old. My grandson right now is the age that my son was when I was in Vietnam.

Interviewer: You're taking about Benjamin?

Dodd: Yeh the oldest grandson. I say grandson like I only have one, I have two.

Interviewer: Stephen is how old?

Dodd: He's 18 months he will be two years old the 30th of June.

Interviewer: I see

Dodd: And Benjamin was born the 24th of September. His father was born the 27th of September. And all that I see in Benjamin now is what I missed in Stewart.

Interviewer: Right I can see that.

Dodd: That makes a difference

Interviewer: Through your grandchildren because you were gone during that time period.

Dodd: I missed that year.

Interviewer: What were your living accommodations like when you were in Vietnam?

Dodd: well the hospital had four wings to it and one of them was a barracks wing and that one wing it had just people would go in a patrician off just a small area and they'd have a bunk in there with netting on it. And you just had a regular army bunk with netting and whatever you built up around it. You could board it off with boards or whatever, whatever you did. I was not the first one there so when I moved in someone else's room I didn't have to do a whole lot I already had a little sort of a little room built. So it wasn't bad

Interviewer: You had a little bit of privacy?

Dodd: Oh yeh yes and I was brought up in worse conditions that was better conditions that I lived in when I was ten or twelve years old as a child. We didn't have any leaks in the room.

Interviewer: Okay we will get to

Dodd: We did have to go from one building to another for a shower but we had running water we didn't have flushed toilets in Vietnam but I was used to that I was brought up that way. So it wasn't terribly bad.

Interviewer: What was your worst experience while you were in Vietnam?

Dodd: Oh the worst just isolated incidents. Speaking of triage we lost a woman and a child they were civilians because there was a rule that you just didn't treat the civilians until you treated the soldiers and this was during the Tet offensive. I don't think of that too often a matter of fact I don't think of that at all and then

Interviewer: It's too painful?

Dodd: Oh yes you don't dwell on it. I've got pictures of the child and the woman I've got slides and I haven't looked at them in years and years and years and I've haven't really thought of that in years and years and years but I don't try to go back and think about that.

Interviewer: But it's something you will never forget?

Dodd: Oh you'll never forget it but you sure don't try to dwell on it. And then just certain isolated instances like morally wounded soldiers and what they say and mortally wounded people and what they say and things like that. I don't

Interviewer: Saying as their dying?

Dodd: As their dying yes some of that sticks out in my mind like I say I don't dwell on that and I try and not discuss it.

Interviewer: Right

Dodd: It's really not something that you want to think of or really go over in your mind or that's the way I am I can't speak for other people. But I saw a lot of amputees I've got slides upon slides upon slides of trauma that was in Vietnam and I haven't looked at them in years they are very gruesome. Because they show the actual surgery and what's being done and usually the slides are in surgery these people are on the operating table. Probably ought to donate these to a museum somewhere along the way I may do that to Fort Campbell if they are interested in having them.

Interviewer: Right oh I'm sure they would be and I know what you're saying about it being graphic. The D-Day museum in New Orleans has some of the too but I do think it's important to that we don't forget it.

Dodd: People should see these I have no desire to really go back and see them but really people should see these it gives you first hand information of what its like and what it is to see it.

Interviewer: Did you just spend one tour in Vietnam?

Dodd: One tour in Vietnam.

Interviewer: Okay is there anything else you would like to add about Vietnam before we move on in your career?

Dodd: No I don't remember.

Interviewer: If there is anything that could have been better about medical treatment what would that have been?

Dodd: I don't we gave blood that was outdated that wasn't a good policy but we had no choice. I don't know of any way that you could have circumvented the necessity to do that.

Interviewer: Blood was better than no blood.

Dodd: Well after it's outdated it starts to lose what you're after as far as the cells are concerned. And it was even questionable about giving outdated blood that was it was finally decided outdated blood was

better than no blood at all and you had to have it. So you just do the best you can but all in all I can't think of anything that

Interviewer: How about the media exposure of Vietnam while you were there or even after you returned after being there how did you feel the press treated it?

Dodd: you know I hear a lot of conversation about how people were treated and so forth and so on about being spit upon that never happened to me. I got on a plane at Memphis in uniform and went to Oakland and had no incidents there and from Oakland I was then I went to San Francisco and San Francisco International airport where I was deployed there on a civilian aircraft and went to Nam and came back the same route. And the people that I met were just like you would be in uniform today and go into any airport there was any incidents I never saw any placards I was never harassed or spit upon or any kind of opinion at all.

Interviewer: Of course you returned in what 67?

Dodd: 68 I think it was I went over in 67 and came back in 68. And but I don't recall any of that.

Interviewer: Where did your family live while you were in Vietnam?

Dodd: My wife and son stayed in Memphis I had a brother there and of course she was familiar with Memphis. And she chose to stay there. Millington Naval Hospital was there and she'd get medical care for her and for the boys and there was commissary and a PX, BX at that point and time that's since then disbanded or closed down. But she visited quite a bit her parents were not living in the area so she'd visit them and so forth but she that's where she chose. And that's where I went back to I had to leave there before I returned to duty she had gone to school there and I had gone to school there and obviously

Interviewer: It was really home at the time.

Dodd: Like being at home.

Interviewer: Then what your first duty assignment after you returned from Vietnam?

Dodd: Fort Jackson and from Fort Jackson I came to Fort Benning excuse me Fort Campbell.

Interviewer: What was I should ask what was your rank when you returned from Vietnam?

Dodd: I returned as a Captain made Major shortly after I returned.

Interviewer: Okay and then at Fort Jackson as a Major you were still performing your duties as a registered nurse at Fort Jackson and then when did you come to Fort Campbell.

Dodd: Well I had three tours at Fort Campbell and all three the entire time spent at Fort Campbell of all three tours was about five years. So they were not long tours needless to say. I came to Fort Campbell

when I returned from Germany then went to Fort Jackson on my return from Vietnam and from Fort Jackson I went to Campbell and from Campbell I saw at Campbell for a short period and I went to Stewart. And then from Fort Stewart I went to Walter Reed and I was at Walter Reed for about two and half years.

Interviewer: You were at Walter Reed then when you retired?

Dodd: No I retired from Fort Campbell when I got close to retirement I put in for Fort Campbell because I knew I was going to retire at Fort Campbell so we came back to Fort Campbell and I retired at Fort Campbell.

Interviewer: At the time what year were you at Walter Reed.

Dodd: It must have been maybe 72 to 75 maybe.

Interviewer: So you saw a lot of soldiers from Vietnam there?

Dodd: Oh yeh quite a few a lot of at that time they well when I got back to Fort Campbell after returning from Vietnam there were quite a few soldiers being treated at Fort Campbell but they were again more in a convalescent stage. That was about the time that you didn't have a big influx of army personnel anymore. That was about the transition time from the all volunteer army from the draft army things were really starting to close down. I think 73 I believe was when Nam was over they pulled out I think 72 or 73 I don't remember exactly when too many years ago to remember the exact date.

Interviewer: And then of course you retired in what year? You retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Dodd: I retired Lieutenant Colonel in 77 I believe it was. It was about September 77.

Interviewer: And then you chose to live in Clarksville to retire here?

Dodd: Yes

Interviewer: As you look back over the 27 plus years that you spent in military service and service to our country how would you compare the experience that you had during that time period with the current military?

Dodd: Totally different there's practically no similarity at all. From the time when I went in to the service to the time I got out of the service there had been so much it's hard to say but the respect is not there. There's no respect within the military that I see I don't see that much respect for NCO to Officers lower grades to NCOs it's just a total break down as far as I'm concerned. It's sad to say but they were old good bad or indifferent it worked back then. The officers the enlisted were proud of the officers the officers commanded I never had as an enlisted person I never had any disrespect for an officer if the officers were no good they didn't last very long. Same way with the senior NCOs its just boy you could write a book on that and you could talk to anyone that's of my age that's retired from the military and they'll tell you the same thing.

Interviewer: And how old are you today?

Dodd: 72

Interviewer: Today is March 15, 1001. I'm sure you've seen some of the episodes of the former TV series Mash.

Dodd: Joke very very little probably less than 10 percent actual facts factual just a sitcom. And I used to watch it a little I never found it that funny. But I found no comparison the disrespect that was shown in Mash between the enlisted men and the officers was about what you started to see in the later part of Vietnam. There is no absolutely no respect between the enlisted and the officers the commissioned officers at all. And it gets worse and worse and worse you know if an enlisted man would have struck an officer in the late 40s or early 50s his life would have been over.

Interviewer: Court marshaled?

Dodd: Well court marshaled and what time they done in Leavenworth the records a person could give it up not so now it's just not there. And I saw this I saw enlisted people in line striking officers just before I left Vietnam.

Interviewer: Oh you did?

Dodd: That's when the breakdown really started and it went from there down hill.

Interviewer: What do you think that breakdown was prompted by?

Dodd: Just society as a whole. The society that's out there now is the same way not only in the military it's everywhere it's in the schools.

Interviewer: Of course Vietnam was a controversial war.

Dodd: well Vietnam was an unnecessary war it didn't accomplish anything the only thing that was supposed to have been behind it was it was supposed to have stopped communism, it didn't. And the approach would have been differently you'd have had a better outcome. So it was more of a political war than any other war. Korea probably got a little bit better reason for that war WWII there was no doubt there was not a good reason for that was and you had a different ideology and a different society that was fighting those two wars than the one fighting Vietnam. If they have a war now nobody is even interested.

Interviewer: Well our country I believe as a whole was much more cohesive during WWII and I guess part of that.

Dodd: Values were much more different.

Interviewer: Part of that may have been prompted by fear you know to learn what was happening in Europe.

Tape 2

Interviewer: This is Debbie Bratton the interviewer with retired Lieutenant Colonel Leroy Benjamin Dodd this is tape two of two tapes. Let's go ahead and resume we were discussing changes between the army you were in and today's army. You had mentioned that

Dodd: There's an awful lot to continue with there have been drastic changes as I mentioned on the quarters where they used to have the rank on there now it's the family. You've got officers enlisted married and living under the same roof which is against army regulations at the present either made the laws or resent the laws or don't break them but you don't have an officers club anymore there is no NCO club anymore as I say the respect is gone it's just not there.

Interviewer: And of course homosexuals now are also.

Dodd: There have always been homosexuals in the military I have several that I knew were homosexuals they were known homosexuals they never created any problems they performed their duties some were men some were women. They were never made fun of if it became a problem they were discharged immediately on the fact that they were homosexuals. There was no such thing as admitting it staying in whatever it was just

Interviewer: What do you think of the "don't ask don't tell" policy that we have today?

Dodd: Ridiculous its permission to do something there is a law against. It's not working it's a known fact it's not working you're never going to get the homosexuals out of the military or your never going to get the homosexuals out of society. But just because you don't get them out does not mean that they should be given the same life style and they should be treated the same as anybody else. You don't discriminate against them in the army there's no need to discriminate against them you don't make special cases for them in the army. Everybody has the right to be married you marry whatever's legal it's illegal to marry an alligator if your human and if you're a man it's illegal to marry a man. I don't know what to tell you.

Interviewer: Now you're just obviously disappointed with some of the changes.

Dodd: Oh absolutely it's been a detriment the army's just got none of the military's what it used to be and you won't to they'll tell you it's better well it's not better. They say the pays better the pays not better when you compare it to the standard of living and the cost of living you pay so much they tell you how much you pay now for something you compare that to when I was a kid their age or a young person their age and you're paying more now than you did then.

Interviewer: You remember what you were paid say in the late 40s or mid 50s?

Dodd: When I went into the Navy I made \$1200 a month that was my salary in 45. When I went to work for the Veterans Administration Hospital in I think it was 47 or 48 my annual salary was \$1422 a year. I mean one thousand four hundred twenty two dollars a year a year.

Interviewer: Fourteen thousand or fourteen hundred?

Dodd: Excuse me fourteen hundred.

Interviewer: A year?

Dodd: A year one thousand four hundred and twenty two dollars a year. Now I got paid every two weeks you break that down to every two weeks but of course at that time you paid 22 cents for a gallon of gas 11 cents for a pack of cigarettes.

Interviewer: How much was a car?

Dodd: Three hundred and fifty four hundred dollars for a new car. And when I got married the wife and I could have bought a house three bedroom a bath and a half in a new subdivision in Memphis for \$10,500.

Interviewer: And that was in 1954. WE should mention Mr. Dodd you wife's name is Lenos.

Dodd: That's Lenos.

Interviewer: Right you've referred to her as the wife through the interview so we want to give her some name recognition here. Something that we didn't cover earlier that I would like to ask you about is when you received the bronze star in Vietnam.

Dodd: There was an incident where a soldier came in that was wounded with a RPG and I think that's a rifle projectile grenade. And when these projectiles entered the body they are quote armed and they're subject to go anytime or blow up anytime. I have never seen one blow up I don't really know how much damage they will do I don't really recall the incident that vividly I just believe the surgeon recognized that it did exist. But we had two operating rooms with four tables on each side at the time that this was discovered the room was cleared with the exception of the surgeon the patient the anesthetist and myself. And the bomb squad was notified the projectile was removed and put in a container with the bomb squad who took it outside and detonated it. It was not anything big we never thought anything about it and then we were sighted for the bronze star sometimes there after I don't remember.

Interviewer: Because you were at risk while you were surgically removing this implanted grenade it could have exploded.

Dodd: This projectile had it was armed and it could have exploded at anytime and had it exploded there's not doubt the patient would have dies and everybody else in the room may have died I don't

really know. Just I've never seen the damage they could cause and really just not familiar with it. And was probably not aware other than it had a potential of exploding you don't really stop I didn't and I don't think the other people just stopped and thought about it. The room was cleared of the other personnel because it was feasible to do that and it was the smart thing to do. But I don't think there was a lot of thought given to it, it was done rather rapidly and the room was cleared rather rapidly.

Interviewer: How were your medical supplies while you were in Vietnam? We mentioned we talked about the blood earlier.

Dodd: I don't ever recall ever being short of any supplies in any respect. It was always sort of a feast or famine type thing you were either extremely busy or doing absolutely nothing. I know of some of the we had all different branches of people specialties there and we did not have a need for all of them in quote that specialty and we had an oral surgeon there that really did not do general surgery so as an oral surgeon they didn't do too much from a everyday stand point or from a battle situation battle injury situation. And when this person was off he was probably the most busy person there he would go into the local economy and to the local hospitals and do clef pallet repairs. And he did literally hundreds while he was there just got up a team and would go around and do all of these. I don't even remember the mans name but a lot of this went on and a lot of this is never publicized and people don't really know about this that a lot of this did go on. There was a lot of good done by people that were over there that were not called to do this they did this on their own regardless of how they felt.

Interviewer: Your talking about the American soldiers contribution to the

Dodd: To the global civilians. He would go to children's hospitals and there was an enormous amount of children over there, probably still have a lot of them that have clef pallets and he would go in and do repairs on these. And if you've ever seen a severe child three or four years old the results of the surgery is astounding and the difference and quality of life for the individual is even more astounding.

Interviewer: Before we look at some photographs that you have to share with us I wanted to ask we've talked about some of the differences you feel exist between the army you were in and today's army as we enter the 21 century. What would you say to young people or let me ask it this way what would you say to your grandsons if they were at a later date considering going into the military?

Dodd: Unless things change radically I would say don't do it it's not a matter of being patriotic anymore I think that I don't see any reason for that type of patriotism. I think you could donate a lot more patriotism without being in the military. I wouldn't advise anyone to make the military their career this day and age. When I was a child or when I was a young person the military had there was a lot of sacrifice but compared to what you made in the civilian life the life that you had you were better off in the military than you were in civilian life. You had a good pension plan you had good medical coverage you had three meals a day you had long hours and so forth it was a give and take thing but still at home you had a lot things that you wouldn't have if you had not been in the military. That's not true anymore.

Interviewer: Even for retirees of course there's been so many changes in your medical care since you've retired how do you feel about that?

Dodd: Well its beginning to be a little bit noticed as of the first of April they have Tri-Care for prescription drugs and starting in October they are going to have Tri-Care for life which is a new program for retirees over 65 that catastrophic illness can't exceed 3,000 a year. So you can't be wiped out if you your family can't be wiped out if you have a long hospitalization you know six months in a hospital now you can have nearly a million dollar bill there.

Interviewer: Right going back to your youth and when you were raised I wanted to ask you to share your experience with the Civilian Conservation Core.

Dodd: My older I have a older brother that was with the CCC Civilian Conservation Core I have some pictures I thought I brought them but I apparently didn't. He was in the northwest in one of the camps and it was like an army camp in the very early part of the war it had quanta huts it was a tents.

Interviewer: This was formulated during WWII or prior to?

Dodd: No CCC was formed in it ran from I think about 37 to 41 or 42 something like that.

Interviewer: Oh okay

Dodd: And CCC and WPA Women's I mean Worker's something association Working Peoples Association WPA we used to say we piddle along but that wasn't what it stood for. I can't remember it was working something the buildings of Fort Sam Houston when I got there on the corner of them said they were reckoned by WPS in 1930 something and those buildings are still standing in excellent condition. The ones that they just put out at Fort Campbell you go back in 50 years and look at those buildings and see what kind of condition there in and they weren't constructed by the WPA. I meant to go back to the CCC the older brother was in it and he was in it until he went from that into the Navy after the war broke out.

Interviewer: And there were four sons in your family?

Dodd: Four I was the youngest of four I was the youngest of eight children and four of them were boys.

Interviewer: Oh I didn't realize you had eight children in your family.

Dodd: There were four boys and four girls and I was the youngest. And all of my sisters are gone and I have one brother the one who was in the navy and in the CCCs I haven't heard form in over 30 years I have no idea where he is or if he's alive. My oldest brother's living here in Clarksville and I have a brother living in Memphis.

Interviewer: And three of you boys were in the armed forces at one time or another?

Dodd: We were all four

Interviewer: All four were?

Dodd: Three of us were in the Navy and then the one just older than I was in the Army he was the one turned down for the Navy.

Interviewer: Are you the only son that made it a lifetime career?

Dodd: I'm the only one that retired yes. There was eight children in and family and my sister I have one sister that had a high school that completed high school and I completed high school the only two out of the eight children that had a high school education.

Interviewer: Did you complete your high school before you went into the navy or after?

Dodd: After

Interviewer: After because you were 16 so young.

Dodd: Sixteen when I went into the Navy I was 16 and had a sixth grade education. My high school completion was through a GED test. After I got out of the Korean conflict was over and I was out of the military I went and finished my high school education through GED and then from that went into nurses training. I had to have that background before I could get into school nursing.

Interviewer: When you were younger did you ever dream you would retire as a Lieutenant Colonel of the United States Army?

Dodd: No I was even after I became commissioned I never really felt that I would obtain Lieutenant Colonelcy or that I would even retire in the military. It just sort of was a progressive thing just one of those things that just happen you don't I didn't really plan on it I did plan on going into nursing I made plans for that and I did do that because I had not known anything else to do. I had never done anything but work in a hospital with rare exception. I worked for a short period of time with the City Railroad in Memphis prior to going into the military. But once I went into the Navy and went through hospital core school and got out I never worked anywhere else except in the hospital at various jobs.

Interviewer: And what year did you retire?

Dodd: Seventy Seven I believe it was.

Interviewer: Retired from the 101st Air Borne.

Dodd: Well I retired from Fort Campbell we were never part of well I was never part of the 101st air Borne.

Interviewer: Oh you weren't?

Dodd: No the hospital is the hospital comes under the post logistics but it really comes under the surgeon general.

Interviewer: Oh I see.

Dodd: And the only people that would come under the 101st are the people that are attached well actually not attached but assigned to the 101st in some capacity. As a company aid man or as battalion aid man or I think they have some physicians that are attached to the 101st now assigned to the 101st or they did some years ago. I don't really know what the structure is now.

Interviewer: Okay Mr. Dodd I'm so happy you have some photographs to share with us during your interview and I believe you have a nice looking photograph there of yourself when you were 16.

Dodd: Yes this is a picture that was taken the day that I left for the Navy and I was 16 years old 1945.

Interviewer: You were in civilian clothes right then.

Dodd: And this is a picture of myself and my brother older brother he was in the Army, Fort Knox, and I was home on leave from boot camp and that was in 45.

Interviewer: And you're in the naval uniform there?

Dodd: I'm in the naval uniform yes. And this is a picture of me at the 97th Evac hospital at Long Bend in 97.

Interviewer: In 67

Dodd: In 67 I'm sorry

Interviewer: And you're with the 97th

Dodd: Evac in Long Bend.

Interviewer: In Long Bend.

Dodd: And you were asking about age and I was the second oldest person there the only person older than I at the time I served there was the Chaplin.

Interviewer: You were the man of wisdom.

Dodd: I was the man of wisdom.

Interviewer: That's great, nice photo.

Dodd: This is the surgical staff the 93rd Evac hospital.

Interviewer: You have it written on the back.

Dodd: That was APO96491 Long Ben, Vietnam July 1967.

Interviewer: Okay can you hold it just a little bit straighter, there we go. And you're one of the people in this photograph?

Dodd: I'm one of the people in there and one of those doctors went on and became a Major General.

Interviewer: That was Jack Major you were talking about earlier?

Dodd: And the young lady down in the front, Barbara Schroder, became nurse midwife and retired as a Colonel.

Interviewer: Oh

Dodd: At Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Interviewer: Do you ever see any of these people at reunions?

Dodd: I have never seen any of them at a reunion and don't know that they've ever had a reunion. I did keep up with some of them and Barbara Schroder and I were became close friends and kept up with each other over the years. I haven't spoke with her now in a few years her husband who is a surgeon had cancer of the larine but he took treatment had surgery and is doing we as far as I know. I haven't it's been a couple of years since I've spoke with her.

Interviewer: Okay and you have some more photographs.

Dodd: These are real ancient photographs this is WWII and this is the peace signing and this is a natural photo that was taken. I did not take it but it was it's a long story as to how it came into my possession.

Interviewer: What year was this taken?

Dodd: This was in 46 I believe maybe 45.

Interviewer: And who's signing here?

Dodd: That's Admiral Howzie, Admiral Nimitz are in this picture Douglas MacArthur is in this picture.

Interviewer: Nice photograph.

Dodd: The officer sitting at the table signing is Admiral Nimitz.

Interviewer: Great thank you.

Dodd: And there was a civilian correspondent that was killed his name was Ernie Powell.

Interviewer: Yes

Dodd: Well this is his atonement.

Interviewer: Really?

Dodd: Again I didn't take this picture and it's too long of a story for me to get into how I got this picture but this is an original shot. I knew the man that did take the picture. These pictures were given to me by the man that took the pictures at San Leandro Naval Hospital in San Leandro California.

Interviewer: What year was that?

Dodd: 47

Interviewer: Okay

Dodd: No 46 so this was either early 46 or late 45 when it actually happened I don't really remember. And then this is

Interviewer: This is your pride and joy right here.

Dodd: This is the two greatest people in my life up until now.

Interviewer: Up until you had the two grandchildren?

Dodd: I've had two fairly recent additions and this is Lenos, myself and my son Stewart at the 98th General Hospital at Newbrook Neigh Germany in 1965.

Interviewer: That's a lovely photo.

Dodd: He was born September the 27th so if this was 1965 he must have been just a few months old.

Interviewer: Little did you know when that photo was taken that in just a few years you would be in Vietnam.

Dodd: No I sure didn't. That's about it.

Interviewer: Mr. Dodd the atonement for Ernie Powell where was that photograph taken?

Dodd: On Quam his first determent was Quam he was buried there in termed. The word entombed I just can't say my tongue gets tied. But he was that was his first burial he was moved from that gravesite and I believe he is still on Quam but I'm not sure where.

Interviewer: Did you have a chance to talk to any of the reporters when you were in Vietnam?

Dodd: Not really no I know that I talked to a reporter after the incident with the RPG. But I don't remember any of the details on that I don't have any pictures on that I just remember there was one there pictures were taken and I talked along with the other people. But that was some weeks later what happened to the statements that were made and the pictures that were taken I don't know.

Interviewer: Of course Vietnam was the first war we had much television coverage of.

Dodd: Well it's the first war that we ever had that so many soldiers did their own documentation took their own pictures. I've got literally thousands of slides we took most were taken in slides rather than in pictures and I would take them and send them to my wife back in the states and she would then have them developed and I never saw any of them until I got home.

Interviewer: I see.

Dodd: And then I've sorted them since, I haven't looked at them in many years.

Interviewer: Well sometime if you have a chance I'm sure that the museums would be interested both the Custom House and the New Wings of Liberty.

Dodd: I may very well look into giving these I had a lot of relics that I donated to the post the Fort Campbell post museum.

Interviewer: The Pratt Museum?

Dodd: Yes I had a couple of fruit jars of pieces of various projectiles that had been removed from soldiers. And I have this to them and in Memphis at the Pink Palace I had a lot of insects that I brought back.

Interviewer: From Vietnam?

Dodd: From Vietnam and I gave those they were at the point and time they were in insects so to speak and so I gave them to them. I suppose they still have them I don't know I haven't been down there in years so I don't really know. I don't know if Fort Campbell still had them I know they have an awful lot of things that they don't have on display.

Interviewer: Right

Dodd: Maybe if they get the new museum they will be able to display a lot of these.

Interviewer: Right

Dodd: But I don't know of anyone in my family that would really hold on to these as readily they might be better of in a museum I think a lot of things would be. I know a lot of the WWII pictures I have here I'll probably end up giving to the museum.

Interviewer: Wonderful

Dodd: They are original pictures or they are copies of the original pictures. There not there are several there have been several prints made from the original negatives but these are prints from the original negatives made.

Interviewer: Well we're also hoping to form a speaker's bureau of veterans that can go into the public schools you know and share their experience with the younger generation.

Dodd: I think this would be great yes.

Interviewer: So if you're interested we might be calling you.

Dodd: Well only to the very young children I wouldn't want to get in a classroom with 10th, 11th or 12th graders.

Interviewer: Well hopefully the essay writing contest we're going to have will help promote even some interest among the high school students. I think we're about to draw this to a close. Again is there anything else you'd like to add to your personal account?

Dodd: No the only thing I might say is one time around is enough for me.

Interviewer: One time around Mr. Dodd lasted a pretty long time.

Dodd: I'm not ready to go yet but I'm getting close.

Interviewer: Oh I was talking about your service.

Dodd: No I'm talking about my life including my military service no I would not want to live my life over again and really not want to live my military life over again. Once around on both of them is adequate.

Interviewer: You're making the most of it.

Dodd: That's right that's right.

Interviewer: That's wonderful.

Dodd: I think I've gotten all out of it that could be taken out.

Interviewer: Well I do want to thank you for all of your service and dedication to our country for over twenty seven years.

Dodd: I appreciate that but I really don't think that people consciously do that with that in mind. I don't think that people when they are serving I didn't and I don't know of anybody that did that consciously felt that they were being patriotic or doing something for their country at the time that they did it.

Interviewer: Right

Dodd: I could be wrong but I don't think so. I think that's propaganda.

Interviewer: Well I'm sure you're probably right. People go into the military for different reasons but

Dodd: Propagandas probably the last one down on the bottom row.

Interviewer: But you certainly did make sacrifices.

Dodd: When you get in a situation that your doing something and your life or your wellbeing is being threatened you don't think of it as being that that's not really what your there for anymore than if you were on the expressway and you were in an automobile accident.

Interviewer: Right

Dodd: It's just something you deal with at the time.

Interviewer: You've got to get through it and

Dodd: That's right

Interviewer: And too busy as you were in Vietnam working with the wounded to think about what you were doing at the time.

Dodd: You're concerned I was concerned with the people that I was involved with and not in whether I was being patriotic or with the country was right or if I should be over there. I didn't have the time or enough extra mental capacity to even think about that, never entered my mind. And when I got back I defiantly had too many things to catch up on to worry about it.

Interviewer: Right well I'm sure you've probably thought about things during this interview that you haven't thought about in some time.

Dodd: Yes and probably won't think about again until the next interview.

Interviewer: Well I hope you've enjoyed it and thank you so much.

Dodd: Yes ma'am my pleasure.