

Okay Sergeant Major Macias, let's start this off with can you tell me your full name, your rank when you retired, how old you were when you first went into the military, and a little bit about yourself as far as where you come from and who were your parents and what did they do?

SGM Macias: My name is Tiofulo Raymundo Macias but I go by Ray because I was baptized as Raymundo. I didn't know my name was _____ until the _____ called and asked for my birth certificate. On my birth certificate it was _____. I fought a little bit about it. I said put Raymundo _____. They said no it's got to be _____. So we ended up with _____ going by Ray Macias. I was born in Bloomington, California, on January 8, 1925. My mother died in 1933 in Wilmington. At that time the pressure was on so then my father took us to Mexico because he was with three kids. I was the oldest. We went to W. Caliente, Mexico. In 1942 when the war started I told my parents, "I am an American citizen. I am going back." He said, "Well you don't even live with me, you wonder around, here are your papers, go!" I came into my aunt at Oceanside, California. I got back in 1942 and I was called in June 1943 and in January I was 18 so immediately I was taken but I couldn't speak English. I went to the draft board and everything and the guy says to me, "Go to table 38." I asked him, I said, "What is table 38?" He said, "The table over there." It was Spanish. So I said, "No, a bunch of swabbies are there, a bunch of Navy guys." I said, "I can't swim. I can't go over there. I want to go with you guys; the Army!" I went to the guy again and the Navy guy said, "Table 38!" That was my first word in English, Table 38. I went there and swore in at Los Angeles City Hall. That is where the Navy had the office. Then they gave me seven days leave. I reported back to Los Angeles and they put me on a train. We didn't have planes then. We had nothing but trains in 1943. So they put me on a train _____ to Williamsburg, Virginia for basic training. Everything was ok through the whole training. I finished the eight weeks before I went to advanced training with the Marine Corp. A Seabee had to have both training. We were general service. I went to and passed, my first eight weeks, went and passed. On the way back, we had guards all over the place; security guards. They said, "Halt, who goes there?" I didn't understand what was going on you know. I was concentrating right and left face and all this stuff. Pat Bryan was the name of the instructor. He said, "Take a look at Smokey! Smokey can't speak English and that's the only one that can't speak English. I was listening to right face, left face or whatever he was saying, every command he gave I remembered. There were other American kids that spoke English that was going the wrong direction. They didn't believe me that I couldn't speak English. So I went through. When I got back and the guard said, "Halt! Who goes there?" the guy in front a friend of mine, he stopped. He said, "Put your id card down on the floor and step back so many steps back." So what I did, I followed this kid. The guard went back gave the ID card back and told him to go. I was going with him and they said, "Halt, halt!" and shoved the bayonet at me. I said, "Same, same!" They put a big long 18 inch bayonet. We didn't have no M1s, we had O3's. They threw that bayonet at me. The other guy told them, "He can't speak English." They took me in and took me to the officers and the officer started after me. The next day the warrant officer from Texas came and talked to me. He said, "Do you want to get out because you can't speak English or do you speak English?" I said, "No." I told him my problem why. I had just got back from Mexico. I had been there 10 years. I was seven years old when my mother died and we went to Mexico. He said, "I am going to send you home." I said, "No, no, no. I promise you I will learn English. I want to go with them." So they let me go. They made a little mistake; they put me on the USS Portland, heavy cruiser. In the Navy all the divisions and sections get on board the ship on the deck when you are passing and getting out of the port. Your pictures all get taken. I saw an Army guy on top of the bridge with a girl waving. When I looked up that was it for me. I got sick. They never saw me again. In the heavy cruiser they got small c-planes you could throw out so there is a damn turret in there. You can get in there so that when you inject them out you don't burn the guy as you are throwing them out. So I got in and hid there. It took 2 1/2 days to get to Hawaii. On the last day when we got to Hawaii I came out of there. I started drinking water and feeling better. That throw up went overboard see. It got all over me and they got mad and they dropped me in Pearl Harbor. They put me in laundry; Navy laundry place fixing uniforms, regular quartermasters there. I said, "No I don't want to deal with these guys." I want to go with the other guys. I went to see the commanding officer. I told him what had happened. All three of the officers were

Jews; the Company Commander, the Lieutenant, and the other Lieutenant that was on were not. They were real nice. They said, "We are going to take you with us." I went with them and I stayed with them all the way through. When the war was over I was in Okinawa. Here was another mistake. The war was over and they already started going home. I couldn't figure out why everybody was going home and leaving me behind. I didn't know about the point system. The point system was whoever had too many points to get back to the states and not enough to get discharged had to stay longer. You got a point and a half overseas. When you get back to the states you didn't get but a half point. That was keeping me behind. I couldn't figure it out. I was in water purification and I was driving a ¾ ton and the new people were taking over. They didn't out rank me. It was Petty Officers 1st Classes taking over the job. I was a 2nd Class Petty Officer. I couldn't speak English and I became a 2nd Class Petty Officer. I was checking the water and everything and on the way back I was driving fast, I was mad. The guy reported me. I was driving wild and all kinds of stuff. The chief got all over me and I said, "I don't need no vehicle." So I walked all the way to 10th Army headquarters to check the water. It was a good three miles so I walked it. It was late; it was very dark when I was walking down the road. In Okinawa the war was over but it had a lot of Japanese on the island hunting for food. If they killed you they would eat you themselves for meat. It was still dangerous. You couldn't go to the sugar field, to the site cliff; all of that was off limits. That is where the big battle was fought. There were a lot of them bastards hiding in the caves. The caves are nothing but the rocks. They were split. You know, cracked in the rocks and in the inside would be big rooms. There were a lot of Japanese grenades. Japanese grenades have to be hit. They take the string off and then you got to hit them on the top to arm themselves. They put it on a grenade, the cord was off and they put it over a rock. You step on the rock and you blow yourself up. That is the reason they don't want nobody over there. Like a dummy, all regular army people want souvenirs; young guys. That is the stupid thing you can do looking for souvenirs just to get yourself killed. Finally they got all over me. I came in and the chief was real mad at me. I said, "You said to me don't drive, I don't need no vehicle. I don't drive." He got really mad and gave me a captain's mast. A captain's mast is an Article 15 and dropped me one stripe and 14 days burning. In the Navy we used to make the holes and put the stuff up. The Army started doing that right here in Vietnam; because not even in Korea we done that. The Army started in Vietnam. The Navy was doing it in World War II. We shit in a bucket, bring it up and burn the damn thing. We used to burn it. I did about four days of that rather than the 14 because I came back to the states. But I still dropped one right here 3rd class petty officer. It don't make no difference. So that was my tour in World War II. I came back to the states and I joined the 11th Battalion Marine Corp. Reserve. I was working for cold storage. When the war started in Korea I was in San Antonio, Texas, having a few beers with a couple of medics with an airborne patch on them. I said, "What is that with the plane and the parachute?" "Oh we are paratroopers! We jump out of planes!" I said, "No! You don't jump out of planes!" He said, "Yeah!" I said, "I will never jump out of one of those planes!" "Yeah!" we drank more beers and put me on the adobe fences had me jumping out of them; falling out of them drunk. The next morning I decided, "Hell I am going!" So I did. I joined the airborne. I didn't have to go to Army training because I was in World War II with the Marine Corp.; basic training in the Navy at Camp Williamsburg, Virginia, and Norfolk, Virginia, advanced training amphibious overboard and all this other crap. The 11th tank battalion I got all infantry with the tanks, infantry tank maneuvers in Oceanside, California-Camp Pendleton. So when I came in the Army I came in airborne unassigned. I didn't have to have none of the training, just airborne unassigned. That is the way they use to go to airborne school. So I went and reported to Fort Riley, Kansas, to get clothes and then I went to Fort Benning. It took me 30 days of their physical training because at that time they kept you there for a month to make sure that when you went to school you passed the school. It was good physical training. I was young and 128 pounds so I said, "What the heck!" That was nothing. I was about 23 years old when I joined them.

You said that you were in Mexico when the war broke out. While you were living there did you hear about the bombing of Pearl Harbor?

SGM Macias: When I was in Mexico?

Yes sir.

SGM Macias: No, I really didn't hear that. I heard that the United States was at war. I was 17 years old.

Was it in the newspapers?

SGM Macias: Yes, in the newspapers in Mexico.bombed Pearl Harbor. I didn't know where in the hell Pearl Harbor was. But I thought it was the United States you know. When I got back to the United States I told my dad I was coming back to war and I was going and I got into Oceanside. I went to work in Sacramento. I was still young. I wasn't even supposed to be working. But anyway I was working lying and saying that I was 18 years old. I came back in October in 1942 to Oceanside to my aunts. Then in the big news "Marines land in Guadalcanal in 1942." I will never forget that and in big _____ "The Marines done that and the Marines done that." I didn't wait for them to take me you know. I couldn't say, "Well how young I was" because I still had a problem with English. That is how I ended up.

When you got finished with basic and advanced training, you said you went to California before ya'll shipped out. Did they have ya'll in temporary barracks or were they already....

SGM Macias: I went overseas; from the time that I left Camp _____, Virginia, I went to Fort____. We stayed there just to process from the camp to get us on the buses to the port to the battleship and I went overseas. When we went to Hawaii, they put me in the laundry there. In the entrance to Pearl Harbor is _____ across is Hickham Field Barracks; Hickham Field Airport. On that side was nothing. There was a mission for the Seabees 523 to build up them a camp there. On the other side was barber point. That's the airfield for the Navy and across is the Army and the entrance into Pearl Harbor _____ artillery, the big 16-inch guns. We were working on an entrance there and there I was making kwanza huts; steel kwanza huts-the round things. We made them for people coming in and from there they were going. It was Marine Corp and Seabees that is where they were shower. Once we got the camp built up, all the kwanza huts and of course we had bulldozers operated, demolition people, there were a lot of rocks in Hawaii there. We had to blow the heck out of it to level the place out. I was a water tender right there. They had two boilers; big boilers that would heat water to the direction of the mess hall. At that time only one mess hall. _____ the kwanza huts and we got the other was barracks; the kwanza huts was barracks. There were about 20 men or maybe more inside the kwanza hut. They were separated from the troops coming in, Seabees or Marines and shipped from there aboard a ship or wherever they were going to. They used this to process from this to another place. They would come back from the United States into battle then from there they went to wherever they were going to be meeting. What it is is the invasion of Okinawa, for instance, just before the war, or Guam or Philippines. Not a lot of anybody come from there. They come from all over. In other words they met somewhere and rode. Hawaii probably had the Army bases. They had their own troops to ship from Pearl Harbor but we didn't see them because that is a different place. I saw the Marines, I saw the Navy guys. In the airport across the street I don't know what they were doing but I mean Hickham Field was there and they had their own job to do and we had our own. We built that across Street. Barber's Point was on the other side. I put what name to give this. Anyway, we built the whole works. We had immediately four barracks with wooden barriers we made for us. We had our company; our company was 200 something people. But everyone, like I said, was not _____ but having people specialized to unload ships and had cranes in there. We didn't have regular drags like a dragger. We had them in there to pull the shit out of the ships on the deck there. But most of the stuff that was put under there was steel. It was stuff for making this camp.

Oh Ok.

SGM Macias: See? Once we got that we had another mission to go someplace so we got everything built up there. It was when I was working on....the other people were working on sewage lines and pumps. I didn't know....they done it. I worked on them afterwards. My job was to make sure they continue working, make sure the water was goes normally by 4 o'clock in the morning without getting up _____ and water continues to build up and pump faster. So to be sure the water goes through purification and make sure it don't overflow like the station right over here below. So anyway I done that. I also built up some coal storage; big high boxes with you could put the motor anywhere you wanted to. They come in sections. They are about that wide and about 36 x 8 or 9 and they come in sections: A, B, C, D, E, F, and all the whole stuff. When you put it together one of those, I think ____, you can put it anywhere where the water is going to fit. There is a big opening for the refrigerator to fit. It could fit on this side or that or any way you want. You adjust it to that. So I done that in there too. There were big damn coolers in there to put it in. We go and check them. In other words every hour what it is supposed to be; 42 degrees. The freezer has got to be 22 or 20, in other words it's got to be 2 below than always 20 degrees. If you got anything below freezing you got to be set at 20 degrees or lower. Why? Because if somebody opened it up and there is no way; when you keep the door open it will still be frozen in there. So you go and check it you make sure it don't come back and you don't catch no 32 you know there is something wrong. You look at the setting and the setting is 20 degrees, then something is wrong. You got to keep your eyes on it because if you go below 32 it's chilled. If it is chilled it's got to go.

Did you learn all that at basic and AIT?

SGM Macias: No, I learned when I went up there OJT. My department had that. The head chief told me, "This is what you do...." blah blah blah and that is it. I picked it up. I was smart. If I would have gone to an American school, I would have been in good shape. Let me tell you, I came back in 1950, okay? In 1956, I came back as a Private; I was a Sergeant in the Marine Corp., but as reserve. When you come in active you came in as a Private. I came in as a Private into the airborne but by the time I got to Korea I was a Corporal. But being a big mouth, my Company Commander had kept me Corporal. I was a squad leader. In 1956 I was a Master Sergeant. It was the highest rank then.

No kidding, in six years Master Sergeant.

SGM Macias: I was a Master Sergeant, six striper, and that was the highest rank then.

You mentioned doing basic and AIT. What kind of small arms training, if any, did you do since you were going into the Engineering supply field?

SGM Macias: Okay, in our department we had the carbine; M30 carbine. It was our weapon and 45s. Only the officers had 45s. All the rest of the NCO's in our unit, carbines. The battalions had M1s. Later they came back after 1943 and 1944 they were coming in with M1s. The other ones had machine guns, sub machine guns and carbines that had heavy arms like the 03s because they were battalions. They were deeper. They were going to build our airfields and had to be right with the infantry; pretty close. So they had to be armed pretty heavy. But we ourselves, we trained with the 03 familiarization only; we qualified with the carbine, familiarization with the 45, and familiarization with the machine gun which at that time was the A4.

You mentioned carbine and I may have missed it. Were you talking about the M1 Carbine?

SGM Macias: The M1 Carbine, not the M2. The M2 came out in Korea with a selector on it.

You mentioned when you got to Okinawa, how long was it that you landed at Okinawa after the actual battle and the seizure of Okinawa took place?

SGM Macias: On 1 April 1943 the invasion started; 3 months later we are still fighting. The island was secured but not secure that you could walk anywhere you wanted to by yourself. The Japs were not cut off. There were a lot of Japs on the island that were not going to surrender and they were going to survive one way or the other.

This is before we dropped the bombs?

SGM Macias: Before we dropped the bomb. On the 6th of August I heard everybody on the side of the sea that was close to the airfield with the B36s. That is a big damn plane. I don't think they saw any action. The B29s did. The B36s were there but the B29s and the B24s were the big bombers. Then everybody started shooting. The boats were blowing their horns and firing and started shooting. I said, "What the hell is going on?" He said, "They were ready! They dropped the atomic bomb and the Japs had surrendered!" No, they did not surrender. They dropped the bomb and they told them to surrender or else! So that is when they went to Nagasaki and Iro Jima. I believe they went to Nagasaki first and then Iro Jima. No, Iro Jima and then Nagasaki. That is when they immediately surrendered. The troops were there, troops from Europe in bulks. We had a typhoon predicted to hit the island. The war was over and they had all these troops and ships and everything but we had to occupy Japan. In the meantime, all the guys from Europe had priority to get home. They had already got by the point system. They were going to send them back. They turned around because there was a damn typhoon. They got tired of sending ships out of the way. They didn't get out of there. Some of us didn't get out of there. Some of them we lost them right there. I came back on the ship that I left there in Okinawa and there were a lot of ex-sailors that lost a ship. They got a name for them, survivors or something. They lost a ship. We lost a lot of men in Okinawa in that typhoon right after the war. We had a little six man tent like a cp and the wind had about three or four guys that we saw them blow across the battalion area; flying. We couldn't help them. I was wearing boots up to here, rubber boots. They told everybody to get to the kwanza huts where the mess hall was. It was the only thing that was standing still. I was walking at a good damn 45 degrees about like this, walking. I was taking a step going to the place and I took one step and my boot stayed behind and I continued. There wasn't no need to try to get the damn boot. I lost boot. We lost everything else. That was just before after the war was over and the typhoon hit us. Every man that was in Okinawa right after the war will never forget the typhoon. It really hit us hard. We lost a lot of people there.

I meant to ask you, did you have any other family that was in the war the same time as you?

SGM Macias: My brother in California, they drafted him in the Army. He couldn't speak English so 90 days later they gave him a discharge; honorable discharge.

He should have went to table 38.

SGM Macias: Sir?

He probably should have went to table 38.

SGM Macias: Well, I don't think he wanted to go. He was a much quiet guy. He stayed with my step-mother and my dad. He was my younger brother. My step-mother didn't like me. That is how I ended up in the street you know; 9 years old and on my own. My little brother used to take food to the people that worked in railroad and place; bowl on bowl on bowl and you would hang them like this. I would wait for him when they finished eating and I couldn't eat the whole works, the leftovers. We would eat half of the leftovers on all the plates whatever they had in there would help. Sometimes I missed it and I would really go hungry. 9 years old in Mexico is hard to survive. I took my grand-daughter and my kids and I said, "Take a look at that kid...take a look!" Some kids 9 years old and 6 years old living behind doors. One of

my granddaughters I took to Mexico and I said, "Look behind that door!" There were about three or four kids in there about six and seven years old, sleeping. She said, "Why?" I said, "Because they aint got no mother! They are on their own!" That is the way it is, they don't give a damn about young kids over there. They boot shine, play cards; anything you want them to do they do it for food.

Do you think that this early education in life that you got, do you think that is what helped you though from 1950-1956 to give you the drive to achieve Master Sergeant as rapidly as you did?

SGM Macias: Oh yes, I will never, I give the whole immediately. I will go for it because that is the way I was brought in. I didn't have no education because I didn't have no chance to get an education. So whatever was put at me I learned it real quickly. I remember. Today as old as I am now if you draw a diagram or a work form to assemble something, you understand what I mean? You got instructions to assemble something. There is a word for it like a floor map.

Like a blueprint.

SGM Macias: Blueprint that is what I was looking for. Give me one today what I was doing as a young man 18 or 19 years old and I couldn't even write my own name. No, I could write my own name. I only had three years of education, 3 years grammar. In Mexico it is six grades grammar. In three years they kicked me out. I learned English, I learned how to write, and I learned how to read on my own.

Did you learn it all while you were in the military?

SGM Macias: Yes, in the military. I ended up in the damn orderly room in my secondary MOS as a damn Administration Specialist. I told my daughter, "How in the hell ...?" I know regulations. I could read regulations. I could post regulations. I can go by what you tell me and I follow through. I look at the letter in how many spaces that they had and this date and time to it. I got the manuals and I followed through on that. Before the letters go through my Company Commander, my clerk would type it. I picked up some clerks that had college education that knew what the hell they were doing. See I ain't no stupid! I was looking at did _____ call for this 322. I said, "Yeah!" in the Army you got to go through that shit spell it, Americans the easiest words I can't even spell them. For me it is easy and for you it is hard. You guys put too many words in there for nothing; like camouflage or chauffer and stuff like that, there is nothing to it. I learned that. It's been over 20 years since administrator, I don't know. I can pick it up real quick. I learned everything in the military in OJT. You have the people that already know their work and they tell you, "This is the way it's done." You pay attention and if you done it the way they told you he knew what he was doing too. But if you done it and he came back to tell you, "No this is wrong!" Then you told me and there is a difference there. That's what I'm saying 2nd Lieutenants. There is a lot of stuff that you learn by book and a lot of things those guys do faster. Sometimes you got to forget about the book and do it the way they do it because you want action. You can go by the book. They go by the dictation hard to do it. But these guys learn how to speed it up.

Keep it simple.

SGM Macias: Simple, that's it. You see what I mean, every word.

During World War II what was the relationship like between the enlisted guys and the officer side of the house?

SGM Macias: They always be the same thing. A good officer, "How are you doing today Sergeant so and so? Have a good day!" You got to be friendly to the individual. You got to talk to them every once in

awhile so they like you to show you care for the guy and that you are thinking about him. You can be an asshole, fuck you! You can't do that!

Did you have some good officers and senior NCO's when you first came in?

SGM Macias: In the Navy they changed. Officers in the Navy were on a ship, real close and more relaxing. Not like in Infantry. Sometimes you could say, "Hey, you might get court-martialed for that" because they opened their mouth to an officer. In the Army we don't do that and in the Marine Corp we don't do that. In the Navy aboard a ship or where we were; we were like the Marine Corp, we were on the ground with Infantry. We didn't do that. If an officer said something, "Yes, sir; no, sir." The enlisted men were pretty close even the rank. We work and we didn't have no problems. You don't need to pull rank on an enlisted man on the Navy. In the Army you got no choice.

In your free time you mentioned you were in Hawaii for awhile working on those building up Pearl Harbor and what not. What did you do in your free time?

SGM Macias: In my free time, whenever we had the time say maybe on Sunday, they would give you a truck. At that time in the 40s you could go around the island and steal all the pineapples. I ate so many pineapples. I don't know why Waikiki beach. They aint even worth a damn. They got better beaches on the outside of the island; nice ones. The only thing Waikiki had at that time; the submariners at Waikiki, the hotel there were submariners. You could see their drawers hanging in the windows on the outside drying and stuff. Of course the submariners had some time when they came in. They've been at sea so damn long they have to have some time. They had a regular whore houses over there too. They had regular whore houses in Honolulu; you go to the whore house and you get in line. You get in line and the whore would go from room to room to room and continue. You go to room so and so, you go to room so and so and the whore would do the job and go to the next one. When you came out of there the Navy had a damn aid station. You had to get a probe. Turn your head and you get all the damn, what do you call it?

I know what you are talking about.

SGM Macias: It was so long ago, I think probe something.

They check you.

SGM Macias: To stop VD or anything. If you had to get a piece of ass; military too. You stick it in there and get the juice, a cream type, and get it in and suck it. We left there and I didn't go anywhere back but that is where we did it. Every time they gave us a day off, like I said, they gave us a truck and we would run the island to different places there. Of course there was Honolulu there; go to Hickham Field and you were going to Honolulu.

How well did you get along with the other Navy and the Army guys?

SGM Macias: We did see no Army guys.

You'll never even.....

SGM Macias: No. The Army guys was on the other side in Scofield Barracks. They Air Force was across from us.

Not much mixture?

SGM Macias: No, not much mixture. In Honolulu was Navy; all Navy personnel. I guess it was too far for the Army to get to Honolulu because they don't give you that much time during the war.

Now when you were in Okinawa how long exactly were you there after the bombs had dropped after the war was pretty much over and ya'll had turned pretty much to a occupation force? How long were you there?

SGM Macias: There were a lot of people there on the island; Army guys. I didn't know then that they were the ones that were going to Japan to occupy it. When I found out that everybody was going home with points and everybody was shipping out of there this was in August when the war was over. In December I left for the states. I hit Seattle, Washington; they loaded everybody off and kept me on board the ship. We went into Portland, they loaded everybody off and I stayed on the ship. We went to San Francisco, they loaded everybody off and I stayed on the ship. I said, "What the hell!" I didn't know what was going on. I didn't even know what the hell because I had never been in all those places. I left from San Francisco, Port _____, into San Francisco in a boat _____ Portland and here I am coming into all these ports you know. In Seattle, Washington, it takes all day to get into the port and so is Portland. I ended up in San Pedro on _____ Island, I believe. Is _____ Island in North Carolina or anyway I _____ in _____ Island in San Pedro, California. That is where I got discharged when I came out from the Navy.

I heard you mention the Japanese how they were hungry and it was dangerous for the soldiers and sailors and cb's that were there. Did you have much contact with the actual native Okinawans?

SGM Macias: We did because; I was working on the road first when I got there _____ a bomb carrier to watch the trucks that were going from the docks. The docks were pontoons. They were made docks. They were loaded and put into the trucks. I was following the trucks to make sure they didn't drop nothing. If you dropped it I picked it up with the bomb carrier; nothing but a ¾ with a boom like this hang it on the side _____ and you pick up the stacks. That is what I was doing in there. We went through the villages. In Okinawa nothing but small villages. Naha was the big city. There was nobody in the big city. There was a couple of country buildings. The railroad was destroyed. There was nothing in there. In all the villages they had a Marine or Army; MPs anyway. In the entrance you sign in and they knew when you went through with a vehicle. We had time off in there in Okinawa when the war was over and we went in the truck. We were driving around and looking around and we saw this Okinawian with a bunch of potatoes; leaves from the potatoes, you know the greens. They pick them up, all the greens, and put them in a basket. I don't know what they do with them. The girl and the old man; the girl was a pretty young girl about I would say roughly 15 years old or something like that. We were sitting down with the truck and this damn nigger had a damn; he was hiding and he didn't know we were there either. The woman passed by with a girl and they sniped the girl. The old man _____. I had a 45 on me. Nobody knew that I had a 45. I carried a 45. In the truck we had a bunch of drill bits; you know to drill to put dynamite. I said, "Hey, leave her alone!". He was ready to rape that girl you know. I said to myself, "I should have went up there and beat the hell out of that nigger." I had a 45 but I had it hiding. Nobody knew that I had it but I carried it all the time. I brought it with me. I brought the 45 with me. I put it in the bottom of my suitcase. I went right through inspection and they didn't check it. I sold it for \$45.00. I got in a fight, drunk, and a guy says, "You think you are too big with that weapon." Like a dummy, I threw the weapon away. Somebody got it and took it to my aunt. I started thinking, "That was a stupid thing I ever done!" I guy could have grabbed that thing, self defense, and blew me away. So I decided to get rid of it. I had another close call with another guy in the Marine Corp; always a woman. I was in a beer joint in a uniform and this guy blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. I had a long rod under the bottom of my seat of the car. I said, "Look _____, I'm not after you, I'm in uniform and I don't want to mess it up!" Blah Blah, come after me. When he came after me I got the rod and in the head, bam bam. He was bleeding bad. I didn't let it come to my uniform. Sancho was looking for me so I pulled the 45 out of the side of the car; my brother-in-law

was a good buddy of his and was already married I pulled out the weapon and had the magazine loose. You could tell when you bury a round in it. I let the round go in. I said, "You see what I got, it is for you and buddy you are going to hit it too!" I went like this, click, and you should have seen the faces. I said, "You tell that ____ that next time I put the magazine in and I am going to shoot him." Well he got the word. They didn't bother me no more. So I decided to get rid of the damn thing before I shoot somebody and I end up in prison so I sold it for \$45.00. You know what that weapon costs now?

No!

SGM Macias: I got two of them; I got two 45s.

I got one from my grandfather.

SGM Macias: They cost a lot of money and mine was a brand new one. I got it in ____ Island.

You mentioned that incident that occurred on Okinawa. Did that happen a lot or did you hear of that happening as far as soldiers and sailors kind of getting out of hand and messing with the people that lived there; the girls?

SGM Macias: Not really because it's the only place that I saw that happened in Okinawa and I saw it happening and it was a black guy. I think they guys do it all the time in my opinion because I saw it in Vietnam and I saw it in Korea. The first time that it happened was right here when I was a young man. When I was a ____ in Korea or Vietnam I stopped it immediately. There aint no way. I didn't saw it but if it happened we had an battalion people down there and in Germany they done the same thing. A couple of guys were raped in the 11th Airborne Division, beat the hell out of ____ and killed; stuff like that.

Did that get reported to command and did they do anything about it or was it...?

SGM Macias: Oh no, no, no, no, they prosecute them. They got those guys.

They came after them?

SGM Macias: Oh yeah. We were going to Hohenfels and they stopped them _____. Everybody out of the barracks and they checked the barracks. Everybody that they say looked suspicious had to go over there, walk up there and open your locker. There was a black guy, they picked him up and prosecuted him. Yeah that happens.

What was the chow like at Okinawa? Was it a lot different than what you had in the Navy?

SGM Macias: In the Navy it's more organized than the Army. Of course we don't have that many people in Infantry. We don't know have no positions that you tend to all the time. You ____ your security elements so you got a big shuffle. In the Navy we got like civilian jobs. I don't know if the quartermasters are the same thing, I don't know if the Engineers in the Army got the same thing or not. The Seabees, we got jobs. We go out there and do it for so long and then we come back like a civilian and then we would go to sleep. We would go back the next morning and then come back and eat. We eat when we get a chance. When we got C-rations, we eat C-rations too. It was much different than when I was in the Army; much different. The minute we set up we got a mess hall; the Navy, right away. We got a mess hall and you get three squares in there. With the Army you don't. You end up in the quartermaster the same way. It's going to take some time to set up because you are going to have a big responsibility to move forward and move supplies to the Infantry troops. It's a lot different to the Navy. The Quartermasters is a lot of

work for them. A lot of people don't realize that. There's a lot of work because you got a lot of groups to feed, a lot of ammunition to pull forward, and a lot of supplies to pull forward. With Engineers of course water purification comes up whatever it comes under. I know the engineers got in and the Army engineers were water purification. They are not as good as the Navy. The Navy pumped 250 gallons per minute from muddy water; three motors. We run two and one stand by.

They flip it.

SGM Macias: Flip it over at 12 hours. You flip it to another motor to shift it around. Of course the real muddy water let out to the first tank. The water goes to the bottom and then it goes to the top; a canal. The water ____ and to the next tank. They all got drainage to the bottom. The mud sets and you open them up to get the damn mud out of there. When you get to the third tank, that is blue water.

It is potable water?

SGM Macias: Right. You still can't drink it. It is ____ chlorine in there. It is strong. You got to push it another two miles from there to the main tank. You figure you lose about three parts on the way. When you get down to the main you always have three to two parts of chlorine. That is good. Three is strong because the water in Okinawa or any island; Asia, Japan, Okinawa, China they all use damn shit on the fields so when it rains they all go into the damn river. So that is why we have to put all the goddamn chlorine in it.

Did you see any cases of dysentery?

SGM Macias: No, we didn't. I got one in Korea but my stupidity. I took this pot of water; the river was down below and it was too far to go down below in the front of the mountain to get some water. I had this nice round ____ with nice blue water in there, dumb son-of-a-bitch. I got that water and I had diarrhea but I didn't stop eating. You know we had a lot of canned beef. I ate that beef and that beef would come out and that beef and I kept going.

It came out just as fast as it went in?

SGM Macias: Just as fast as it came in, yeah. It was bad. I never again done that. _____ I put that damn ____ on top. That is the best thing to do. Wait half an hour, shake that mother and drink it. You got to follow them, shortcuts kill you and that's what happened. I done the same thing right here in the United States. We jumped in South Carolina on a drop about 2 o'clock in the afternoon in August; hot. We dropped in a watermelon field. They told us not to bash any watermelons and not to destroy them. I was so damn thirsty. You run and you fall on the rifle and I fell on top of the watermelon when nobody was looking. That was mistake number two. You eat a watermelon thirsty you get worse. The guys were falling like goddamn flies and I'm a platoon sergeant. I hollered, "Keep going" but I felt like I was fainting on the end but I didn't want to tell them you know. "Get out of that water!" There was water with bugs and guys were getting their canteens. You break the rules sometimes you know what I mean. I knew it was wrong what I was doing and I done it. Sometimes you break the law and I know it is wrong.

Mr. Macias, I think that is going to conclude our World War II aspects of it. I got a question though. You served in three wars, correct?

SGM Macias: Yes.

You did World War II, you did Korea, you did Vietnam.....

SGM Macias: Twice.

Twice....two tours in Nam?

SGM Macias: Yes.

Out of all of them which one do you reflect the most on? Which one do you think about the most now years later?

SGM Macias: The one that I never forget is the one in Korea because they don't recognize me things I did, me and my platoon sergeant. This was before the Chinese came in. I was on guard and it was Thanksgiving 1950. We didn't know the Chinese was already in the war. We don't know. We was securing the MLRs with the 7th Infantry Division that was going to the reservoir, but still we didn't know what was going on. Now I know what the hell we were doing see. After we pulled us out of there and the 7th Infantry Division went on trucks, "Hey Airborne, where are your planes?" We walking like an ass. After the war was over _____. Anyways, I was on guard and the turkey came in froze on the _____ tent. It was after Thanksgiving because it was after 12 o'clock when we got the turkey. We had nothing to eat all goddamn day; no C-rations, nothing. A little later in the evening there was fighting. So the mayor of the town told Lieutenant McCormack, "There coming, there coming. Korea is coming!" "Aw he is full of shit!" We had three outposts. A machine gun outpost behind the school. One of our 57s, I was in weapons platoon. My platoon sergeant had a 57 on the flank, and I had a machine gun and somebody on the jailhouse on the other side of the flank. The rest of the platoon is on the school resting. After the turkey they were sleeping and I was outside on guard; me and my platoon sergeant. They were sleeping. When I feel that the damn rounds were too close, I said, "No, these rounds are close!" When they are high they pop. When they are close it is like a piece of board that is passed to you. I went and _____ and said, "There is shooting right here, they are close." He said, "Well let's go!" So we ran and got into the machine gun position inside the hole. I got into the steps. This guy had a struggle and had a pretty good bank of dirt. As we were running into the hole we could see the flash of the weapons no more than 10-15 feet away from the hole already. So me and _____ came in and _____ M1 rifles, 96 rounds that's all and they had them _____ there. As soon as we saw the flash _____ and that is where we end up with 8 rounds. _____ 5th round on where we were shooting and we would concentrate on that and make another _____ the other four rounds behind the M1 rifle. We eliminated that. Pretty soon we ran out of ammunition. So here comes the damn squad, Sergeant Neal, the squad on the flank. They had no place, plain open ground. I was in a bank on the steps on the machine gun. My legs and face were on the outside but all this right here, the dirt was hitting me in the face. They started doing the same thing and they knew there were shooting too heavy and had to pull out of there. They pulled out and me and _____ stayed in the same place. There was a B.A.R in there that we couldn't get it to work. A B.A.R on the frozen ground just don't work. It's the best weapon we got but you got to know what to use. I forgot somebody said using something some other kind of crap mosquito repellent or some kind of bullshit they were using. I don't know because I was not a B.A.R man. I seen this kid crying to get take it apart and trying to get it to work and just couldn't get it to work. I found out later on when I became a platoon sergeant that a B.A.R has got to be maintained _____ W40 to me; not the oil that the Army issues you or something like the mosquito repellent. That would have worked better than the goddamn regular oil or get you a little can of goddamn W40. Make sure you wipe it off because W40 will pick up dirt and that will stop your weapon from goddamn firing. Anyways get back to the fight here, they finally brought some ammunition; B.A.R ammunition, 20 round cartridges but no clips. How are we going to get clips? You know the clips pop out every round. So I am in the dark looking for clips to pack. Finally I found 8 or 9 goddamn clips loaded up before the daylight came around. We stopped the fight coming in on us. They slowed down. And the 57 up the other side so they didn't know what the hell was going on. But _____ and I can see those bastards getting up. I started after them. I couldn't see them through the peephole but I could put the muzzle of the rifle on them and bam, bam, bam and I dropped it. I _____, "I got me one! I got me

two!" He killed five and I killed six and we dropped it. The war was over and we were mopping up and I was going to go _____ with my platoon sergeant. He was a Master Sergeant. They had another Master Sergeant that was the platoon sergeant of that platoon; _____. He was a Polick. He had a little _____ boy with him. So anyway _____ went marching through and _____ went with him. I hollered at _____ pretty close; 150 yards. I saw him move. I told McCormick, "I can get him from here." "No, no, no, no, no no!" I said, "Goddamn it, I can kill him from here! I'm good with a rifle!" He didn't let me fire so I hollered at _____, "_____!" When the guy made a move, he had his weapon like this, a 45, and boom, he shot him. He shot him on his side. It hit him in the hip and came out of the front. But the guy was alive because I took him to Pyongtaek. I had 32 prisoners, all of the bastards and what they did they went to the apple orchard and they stacked their weapons and they all piled up. That is the way they captured them bastards. I, the stupid Corporal, they put me in charge of the son-of-a-bitches and I went all the way Pyongtaek 32 goddamn prisoners. I didn't know Chinese already in goddamn war. I got to the MPs, the compound, and I said, "These prisoners right here are not belong they belong to the 187th and they are not being _____. "Okay!" "Well how do we get back?" "I don't know find yourself a way to get back home!"

So you were with the 187th in Korea?

SGM Macias: Yeah.

Wasn't that the only jump made in Korea?

SGM Macias: Yeah.

Ya'll were the only ones that jumped.

SGM Macias: Yeah we jumped in Pyongtaek.

That is where you get the Rakkasans.

SGM Macias: Yeah we jumped in North Korea.

What division did ya'll fall under?

SGM Macias: 11th Airborne Division.

Ya'll were 11th Airborne then.

SGM Macias: Yeah, 11th Airborne.

The 187th wasn't with the 101st at the time.

SGM Macias: No, they were with the 11th. We jumped up there on the 1st jump. We jumped and I clobbered. I didn't know we had a; I had a cover on my M1 rifle and I got my bag on it. I hit the swamp and it was muddy; swampy dykes, you know rice patties. I hit a bank, bam, and my M1 went in there and tore up to the canvas in mud and I didn't know. Everybody was shooting and _____ them guys white pants across the field. I said, "Shit I will drop this mother in no time!" I aimed it and boom! I blew the damn muzzle, cylinder, site, the rear of the bolt, everything!

It didn't hurt you did it?

SGM Macias: No, but I didn't have no more M1 rifle. I got me a gook rifle right away. In fact coming into town I got me a damn gook from that gook. I was going with a damn gook rifle. The guy says, "Goddamn I thought you were a gook!" I threw it away because I didn't want to be shot. Me and a Mexican guy were going to town to _____ and we found a damn armory, you know where they had the weapons and everything. We were looking for damn pistols, that is what we were looking for. Goddamned Master Sergeant Leonard, "Get out of there goddamn it" and he pulled the damn pin on a white bolster grenade and he throws it in the goddamn inside. Man we exited out of that son-of-a-bitch in no time. It burned the goddamn shed down. He got in trouble for that. As I was coming back from taking the prisoners and I hit the brigade headquarters. It was regimental headquarters then. I went to regimental headquarters and it had all the guys dead. The action where we were; really everybody was in action and they had a bunch of dead ones in there. I asked the guy from B Company Sergeant _____. I aint telling nothing about nothing. I said, "Fuck you, you son-of-a-bitch, _____, fuck you!" I don't care for the guy. I said, "Oh man everybody is getting killed here." My first action was then northeast of Pyongyang in North Korea. We secured the MSR's _____ supplies to the 7th Infantry Division to get to the Marine Division. They never did get it because they got their asses kicked too, the 7th Division and so was the Marines. Somebody screwed up completely. We didn't have the damn supportive elements to help you get the hell out of there. So what we did, we start by battalion by battalion of the 187th _____ movement. We pull back and set up, we pull back and set up, we pull back and set up and that is the way we would _____ all the way to Seoul. We saw tanks and trucks on the side of the road burning. You are broke down and there aint no for us to pick him up. They would destroy them that is all because that thing was moving. We got past Seoul and they gave me R&R so I went to Japan for a three day R&R. I came back and they were already on the front. We continued going into, where in the hell were we going into; anyway they brought us back to _____. They cut out the damn Koreans that were trying to make it across the river. We didn't cut them off. They went across anyway. That is the first time we ended up on the drop zone with artillery on our asses. In the first one artillery was the second day. We were in the defensive position. They had a car with apples on it. We didn't know they were apples. They were sacks with a bunch of sacks in it. You cut it and straw came out of there. Inside the straw was apples; big red apples. They had it set up on the side of the road. As soon as the guys find out that there was apples in there everybody was going for the apples. That is what they were waiting for. Somebody had _____. It was a concentration place. I was, oh hell, from here to the road that is where the damn thing was. My hole was about that big. It was hard to get in. I already had _____ and everything. When that goddamn artillery started hitting that sack came out of there and I wished I would have _____. That damn artillery comes in pieces like goddamn, you know. My sleeping bag I put it outside and it tore the hell out of it from the pieces of shrapnel. The big pieces make some noise. The little pieces they go through, I mean they just shine the goddamn ground. They make a line on it you know. I saw Father Sampson no _____ hole. He was visiting the troops in the front when they got hit. I'm sorry but I didn't have no place to put him either. Poor Father was moving we went to German and he was with us. He could jump a lot. Father Sampson was a jumper. He loved to jump. I never did ask him, "Father what happened to you when you got caught in the artillery with no hole?" Anyway, the second time in _____, we were under artillery fire. I didn't have no trenching tool. You know what I dug with? My steel pot; the front of the steel pot. That is when I learned my lesson: entrenching tool and steel pot, don't jump without it. People make mistakes and you learn by the _____ that you make. "You don't need no helmet, too heavy!" In Vietnam the helmet saved me too. I got hit in the helmet with a damn RPG just the body of it. The RPG you got a detonator on the front. Well the body hit me on the side of the helmet like this. But it knocked me when it hit me, "Goddamn I'm hit!" It tore all my sweat band inside, tore all my camouflage and a big damn hole in the helmet. It went dark when it hit me. The medic says, "Where?" I said, "Who are you?" The guy says, "The medic." "Who?" "The medic Scholtz." I couldn't figure out. "Who?" "The medic, top!" I said, "I'm ok, my sweatband stained in the front." The next morning it had scraped the hell out of me. I remember then that when it hit _____ way up there in the back about 20 feet _____ the thing blew. That is what it was, it had to be. It was no rounds. A round would have went through; a _____ would have went through me helmet. _____ made a big dent in my helmet and _____ my

sweatband and I remember hearing a big explosion away from me. About an hour before that I was talking to the executive officer. First I was talking to a Company Commander to see if he was in front of me. I see guys under heavy machine gun fire. You see the damn panels on the radios running, crawling. This guy here from the German place, the restaurant on Legion Street I believe,

Are you talking about Mr. _____?

SGM Macias: Yeah. Her husband was one of my squad leaders in there.

Oh really?

SGM Macias: He got hit so the company commander _____ the weapons platoon to secure an LZ and evacuate him. I said, "Okay I will join you." No sooner than they left in about 10 minutes they were in a fight. They were fighting. I _____ got them people to level the damn ground. We got the chopper in and we pulled him in there. Lieutenant _____ Myers says, "I'm going to go this way. I'm going to follow the creek." He says, "Ok" so I took off. I never saw Lieutenant _____. Lieutenant _____ was the Executive Officer. He came around the rear. I was talking to the Company Commander, _____ came out of the creek with this much showing and I could see the machine gun fire. It had to be on the machine gun because you could see the dirt hitting all those guys you know; automatic weapon. They said, "No." I said, "Well somebody is in front of me." Another _____ said, "Well somebody is hitting at us." I think they are purposely shooting at us. They was talking that way. He got Lieutenant _____. I said, "Well I don't know what is going on. I saw some damn firing over there." I was sitting in the bush above the damn in the creek. I was sitting there talking to him _____ a camouflage tree behind it. I says, "I see a green smoke grenade on _____." I asked the CO, "Do you _____ green smoke grenade?" "No!" I said, "Does anybody toss green smoke grenade?" "No!" I said, "Wait a minute goddamnit, somebody _____." I was talking Lieutenant _____ and I said, "Come and check it out!" Boom! The damn thing, three in front of me it hit. The limbs hit me in the chest so I went backwards into the river and I hit on top of Lieutenant _____. He said, "Oh my back!" I said, "Oh, my chest!" I started looking. Just the limbs hit me; no bullets. Right there, another mistake I made, we should have known there was a machine gun on the front because had it have been forward, it would have killed me and a smoke grenade on the side. _____ on line. You _____ line goddamn blow my ass off. So we moved forward and the CO says, "_____ secure an LZ for Sargeant who is down on the green line." I didn't even know _____ was there and that is where the green smoke came out. I saw him backing out from the fight coming back into the open area when I saw those guys cornering him with the machine guns. I told him _____. "Goddamnit! The war is not over, spread out!" They no sooner said that and man they crossed fires. Whatever was in this corner went around my ass when we jumped out of the damn creek and Lieutenant _____ was away somewhere else. So he came in on the middle also. We are already under heavy fire and it's still not dark yet. They guy was hitting hard. We had only one guy dead; _____ was dead. When they hit us I see the guy _____. "Don't run goddamnit, roll down _____ roll, roll!" Hollaring! We end up to a big tree. I end up with four wounded in there. There was no CO; no contact with the CO. No radio contact with him. I said to the Lieutenant, "Lieutenant, you are in command! Set up a patrol, do something!" Look for the Company Commander by sending patrols. They couldn't find him. The patrol came back, "We found Lieutenant _____, he is dead! We saw Sergeant _____, he is dead! Sergeant _____ is wounded." We had a total of four dead ones when we only had one. We had five dead ones from the ambush. I couldn't evacuate nobody. We were _____. We couldn't get no choppers there. We are in a _____. We don't know _____ exactly how many was _____. Daylight immediately we went _____ to secure the LZ. When the LZ came in I put that one _____. I didn't have no choice, I had to get him out of there. That was my second time, the machine gun _____ and the night the dark they hit me in the helmet. That helmet saved me today.

What unit were you with in Vietnam?

SGM Macias: From here, 2/502; 1st Brigade.

5-0 Deuce. Did you do that both tours you went over there with the 5-0-deuce?

SGM Macias: No, the second tour I came from the 509 in Germany to the 173rd. I didn't want to be with the _____. I wanted to be with the 506th because I worked with the 506th over here. The guy told me, "No we aint got no openings. They already got your area taken." I said, "I will go look." I went up there to the 506th and talked the Sergeant Major. He said, "I got a First Sergeant leaving, I got an opening right now!" I said, "Can I take it? Will you give it to me?" He said, "Yeah!" It was the worst mistake I ever done. I should have went to the 173rd. Them bastards, I tell you what, they knew nothing but staying in a bush because they _____, road blocks and shit like that. Their aint no need for them to be in ____ because it's spread out on the strong points here. I did. I was going to _____ company.

After any war the military, Navy, Marines, Air Force, they always go through a transformation. We did it after the Gulf War. They downsized, transformed an Army, we are going to this new light Army. After which of the three wars that you were in did you see the biggest change in the military? Would it be after Vietnam when they went to the all volunteer Army and did away with the draft?

SGM Macias: No, that was the worst thing that they ever made. They should never have stopped the draft. That is when they had some good soldiers. All this volunteer Army is a bunch of goddamn jailbirds, a bunch of damn rats that the police had to get out of here, "Either join the Army or Navy." No discipline what-so-ever. You got to be mommy and you got to be daddy and goddamn discipline the people themselves; like a father to them. You spend more time and if you are _____ well you aren't going to have no unit. You got a bunch of good men in the US when they were drafting. They came in for two years and they did a good job and then they went home. All of this volunteer Army I don't want to hear no bullshit about volunteer. I volunteered. I came in Airborne. The US was volunteered. They came in Airborne. They were volunteers. They were drafted yes, but were volunteer to the Airborne. There were good soldiers in there. When they took it out was 1966 I believe, when they quit the draft. I came back in 1966 from; I got over there in 1966. In 1966 I started seeing a difference. If a guy wasn't doing a good job immediately we would put him outside in a tent and you were gone. Right away I got my ass in trouble. "You can't do that!" "Bullshit! He got out of order!" _____ Airborne troops over here. I knew it was changing about 1966. I went to Germany, the 509th. I was hard core and it was hard core over there too so we done pretty good except for the brigade headquarters. The Brigade Headquarters had a candy assed first sergeant or candy assed Sergeant Major. They didn't pass the IG. I got there and they had one room done on top of the damn barracks. I was in Charlie Company. I went to Spain and made a jump in Spain with A Company 509. When I came back my Company Commander was Captain Williams and he was a Medal of Honor winner. He said, "Top, they want to take you to Brigade Headquarters, you are the ranking man!" I said, "I don't want to go to Brigade Headquarters, I want to stay here with the rifle company. He said I will go with you and talk to the Colonel. He did. He said, "He is the ranking man, he comes here!" But I know why. There were bombs over there that didn't even pass the IG. I got down there and started checking the damn place and they were using the roof to get rid of the trash. There were maggots, food, pizza, lunch. Oh man, I jacked those bastards up. The First Sergeant used to live in a town hut _____ First Sergeant Perez. He was going _____ the 1st Brigade, he was in the 327 with the 502 but I was a First Sergeant with and he was a Platoon Sergeant. When we met again it was at the First Sergeant of the 509 but on the acting Sergeant Major on the battalion that I went to. I was assigned to the 1st Battalion but I was the ranking man. I out ranked Oliver with the acting Sergeant Major up there of the 1st Battalion of the 509th. My sponsor was Oliver. He got me my quarters and everything and as I was coming into the _____ getting my stuff up I noticed there a truck loaded and there was a guy _____. I said, "Hey Martinez!" _____ Sergeant Major Martinez. He said, "Hey Macias! I want to talk to you!" I said, "Okay!" I went up there and he told me what was going on. He said, "You know, we heard you were coming. The Colonel asked me if I know you. I said Macias, yes I know him, take him." He said I will tell

you what happened. You were assigned to the 1st Battalion but you out ranked Oliver and the acting Sergeant Major over there so they transferred your ass over here. I went up to the Colonel and I said, "I know you outrank Perez. He is my acting Sergeant Major right now and he has been here longer. But I got a Sergeant Major coming so there aint no need to put you here when I got a Sergeant Major coming. I'm going to let him in it." "Yeah, go head. As long as you tell me what is going on there is no problem." So I took Charlie Company and we were ready to make a jump into Spain, prepared for it and _____ anybody know Sergeant Major _____?" I didn't say nothing. "Well damn I need a sponsor for him. Nobody knows him. I guess I will do it myself." I said, "No, I will do it. I know him." I _____ to _____ I told him... Martinez knew everybody. I didn't have to; all new quartermasters went into this house. I want to change everything because Sergeant Major Martinez knew all the Germans up there. Liquor store, we didn't have know _____. Of course he had to pay for it. Commissary, I don't care what he wanted: eggs, milk, steak, and ribs whatever. Everything was on _____. He said, "Damn Ray. I got about \$700.00 worth of food. What am I gonna do?" I said, "Anything you want you got it!" We went to Spain we locked us up in the barracks. Nobody could go out and nobody could go in. It was a concentration midway area. In other words you can't leave once we already had planned where we were going and everything. We jumped into Spain and I always know we are going to come back patrol and assemble the company. I volunteered to go. I went on the first plane and got to Spain and got the damn green light. As I was looking through the window I noticed a damn telephone line going across.

_____ by the time I told the Lieutenant behind me I said, "Lieutenant you better get in front of me because I am going to stop in the door and _____ because I don't think we are in the right place. He said, "Oh no take all the time you want to." I said, "Okay, I'm telling you." I got to the door and I looked back and I saw the damn telephone behind there. I said, "No we are in the wrong drop zone." But everybody was gone it was just me and the Lieutenant so I exited out. There were big _____ rocks. I mean rocks. I was pulling left and right. Anyway, I landed and I got my compass and my little strip map about like that. They just copied from the map and made _____ and I _____ they give you the degrees. I said, "God damn I am in an assembly area; right on the assembly area." Everybody was going the wrong direction. I told the Lieutenant, "Lieutenant, where are you going?" He said, "Oh I am going that way." I said, "I'm in my assembly area. Everybody is going the wrong direction." Like a stupid I followed too. That is the only time that I have ever made a mistake in the drop zone. My stupidity; my map showed that I was right on the assembly area. I followed them bastards back because everybody went to the rear. Here come the planes. The main body was coming down the right direction. I tried to run trying to get to the damn... no way, were already ahead of me and I started falling out. Either way I had a trumpet. Either way I was not going to blow the trumpet. _____ Captain Williams in the command. He took about 10 men with him. He is the only one that went to the objective. The whole company _____ the Executive Officer. He took the whole god damned company the same the other one the _____ people were going. I said, "We are going the wrong way! We are supposed to be going that way!" We turned around and then we started going around the right side of the hill. Here is our objective and he was going this way. When we got way out to the end we saw Captain Williams attacked on the hill. We could look way up there on the hill and _____ was attacking the hill, the objective. He said, "You think we were going to go across? Hell no, go back to the base to the assembly area and then come up." He was rough. Lieutenant _____ was mixed up. He got killed in Vietnam. Of course Captain Williams later in winter, he died too later on. He didn't go in combat no more. He died here in Bragg.

What year did you retire?

SGM Macias: I retired in 1977; 30 years. It's been a long time. I didn't miss it. I like hard core people. Today you see they shave the hair and all that stuff. That don't mean shit. To me, obedience, military discipline. Okay this is military discipline. I want to see your appearance. I want to see those damn shoes shined and I want to _____ straight. I want you to walk straight. You know, walk like a soldier. I see some children there, yeah a haircut. I see all kinds of uniforms now that are camouflaged and some got belts and some don't. I don't know what is going on. The boots, nobody, including the officers.

Nobody shines boots anymore?

SGM Macias: No, that aint no shine. I used to go to bed with spit shined boots. Of course they came back but I put it back on. I used to grab my damn dog tags _____ shine damn _____ boots. Put a _____ on it and get the damn chain and make them shine. When I preach I used to have my troops that way. Get up in the morning I will be there in the morning to get them up. The _____ used to live in the barracks with me. When everything was quiet and everything was _____. Nowadays they don't even know what is going on in the damn place. They all got there _____. You can't go in there. I think they don't have no CQ's and I think they went back to CQ's.

Yeah they got CQ now.

SGM Macias: That is what I heard. I was talking to the Sergeant Major, I said, "What the fuck are you people, what do you do if something happens?" No CQ and nobody to _____ the Company Commander. Finally the bastards got some CQ. I mean it was stupid what they would do.

Yeah they go back to CQ's and they got the staff duty officers in there on the weekend.

SGM Macias: You got to. You got no choice.

You have to you can't see anything arising with anything.

SGM Macias: The soldiers go out, they get killed, they do _____. Who is going to take all the reports? Who is going to take all the shit that is going on? Who is to tell what has happened? One thing that I disapprove is on the queers there. They blame the General. That General does not know nothing about god damned nothing bullshit in the company. The only one that could have known about it maybe the platoon leader and probably not even know the platoon leader about queers. He stays with the god damned enlisted men. Maybe the platoon sergeant knew but harassing them, like I said maybe the platoon sergeant _____ highest rank. I don't think the platoon leader if he knew would have risked his ass. The platoon sergeant better stop that bullshit because they are going to hit us. You see what I mean. But the General, the General is not responsible for those damn queers. He don't know what is going on on the enlisted men; not that close. You are the one that tells him. You are the one that has to stop. Not even the Colonel is close enough to us. If the Sergeant Major is sneaky like I was, I knew what was going on. I checked when I was Sergeant Major. I would go in there, "Hey how you doing? How is everything?" That is the only way you can do. Now you tell the Colonel _____ your troops up. That is what your job is, to keep them informed. The Colonel _____ was harassing the shit out of this queer then he would have took action. Not the General. That was stupid.

I'm going to turn this off now.