

Mr. Joseph Grassi

Vietnam



When did you enter the military?

“1967”

How old were you when you entered?

“24 years old”

How long were you in the military?

“2 years”

What boot camp did you go to?

“Fort Dix, NJ”

How long was the boot camp?

“It was 8 weeks”

Did you ever go to a second boot camp?

“yes they call it Advanced Infantry Training, at Fort Leonard Wood Missouri.”

Why did you go there

“For extra training to put me on heavy equipment”

Did you feel like you needed more training or did they want you to go?

“That was all standard in those days. You had 8 weeks basic, and 8 weeks infantry training.”

Did you join the military voluntarily?

“No, they took me away”

You were drafted?

“Yeah”

What branch of military were you in?

“Army”

In the army, what equipment did you use on a daily basis?

“I was a Bulldozer operator”

What rank did you achieve?

“Yeah, when I got out I was an E5, which is the equivalent of a Sergeant.”

So that’s high?

“Yeah, high for two years”

While in the military were you wounded in any way?

“Not really, just minor scratches here and there”

Were you in any famous campaigns or battles?

“Kontoon, Vietnam”

What was it like?

“Scary”

Did you ever receive any awards or medals for your service?

“The Vietnam service medal That’s about it”

What was a normal or average day while in the military?

“The whole day? Over there when nothing was wrong you took one day at a time.

So every day you didn’t know what was going to happen?

“One minute to the next over there you didn’t know what was going to happen.”

What was your normal or most common routine?

“We worked 7 days a week, got up early at dawn.”

What type of weapons or firearms did you use?

“I used a M14”

Did you use any heavy weapon artillery?

“We didn’t have our artillery. They would fire over our head all night.”

Did you use any heavy artillery yourself?

“No. My hearing is not so good, so talk a little louder. That’s from the artillery”

While at war, what helped you pass the time?

“All your friends, your buddies you were with would find something to do. You would play cards or talk.”

Did you ever get care packages?

“Yeah, mostly from my family”

During at war, what helped you get through the hard time?

“Most everybody was in the same boat, so you did the best you could.”

After you came home from war, did your perspective on anything change?

“I don’t think we were really welcomed unlike the other wars. There were people that were resentful of the people from Vietnam. In other words when you came home you took your uniform off right away. It wasn’t a popular war.”

Did you carry something from the military after the war?

“No, not really, although I still have my uniform hanging up in the attic”

How did you handle some of the criticism after the war?

“I tried to avoid it.”

Did you bring any pictures from the war?





“Yes here is one of me in the camp. Rifle’s enemy artillery, we would capture all these weapon”,

What caliber were the rifles that you used?

“We used AKA 47”

Were these pictures taken in Vietnam?

“yes these photos were taken in ‘Nam. These pictures were in the base camp It was taken in September 69”

Is there anything you would like to add or say that I missed?

“I think you guys did a good job.”

Thank you for your time.

Thank you.

Thank you sir.

