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	New York State Military
4	Museum Interview
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	INTERVIEW OF DAVID HICKS
6	
	June 14th, 2005
7	Saratoga Springs N.Y.
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- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- 2 MR. CLARK: All right. This is
- 3 an interview with New York State Military Museum,
- 4 Saratoga Springs, New York. 14th of June, 2005
- 5 approximately two thirty p.m.
- 6 Interviewers are Mike Russert and
- 7 Wayne Clark.
- 8 INTERVIEW OF DAVID HICKS
- 9 BY MR. CLARK:
- 10 Q. Could you give me your full name,
- 11 date of birth, and place of birth, please?
- 12 A. David A. Hicks. 20th of January
- 13 1929, Schenectady, New York.
- Q. Okay. What was your educational
- 15 background prior to entering the service?
- 16 A. I went to Knoxberry High School
- and graduated in 1946. Then I went to Norwich
- 18 University for Mechanical Engineer and graduated in
- 19 June of 1950.
- Q. So, you were in the military at
- 21 Norwich?
- A. It was a military school but
- 23 no -- no, I wasn't in active duty during college.
- Q. Okay. All right. Now, you --

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- when you left Norwich were you commissioned as
- 3 Officer?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. So, you went right -- and you
- 6 graduated from Norwich when?
- 7 A. June of 1950.
- Q. Okay. And so you went right into
- 9 the army just in time for Korea?
- 10 A. Yes.
- Q. After you left Norwich, where
- 12 were you assigned to?
- A. To Fort Meade in the 3rd Army
- 14 Calvary regiment. I was with a third battalion and
- third Captain in rank to A.P. Hill the military
- 16 reservation in Virginia at the time. It was an all
- 17 colored outfit except for the officers.
- There was one black officer and
- 19 all the rest of the men were -- all the enlisted
- 20 men were black. And all the officers at the time
- 21 were white. It was a tight -- tight company that I
- 22 was commander of the third battalion, third cav.
- 23 regiment.
- 24 Because of recons -- battalion,

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- there were three recon companies. One is assault
- 3 Company, one Tank Company. And I was in the Tank
- 4 Company.
- Q. Okay. What were relationships
- 6 like within that unit, with you being a white
- 7 officer with all black Platoon?
- 8 A. It was very good. Relationships
- 9 were good. The only problem we had was when we
- went on the road, we traveled from A.P. Hill to
- 11 Fort Meade quite regularly.
- 12 I stopped for dinner one time
- 13 with -- my driver was black and they wouldn't let
- 14 him in the restaurant. I couldn't understand that.
- I had never run into that before. They said, well,
- we can serve you out the back door. And I said,
- okay, we'll try that. So they brought the food
- 18 through the back and we ate it in the jeep. Then
- 19 went on to Fort Meade. And I hadn't run into that
- 20 before -- that type of discrimination.
- They were good people. They were
- 22 quite down trodden and they weren't outgoing and
- 23 didn't make their views known to anyone. Just kept
- 24 by themselves.

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- O. Now, were most of the men in that
- 3 unit from the south or in the north or was it in
- 4 between?
- 5 A. No my unit is from the south. I
- 6 think that's with preponderance where the blacks
- 7 were from anyway. This was in Maryland, Fort
- 8 Meade. And we were just undetached service from
- 9 Fort Meade down to B.P. Ellsgroup training. Living
- 10 in tents down there.
- Q. Now, how long were you there?
- 12 A. About a year. Maybe nine months.
- 13 And then the tank company -- the company I was in
- 14 was settled in Korea. They went without all the --
- the fifth man in this tank were right-hand seated
- at the time we were down there. And we went
- 17 without those. We went to a sixty-fifth regiment
- 18 that was all Puerto Rican. So the Puerto Rican
- 19 people filled in the right front seats with the
- 20 tank, and each one of the tank crews, so they
- 21 needed someone who could speak English and also
- 22 Spanish or Portuguese, whichever Puerto Ricans
- 23 spoke. I didn't go with them. I was left behind
- 24 because I had just joined the unit.

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- 2 And I went from Fort Meade to
- 3 Fort Lawton in Washington to take individual hand
- 4 to hand combat training and looked at more training
- 5 before I went over to Korea. And after that
- 6 training it was about four months I went to Korea.
- 7 Q. When did you go to Korea?
- A. In September of '51.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. I joined the first Calvary.
- 11 Q. All right. And what was like
- 12 when you went into Korea at that time?
- 13 A. It was after the Inchon Invasion.
- 14 So the first cav. had already been to Chung Yhan.
- 15 And it was after the greens were -- were not
- 16 completely wiped out but that's when the Chinese
- 17 came in. It was after the whole eighth army had
- 18 been pushed down to the lower end in Korea by the
- 19 Pusan Perimeter. So all that part was done. They
- were up above Seoul, the front lines. And I joined
- 21 them when we were fighting around, this would be
- 22 after Seoul.
- MR. RUSSERT: Were you with an
- 24 infantry unit with them?

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- 2 MR. HICKS: I was with the tank
- 3 battalion with the first cav. Division. The first
- 4 cav. Division was then infantry. But they had no
- 5 tank battalion at the time, so the tank battalion
- 6 was -- that I was in, the seventieth tank battalion
- 7 was broken up in a regimental tank companies so
- 8 they were one company with each one of the
- 9 regiments. And I was in the 3rd cav., the Gerry
- 10 Own regiment or the 7th cav., the Gerry Own
- 11 regiment of the 1st cav. Division.
- MR. RUSSERT: But, was that unit
- 13 segregated at all?
- MR. HICKS: Oh, no. It was
- 15 all -- all white, well, white and black. It was
- 16 right after integration?
- 17 MR. CLARK: Right after?
- MR. HICKS: When I joined the
- 19 army was segregated the unit -- the black units
- 20 were black with white officers. And about that
- 21 time that I went in, around June of 1950 or the
- fall of 1950's when they desegregated the army and
- 23 augmented all the units so we had white and black.
- 24 And Puerto Ricans also.

1 David Hicks - 6-14-2005 2 BY MR. CLARK: 3 Did you find any problems at all? Were there any problems? 4 Not racially, no, is that what 5 Α. 6 you're talking about? 7 Yes. Q. 8 No, no. Α. 9 Q. Okay. 10 Everyone seemed to free each 11 other of the same. 12 MR. RUSSERT: What about other 13 problems -- the training that the units received? 14 Did you feel that it was adequate for going over to Korea -- were you prepared --15 16 MR. HICKS: Oh, yes. 17 MR. RUSSERT: -- for that type of 18 war? 19 They had a platoon MR. HICKS: 20 replacement system at the time. It wasn't 21 individual replacements. They replaced a whole 22 platoon at one time so the platoon that trained

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together before they came to Korea, and that was

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- The only main problem was the
- 3 Puerto Ricans that were in there couldn't speak
- 4 English. And it was hard to get across some of the
- 5 things we wanted to get done with them, they
- 6 couldn't speak the language. They had English as a
- 7 second language-training program for the Puerto
- 8 Ricans at that time.
- 9 They were tend to be pushed
- 10 through that, and the ones that were slackers
- 11 wouldn't learn and they didn't try to learn English
- 12 because they knew that as soon as they learned it,
- 13 the sooner the unit would have to go to combat.
- 14 So, it wasn't too successful because of them.
- But the ones that were with us
- 16 did well. Got into the spirit of the thing. It
- was a good Regiment, the seventh (indiscernible).
- 18 A lot of us (indiscernible) and met much military
- 19 history (indiscernible).
- 20 BY MR. ARUSSERT: (Cont'g.)
- Q. Right. What was it like in --
- 22 when did you eventually go into combat?
- 23 A. When I first went over there and
- 24 joined the unit. We were living in tents and

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- 2 platoons were broken down -- I was in C Company,
- 3 the seventieth Tank battalion. And each of the
- 4 platoons was broken down into a battalion. So the
- 5 seventieth C company was the regiment -- acting as
- 6 the Regiment tank company of the seventh cav.
- 7 Regiment. And I was with the second battalion of
- 8 the seventh camp of the second platoon.
- 9 But we were in combat at the
- 10 time. When the Italian went back to the regimental
- 11 reserves then my platoon went back to the company,
- in their company area. And we were able to get
- into cots and sleep on sheets and mattresses
- instead of sleeping bags in the tenting.
- Q. What kind of tanks did you have
- 16 at that time?
- A. M4A3E8. It's a seventy-six
- 18 (indiscernible) gun time but five man crew, the
- 19 tank commander and gunner, the loader, the driver,
- and the (indiscernible). The (indiscernible) is
- 21 the one that manned the machine gun and he was
- 22 the -- in the regiment that my old company went to,
- 23 Puerto Ricans were involved with. This one we just
- had regular U.S. citizens (indiscernible).

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- 2 Q. Now, how did they use tanks
- 3 there? How -- how were your tanks used?
- A. We supported the infantry. The
- one action that received the (indiscernible) for
- 6 the infantry were advancing on a ridge line and the
- 7 tank -- the tank platoon went down into a valley
- 8 and supported the (indiscernible) perpendicular
- 9 fires. They were advancing along the ridge line.
- 10 We could see the Chinese running around and we'd
- 11 fire on them. And it was very effective to -- in
- 12 fact, so effective that they sent mortars and
- anti-tank units against us down in the valley,
- 14 divert men. We saw them coming down. We knew it
- 15 was coming so we went and got the -- it didn't do
- any harm, well not harm, they didn't do any heavy
- damage to the tanks to us. They didn't have any
- heavy equipment to do it. They didn't have the
- 19 tanks to fire against us. We were pretty
- 20 (indiscernible) as long as we were buttoned up, had
- 21 the hatches closed.
- Q. So buttoned up, you mean, while
- 23 the tank is closed?
- 24 A. Yes.

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- Q. Buttoned up?
- A. We were using periscopes and
- 4 telescopes to see. You're completely off the field
- 5 so there's no danger to people sneaking up on us
- 6 and putting charges under the tracks. We could
- 7 operate the telescopes and periscopes, looking
- 8 through the -- from the inside of the tank.
- 9 MR. RUSSERT: So, you didn't have
- 10 any infantry support with you?
- MR. HICKS: Not in the valley,
- 12 no. All the infantry was up in the ridge line
- 13 (indiscernible). We had five miles for them to go
- 14 to make their objective and make their objective
- 15 with no problem at all.
- MR. RUSSERT: What about your
- 17 personal equipment and clothing and that was
- 18 adequate for the climate?
- MR. HICKS: Oh, yeah. It was in
- 20 the fall so it wasn't too cold then. And we had
- 21 all the basic equipment we needed and sheltering
- for tents and sleeping bags, air mattresses,
- 23 (indiscernible).
- 24 BY MR. CLARK: (Cont'g.)

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- Q. How long were you in Korea?
- A. About six months. The whole
- 4 Division rotated back to Japan after that.
- Q. Were you on the front the whole
- 6 time? That whole time?
- 7 A. Yes.
- Q. Did your unit suffer many
- 9 casualties while you were up there?
- 10 A. We had -- no -- nobody killed.
- 11 One person was wounded when one of the mortar
- 12 rounds hit the front of the tank and a piece of it
- got through the ax. It wasn't completely closed.
- 14 So we had to leave it open for air through the
- 15 (indiscernible). The guy got wounded in his
- shoulder. He wasn't bad. He was treated and got
- 17 right back to duty.
- The main thing was the platoon
- 19 Sarge that I had went berserk one day. We had
- 20 Turks working with the seventh cav.. And he
- 21 thought they were Korean or thought they were
- 22 Chinese and started firing. I mean, he wouldn't
- ask for -- we ran over to his tank and bent the
- 24 belt that was going into his machine gun and pulled

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- 2 him out of the tank and sent him back to the
- 3 company headquarters, with the mess truck. The
- 4 mess truck used to come up every day and give us
- 5 the rations and I sent him back with that. That
- 6 was the worst thing that happened.
- 7 He wounded a couple of the Turks
- 8 too. It was a fifty (indiscernible) machine gun
- 9 that was firing. And we transported the Turks that
- were wounded to the eight station on the back of
- 11 the tank. I don't think he killed anyone but it
- 12 was very bad for awhile.
- Q. What were your rations like?
- 14 A. They were C rations mostly.
- 15 They -- they heated them at the mess hall and
- brought them out warm or so. It was different than
- 17 (indiscernible). I never went hungry.
- Q. What were your relationships like
- 19 with other units, like the Turk units, did you run
- 20 across -- how many --?
- 21 A. That was the only time we ran
- 22 into --
- Q. That was the only --?
- A. -- the only time we worked with

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- 2 them was that one time and that maybe what
- happened, he didn't recognize them and just
- 4 completely snapped. He was sent back for a
- 5 psychiatric hold and treated and I guess
- 6 discharged. I never heard anything more about him.
- 7 Q. Did you have any relations with
- 8 the -- and problems with the Korean troops?
- A. No. None with the civilians over
- 10 there either. They were -- no -- no one was in
- 11 that zone. Just (indiscernible) rice patties that
- 12 had been not planted, they were drained and dried,
- so we had no problems getting around. There was
- one access to the valleys that the Chinese had
- mined but they had put wooden boards by each of the
- mines, and as soon as I saw the boards sticking up
- in the (indiscernible), I said something is wrong.
- 18 So I fired the fifty, and blew up the mine and went
- in there and each time we saw the board we kept
- 20 firing the fifty caliber and blew out the mine and
- 21 we could get through.
- 22 That -- it made quite an
- 23 explosion. It would have been bad if the tank had
- 24 gone over it.

	1 4 3 4
1	David Hicks - 6-14-2005
2	Q. Yeah.
3	A. It just didn't look like when I
4	saw it.
5	Q. Now, after six months, you were
6	rotated back to Japan, what did you do there?
7	A. The whole company went back
8	the whole division went back. And the seventieth
9	tank battalion was stationed at Chitose, Camp
LO	Chitose, in Chitose, Japan, it was on the island of
L1	Hokkaido. The regiment the division
12	headquarters was in Sapporo. So, we had meetings
13	in Sapporo. And there was a firing range called
14	Shimeo Matzu (phonetic spelling) that was between
15	Sapporo and Chitose that we used as our training
16	area and also a ten gun room range. There was no
17	Japanese training center.
18	We lived in (indiscernible)
19	there. That was quite a bit better than the tents
20	we were living in Korea.
21	Q. Now how long were you in Japan?
22	A. About a year and a half.

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I was in Japan for about a year

Okay.

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- and a half in the first (indiscernible).
- Q. Now, did you have much contact
- 4 with the people in Japan?
- 5 A. Yes.
- Q. What -- what were relationships
- 7 like?
- 8 A. When we first went over there we
- 9 were similar with the occupation of Japan so we
- were treated very differentially. Just get out of
- our way, we were walking down the street and it was
- 12 almost as if we were concrete (indiscernible)
- 13 coming back there. Because it was still
- 14 (indiscernible) from the end of the second World
- 15 War.
- But that ended about -- maybe a
- 17 month we were there. And gradually they just
- 18 became oh, of a visiting power.
- 19 Q. Okay. Did you get to travel
- 20 around in Japan much? Did you have much free time
- 21 there?
- A. We took a train to Debora Betzu
- 23 (phonetic spelling) one time. That was a hot
- 24 spring place with a hotel. It was very

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- 2 comfortable, very nice. And took another train to
- 3 Emachines which is on the east central coast of
- 4 Hokkadio. It was a fishing village and we went
- 5 fishing there. It was fun.
- Q. And where did you go --?
- 7 A. There's big mountains there.
- 8 They had snow on them all year long. The train
- 9 went through these mountains.
- 10 Q. Now, did you eat much -- was it
- 11 army rations or were you able to eat any of the
- 12 local foods or?
- 13 A. Not much local food. Mostly it
- 14 was in the officer's club in Sapporo or else -- or
- our own mess hall back in the battalion area, back
- 16 in Chitose.
- 17 Q. After you left Japan where did
- 18 you go?
- 19 A. I went to Fort Knox, Kentucky.
- 20 Oh no, I went to Fort Ord in California. It was --
- 21 at that time it was a desert training center. Now
- 22 it's the -- well, it was Camp Rogan at the time.
- 23 There were no permanent buildings there. And it
- 24 was just north of Barstow, California in the middle

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- of the Mahogany desert. So it was quite a change
- going from the island of Hokkadio which got quite
- 4 cold in the wintertime to -- into the desert.
- 5 In -- my brother was killed in
- 6 Korea when I was in Japan. And I was sent home as
- 7 his escort officer while I was still there. I was
- 8 gone there for about a month and a half. And that
- 9 was quite a sad time. He had written me a little
- 10 bit before that asking whether we should go to
- 11 (indiscernible) cannon school I told him
- definitely. He was (indiscernible) with the
- thirty-first regiment of the seventh division,
- 14 seventh infantry division.
- Q. Was he younger or older brother?
- A. He was younger. A year and a
- 17 half younger than I was. He was drafted and he
- 18 should have become an officer. He couldn't -- he
- 19 didn't want to take the time to do it. He wanted
- 20 to get his time over with, get back to college.
- Q. Okay. Now where -- while you
- 22 were out in California, what did you do there?
- A. I was training units --
- 24 individual tank. Gun tactics and platoon tactics

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- 2 up to platoon level. There was one company. The
- 3 tank companies came from all over the country, all
- 4 over the United States. Sent all the men and they
- 5 used our equipment to practice with and to be
- 6 trained on. We had forty-seven tanks at the time.
- 7 (indiscernible).
- 8 I was there in that unit for
- 9 about a year and then I became General's aide and
- 10 started a training center for General Sheldon
- 11 (phonetic spelling). I was two years as an aide to
- 12 him.
- Q. Now, what did you get to do as
- 14 aide to (indiscernible)?
- 15 A. Just about everything. Went to
- 16 a -- a little company (indiscernible) and just
- 17 visits to the units. And since I knew the
- 18 seventieth -- or the -- the seventieth tank -- I
- 19 forget the name of the battalion was. Well, three
- 20 twenty-fifth tank battalion.
- Then I knew all the people in
- 22 that. We got along quite well. It was very
- 23 interesting. One of the most memorable things was
- 24 calling the Queen of -- I forget what it was now,

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- 2 but it was a while bunch of women that were in --
- in a beauty contest and the general was invited
- 4 there to speak and crown the queen. I was there to
- 5 help him with that. It was different.
- 6 One interesting thing that
- 7 happened there was we had a heavy rain storm. And
- 8 the rain in the desert just comes down and runs
- 9 right off. It doesn't seem to soak in at all, it
- 10 was down so hard.
- And there's a place called
- 12 (indiscernible) Lake that they used as an airstrip.
- 13 And the rain in the lake caused some shrimp to
- 14 hatch that had been dormant there for years. And
- 15 it was sort of a (indiscernible) shrimp. If you've
- ever been in Great Salt Lake there's shrimp in
- there that they're just thick in the water. And
- 18 that's what these were. It seemed strange to see
- 19 the life come out of that dry lake (indiscernible)
- 20 airstrip.
- 21 It was hot and it was dry and as
- long as you drank plenty of water there was no
- 23 problem at all.
- Q. Okay. Now, I know I see we're

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- 2 in -- I quess your next major assignment was
- 3 Germany?
- 4 A. Yes. I was with the fourteenth
- 5 cav. in Germany. We were on border to the
- 6 (indiscernible). First I was supply officer at the
- 7 time with the second battalion. It seems that I've
- 8 always ended up in the second battalion in all
- 9 these places.
- 10 But I was supply officer S four.
- I was in the battalion for about a year and I was
- 12 company commander -- or actually two commander for
- 13 the recon (indiscernible) for the next two years.
- 0. What basically did you do?
- A. We rotated the notice in the
- 16 battalion to the board between east and west
- 17 Germany. And patrolled the board. It was at that
- patrol that the (indiscernible) would patrol
- 19 (indiscernible) basically went to and actually
- 20 lived in that. It's a quonset hut. In it's own
- 21 mess hall. And took a part of the (indiscernible)
- 22 service personnel from the battalion, or from the
- 23 squad out with us to the quarter camp. Stayed
- there for about a month. And then another troop

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- 2 would come up to meet us.
- 3 So when the three -- of the three
- 4 troops in the squadron we were there on border duty
- 5 for one month and then back to the squadron
- 6 headquarters in (indiscernible) for two months.
- 7 And it was kind of cold duty. Cold rain period.
- 8 It wasn't very -- it wasn't pleasant but it was
- 9 challenging and it was very necessary. We were
- 10 right in the middle of closing gap where any attack
- 11 would come if the Russians ever did attack. We
- were always prepared for that. Our mission was to
- delay them as much as possible and that was about
- 14 it.
- In early morning until late.
- Q. Now, you were armed? You had --
- 17 A. Oh, yes.
- Q. -- shells and everything with
- 19 you?
- 20 A. All our basic (indiscernible) the
- 21 tanks didn't actually go on patrol. The jeeps --
- 22 the (indiscernible) part of the troop did that. The
- tanks and the infantry carriers and the mortars
- were back at the base camp. And at the border

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- 2 camp. That was all part of the troop. And then
- 3 the main camp at (indiscernible) unit they saw an
- 4 accompanied tank and a tank company that were
- 5 prepared to go and one hour to do it. They all had
- to be ready to go in one hour. So we was on our
- 7 toes all the time for the three years that I was
- 8 over there.
- 9 Q. Did you have much contact with
- 10 the German people while you were there?
- 11 A. Some. I was in a bowling league
- 12 and a square dance club. I met a person who had a
- woodworking shop so I used his shop out in back,
- 14 he's a German guy. Very pleasant, very -- I like
- 15 the German people. I liked the food and they
- 16 were -- the way of life is just -- down to business
- 17 too. Not fooling around, and very serious and --.
- Q. Were there ever any incidents
- 19 along the border?
- 20 A. No. It was very -- we
- 21 (indiscernible) Russians and East Germans or
- 22 whoever it was, I'm not even sure who it was. But
- 23 they had towers that they worked out of and they
- 24 didn't actually patrol the border. They had

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- 2 towers. And they stood in the towers and we went
- 3 up to the border and patrolled the road. Could
- 4 see -- watch them watching us. That's about it.
- 5 Q. Okay. After you left Germany in
- 6 '59 where did you go?
- 7 A. What does it say there?
- Q. Okay.
- 9 A. I got went to --
- Q. It says here --.
- 11 A. -- Norwich University. I believe
- 12 I did, I went to Norwich University from 1959 to
- 13 1963. I was an ROTC instructor there. And that's
- where I graduated from in 1950. So, nine years
- later I was back there as an ROTC instructor,
- 16 captain.
- 17 My main topic of training was
- 18 math, reading, and leadership. I really enjoyed
- 19 teaching them to cadets there. And they seemed to
- 20 enjoy it also. I liked that very much. I was hired
- 21 by the university to be an assistant
- 22 (indiscernible) that was responsible for the
- 23 discipline of the cadets as well as discipline
- 24 their behavior, as well as their training in

- 1 David Hicks 6-14-2005
- 2 military.
- Q. Now, were you still in the
- 4 regular army?
- 5 A. Yes. Yes. All this time.
- Q. All right.
- 7 A. I was a captain when I arrived
- 8 there, and I was promoted to Matron while I was
- 9 there.
- 10 Q. And after you left Norwich, here
- 11 you went to Iran in '66. I don't know what between
- 12 '63 and '66?
- 13 A. I was at the University of
- 14 Virginia getting a Masters Degree in Mechanical
- 15 Engineering and -- for two years. And then one
- year at Fort Rothenburg, Kansas at the Commander
- 17 staff college. It was a necessary schooling --
- 18 necessary to keep from moving. Back then I was
- looking to be promoted for Lieutenant, Colonel.
- So, I continued my master's
- 21 degree at the University of Virginia in two years
- or about two and a half years. And had a paper --
- 23 my thesis was (indiscernible) bearing for an air
- 24 tunnel. It needed a frictionless surface for

- 2 (indiscernible) in an air tunnel to be mounted on.
- 3 And the advisor said
- 4 (indiscernible) probably be thing to be added, you
- 5 could design them. So, I took a trip from Virginia
- 6 to Michigan and talked with people at General
- 7 Motors and they had done a lot of research on air
- 8 bearings where the axle would be turning and would
- 9 actually pull under a cushion of air and rise
- 10 itself off and use it as a loop instead of
- 11 (indiscernible).
- 12 So, using that principle we had
- 13 to tighten nitrogen, where I just talked with the
- 14 people out there and they decided that would be the
- way to go. We would tight the nitrogen with a
- 16 completely flat surface underneath a glass
- optically flat glass.
- 18 And then put pressure on the
- 19 bottom of the glass lifted off the surface and then
- the pull down thing, we hold it down on the top
- 21 part of it so we wouldn't just bounce around.
- So, we had a pressure plate on
- 23 top and a pressure plate on the bottom and we got
- 24 the glass suspended between the two and cushions of

- 2 air of nitrogen because it was completely dry.
- 3 And that made the frictionless
- 4 surface for the sting that was causing -- what
- 5 attached to the glass down to the model and wind
- 6 tunnel. And (indiscernible) later put electrical
- 7 contacts on the -- on the glass -- on the sting
- 8 itself to bring it back to center so the line of
- 9 current that it took to bring it back to center was
- measured in the force on model of a wind tunnel.
- 11 And it worked well, I quess.
- 12 I wasn't there when they tried to
- assemble it. I was there to put it all together
- 14 and make the -- the bearing. It was very
- 15 interesting.
- Q. Okay. And then you went to Iran?
- 17 A. Yeah. I was over in Iran for two
- years, '66 to '68. I was armor advisor to the
- 19 Iranian -- to the Puritan Iranian Army. It's when
- 20 the (indiscernible) was still there.
- 21 Q. Right.
- 22 A. During that time the Israeli war
- 23 came. The six-day war. They evacuated everyone
- 24 from Iraq, brought them to Turan and flew them out

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- of Maranban (phonetic spelling) airport. And that
- 3 was something to get the -- they weren't refugees,
- 4 they were just being evacuated from the Embassy in
- 5 Baghdad and had to drive from Baghdad in trucks and
- 6 cars and buses with one suitcase each.
- 7 And they all arrived in Turan and
- 8 some stayed in houses in Turan before they went
- 9 back to the states. They were very nice people
- 10 there. They certainly weren't refugees. They were
- just being evacuated and they were all American
- 12 citizens. And we were responsible to get them from
- 13 the border of Iraq to Turan and then out of the
- 14 airport.
- There were no problems with the
- 16 civilians at that time. They were all pro-American
- and (indiscernible) everything under control. And
- 18 we learned later that (indiscernible) brutal fist
- but we didn't realize it at the time. The things
- 20 he was doing seemed to make sense to us. Literacy
- 21 core and sanitation core and five principles that
- 22 he was trying to get started in this country.
- 23 Sanitation literacy. Agriculture. I can't
- 24 remember all five of them now. They all seemed to

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- 2 be basic things but the people need it. And we
- 3 certainly support it.
- Q. Now, what kind of equipment? Was
- 5 it mostly American or --?
- 6 A. It was all American.
- 7 O. All American.
- 8 A. And no Russians at the time.
- 9 Some of the other -- the older units -- they were
- 10 all the way from Turan had some Russian
- 11 (indiscernible) that they'd gotten oh, maybe twenty
- or thirty years before that. But during the war
- 13 they were (indiscernible) by the British. And one
- 14 thing that happened while I was there besides this
- 15 evacuation of Iraq was a possibility of war between
- Pakistan and India. And (indiscernible) was
- concerned that Iran would supply Pakistan with
- 18 tanks. So I had to take visit to all the tank
- units in the whole country, and I did that anyway
- 20 most of the time.
- 21 This was a special thing and I do
- 22 a lot of them in one week. So in an airplane and
- 23 went from one to the other to sit with all
- 24 accounted tanks and make sure they were all -- that

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- 2 they were -- they were there. And came back and
- 3 they were all there. They hadn't given any to the
- 4 Pakistanis. So that -- that helped quite a bit to
- 5 help maintain the status of quo forces between
- 6 Pakistan and India.
- 7 There were (indiscernible)
- 8 Pakistan deaths and Irani equipment that they would
- 9 be able to overcome the Indians, locally anyway.
- 10 Q. And how -- how did you find them
- 11 as you were advisor to their armor units?
- 12 A. Well, they went from
- 13 (indiscernible) over a donkey in the desert from a
- 14 tank and they -- they weren't mechanically inclined
- 15 at all. They washed the tank and while they were
- washing it, they ran the engine and the engine took
- up the water and got into the pistons, the pistons
- got bent and the guy said the shaai is going to
- 19 kill me, I've got to get this thing fixed.
- 20 So I saw a ordnance officer that
- 21 we had over there and he got some new pistons and
- we were able to get the pistons in the tanks
- replaced before the guy got caught. And he -- he
- 24 was really at his wits end, didn't know what to do.

- 2 And didn't know how to get it fixed. Didn't know
- 3 where to go to get the parts done. So we had
- 4 ordnance advisors in the (indiscernible) of the
- 5 army advisory section in Iran. And they were able
- 6 to get the parts that they needed and get the
- 7 (indiscernible) what they -- well there were all
- 8 these people that knew how to fix it. They just
- 9 couldn't get the parts without going through the
- shaai to get them. So they were able to get the
- parts to them and someway worked it out so the guy
- 12 didn't get court marshaled and cashiered out of the
- 13 army.
- 14 He was very -- he's a -- school
- 15 trained army officer. Went to Fort Knox. He had
- been to all the armor training there. He was on
- the list to go to Fort Leavenworth (phonetic
- 18 spelling). I'm not sure when he went there before
- 19 (indiscernible) or not. He certainly wouldn't have
- gone if this had gotten out (indiscernible). And
- 21 this type of engine being all bent out and out of
- 22 shape.
- Q. So how -- what did you think of
- 24 your years while you were in -- in Iran?

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- 2 A. I thought they were very
- 3 rewarding. The main thing I taught them was
- 4 camouflage. They didn't know how to use camouflage
- 5 as they didn't have any camouflage then. So just
- 6 turning a tank out there in the middle of the
- 7 desert looking over the border with Iraq was their
- 8 main threat. It didn't help much. The tank would
- 9 stand out like a sore thumb in the middle of the
- 10 desert. So I taught them how to make camouflage
- first of all and how to get the nets made for the
- 12 fishing net in the Caspian Sea, how it's done in
- 13 the Arabian Sea and they've got those.
- 14 And then I wrote to the engineer
- school and got the -- the percentage of different
- 16 color -- there wasn't any colors in the camouflage
- webbing and had to go into the nets to make it
- 18 blend him with the terrain of the desert. And they
- gave me the percentage of gray and green and white
- 20 that should be in there. And so we got that all
- 21 done. It worked out well. They made the nets and
- were able to get poles to break up the netting.
- So, instead of seeing a tank
- 24 against the (indiscernible) you looked at -- you

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- 2 just saw the mound or (indiscernible) vehicle and
- 3 trees. And they have plenty of those out there in
- 4 the desert. Where, in some cases it looked like a
- 5 rock pile.
- Q. And after you left Iran in 1970
- 7 you had seven -- eight years left in the service,
- 8 what did you do there? At that time?
- 9 A. From Iran I went to Fort Knox
- 10 Kentucky and I got there just about the middle --
- when the riots were going on. The Martin Luther
- 12 King riot and all that. The (indiscernible) was in
- 13 flames. Washington was right -- right behind it.
- 14 Baltimore was in flames. Washington was right --
- 15 right behind it. And our unit was -- that I was
- assigned to was one of the regiments that the -- in
- 17 the school (indiscernible) from the armor school.
- 18 And the whole regiment was sent out as guards, not
- with tanks or anything, but just with jeeps and
- other things we picked up from the Depo near
- 21 Baltimore. And were on patrol of duty in the
- 22 streets there.
- 23 And it was (indiscernible) of the
- unit at that time. So you went from Iran where we

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- 2 evacuated people who were coming from Iraq from the
- 3 Israeli war to Baltimore and Washington where our
- 4 own people were rioting and rending more danger
- 5 there than we were over seas. And that's the most
- 6 dangerous place that I've been in.
- 7 You never knew what was going to
- 8 happen. I was S three of the unit, the training
- 9 the clans and operations office that planned the
- 10 patrols that went on. And mainly to keep the
- streets clear, keep looters out, and they had
- 12 powers of arrest and could arrest people and turn
- them over to civil -- civil authorities.
- 14 It was in a very trying time at
- 15 the time.
- Q. Yeah, it must have been strange
- 17 after being in a foreign country and doing what you
- were doing there and then you came back to the
- 19 United States and it was --?
- A. Right in the middle of the riots,
- 21 **yes.**
- 22 O. Yes.
- A. It was a bad time. Bad time for
- 24 everyone.

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- Q. Okay. And what did you do until
- 3 your retirement in '78?
- A. Let's see, after the -- after I
- 5 was (indiscernible) at that training company, or
- 6 school troop company, I went to he recon training
- 7 squadron in the advanced individual training
- 8 section of the United States Army Training Center
- 9 which is also at Fort Knox.
- 10 And I was recons squad commander
- 11 there. There were three squadrons. So we were
- 12 responsible for advanced individual training.
- About the only interesting thing
- 14 that happened there was we had non-commissioned
- officers who just finished basic training. They
- 16 hadn't done their advanced individual training yet.
- 17 And the fifty top -- it was three or ten percent of
- 18 the class and made them (indiscernible) E five and
- 19 said you were now a sergeant in charge of
- 20 privates -- they were private E twos when they
- 21 finished their basic training. And they were
- 22 supposed to take their advanced individual training
- 23 as a supervisor.
- Well, that's what they -- they

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- were used that way before. It was up to us to use
- 3 them where we saw fit. And I couldn't understand
- 4 that they would make them supervisors because I
- 5 didn't give them the advanced training they needed.
- 6 So I called the artillery school
- 7 and the infantry school and see what they did with
- 8 their -- their (indiscernible). they had the same
- 9 problem. And they said we put them in charge of
- 10 the people going through the training and had them
- 11 go through the training with them, but that they're
- responsible for the training to the men. And that
- 13 made sense to me so I instituted that. I talked to
- 14 the regiment commander and told him what I was
- 15 going to do. He said fine.
- But then he complained about it
- and he didn't -- didn't support me at all after
- 18 that. I was transferred to the committee group.
- 19 It was a fellow colonel's position but was in
- 20 charged of all of the committees that did the
- 21 actual individual training at Fort Knox. And that
- 22 was sort of a disappointment in my mind. I didn't
- 23 finish my command tour as a battalion commander and
- 24 that sort of squashed any promotion potential that

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- 2 I had at all.
- And about that time I got orders
- 4 to -- to Vietnam. And my mother wrote a letter to
- 5 the -- our congressmen stating that I was the sole
- 6 surviving son so they changed those orders from
- 7 Vietnam to Iran again. And I was sent over there
- 8 and I accompanied this time to a (indiscernible)
- 9 done at Argwas (phonetic spelling) and I was
- 10 advisor to the Irani armored division that was in
- station in the southwestern part of Iran, near the
- 12 Persian Gulf.
- So, I was there for a year in
- 14 that job. And I -- I had a good time there also.
- 15 It was challenging. I did go out -- other types of
- 16 division training that were out with him. Checked
- 17 other living arrangements. There were tactical
- 18 movements where they set up the training and it was
- interesting to see they were using the camouflage.
- 20 At that time they had the
- 21 camouflage nets when it started before that. And
- 22 about three years before that. And about this time
- 23 they showed it down to all the units in the army
- and (indiscernible) camouflage nets but they

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- weren't breaking up the (indiscernible) the tank,
- 3 they were just draping over the top of the tanks.
- 4 So you still saw a tank on there with a camouflage
- 5 net over the top of it.
- 6 So I told them we used
- 7 (indiscernible) and get the -- get the silhouette
- 8 broken up. And they did that. It worked well.
- 9 But they really -- when they went out in the field,
- instead of just being a fox hole they dug a hole
- down below where they had chairs carved out of the
- sand. Niches for candles and they smoothed the
- walls for water, sort of like an adobe thing.
- 14 Really did an elaborate set up. And they did all
- 15 this in about three days to get the whole thing set
- 16 up. So it was really -- and it was cool down there
- 17 also.
- 18 As long as they were -- they
- didn't like to move out of them, that's the
- 20 problem. You get them all set up like that and an
- 21 army is supposed to be mobile and ready to go.
- 22 They didn't want to do that. They got down there
- and just left the tank up there by itself. I had
- 24 to get them squared away on that, that they had to

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- 2 get the tank guns manned and actually make the
- 3 foxhole that they were in a combat foxhole instead
- 4 of a residence. It was interesting.
- 5 So you left in '78? 0.
- 6 Okay. And after -- I was over Α.
- 7 there for a year. '69 to '70 I think it was.
- 8 then from there I went to the training and doctrine
- 9 command and it wasn't called that at the time, it
- 10 was called gun (indiscernible) army command in Fort
- 11 (indiscernible), Virginia where I was in the
- 12 (indiscernible) section and then I was in the -- a
- 13 place to make the tables of organization and
- 14 equipment to TOE's. And also the basic visual plan
- 15 for new equipment we had to make a plan out, how
- 16 many of these items went to each of the units that
- 17 came up and I just did it by hand.
- 18 They took whatever was going to
- 19 be replaced, they went through each TOE and then
- 20 put those new pieces of equipment in there for the
- 21 old -- say they had a new rifle. That'd be easy
- 22 just to (indiscernible) replacement but they had a
- machine gun that replaced two of the old machine 23
- 2.4 guns then it made it a little bit more difficult.

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- 2 And it made it even more trying that the production
- 3 came. They couldn't produce them all at the same
- 4 time. They took all the units and they had to
- 5 prioritize them would get what first.
- And that was a big problem to --
- 7 to get that in writing and to get it so that the
- 8 supply people would know where to ship the things
- 9 at one time. So, it was a thing that really should
- 10 have been automated and we finally did get it
- 11 automated and made an automated basic initial plan
- 12 was prioritized units. And the first time that
- this really showed its real value was when night
- vision goggles came up. And we prioritized so that
- the recon (indiscernible) units would get them
- 16 first. And then the transportation drivers would
- get them second and so on. Just make them a
- 18 priority of issue type thing.
- 19 So then when the goggles did come
- off the production line, they knew which units were
- 21 going to get them and they knew where to ship and
- 22 all that. It's really a great thing to get that
- done. It's an automated basic initial plan. I was
- 24 responsible for that. I didn't actually control

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- anything but I was responsible for producing the 2
- 3 existing TOE. Because the existing TOE's and the
- 4 modification came with a (indiscernible) equipment
- 5 that told which units got them and how many they
- 6 needed to equip that unit. (indiscernible) even
- 7 the (indiscernible).
- 8 Q. No, that's good, yeah.
- 9 And I stayed (indiscernible)
- 10 trade off -- training and doctrine command for the
- 11 next -- until 1978. We moved from Fort
- 12 (indiscernible) to Fort Monroe still in the
- 13 Requirements Division. And still in the
- 14 organization (indiscernible) of the training and
- doctrine command. It resulted in TOE Table of 15
- 16 Organization and Equipment and BOIP's, the Basic of
- 17 Issue Plans and all back from those six years.
- 18 I'm also traveling from -- to
- 19 different schools to help with their -- the school
- 20 that (indiscernible) for making the TOE for that
- 21 type -- the artillery school made the
- 22 (indiscernible) Organization and Equipment for all
- 23 your artillery units. So we visited them to
- 24 show -- care what we were doing and also give them

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- 2 some help on how to get the things planned and get
- 3 it automated. So we made a quite a few trips at
- 4 the time.
- 5 Ο. Why did you decide to leave in
- 6 178?
- 7 I spent twenty-eight years in the Α.
- 8 It took a long time to make -- the only
- reason I made full colonel is the Commanding 9
- 10 General of (indiscernible) sent a personal letter
- 11 to the (indiscernible) board and asked that I be
- promoted and that was the result of -- primarily 12
- 13 that incident at the training in the
- 14 (indiscernible) command or the army training center
- 15 at Fort Knox where I used the NCO as trainers
- 16 instead of supervisors. And I'd do it again. The
- 17 same thing -- it's the only way to use them.
- 18 They had to get trained and they
- 19 had to learn to take care of the units. The only
- 20 way they could do that is actually lead them
- 21 through training and be responsible for them --
- 22 while they're responsible for how well the training
- 23 I still think that was the right way to do
- 24 it, whether they liked it or not.

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- So anyway, that's why I decided
- 3 to get out. I would never make general. It took
- 4 ten years to make colonel. So, I was going to be a
- 5 colonel in 1976 and I stayed two years as colonel
- 6 and then retired.
- 7 Q. Did you stay in contact with
- 8 anyone that was in the service with you?
- 9 A. My best friends, (indiscernible)
- 10 Wayne and I -- all in our career. He was a BMI
- 11 Graduate and I was a Norwich graduate. And he and
- 12 I are still very close friends. We met at Fort
- 13 Meade in Maryland. We both joined at the same
- 14 time. He went to the first battalion and stayed in
- 15 Fort Meade. I went to the third battalion down at
- 16 A.P. Hill (indiscernible) together.
- We served together over in
- 18 Germany. We went to the army school together. We
- 19 had a lot of joint assignments. Great guy.
- Q. Did you join any veterans
- 21 organizations at all?
- 22 A. I joined the VFW and the foreign
- 23 legion but they mostly seemed to be drinking places
- 24 and I didn't really care for that so -- and I

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- 2 wasn't active.
- Q. How do you think your time in the
- 4 service had in a factor, changed your life?
- 5 A. It wasn't my life.
- 6 (indiscernible).
- 7 Q. Well -- how --.
- 8 A. It was just the way it was.
- 9 Discipline, I like the outdoors, I didn't care
- dealing with the problems that people had all the
- 11 time. It seemed to be the same problems, one
- 12 after -- always drinking or marital problems. I
- didn't care for that because they didn't seem to
- 14 learn at all. Each person was different but they
- all had the same problems, so I was happy to get
- 16 out of that.
- So I'm a farmer now, I raise hay
- and can reminisce when I'm pulling the hay or
- 19 putting the bales in the wagon.
- Q. Okay. Well, thank you very much
- 21 for your interview.
- 22 (The interview concluded.)
- 23 Tkjm/p/070216nysmil(d).at

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2	I hereby certify the foregoing,
3	consisting of pages 1 to 45, inclusive, to be a
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