

**Robert Douglas Goodfellow
Veteran**

**Lauren Meany and Charli Ronan
Interviewer**

**Plattsburgh State University
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LM: What is your full name?

DG: Douglas Robert Goodfellow.

LM: When and where were you born?

DG: I was born in 1955 in Syracuse New York.

LM: What was your pre-war education?

DG: College Degree,

LM: What college degree did you go to?

DG: I went to an Oswego and then I went to Potsdam, I got my master at Potsdam and undergrad at Oswego.

LM: What is your occupation?

DG: ROTC instructor.

LM: When did you enter the service?

DG: 1976

LM: Did you enlist?

DG: I enlisted

LM: What branch the service were you in and why?

DG: I was in the army and then I had a break in services went to college then I went back to the marine corp. I don't know want to break in the service I now I'm in the army reserves.

LM: Where did you receive basic training and if you could tell about your experiences and feeling?

DG: Well! that's going back a long time ,It had been a long time, Fort Jackson in SC in fall of 1976, and what I remember most about basic training is trying to instill discipline in everyone a lot the of the individuals at that time didn't have much discipline so that was the goal. The skills that we required were simple skill but discipline was the something really stuck with me.

LM: Alright! For the military service what were your exact well not exact, but the date of service

DG: I make this simple from 1976-to the present.

LM: And Umm! What was your specific training?

DG: I been trained in infantry man, a drill instructor one time, officer in marine corp., infantry battalion, transport officer, I been in combat engineer officer and presently I'm civil affairs officer.

LM: What is you unit or you shift assignment?

DG: When I went to Afghanistan that was 492nd civil affair battalion they were out of Phoenix Arizona.

LM: Do you have any like the battles you fought in if you can remember?

DG: I didn't flight really flight in any major battle like that.

LM: How do you feel about combat?

DG: It is what it is, I hate to say that but, you basically train to do your job when something happens your training just react toward your train just kicks in. Some of the solider were a little slower and you have a like ok common you know you got to do it do it. Being an officer in my basic job was to lead make sure thing is getting done that what I did.

LM: Do you receive any medal or citations? Why do you receive it?

DG: Let's see, I got serval medals, I got Bronze star, let's see the commendation medal. The bronze star was basic the whole year there just what I did the job but the commendation was we had IED Improvised explosive device go off on a suicide bomber. Produce a lot of casualties there and what I did mostly and was the medical Umm! sorting out as the people came in, I already knew it was a mess, some of them were going to make it, some them were just walking wounded, other they had a change so I was sorting them out direct the solider what to do. Post the surety too, that was another trick that they would places explosive the wounded people and try to sneak them in to get mess up. So A lot of thing was going on a lot of soldiers wouldn't want to see something like this so basically I had to keep them focus what is going on. Keep post security you know, treat the wounded you know. We got to sort them out we had so many and we had a small medical team that we couldn't, we couldn't take care all at once so the walking wound we put them over the side, the once we call specter they weren't going to make and you knew that by quick look at them we put them in another area, and one who could be work on safe whatever we got them into the certain to perform the operation that took about half a day I mean it just constant streams of people coming in because this guy went and blew himself up he did it in a crowd and blew up a lot of people. It wasn't first time that happen, but it was the first time for most solders been there get more experiences later on but after that I won't say routine but, it like we know the deal.

LM: For the military, how did you keep in touch with those at home? And how

DG: Emails or letters event phone. I mean the place are located out the middle nowhere

we had regular email access it was sever about it. E-mail backing ford whatever and a couple hour later go out mission outside the gate and do a combat situation. It kind of strange that time. It was not really tell this folk what going on just say we got a mission during the day do routine whatever basically all you would say about it. One minute you doing that on the keyboard, next thing you know you're getting gear together and going out to do what you have to do. A little different.

LM: How often that you do it? Like a week or what

DG: We had I don't know probably a hundred of us for operations, probably had 20-30 computers like this we e-mail back home I mean we were lucky we were special operations so we had a lot more access than most military had.

LM: What would the food like and the supply?

DG: Food wasn't too bad, monotonous though it depend what they cook did with it. Because our cooks came and went you know. We get every Friday we got either steak or lobster tails which it great. Sometime what they did with the lobster was a crime. I meant it either boiled it so much it taste less or they wouldn't cook it enough to be like rubber after while oh well is food

LM: What is you most memorable experiences was and why?

DG: Probably I say, my job basic rebuild the infrastructure in the province I was in. when we got the villagers to take control of this project where they were actually doing them.

We give them the materials, but they would actually do the work that was the whole idea, because they look well, you and I, we want this and that and we gave them materials tools to do it but we are not going to do for you. We try to make them solved their own problems that the whole idea.

And in Afghanistan everywhere we went they have a huge problem in the spring when all the snow melt, flooding so we help them building dykes, dams, coverts whatever they want to call so when the water come down from the mountain. The huge mountains all around us it wouldn't flood their homes because their home made of mud and their fields the top soil all the way so they build these wall just revert the water so when the stream ext. For them it was huge improved because after the flood came they collect the water and they have for the most summer and they can grow their crops they wouldn't loose their home and everything else. Seem like that the basic problem every year have a flood and it like mud it got wash away. Probably the best thing that whole province. And we 50 some villages involved in these we have huge, huge number of people doing these.

LM: How do you say you feel about your military experiences?

GD: Very positive, I got to go around the world, met a lot different people, got a lot situation. It had been real quite enjoyable it been in the United State it been a year Africa, Afghanistan, enjoy every things.

LM: What do you do when you arrive home?

DG: Just took some time off, went on vacation kind did nothing.

LM: Do you have an occupation?

DG: Oh !Yeah, I got back in June and I went back to work I believed middle of August I took basic the whole summer off two weeks up in the Canada vacation there, ext. kind of did nothing.

LM: Do you belong to any veteran organizations and which are you active?

DG: Surprisingly, I don't probably I'm retired I will, right now I'm still busy whatever. I have contact with them most American region but I don't really join them like that.

LM: Are you attend any reunion or how many resource and why or why not?

DG: No not really, I guess when get old I will do this stuff

LM: And how is your military changes?

DG: Make more organizes, more structures in a lot of things. It been maturity too. I mean the military basically everything is based on getting promote on doing well and they give you more responsibility just made you more responsible because military basically every things. The way to get in military is to do well and they don't care what color you are, religions, anything else you do a job, they will promote you and give you more responsibility ,that why I love military because it so level point fill for everyone based on ability.

LM: That is it, you very much.