**Kurt Holcherr**

**Veteran**

**Wayne Clarke**

**Interviewer**

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**New York State Military Museum**

**Saratoga Springs, New York**

**Q:** Today is the 7th of February 2011. My name is Wayne Clark. I'm with the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs, New York. We are at the American Legion Post in Margaretville, New York. Sir, for the record, would you please state your full name and date and place of birth, please?
**KH:** Okay. My name is Kurt, K-U-R-T, Holcherr, H-O-L-C-H-E-R-R. Date of birth is August 27th, 1949. Place of birth was Germany.

**Q:** Was your father in the service?
**KH:** No.
**Q:** Okay.

**Q:** You were a German National?
**KH:** National, yes. I'm an immigrant. I'm one of the last of those immigrants. I immigrated in 1959. Okay.

**Q:** Okay. Alright. And so, did you attend school in Germany?
**KH:** I came here was nine. Yes. About four or five years of school.

**Q:** So, and then you, you were nine when you came here?
**KH:** Yes. My mother and I immigrated here. My father passed away in Europe. And I can, we, my mother immigrated here because we had relatives here. And they asked us to come over, you know, and experienced a great American life.

**Q:** Now, did you, did you speak English at that time?
**KH:** No, No English. You know, you came in, I came to America. We moved first to Long Island because in those days, immigration was a little different. You know, you came, Ellis Island was closed, but we came on Pier 57. And the immigration department was there, and they would check you over, just like you see in the movies. And look for you for tuberculosis and everything else. And I remember they questioned me about something, this, you know, the verification they wanted, because as I had a, a birthmark and they wanted to see the birthmark. So they were, it was a interesting time. It was you appreciate it later. So, after that, we moved down to Hempstead, Long Island. And my

mother, we got there on Saturday and my mother had a job waiting for her at Monday. In those days, when you immigrated to America, you had to have a sponsor. You didn't just come in and you know and take it from there. It's a little different. And she got a job. And I, that Monday morning, my sponsor, the person, a good friend of my mother, who was responsible for us, took me to the local school. And I remember Mrs. Thompson took me in, and every day I got special education, you might say, a special program, what America is. I learned to be an, I learned, I got Americanism program. The first of its maybe first of its kind, I don't know. But whatever holidays there were, you learned about the 4th of July, you learned about the Constitution. You learned about American Space Program. I remember the X15 and all this stuff that you were, you know, you became, you, you became an American. What made what made America great. And this is something that still reflects on me today. You know, there's, you know, forget where you come from. This is in America, and this is who we are, and this is what it's all about. So, it was kind of a, a different than, I don't know. Again, I feel a little different today, you know? the culture. You have to accept the American culture. So that was done. So, I got a good education. Okay. And she did teach me a lot of everything. You know, like I, I still remember that Thanksgiving Day, who the pilgrims were and who, what, what, what was it all about, you know? So, you learned American culture. That's, I think, Colette being Americanized.

**Q:** And you graduated from high school.
**KH:** Yeah. I went and I, my mother then moved, we moved to Brooklyn because jobs were kind of scarce out there. And she got another opportunity to work in Brooklyn. So, we moved over to Richwood Queens, which was basically actually a German neighborhood. They had stores there that spoke. That's good or bad. I guess it was like little Italy down the road. There was all the Italian people. They had their own little culture in their little, which was good and bad was you kind of gravitated in those areas. I went to a Catholic school, St. Bridget's with the nuns and with the, with the, with the priests and everything I went to there. They, it was, it was good, but it wasn't quite, you had to really catch up and stay there, yet you didn't get any extra help. So, which was good, because they, my first six, eight months in the other school in the Island really had prepared me for that. So, it worked out good. And after that, and was 65, I went to George Westinghouse Vocational High School. I took electrical, electrical installation. I took that. And we had a teacher there who brought a couple of teachers were really American. They they taught us about the Vietnam War, their opinion, of course, you know, a little bit more opinionize. And I had a, I had a vocational teacher who says, you guys should, you should join the Navy. I says, well, you know, when you get out, because you almost had the plan it, because once you got out, there was a draft. So, you had a choice. You could either, either volunteer for different brand like Marine Corps and the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, or the draft would get you. And once, okay. So, I decided, so under his guidance, he says, you got four years of, he took the electrical for three years, actually. The Navy will take you and you can become a ship's electrician. That was good. So that's how I did, that's how I got involved with that.

**Q:** So, you didn't go to college, you went right into the Navy?
**KH:** No, I went, yeah. At that time, you were vocational. You couldn't really get into college because there was, it was a different level. So, but, which was fine. I, I looked

forward to the Navy. Cause I wanted to get sort of little adventurism, you know? Because when I was on Rockaway on the beach, I used to see the aircraft carriers coming and say, gee, that's really nice, you know? You get this romanticism about being on the aircraft carrier. But, so I went to Navy. I

**Q:** Where, where did you go for basic?
**KH:** I went to Great Lakes.

**Q:** Was that your first time away from home?
**KH:** Just about, matter of fact, I'll tell you, I was really unprepared. My mother says, don't do this. I says, you know, you're gonna be sorry. You know. Oh mom, don't worry. I thought my, I figured it's all gonna be fun. But, you know, I, I don't, I remember, I, I had long hair. I had long hair. And I remember, I remember they told me, get your haircut before you go in <laugh>. But I didn't do it. So anyway, so then when I got my, I went to Great Lakes. They actually, I went to Fort Hamilton, I got in. That's why I got sworn in. They treated you real nice. And the minute they swore you in, once you, then you were on, you know, it was a little different. The atmosphere changed already went on the bus, went to Great Lakes, Chicago flew in. And the next day, I remember the barber shop, they were tossing coins. Who's they gonna get for haircuts? Cause I had the longest hair. Like, I was like their little trophy <laugh>. So, they had a good time with 'em. At that time, it was, you know, you were a little nervous, but it was really a, it, looking back now, it was fun, you know, but at that time it was a little more serious. And, and you know, we got a haircut, the whole nine yards, and we went through the whole rigamarole. But I didn't realize how lucky we are in America to be able to do what you want to do. For the first time, I just, and I was pretty loose. I had to do what I was told to do, you gotta get up at six, you gotta do this and that. So it wasn't, it was a very good educational environment for me. And I, I just remember they marched us in the front gate and says, “Anybody wants to escape now is your last chance.” You know, because, you know, be a draft. No, none of us did, but okay. That's the kind of thing.

**Q:** So, alright. After your basic training, did you go on to an advanced school?
**KH:** They gave me a choice. Now here's, here's where the clincher comes in. They told me, you don't have to go to advanced school. You can go right out to the fleet because you already got four years of electrical. We're gonna give you credit for that. I said, “Well, that's great.” Okay. So, I decided to not go to A school. Okay. They say, since you already have it, a school's gonna be the same thing as what you have. Because they looked.

**Q:** Now, did you, because you had that experience, did you get an extra rank?
**KH:** No, they didn't give you the rank. Okay. maybe I should have bargained for it. I don't know. But I just did. What was at that time, I did what, okay, this is what they offered me, that they gave you a choice. But they did, they said to me, you're not gonna even go there. You don't have to go there to a school. Okay. You can go right out to the fleet. They said, oh wow. That's great. I could be right out there, here. Now that was like, that's what I wanted to do. So, I left bootcamp. I had two weeks vacation. I spent some time in San Francisco. Again, I never was away. So, I was kinda liking this thing, you know.

**Q:** Now, where was the ship that they were sending you to?
**KH:** There was an aircraft carrier. Okay. USS Ranger. Alright. They shipped me there. I didn't even know. Matter of fact, when they gave us an orders in Great Lakes, where a a lot of my friends got Italy. They got Europe. They got Hawaii. And when I came along, it says, "Well, you go to USS Ranger." I said, "What the heck is that?" I'm like, "Oh, that's, that's the first time I heard Yankee Station. What the heck is a Yankee station? What the hell is that about?" You know, that's how little we really knew. And Yankee Station is the off the coast of Vietnam. Okay. that's where they did the, the flight ops from there. But, so I got, you know, I got to the, I didn't get to the ship. I got to the Philippines and the ship was out for two more weeks. And then I says, well, that's great. I don't mind being here. He says, no, you're not. You're gonna be shipped to Vietnam and you're gonna fly in from [unclear] to there. And that was my, that was my real only time I was ever in on the physical land of Vietnam where roast of the soldiers were. And I'll tell you something, I can understand what these guys are going through just by that little bit, couple of days that I was there. Most how do we say un not unfriendly, but most tight, intense atmosphere ever seen because we were in transit. They, they, but I was glad to leave so I can respect the soldiers that were there. So, they, we had a mail plane comes to the mag to pick up the mail. That's what they said. Well, we'll take three guys now. And every time a plane went, I see it's a little bit of a two-engine plane. And it's called a mail plane. It's what they fly out off the carrier deck with for cargo or parts or male and people. So never flew, never landed on an aircraft carrier. It was an interesting experience, you know, when you're looking down, you see this little spot on. The guy would bank the plane, says, look down there guys. That's where we're going. And he would have fun with us. And he would just go dive down to it. And it was interesting how it landed. I mean, it's just, you hit something, you hear a bang, a noise, and, and you'd stop instantly. And there you see number 61 on the, on the folks on the, on the ship. So, I got in we were part of the engineering department. The ships divided into different departments. So, okay, so I'm engineering and I says, well, I have my papers. You know, you see back, 'cause everything else, when you get off that plane, you can't hang out on the flight deck. 'cause the flight decks are very dangerous area. So right away into the, into the, and there was an office there right on the other side. And they says, okay, the engineering department picked us up, and then they took us downstairs to them. And so, I said, "well, I'm an electrician." He said, "Well, that's wonderful." I says, he, that's why I learned a little bit of reality in the military. He says, but you're going in the engine room. And I'm like, you know, I, excuse me, I'm an electrician. I was guaranteed this. By who? By the recruiter. Well, guess what? He lied to you. He says, "You didn't go to a school, you didn't strike for that. You belong to us. You belong wherever we wanna put you." Okay. So, so nobody had a hold on it. So anyway, so, okay 'cause I didn't go to school. I wouldn't strike it. I says, okay. And I says, in two years from now, if you want to, you can strike for that and you can become electrician. But right now, as a fireman apprentice, we put you anywhere we want reality 1 0 1. Nobody told me that one. You know. So I went, they took a, they picked me up. They put me in the engine room, which is a sly place. You know, it's at the bottom of the ship. 36 feet, feet below the surface level. They tell me. And we had, we had four engine rooms. And I was number in number four, engine room. I would pick you up and he would, and then you would start off as a being on a, on a check. Check is you do all the, every hour you go

out and you get the gauges. You check all the gauges, that's your check person. And you get, you wake up the people. You do all the little work around. And what you had down there is you had what, you had an officer, and you had a chief and you had first class, and you had three machinist mates and a boiler attendant. Those were the two races that shared the boiler room. The boiler. The machinist mates were the ones with the reduction gears and the machinery and the boiler tendants were the one, or the BT's they used to call 'em. They were the ones that killed the boilers. Okay. We had bo, we had Bob and Wilco boilers. 1200 pounds per square inch. You know, the joke was, if it ever blows, you'll never know it. You'll be instantly gone. So, it was an in, but it was hot. And quite frankly, I was a little tender foot on it. So, I was kind of, it was, oh my God, the world's coming to an end, you know? But I

**Q:** What exactly did they have you doing?
**KH:** I checked all the gauges every hour. I went on, I learned how to wake up people wake 'em up in such a way. So, when they punch out, when they throw a punch out, they can't, they won't hit you <laugh>. Yeah. You know, those were little tricks. You learn how to make coffee. I'd always never cleaned the coffee pot, just make coffee, you know, things like that. Then I was down at the burners at the burner level. That was the next job going up. And right burner level is where you were on the bottom. You had two boilers, seven and seven burners. You, they would call you down on the on the intercom. Three and three permits, three burners and left and right, Abel and baker and things like that. And you had one steam gauge, a huge gauge on the top. And you'd look at it. And that's what you used to listen, watch that. It'd be 12, 1300. And actually, you had a lot to do with controlling the amount of steam pressure on the boiler because you watched it, because you have between 1350 and 1100 pounds. So, that's basically, it was quite a responsible job. I mean, I must say, I mean, you did have people backing you up. There's other people watching gauges too. So, it wasn't just you alone, you know. But it was interesting. And I started to like it, you know, I mean, I started to get into this whole thing, and we were pretty well in our room because the boiler people were kind of they were hard to find at that time. The Navy was really going gung-ho with the steam with the, with the aircraft carriers in Vietnam, because we had air operations 12 hours a day. We would be there for about a month and a half. And we would go to the Philippines for R & R two weeks. And then we'd go back to Yankee station on, and also one year time a year we go to Hong Kong and then we'd go to [Kuska] Japan. Whenever we went to the ports, the ships were being repaired by the Philippines, by the Japanese workers or by the, you know, sometimes we had to fly in Bob and Wilcox American engineers who would fix the ship on while it was out there, because they were desperately needed of aircraft carriers in those days because they were running, they were running 'em in, not into the ground, but they needed major repairs. Vietnam being such a hot thing, they were, what their mission was. The way I understood, we were told is they would fly phantoms F 2 phantoms. We had 75 of them. And we had the bombers, we had the A 6's and things like that. But they would fly off 12 hours a day, but they would come back at an hour or so later. And sometimes you see a little holes in the plane, you see something that's, that's what you remember. They see the war. We didn't see the war. We could, I could almost tell you I'm off the coast in New Jersey. But you didn't see it. You know, you but it was out there. You know, that's, yeah. And, and, and these guys and the pilots would air reps 12 hours a day unless we're off the line, you know, and a lot of time or

something happens sometimes even longer than that, either nights or days. that's when, so it was quite, it's really a technical miracle on an aircraft K where everybody has a job. I got a flight deck. You got the different color people. color, meaning the fuel people. You've got the ammo people; you've got the emergency people. You've got the guys who jockey the planes around. And everybody works very close. You don't, it's probably one of the most technical engineered systems in the military. It's a compliment to the military because what they've done and the no accidents, you know, you try not to have an accident. We did lose a few planes here and there. We had one crash into the deck, but, you know, it's. And one went over the deck. Cause they come in with the, they fly in, as you've probably seen. And the hook, they grab it by the hook. Yeah. Well, sometimes the hook doesn't grab it or grab some, partially whether we have one and it would just fly off the side of the deck. And the pilot would come out. Or you'd have people that, like you have night ops, it's, they come in at, like, they come in at night and all they see is little lights. There's a word for that was lights. But anyway, so that was quite you know, these guys were really having a, they were under stress. Those pilots were under stress. But that was our job to get those 75 planes and to get this whole ship. So, give them the support, give them the power, give 'em the electricity, give 'em the steam, the heat, whatever the need. And the steam for the catapult to get those planes up. That was our job. So that's where we were.

**Q:** Okay. And, and how long did you do that for? You were out there for; well, you were in the Navy for four years.
**KH:** No, I was in for two. I went in for two. cause they gave me an option with the reserve. And Vietnam was winding down. And they said, you can do this and go into the reserve. Or if you, or if you want, you can come back in state, afford, doesn't matter. So, I took the first option. So, I come out, I can do six years of reserves. So, I did that and the war. And actually, I wanted to first go into the Seabees, but I, there was no opening because they were winding it down. So, the Seabees, there was no opening. So that, that's why I took the carriers in.

**Q:** Alright. So, you got out of the, you did your, you did your two years.. You got out. Where were you discharged from?
**KH:** New York. New York City. They flew me back home and I, you know, and I had a report to the Reserve Center. So much time. I had a report to the Reserve Center and big bunch of guys. And there was an opportunity for me to join the Seabees, which is the naval construction. So, I decided to go from, from there into the, from the boilers to the engine room, you might say. Into the Seabees. Okay. Although at the, what I learned in the in the Navy on the ships, I worked for Giffords Oil, which was heating, Commercial heating. And I worked for them. So, what I learned in the Navy is what got me a job when I got out. They, right away they grabbed me, said, oh yeah, we can use you. Con Edison could have used it too. I'd applied for them. And there was, there were openings, but for some reason, history is, but life being what it is, I didn't take that job. So, there was a lot of opportunities, you know, education from your military that, that carried over and paid off, whatever. You didn't paid off later on in civilian life. You see it all the time today. We had a, you know, so, okay, interesting. Got an interesting story as Ralph.

**Q:** Alright. And now, did you make use of the GI Bill at all?

**KH:** Yeah. Yeah. I took, I took advantage of it. I was gonna go to Queens College, but I didn't wanna do that 'cause I was a hands-on, so I went into this, when I went into the cbs, we had all the heavy equipment and I really liked that I liked that better than the boilers, you know. So I made a sort of a, I went at night school. The VA paid for it for four years to Mac boring diesel school, heavy equipment, diesel school. So, every two nights, no, one night a week. It was over in Jersey Union, New Jersey. I went over, you know, I took the courses over there and did all the stuff that I had to do, passed the course. And so I got an education out of my you know, the government was very, very kind to me and allow me to do that. They didn't just say, "You have to go to college." He said, "Well, that's vocational education." So, they had those programs that could have gone more into electrical. But it all worked together. It all works in one because electricity is everywhere. And we use that. The boiler is, you know, matter of fact, I just rewired my house.

**Q:** Go ahead. Go along with the story.
**KH:** Oh, this. Well, they, oh yeah. Well, it was funny. It not funny, but it was, they put us in a cattle cart. Yep. And they drove us around all day because they just wanted to keep us moving. They don't want us around because you know, you guys are not familiar with it. We were not really that trained for combat for Vietnam. We didn't get the advanced military training. So they would just tell us, this is what a bunker, if something happens, that's where you go in until somebody tells you to come out.

**Q:** Now, how long were you actually in Vietnam for?
**KH:** Oh, actually it was in transit. It was two days. Two days. About two days. Matter of fact, it was Thanksgiving Day, I believe, 69. And we went to the chow we went to the chow hall, and I found it, just to show you how I wasn't really familiar with it. Everybody had a M 16 whatever the choice of weapon they had in the chow, they were eating with it. This was like with them all the time. It was like, they were like, gee, that's, you know, that's strange. You know, like these, what is this here, Don wasn't because you had a really, everybody here was like on, you know, something happens. It was really an intense situation. So, my hats off to those people that had to stay in that environment. I was glad to leave. And so, Mike got the highest respect for those people because they really, and they were like, they were under very tense situations. But that's as far as I can say with that. So when I was appreciated coming back to the ship, and I always said, I have a bed to sleep in a, I never had a cold bed, you might say, you know. It's, and I always had a meal where I might see stories about these other guys that they went through, you know. So, we could never complain. I could never, I never complained about the hot boiler room that hey, you know, could be somewhere else. So, I really appreciate it that way. And what we did in our support to them, hopefully.

**Q:** Now, now, when, when you did your two years in the Navy, what, what rank did you get out as?
**KH:** I got out as a boiler tender for boiler beat fireman. I was a fireman.

**Q:** Was that third like an E three? E three rank or E three?
**KH:** E three? Yes. Now, if I would've stayed in, I could have, I could have struck for my electrical, you see, I was out of the apprentice business. So, so it starts over an

apprentice, and then you go for what you wanna strike for. Or if you come in with a school, you go there right away.

**Q:** Did they try to get you to a re-enlist?
**KH:** Yeah. Oh yeah. They offered us all kinds of good packages. Matter of fact, there were very boiler attenders were the most desperate rates in the Navy, because nobody really wanted to do that job. It was not glorified you know, it was, and they needed people. They offered you $10,000, I think, to re-enlist, and a guaranteed a school. And if you graduate within a year or two, a B school, in other words, another school. So, you, you got a lot of opportunities more than most because you stuck this out. And by the way, the Navy doesn't, I don't think has boiler tenders anymore. They've been faced out, I'm not sure. But at that time, they were like very critical rate. It was a critical rate.

**Q:** Okay. So, you spent the rest of your time in the CB's or
**KH:** Oh, yeah. Then I got back when I got out, I went to the CB's at Camp Smith. Oh, okay. It was a, it wasn't a weekend. And we, every one weekend a month we first we went down at we were down at 56th Street Reserve Center in Brooklyn, right by the pier, which is, was closed now that we went there. And then we went to where is it? The heck we went to what's the airfield in Brooklyn?
**Q:** Oh Geez
**KH:** Okay. Anyway, we went to Floyd Benfield, sorry, Floyd Benfield. We were stationed there. And then we went to Poughkeepsie. You know, we were, we became a unit, the government gave, issued us the equipment and we became a, and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 13 was, was commissioned again. And they moved Poughkeepsie. And that's where we stayed.

**Q:** Now when, when you did your two weeks duty in the summertime, it was you go to places like Camp Smith or did you go
**KH:** We went to Camp Smith. We went to Watertown. We did winter training; we did advanced base training. We went to Mississippi. We did jungle-based training. We went to Camp La June, again advanced. We, we built bunkers and Marines would simulate an attack on us, and we'd learn. And we also take, we actually didn't took infantry training. I took it then. Then we had to take the military realized that the destruction people didn't have any military training. Military meaning firing tactical [milit]. And then they incorporated that. So that's why we went with the Marine Corps, because the Marine Corps says you belong to us. The Navy wasn't, we weren't even. So there was a time where they were thinking about getting rid of the Seabees and engineering. So, the name Marine Corps said, no. Then if anything, we'll take 'em. And we fell more on, we felt almost closer to the Marine Corps because they were the combat. And we were, they would go in and, and if they'd done in World War II, by the way, they would land on an island. Right. And the Seabees would come in later, we'll make the runways and give 'em the housing to support the base advanced base. And they said we want them. But just like the Army Corps of Engineers, the Army has the Army Corps of Engineers. The CB has theirs. And so we did get combat training you know, for two weeks out in the, in the boonies in, in Mississippi, or for instance, camp Swampy, or for instance, we went out to Camp Lajune and we were got the military at the Marine Corps end of it, you know, that. So, we did fall into them.

**Q:** So, you retired after 20?
**KH:** 26.
**Q:** Oh, 26.
**KH:** Yeah. What happens is one of the reasons for retirement was, and the Navy had a policy now on that everybody has to advance in rank, and you have to find the spot. And I spent, I've been in there now for 26 years, and I was, I made E 6, but you're only allowed to be an E 6 for those so long that I made E 7. Okay. So, you only allowed so much time, or else they, after 20 years, can ask you to, to, to leave, you know, to, because they were trying to get the ranks moving. Some people felt, and I understand what they were trying to do. If you become an E 6 and you stay too long, you become too comfortable. You know, it gets to be more. So, they wanted you to advance. And at that time, they were cutting back. The peace dividends came back, and the military was cutting back. So, after 26 years, I says, okay, that's, that, that's it for me. It's fine. The new kids would come in and you know, it was, a lot of it was computer age was coming in. So, I decided to retire. I was, my final place was up at I was up in Rhode Island. I was near the CB base in Rhode Island. I was up there for about three years with, for the 21st NCR. And then Davis from Davisville, Rhode Island. I came back to Camp Smith for another year, and that was about it. And, and now that RMCB 13 had been decommissioned, see that they also decommissioned it at the end. Mm-Hmm. So, I got out when they decommissioned it because they put the flags back into Gulfport, Mississippi. And it's, I like to say in storage, for lack of better words. So, Nm, CB 13 was closed. Okay. Because of the, you know.

**Q:** So, you retired and you started collecting a pension at age 60?
**KH:** Well, I, yeah. Just last year. Yeah. It's got all my collective pensions.

**Q:** Now did you join any veterans' organizations?
**KH:** I'm with the VA with the American Legions. The legions. Okay. I do rhetorical for the kids. I do that. I was a county commander. I was a post commander here, county commander. And now I'm just doing the American Legion rhetorical for Delaware County. That's basically where I am right now. Okay. And I do a little things around the neighborhood.

**Q:** Do you, do you attend any reunions or anything?
**KH:** I haven't yet. You know, I'm going to go look into it more. I'm getting more, I look back now, and I have a different attitude. At that time, I didn't care too much about it. I don't know how to say that. You know matter of fact; I always know nobody knows my story. They you know, it's not a glory story, but yeah. Yeah. I like to get back. I like to go on, I went on the internet for the USS Ranger, and they went to the whole, where the ship was and everything else, and, you know, what happens? It is been decommissioned, you know, it's gone now. Yeah. So yeah, I'd like to get back in a reunion and see if I can find some of these people, you know, they were good friends of mine. And it'd be interesting to see the different personality, how they turned out, you know? So, yeah.

**Q:** How do, how do you think your time in the service changed or affected your life?

**KH:** I think it, it was probably one of the best comraderies. If you belong to a unit, you belong there. I mean, my wife says, “Why are you on the reserve? Why are you with the cvs? Why are you doing this?” I says, “Well, that's where I want to be.” You know, I, I usually don't go, I'm usually not very pushy on things or I, I usually consolidate and talk. I says, no, you know, my opinion is I was in this unit before Mitch, I'm gonna stay in. So, she never, so that was one of those things. It was probably the best camaraderie there is. Mm-Hmm. I understand. When they talk about the camaraderie, their friends, the soldiers in combat, it must be their, their cohesion. I can understand that. Because that's more there than anywhere else. Because, you know, you sleep, you liberate these people, you know their show, you know what you know better than anybody else. You know, and you have, and you get along great with them. And you take care of each other. So, I think this is the, the best camaraderie I ever had was in the military. I, that's one thing I've really realized. Okay. They were great people. They were great. And they were just like, you just getting through. You know, but you all worked together. You had, you did what you had to do, and then some , you know, and it's kind of funny, when you went on Liberty and the on, you know, you, you would go into a bar and something, or, you know, wherever you socialize and you know, you, you make jokes to the Marine guy. But when somebody had hit, went after the marine guy, you defended him. You know what I mean? He was still, but you always went this, this back-and-forth little thing we always had between the different services. But when something went wrong and they needed help, you were there. , there was no, you know, you were, you were with us, you know, you were all together in this, so there was no, no well, he's just an Air Force guy. No, no. None of that stuff. So, I, I really don't. That's what I liked about him. Mm-Hmm. You know, we were, when it comes down to when there was nothing to do, we'd argue with each other, but when there was something serious going on, we worked together. So, we did, you know, this was not a personal thing, it was just, you know, always this joke between the different branches. But it was, and the camaraderie in the military is probably the best that I've experienced. I would say that is something that I haven't seen. It never, I've never seen since. Yeah. So that's to me is a, it's a real plus. And that's why I recommend people go into the military. Matter of fact, I, I don't know, that's a sure. But I should institute a draft. But I think people should go into it because it's, it's very educational. You're going, you're gonna go in with some ideas, but you're gonna come out totally different. So, I definitely would recommend it to anybody. It's two years or four years of your life, but, and you can get so much out of it, you have so much opportunity. Nowhere else do you get the opportunity as in the service or, you know, things like that. So, I would recommend it.

**Q:** Alright. Well, thank you very much for your interview.