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00:00:01,440 --> 00:00:08,220

We're recording the interview of James McCoy. This interview is being conducted by Adrian Hill and Jennifer Seavey from the Wright State University Veteran Voices Project.

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00:00:08,220 --> 00:00:15,100

This interview's being recorded at Wright State in Dayton Ohio. It is 1:20 pm on October 13th, 2015.

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00:00:15,100 --> 00:00:17,820

So James, when and where were you born?

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00:00:17,820 --> 00:00:21,820

Peebles, Ohio February 13, 1930.

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00:00:21,820 --> 00:00:25,520

Who were your parents?

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00:00:25,520 --> 00:00:31,940

Floyd and May McCoy, they were business people in Peebles, Ohio.

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00:00:31,940 --> 00:00:38,200

My dad had a lumber company there and my mother ran a grocery store there.

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00:00:38,200 --> 00:00:40,220

So both of your parents were business workers?

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00:00:40,220 --> 00:00:40,760

Yes.

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00:00:40,760 --> 00:00:42,140

Were they owners of the businesses?

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00:00:42,140 --> 00:00:42,640

Yes.

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00:00:42,640 --> 00:00:48,220

Okay was that uncommon at the time for both your parents to be..?

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00:00:48,220 --> 00:00:56,640

It was uncommon, somewhat uncommon, it was uncommon for a woman to run a business at that time.

14  
00:00:56,640 --> 00:01:00,960  
Sure, did she ever take any, I guess, any slack for that?

15  
00:01:00,960 --> 00:01:01,520  
No.

16  
00:01:01,520 --> 00:01:02,060  
No?

17  
00:01:02,060 --> 00:01:04,640  
She was a teacher. They both started out as teachers.

18  
00:01:04,640 --> 00:01:06,640  
Oh, interesting.

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00:01:06,640 --> 00:01:12,580  
My little background there that's kind of interesting I think...

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00:01:12,580 --> 00:01:23,120  
My dad went to Miami University at the time my mother was there for educational purposes

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00:01:23,120 --> 00:01:35,880  
and they met on campus. My dad knows that she was engaged to be married, had her engagement ring, but that didn't bother him [inaudible].

22  
00:01:35,880 --> 00:01:47,780  
So he pursued her and actually won her over and at that time you could sue for a breach of... What do you call it?

23  
00:01:47,780 --> 00:01:49,200  
Promise.

24  
00:01:49,200 --> 00:01:57,620  
Yeah, but nothing came of it, but my mother would always hold that out to him. "If I had married so and so..."

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00:01:57,620 --> 00:01:59,120  
[laughing]

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00:01:59,120 --> 00:02:02,820  
And they were married for sixty five years.

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00:02:02,820 --> 00:02:04,340

Wow, okay.

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00:02:04,340 --> 00:02:05,540

So it worked.

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00:02:05,540 --> 00:02:08,620

So did you end up, how many siblings did you have, did you have any?

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00:02:08,620 --> 00:02:11,680

No children. My family?

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00:02:11,680 --> 00:02:13,680

Yeah like did you have brothers or sisters?

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00:02:13,680 --> 00:02:15,280

Oh I have a sister.

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00:02:15,280 --> 00:02:16,900

Okay did she ever serve in the military?

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00:02:16,900 --> 00:02:17,400

No.

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00:02:17,400 --> 00:02:23,780

So what were you doing before you entered the service?

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00:02:23,780 --> 00:02:35,620

I entered the service right out of college. I received my ROTC commission from Ohio University in 1952.

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00:02:35,620 --> 00:02:49,800

Went right into the Air Force and went to Warner-Robbins, Georgia for six months and then I went to Tachikawa, Japan for eighteen months.

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00:02:49,800 --> 00:02:56,840

Took my discharge in Japan. Very difficult to do, but I did.

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00:02:56,840 --> 00:03:03,200

And I went around the world to get home. It took me six months to get home

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00:03:03,200 --> 00:03:12,580

and by the time I got home at Christmas time my family as practically disowning me, they're still glad to see me.  
[laughing]

41  
00:03:12,580 --> 00:03:15,360  
So what made you pick the Air Force?

42  
00:03:15,360 --> 00:03:21,440  
I always wanted the Air Force. I don't know.

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00:03:21,440 --> 00:03:23,440  
Was that.. Oh, go ahead.

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00:03:23,440 --> 00:03:33,840  
At Ohio University the Air Force was a prominent ROTC. I was in personal rifles

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00:03:33,840 --> 00:03:47,060  
and I was on the drill team there. The personal rifle drill team came in second place for the national in drill,

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00:03:47,060 --> 00:03:54,080  
in precision drill and we came in second place in Miami, Florida

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00:03:54,080 --> 00:04:04,280  
and that served me well, I might say. When I was in Japan for... I was at Tachikawa.

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00:04:04,280 --> 00:04:11,280  
Tachikawa is a very large Air Force base. It was at that time, it was the largest Air Force base in Japan

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00:04:11,280 --> 00:04:18,620  
and that was the Japanese equivalent of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. It was a huge base.

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00:04:18,620 --> 00:04:32,000  
So when I there as a production control officer we worked on the very planes that we'll be talking about this evening, the C-124 globemasters.

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00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:42,040  
We were the only people in Japan that could work on that plane and that base was the only base that could take the plane in.

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00:04:42,040 --> 00:04:54,700  
So we overhauled the engines and did everything there and what was interesting, what brought this up was the fact that I was in this drill team.

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00:04:54,700 --> 00:05:02,840

For some reason or other, they wanted me to march from our barracks there, which was about a mile away

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00:05:02,840 --> 00:05:13,220

to where we worked at the base and I had to do the marching and of course the G.I.s love it if you goof up,

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00:05:13,220 --> 00:05:19,320

but I didn't because I was skilled at marching.

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00:05:19,320 --> 00:05:28,840

So it was fun to do that. In Tachikawa as we were marching to the base

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00:05:28,840 --> 00:05:35,780

you could see Fujiyama, Mount Fujiyama from our base. It was beautiful.

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00:05:35,780 --> 00:05:42,540

Okay. Now I have to go back and ask, when you joined the Air Force, the Air Force was relatively new at the time, correct?

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00:05:42,540 --> 00:05:43,680

Very new.

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00:05:43,680 --> 00:05:53,560

Did you see any growing pains with that like the Air Force I mean being so young, did you see any difficulties are far with the any of that

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00:05:53,560 --> 00:05:56,520

with it becoming a new branch of service?

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00:05:56,520 --> 00:06:04,960

No, I didn't at the time. The Air Force melded into the military establishment very nicely

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00:06:04,960 --> 00:06:12,460

from the U.S. Army Air Corps. The U.S. Army Air Corps I think, dissolved in about 1946

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00:06:12,460 --> 00:06:22,900

and I think the Air Force actually came in about that time. So when I went into the Air Force in '40... the ROTC in '48,

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00:06:22,900 --> 00:06:31,920

the Air Force was brand new. When I graduated in '52

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00:06:31,920 --> 00:06:39,720

it was still very, very new element of the military. But no, I didn't see any problems there.

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00:06:39,720 --> 00:06:54,860

Okay so what happened, like I know you went from ROTC and stuff like that, but do you recall actually leaving you know, leaving after you got your first commission and leaving for your first duty station? Do you recall that at all?

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00:06:54,860 --> 00:07:02,780

Yeah I do. When I went to Warner Roberts, Georgia

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00:07:02,780 --> 00:07:18,120

a lot of young ROTC lieutenants came in at the same time. About 25% were from Ivy League schools like Harvard and Princeton and the other 25...

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00:07:18,120 --> 00:07:27,860

no 50%, about 25 of them. The other 25 of the 50% came from schools such as mine, state schools.

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00:07:27,860 --> 00:07:39,340

So that meld was an interesting meld. They didn't know what to do with us so they put us into a special training group.

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00:07:39,340 --> 00:07:50,020

So for about six weeks we trained together, all these new military lieutenants

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00:07:50,020 --> 00:08:06,660

and it was, it was a ball really. And since I had an MOS at that time, which was unusual, which was production control, I was at...

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00:08:06,660 --> 00:08:18,220

I was with a group that actually did a lot of things of a new dimension in the Air Force at that particular time.

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00:08:18,220 --> 00:08:37,580

It was kind of in the fashion of the education of the Air Force you might say and I enjoyed that very much. I hated to leave Warner Roberts, but when I did I went over to Tachikawa.

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00:08:37,580 --> 00:08:51,500

There were only two places that they could put me at that particular time. One of them was Tachikawa Air Force Base in Japan, the other was unit in Seoul, Korea.

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00:08:51,500 --> 00:09:03,000

The colonel, when he talked to me said that "you have a choice, you can go there if you like or you can go to Tachikawa, Japan".

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00:09:03,000 --> 00:09:11,540

He said "which would you prefer?" And I said "well where I'm most needed sir". He almost laughed

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00:09:11,540 --> 00:09:25,420

and he said "well I will assign you to Tachikawa after three months out I'll review the situation and if we decide we'll send you over to Korea".

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00:09:25,420 --> 00:09:32,580

I kept waiting for that axe to drop and it never dropped for eighteen months and I couldn't figure that out.

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00:09:32,580 --> 00:09:42,060

So when I finally was able to take my discharge in Japan, I asked one of the colonels at the time "what happened to Colonel so-and-so?"

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00:09:42,060 --> 00:09:49,500

"Oh about twelve months ago he went back to the States". He didn't leave any moves.

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00:09:49,500 --> 00:09:54,700

So I was in Tachikawa for eighteen months, which was good.

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00:09:54,700 --> 00:10:01,160

Okay so did you adapt do you think, pretty well to the military lifestyle?

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00:10:01,160 --> 00:10:09,280

Oh I did very well. So I thought about staying in. Obviously I enjoyed it very much.

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00:10:09,280 --> 00:10:20,100

In Tachikawa I had about 180 Japanese civilians working for me

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00:10:20,100 --> 00:10:35,940

and I had about 60 G.I.s that worked for me. I had as lieutenant of 23-24 years old, I had about 250 people working for me at the time.

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00:10:35,940 --> 00:10:42,100

Since that time I've never had that large of group.

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00:10:42,100 --> 00:10:58,660

Yeah I enjoyed it and it was... I thought about staying obviously, but I didn't. At that time they were taking good officers out.

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00:10:58,660 --> 00:11:05,900

They'd been there eighteen years and they didn't want them to stay in it for twenty years.

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00:11:05,900 --> 00:11:12,320

So they were losing their officers and I thought well this is not [inaudible] at that particular time.

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00:11:12,320 --> 00:11:21,980

Sure okay. So you said you served in Japan. Was that for the when you were overseas? Was that the extent of your overseas time?

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00:11:21,980 --> 00:11:32,520

That was, yeah. In Japan I would go to Korea on temporary duty around then.

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00:11:32,520 --> 00:11:33,860

And this was during the conflict?

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00:11:33,860 --> 00:11:47,680

This was during the conflict. When they would have a maintenance problem that they couldn't handle we would take maintenance personnel over in Korea.

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00:11:47,680 --> 00:12:02,520

And that's the big part of my story here I think. I was assigned on this particular day, it was June 18th.

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00:12:02,520 --> 00:12:12,300

I was assigned to go to Korea and take a couple of my G.I.s with me. They were the mechanics. All I was doing was babysitting

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00:12:12,300 --> 00:12:20,840

and we were awaiting transportation over on a C-124 globemaster.

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00:12:20,840 --> 00:12:32,920

One of the G.I.s didn't have his dog tags with him and they said "sorry you can't go, you'll have to wait for the next flight".

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00:12:32,920 --> 00:12:40,020

And so he went back to the barracks, got his dog tags, and back and we flew out about an hour later.

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00:12:40,020 --> 00:12:50,200

What we didn't realize was the Tachikawa air disaster occurred on the plane that we were to have been on,

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00:12:50,200 --> 00:12:59,020

killed 129. It was the largest disaster at that time ever for a single air craft.



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00:12:59,020 --> 00:13:07,180

It killed 122 of the G.I.s on board and 7 crew members.

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00:13:07,180 --> 00:13:15,700

So we didn't know until we got back about the crash, we didn't know.

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00:13:15,700 --> 00:13:23,320

We went over to Korea did our work there about two or three days, came back,

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00:13:23,320 --> 00:13:37,040

only then did we find out about the crash and our people thought that we were on that plane. So we walked around and everybody looked at us if we were ghosts.

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00:13:37,040 --> 00:13:57,940

I've of course never forgotten that. I've never gotten over the fact that I was spared.

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00:13:57,940 --> 00:14:09,220

I think it's made a different individual out of me. I think I'm more philanthropic, I think I try to help others.

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00:14:09,220 --> 00:14:20,520

I want to leave a legacy for people when I die. I want to keep giving upon my demise.

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00:14:20,520 --> 00:14:33,760

For some reason or other the good lord spared me and the other two G.I.s. I don't know what happened to them. I should have kept following up on them, but I didn't.

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00:14:33,760 --> 00:14:43,060

But for some special reason we were plopped out of that crew and saved.

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00:14:43,060 --> 00:14:48,540

I don't know about these things.

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00:14:48,540 --> 00:14:52,400

Yeah, what exactly happened?

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00:14:52,400 --> 00:15:02,680

The aircraft took off, one of the engines caught fire, they shut the power down on that engine

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00:15:02,680 --> 00:15:14,560

and then a pilot error occurred where he banked on that engine. He was a very skilled pilot, but for some reason or other it was just two or three minutes at take-off.

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00:15:14,560 --> 00:15:25,240

The plane was only 500 feet high and by the time he tried to correct it, he couldn't and it plowed right down in a rice patty

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00:15:25,240 --> 00:15:35,340

and disintegrated. There were no survivors at all.

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00:15:35,340 --> 00:15:35,880

Okay.

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00:15:35,880 --> 00:15:40,840

It was only about five miles outside of Tachikawa.

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00:15:40,840 --> 00:15:53,220

Okay. So what were your... what did your duties consist of when you went into Japan... or I'm sorry, when into Korea, when you flew into Korea for your TDY.

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00:15:53,220 --> 00:16:04,780

It was what was called prep production control officer. I was in charge of all the production within our group.

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00:16:04,780 --> 00:16:13,080

If it had been a commercial civilian outfit, it would have been a good size corporation.

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00:16:13,080 --> 00:16:22,040

I was in charge of seeing the schedule to met, prepare and met and so forth.

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00:16:22,040 --> 00:16:33,840

I kept control of all the units that we had. We had units that maintained the engines, repaired the engines. We had parachute shops,

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00:16:33,840 --> 00:16:45,080

we had carpentry shops, we had metal shops, parachute shops, and so forth.

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00:16:45,080 --> 00:16:54,240

I would have loved to have had that unit at home. I would have loved to have owned that unit as a civilian unit. It was a...

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00:16:54,240 --> 00:16:57,720

But I was in charge of the control.

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00:16:57,720 --> 00:16:59,600

Okay did you enjoy that?

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00:16:59,600 --> 00:17:07,320

Enjoyed it tremendously. It was probably the most interesting job I've ever had.

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00:17:07,320 --> 00:17:08,140

Okay.

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00:17:08,140 --> 00:17:10,380

Even though I had my own businesses.

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00:17:10,380 --> 00:17:23,440

Sure, did you... so did you experience any close calls or anything like that when you were over there? I know you were working on more of the mechanic side of everything and the logistics side,

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00:17:23,440 --> 00:17:27,560

but did you ever encounter any of that while you were in Korea?

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00:17:27,560 --> 00:17:32,380

Well just the event I told you about.

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00:17:32,380 --> 00:17:42,940

Okay so what kind of friendships did you make while you were in the service?

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00:17:42,940 --> 00:17:52,020

Oh I had one friend that I maintained correspondence with for a long time after I got back.

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00:17:52,020 --> 00:18:01,540

When I got back I stayed in and I had one promotion over there to first lieutenant .

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00:18:01,540 --> 00:18:12,460

When I came back, I stayed in the reserves and went to Wright-Patterson for several years as a reservist.

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00:18:12,460 --> 00:18:19,980

They got very used to me coming and they would save work for me from one year to the next.

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00:18:19,980 --> 00:18:31,560

A lot of reservists would go out there twiddle their thumbs. I never had that opportunity. When I would go in for two weeks my in basket would be that high.

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00:18:31,560 --> 00:18:48,100

The Corps is coming, put it in the basket. [laughing] So I did that for about ten years and then I taught a class for the reservists. I taught a class for

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00:18:48,100 --> 00:18:54,660

reservists that wanted to be in the class and that was very interesting. I enjoyed that.

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00:18:54,660 --> 00:19:03,700

Okay so how did you stay in touch with your family and friends while you over in the Korean conflict.

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00:19:03,700 --> 00:19:06,160

At that time, only by letter.

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00:19:06,160 --> 00:19:09,960

Okay and who did you... with parents or..?

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00:19:09,960 --> 00:19:14,080

Well parents primarily, parents and friends, yeah.

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00:19:14,080 --> 00:19:18,180

And did they ever send you, were they ever able to send you packages of anything or..?

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00:19:18,180 --> 00:19:21,020

Oh yeah, I always enjoyed that.

149

00:19:21,020 --> 00:19:25,240

What kind of things would you get?

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00:19:25,240 --> 00:19:30,580

Well whatever was handy [laughing] candy bars, etc.

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00:19:30,580 --> 00:19:39,040

Yeah okay so what did you do -- I don't know how much time you had while you were in Japan, but what did you do when you were off-duty?

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00:19:39,040 --> 00:19:49,120

I would travel, I traveled extensively through Japan. I was quite a photographer; I took a lot of photography.

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00:19:49,120 --> 00:19:58,140

Japan, even at that time was -- you know we completely fire bombed Tokyo at that time.

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00:19:58,140 --> 00:20:08,180

Tokyo had been rebuilt by the time I got there. I would go into Tokyo on weekends and enjoy the big city.

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00:20:08,180 --> 00:20:23,920

I was amazed how fast they rebuilt, but their trains were wonderful even at that time. The trains were right on time.

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00:20:23,920 --> 00:20:30,280

If a train was to leave at 2:13 pm, you'd better be there at 2:12 or you don't make it.

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00:20:30,280 --> 00:20:37,140

At 2:14 that train had come and gone. It's right on time.

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00:20:37,140 --> 00:20:42,060

So I would travel all over Japan by train.

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00:20:42,060 --> 00:20:56,800

I had a junker of a car that I bought when we were there. You would buy a car and then of course you can't take it home, so you'd sell it someone else for 500 bucks. That car lasted for a long time.

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00:20:56,820 --> 00:21:01,940

Another guy that had come over there for his military service?

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00:21:01,940 --> 00:21:15,160

Yeah, okay so did you, with World War II being so recent when you were over there in Japan, did you feel any negative sentiment from the population there?

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00:21:15,160 --> 00:21:29,040

Oddly enough, no and to be honest with you I couldn't understand that. If it had been Americans we would have been very upset about it.

163

00:21:29,040 --> 00:21:38,740

But the Japanese, when they surrendered, they surrendered.

164

00:21:38,740 --> 00:21:46,120

Even the people that worked for me -- as I said, I had a couple hundred Japanese employees.

165

00:21:46,120 --> 00:21:57,500

I never saw any disrespect from them. They were excellent workers and

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00:21:57,500 --> 00:22:09,460

when I got out of... getting discharged in Japan was one of the most difficult things you could ever think about

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00:22:09,460 --> 00:22:24,740

and I really just wanted to be discharged in Japan, but I didn't want to stay in Japan but I had to act as though I was going to stay in Japan.

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00:22:24,740 --> 00:22:32,080

So I had to get Japanese civilians to write things for me.

169

00:22:32,080 --> 00:22:41,500

One of the workers that wrote a letter of recommendation for me to stay there. I think I still have that letter,

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00:22:41,500 --> 00:22:53,860

but you would have thought I was a combination of [laughing] I don't know, George Washington and Abe Lincoln and everything.

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00:22:53,860 --> 00:23:02,400

He really embellished that letter. [laughing] I sure hope I saved that. [laughing]

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00:23:02,400 --> 00:23:03,300

That's funny.

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00:23:03,300 --> 00:23:08,980

But no, they were very good.

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00:23:08,980 --> 00:23:13,340

We're going to take a quick break real quick.

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00:23:13,340 --> 00:23:20,060

Okay so we are back from a short break with the interview of James McCoy.

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00:23:20,060 --> 00:23:26,540

So where were you when you found out the Korean conflict had ended?

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00:23:26,540 --> 00:23:28,540

In Tachikawa.

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00:23:28,540 --> 00:23:38,280

Okay how long had you been there, how long had you been there that the war was going on?

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00:23:38,280 --> 00:23:52,620

The war had been going on since 1950. I was there in mid 1952 and the war ended in, I think about the end of '54 I think.

180  
00:23:52,620 --> 00:23:53,480  
Okay.

181  
00:23:53,480 --> 00:24:02,420  
I'm not sure what the date was, but

182  
00:24:02,420 --> 00:24:21,640  
I know at the time that I was there we were always concerned with some of the elements in the Japanese. There were a lot of communists people at that time in Japan and

183  
00:24:21,640 --> 00:24:29,140  
the base was always concerned about security and

184  
00:24:29,140 --> 00:24:37,020  
that was the main thing that we were concerned about, but no event occurred ever at our base at that time.

185  
00:24:37,020 --> 00:24:45,560  
Okay so how did you... you said it took you six months to get home. Can you kind of go just describe that for me, what was going on?

186  
00:24:45,560 --> 00:25:02,780  
Yeah what I did and after I finally got approval by the Japanese to be there, I spent about two weeks in Japan and I started to take off.

187  
00:25:02,780 --> 00:25:15,220  
I wanted to take off on a freighter or something of that nature, but I couldn't find anything of that nature so I took off on a cruise line.

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00:25:15,220 --> 00:25:24,660  
Not a freightliner, a regular steamboat line

189  
00:25:24,660 --> 00:25:36,380  
and went to the Philippines, went to China, Singapore, and Hong Kong,

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00:25:36,380 --> 00:25:48,660  
on over to India, stopped off in India for a couple weeks, traveled all around India by train, Taj Mahal and all that.

191  
00:25:48,660 --> 00:26:02,960  
Went on over to Egypt, saw the pyramids, and rode a camel up to the pyramids, went inside the great pyramid.

192  
00:26:02,960 --> 00:26:15,100

Today I couldn't do that, because I'm too.. I couldn't take that closeness but...

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00:26:15,100 --> 00:26:24,460

Then in Europe I spent about three and a half months traveling all over Europe by train and

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00:26:24,460 --> 00:26:28,940

traveled through about 20 countries.

195

00:26:28,940 --> 00:26:32,440

So this was all on purpose, like you were just trying to travel?

196

00:26:32,440 --> 00:26:37,020

This was just my deal before I got home.

197

00:26:37,020 --> 00:26:43,880

Okay I didn't know when you first had said it is sounded like you had got stuck, like you couldn't go, but you were just, you were living it up for a little while.

198

00:26:43,880 --> 00:26:46,840

I was living it up. [laughing]

199

00:26:46,840 --> 00:26:50,220

So do you regret that at all, because I know you said your family was upset there for a while?

200

00:26:50,220 --> 00:26:53,540

Well my family was upset because I could have been home six months earlier.

201

00:26:53,540 --> 00:26:54,040

Sure

202

00:26:54,040 --> 00:27:02,180

But no, I think they were just glad to get me home?

203

00:27:02,180 --> 00:27:04,820

They were upset.

204

00:27:04,820 --> 00:27:07,380

That's good, that sounds like a trip of a lifetime actually.

205

00:27:07,380 --> 00:27:17,720

Actually as I told [inaudible] I don't think I would ever had done it had I not done it then.



206  
00:27:17,720 --> 00:27:18,920  
Right, yeah

207  
00:27:18,920 --> 00:27:19,480  
Yeah.

208  
00:27:19,480 --> 00:27:24,360  
Exactly, so how were you received then once you got home by your family and community?

209  
00:27:24,360 --> 00:27:32,740  
Great, very nice. I went to work for my dad in the lumber company where in

210  
00:27:32,740 --> 00:27:42,180  
my high school days I worked for him every summer. I liked to work in the lumber business.

211  
00:27:42,180 --> 00:27:54,340  
In that particular business we cut the timber and actually sawed the logs and it was a total creation process.

212  
00:27:54,340 --> 00:28:04,340  
So I enjoy that. My wife had gone to college as well, a different college

213  
00:28:04,340 --> 00:28:17,840  
and we had started life in the small town of Peebles, which is 1,500 people.

214  
00:28:17,840 --> 00:28:30,660  
It still is 1,500 people and it was one of those cases where you educate yourself out of the community.

215  
00:28:30,660 --> 00:28:40,240  
The community did not receive her well at all. She... I had a job to do, she didn't

216  
00:28:40,240 --> 00:28:50,400  
and she was very unhappy. She had been in Dayton before. Before we married she had worked at the Dayton Art Institute

217  
00:28:50,400 --> 00:28:57,940  
and I told her at the time, I said "we don't have to stay in Peebles, we can leave".

218  
00:28:57,940 --> 00:29:08,480  
So we did. I got a job at Huber Homes when Huber was just starting up in Dayton.

219

00:29:08,480 --> 00:29:15,560

She got a job again, at the Dayton Art Institute, became the first docent there.

220

00:29:15,560 --> 00:29:27,460

First docent, there was no second docent. It's the only paid docent that they had. She would train the volunteer docents

221

00:29:27,460 --> 00:29:37,680

So she enjoyed her work, I enjoyed my work and we've been in Dayton since 1956.

222

00:29:37,680 --> 00:29:46,620

Okay so do you think you readjusted back to the civilian life after getting out of the military? I know you said you were in the reserves for a little bit, but did you adjust pretty well?

223

00:29:46,620 --> 00:29:57,560

Yeah I did. I guess two years wasn't enough to make it a difficult adjustment.

224

00:29:57,560 --> 00:30:09,460

I did enjoy my military career and I think I would have enjoyed a military career, but I didn't have any problem changing over.

225

00:30:09,460 --> 00:30:16,940

Okay so did you stay in contact with anybody that you met while you were in the service?

226

00:30:16,940 --> 00:30:32,120

Yes and only when I could. There was a Captain Clarke that was on the base here at Wright Patterson

227

00:30:32,120 --> 00:30:37,740

and he was in the intelligence area.

228

00:30:37,740 --> 00:30:45,520

He was here for a while we entertained each other for about two years,

229

00:30:45,520 --> 00:30:53,020

but generally speaking, the people I knew spread far and wide and I couldn't stay in touch with them.

230

00:30:53,020 --> 00:30:59,040

Okay, did you join any veteran's organizations like VFW or AMVETs or anything?

231

00:30:59,040 --> 00:31:02,380

Yeah I joined the American Legion.

232  
00:31:02,380 --> 00:31:05,960  
American Legion, okay. Did you get involved with that at all?

233  
00:31:05,960 --> 00:31:11,820  
No, but still I am a member, but I'm not actively involved with them.

234  
00:31:11,820 --> 00:31:17,820  
Okay so I know you said owned a couple businesses?

235  
00:31:17,820 --> 00:31:18,320  
Yeah.

236  
00:31:18,320 --> 00:31:24,080  
After you got out, can you briefly describe what kind of work you were doing with that?

237  
00:31:24,080 --> 00:31:39,800  
Yeah I... my work activities when I got out were quite varied. I worked for General Motors for a while, Delco Products.

238  
00:31:39,800 --> 00:31:52,540  
They had a major lay-off about two or three thousand people and so I left. I went to work for the Ohio State Unemployment Service.

239  
00:31:52,540 --> 00:31:58,320  
They were looking for a manager for the vet service and hired me as the manager.

240  
00:31:58,320 --> 00:32:05,840  
I was not yet 30 and yet most of the employees under me were about 60. [laughing]

241  
00:32:05,840 --> 00:32:18,400  
I think I was almost the youngest employee there. I enjoyed that work a lot. I had about 100 employees under my supervision.

242  
00:32:18,400 --> 00:32:32,480  
When I had worked up as far as I could locally, I went in to a part of the training development at that time

243  
00:32:32,480 --> 00:32:42,740  
and traveled about fourteen to fifteen counties I had, set up training programs, job training programs

244  
00:32:42,740 --> 00:32:57,360  
and then I became supervisor within the state of Ohio where I would travel throughout the state and got as far up as I could go there without getting political.

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00:32:57,360 --> 00:33:07,100

The next move would have been in a political slot. So I left there not being able to go any higher.

246

00:33:07,100 --> 00:33:19,980

I left the state employment and went to work the National Cash Register as... and I worked for National Cash Register for about ten years.

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00:33:19,980 --> 00:33:32,680

I then started my own business as, I had two businesses, one was Central US Investors,

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00:33:32,680 --> 00:33:45,500

which was a packaging firm that would package for overseas packaging and I did about 50% of NCR's overseas packaging for around that time.

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00:33:45,500 --> 00:33:57,960

That's when they were actually doing things in the business. And at the same time I set up JLM Industries Incorporated,

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00:33:57,960 --> 00:34:10,280

which was firm that actually worked on products before they were finally finished.

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00:34:10,280 --> 00:34:21,420

We would sandblast and [inaudible] and so forth. So I had both companies and I had a firm, a building in Xenia

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00:34:21,420 --> 00:34:29,440

which was 100,000 square foot building that I did both businesses in and that was about ten years.

253

00:34:29,440 --> 00:34:44,620

When I sold those businesses a friend of mine wanted me to join him at CAD/CAM Incorporated -- it's computer aided design and computer aided manufacturing --

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00:34:44,620 --> 00:34:53,380

as a sales manager, which I did and I told him I'd only work for a couple years. As it turned out I worked twelve years there.

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00:34:53,380 --> 00:35:13,140

Worked longer than he did and he owned the company, he sold it. So after that mirage of different jobs I retired from CAD/CAM and finally retired.

256

00:35:13,140 --> 00:35:24,600

Okay so how did your wartime experiences, the time you spent over in Japan and Korea, how did that affect your life?

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00:35:24,600 --> 00:35:44,980

I think it affected it positively. The fact that I've had such interesting jobs with the Air Force made anything I did within the civilian industries easier accomplish.

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00:35:44,980 --> 00:36:00,400

I never had the... in my civilian jobs I never had the total control that I had in the Air Force,

259

00:36:00,400 --> 00:36:05,860

but it made my civilian jobs easier I think.

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00:36:05,860 --> 00:36:25,100

Sure, okay. So what's your feelings now towards the military and to you know, war in general? Just after you know, you spent some time in, what's your feelings towards it?

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00:36:25,100 --> 00:36:40,440

My feelings right now is that we've let our capabilities drop to a low, low level, much lower than it should be.

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00:36:40,440 --> 00:36:57,240

I'm a very conservative individual, I'm one that wants us to be as strong as possible militarily so that not to be aggressive with it, but to be defensive with it.

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00:36:57,240 --> 00:37:07,460

I feel right now that we may be in very, very difficult situations in being able to defend our country.

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00:37:07,460 --> 00:37:25,280

That's very political, I know it is, but that's the way I feel and I just hope that we get leadership that will again, feel that we need to be as strong militarily as we possibly can

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00:37:25,280 --> 00:37:30,200

and I just hope that that occurs, I pray that it occurs.

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00:37:30,200 --> 00:37:41,360

Okay is there any message before we wrap up that you would like to leave for any future generations who might hear this or view this interview?

267

00:37:41,360 --> 00:37:58,240

Well I guess the message I would leave is I hope that people in the future will want to defend the liberties that they have been born with.

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00:37:58,240 --> 00:38:11,100

We have a country that is absolutely, totally different from any other country the world has ever known

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00:38:11,100 --> 00:38:30,560

and if we let all the values go that we have had over the many years in our country. If we let them sink under the quiet mark, we are going to be so unhappy in the future.

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00:38:30,560 --> 00:38:39,620

I just hope that future generations will feel that they need to serve the country

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00:38:39,620 --> 00:38:56,080

as the... in the military, if they would like to do that, but serve the country with full heart and enjoy, keep enjoying the benefits that our country gives us.

272

00:38:56,080 --> 00:39:04,480

Okay is there anything you feel that we haven't discussed or that should be added to the interview. Anything else you wanted to mention or anything?

273

00:39:04,480 --> 00:39:07,880

Can't think of anything, I probably talked to much already.

274

00:39:07,880 --> 00:39:14,420

Oh you're good, you're doing great. So alright if there's nothing else thank you for doing this interview and thank you for your service.

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00:39:14,420 --> 00:39:15,220

Thank you.