

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Marine Reserves Project

Reserve Experience

O. H. 290

PAUL CRAMER

Interviewed

by

David Arms

on

February 24, 1976

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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INTERVIEWEE: PAUL CRAMER
INTERVIEWER: David Arms
SUBJECT: Marine Reserves
DATE: February 24, 1976

A: This is an interview with Mr. Paul Cramer for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program by David Arms at the Naval Reserve Center, 315 East LaClede, Youngstown, Ohio, on February 24, 1976, at approximately 1:25 in the afternoon.

I will start this interview by just asking you a few questions. First, could you just give me a little bit of your background, where you were born, brought up, that type of thing.

C: I was born in Youngstown, Ohio on September 30, 1930. I was educated in Youngstown City School System. I later on attended Youngstown State University and Ohio University. I received a Bachelor of Education at Youngstown University in 1972, this was after a long period with the United States Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Reserve. This was done strictly through the night part-time program. Basically, that is my education. I majored in history. I am a plumber by trade. However, I have changed fields and went into environmental health. I am presently with the Mahoning County Board of Health. I am in environmental health and plumbing coordinator.

A: You do have a BA degree in Education?

C: Yes.

A: Have you ever taught?

C: No. I teach part-time, but I never taught in a system full-time.

A: Where do you teach?

C: At Choffin Vocational School, and on occasions I will teach in one of the high schools.

A: When did you join the Marine Corps, and could you just give me a little bit of the background on the Marine Corps?

C: I joined the Marine Corps in 1949, in April of 1949. I went into the one-year program which was called USMCV. I don't know what the V stands for, to this day I don't. I got out in April in 1950; I got recalled in July of 1950. I was then assigned to the First Marine Division that was in Korea. I was there for approximately fourteen months, and I came back in the Second Marine Division and I was separated. At that time, I joined the Marine Corps Reserve. I got out in April of 1952, and I joined the Marine Corps Reserve in June of 1952. I then went back in the Marine Corps in the years 1954, 1955, 1956 on I&I duty in Steubenville. I got out and again went into the Marine Corps Reserve, and I have been in the Reserve ever since.

A: What were some of the places that you served at when you were on active duty in the Marine Corps?

C: I have been several places. I have been at Quantico, of course, Parris Island; basically we all started at Parris Island, South Carolina. From Parris Island I went to Quantico, from Quantico to Camp Lejune, from Camp Lejune to Camp Pendleton, Camp Pendleton to Okinawa. I have been to Guam. Of course, I was with the First Division and we were in numerous places.

A: So in active duty time, about how much have you had?

C: I have had four years and eight months.

A: Now, you said you were in Korea, did you see any combat action in Korea?

C: Twelve months.

A: What kind of action were you involved in?

C: Well, my job was actually squad leader of a 3.5 rocket squad attached to an infantry company.

A: During this period of time you did engage with the enemy in active combat, is that it?

C: Yes.

A: What were you feeling? Did you ever feel that you might get left over there or anything like that?

C: No, I had no hostile feelings at all. I felt at that time we had a job to do and we did it.

A: Were you scared at any time over there?

C: Oh hell, yes, I think that is a normal reaction. I just didn't go with the idea that I was going to get killed. I went with the knowledge that I was going to come back and survive.

A: I see. Now could you just give me an example of some of your active battles over there? Were you in any of the big ones?

C: Well, it depends. Now, you know when you are in a combat situation, they never classify a battle until the battle is usually over. Then they award a campaign star for the battle. If you were in the battle or in the area at the time of the battle, you were considered to have contributed towards the battle. I have five campaign stars to attribute to the fact that out of the seven major campaigns, I made five of them. I did not actually participate, in only three of them. They designated those only at that time as a specific name. A hill would be Pork Chop Hill or something like that. That was a major battle. I was on that particular hill at that particular time. Now, two of the other battles, I was not. I was there. We were a force in reserve not engaged in that particular phase of the action in Korea. I was nevertheless there in the immediate vicinity and as the Marine Corps says, "You were there." You therefore rate to wear the star on your campaign ribbon.

A: Now, you said you were a sergeant in charge of what?

C: A 3.5 rocket squad. At that particular time though, I was a corporal in charge of the 3.5 rocket squad.

A: During the time that you were there, did any of the personnel assigned under your responsibility, did they get wounded or killed or any of this type of thing?

C: I had two get wounded, but nobody was killed.

A: From your personal experience, would you judge that as a rough time in your career?

C: No, I don't think it was a rough time in a career. I think the orientation program that we had prior to going there was nothing. In other words, I was caught, the Marine Corps was at a low point in its history. I think at that time we had 75,000 people. To form a division was an impossibility. We actually sent a brigade to Korea and we formed a division. Well, I was part of the forming and, of course, we had no indoctrination other than initially of gear and moving. It was hard to adapt to the climate. Their winters were severe, a lot more severe than they are here in Youngstown. However, their climate is so that it can get a lot colder and you can withstand that particular climate more than you can this. I was trained for the very same thing I was sent for previous to that. The only thing we fought actually was the climate. I got there in October when the climate was similar to what we have in Youngstown. It was nothing we couldn't withstand.

A: When you returned you got out of the Marine Corps and into the Marine Corps Reserve?

C: That is right.

A: What kind of job did you do then? What kind of a job did you have at that time?

C: I was a plumber's apprentice at that particular time. I was still attending Youngstown State University part-time at night.

A: Where did you drill?

C: I drilled right here, at 315 East LaCleme.

A: I see, back in 1952?

C: Yes.

A: And then you say you went back on active duty, how did you get back in this I&I program?

C: Well, in 1954, it was a period again where we are in the same process; I think history surely repeats itself. We are in a similar situation today. Unemployment was bad, no jobs available, I applied for active duty on an I&I staff. I was selected to go there and I did.

- A: So basically you were unemployed at that time?
- C: Yes, that is why I went back into the Marine Corps.
- A: You were assigned to Steubenville, Ohio, is that right?
- C: Yes, Steubenville, Ohio.
- A: Would you just give me a brief description of what some of your duties were on the I&I staff?
- C: Well, I went to Steubenville as a supply clerk. I was then promoted. Then the supply chief left, and I took over his duties. Basically, I functioned as a supply chief. Now, I picked the MOS [Military Occupational Specialty] up coming out of Korea, and being retrained at Camp Lejune. It was at a warehouse down there. I trained in supply; I had to supply MOS. I came into the reserve company as a supply man, picked up some training here, been here two years, and went down there as a supply clerk. Of course, I was promoted in that time period to be supply chief. At that time it was the 76th Special Infantry Company.
- A: When you were retraining for this new MOS, how did you do this?
- C: It was through a formal school.
- A: It was a formal school?
- C: Yes, I went to a formal school, Camp Geiger, for three months.
- A: What type of responsibilities do you have as the supply chief?
- C: Well, I would think it would be the same as today. I had the full responsibilities from minimum to 782 gear which is just issued out, plus clothing, plus the entire fiscal, which covers building grounds, contracts for food, contracts for utilities, and the whole ball of wax. Your different codes that your money has allocated to operated the training center, I was fairly familiar with all of that. That was my function.
- A: Who was your boss at the time?
- C: He was a captain by the name of Muscroe.
- A: The active duty officer?

C: Yes, the active duty officer.

A: You worked for him directly?

C: Yes, I worked for him directly.

A: Now what were your responsibilities in regard to the reserve program at the time as an I&I member?

C: Well, it is the same as it is today. The I&I is inspector and instructor.

A: I realize that I personally might know, but the person listening to this tape might not.

C: Basically, all it is, is to assist the reserve component in any way that you can, through your knowledge in the particular field that you deal with. Mine actually was to support the reserve unit with anything that they might deem necessary.

A: When you were down at Steubenville--this is the time that I would like to try and find out some information about--how many I&I staff members were there?

C: There were seven I&I members at that time.

A: That includes the officer?

C: That included the officer.

A: Where was the reserve center?

C: It was on Cherry and Peco Street in Steubenville.

A: Were there other centers, say in East Liverpool and those places?

C: There was an Army unit. Then it was a joint, Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Training in Steubenville. But there were other centers. The Army, the National Guard also had units down there.

A: Where was the closest other Marine Corps Reserve?

C: It would be in Youngstown, Ohio.

A: It would be Youngstown and then Pittsburgh?

C: No, then Wheeling, West Virginia, then Pittsburgh. They all fall within the tri-county area.

- A: Now most of these are closed, is that it?
- C: The Steubenville unit is closed and moved to Wheeling. The Youngstown unit has closed and moved to New Castle and Akron, and as far as I know, all the others are still intact.
- A: What were some of your extra duties that you had on the I&I staff, did you have any community functions?
- C: Oh yes, always community functions. Anything that the community and civilians needed that was important we would attend it: parades, ceremonies, civic organizations requesting military assistance, and ramification or anything that was justifiable. At that time, the Marine Corps had a big recruiting program going with prior marines or ex-marines and we had to make a personal contact at that time. It involved a lot of time, seven people.
- A: So you were directly involved in recruiting?
- C: Oh yes, that was secondary. When your primary was done, then you went out into your secondary.
- A: So all seven of you went out and recruited?
- C: We had to spend one day and a weekend in the field.
- A: Was it difficult to get recruits at that time?
- C: No, as a matter of fact, I went down there in 1954 and that company consisted of 30 people. I left there two years later and we had 136 people. We jumped the company up on our recruiting program from 30 to 96 in, I think, a three month period. They were all prior.
- A: All prior service?
- C: Right.
- A: That is very interesting. Why do you think the Marine Corps was so hot on this recruiting drive of prior people at that time?
- C: Well, I think they were in a process of reorganizing and rebuilding their reserve structure. Because if you had been in the reserve at the time in 1950, and had an obligation, it wasn't a six year obligation, it was probably a prior marine with a two or three year obli-

gation to the reserve program. In 1954, his obligation had been up. We were in a process of reorganizing and trying to rebuild the structure. It was successful, entirely successful.

- A: Since then has the Marine Corps kept this level or has it dipped again?
- C: No, I can only talk about the unit that I am in. We have tapered off. We are naturally now in a manpower bind because of the six month, six year people. The company that I'm in at present is in the process of dropping, I think, 50 people this year because of the recruiting effort six years ago. It makes it difficult. We maintained probably six people out of the 50. Since within the past two months we have recruited an additional ten. We haven't even counterbalanced it 50 to 50 yet, but I think we will obtain the goal. I don't think we will taper off to actually zero.
- A: What would you say the relationship is, having been on both sides of the thing, between the I&I staff and the reserve unit? What is the I&I responsible for and what is the reserve unit responsible for? Do they work together, in other words?
- C: Yes, they work together. It depends on the two CO's, the I&I CO and the commanding officer have to work together; the nucleus has to be there or there is nothing, there are no immediate goals that you can achieve. If one force works against the other, you have obtained absolutely nothing. I have been fortunate because I have never seen this. I have seen animosity in the lower ranks, but I have never seen two CO's that at least outward characteristics would show that the two did not like each other. This is where it lies. Now, we might not agree with the I&I's decision, and of course, we will fight it. The ultimate goal is that the commanding officer of the reserve is the commanding officer. Supposedly, his decision supersedes. I have never seen it get to the point where the two individuals would argue between themselves and say, "Well, it is my decision and this is it." It has usually been a compromise. It has worked out well.
- A: So you are saying that actually the reserve commanding officer is overall responsible for the whole operation?
- C: That is right. Now I don't mean that as far as a fiscal. I am saying that when you get into a fiscal budget, and things like that, the I&I is responsible. His people have the input, the input that was coordinated between the reserve and the corps; what are your demands, what are my demands. All right, if your demands are \$500

and my demands are \$500 then our common goal is \$1,000, monetary wise.

A: Well, what happens if you only get \$750, who gets cut?

C: This happens, we try to place priorities where we see them. There are justifiable means of a solution.

A: Now in the training and operations of the unit, the reserve commanding officer is the commanding officer?

C: Yes.

A: I see, that is much different than other operations. Now in your training functions, how do you plan for these? Who is responsible to see that the training takes place? What I am trying to get around to is when it comes time to do your two week training type period, which is common to all type of reserve units, who plans this, who coordinates, who decides where you are going and what happens?

C: Well, the 4th Marine Division decides where we are going, that is out at Camp Pendleton. They decide and they have a five year syllabus. You know for the next five years exactly where you're supposed to attend ADT. How they coordinate it, they have an ADT conference that is attended by the CO, and in our particular case, the host unit. They inform us then of what we are going to do, what we are going to need. The only thing that they want to know from us is how many people you are going to bring out to make available to us, also any special requests that we have, helicopter lifts, demonstrations, any special vehicle that they have that just might have come out recently. Anything that we might want to coordinate is coordinated at that conference. It is then followed up by, I would say, usually two phone calls a month. Maybe I am extending that a lot, maybe it is one, but there is a line of communication. Until we get down to the last 30 days, then it is probably based on a weekly call. They are calling us, telling us that what we have asked for has been programmed. If we request ammunition, special night firing with the 50's or whatever . . .

A: Basically, your own company makes out its own training program?

C: We are responsible. When we go to the pre-ADT conference, we take down the training schedule. Now, we have been fed information before we make up a training schedule to know what is available and to know what we can request.

I have never gone really, and I have been in New Castle six years. I have never gone to summer camp with a training schedule that the host unit didn't supply everything that we had asked. It might not coordinate with the times that we have asked for, but it has been done.

A: You mentioned that you belonged to the service company over here which is attached to a battalion, is that it?

C: Yes.

A: Okay, now where is the battalion headquarters?

C: The battalion is down in Albany, Georgia.

A: I see. Now, what is your responsibility to the battalion?

C: Well, support. A service company has a dispersing section, a supply section, mess section, motor section; we are going to pick up a postal section and a PX section. It is basically support for the division. There is only one service company within a division.

A: How many battalions to the division?

C: Well, there are three battalions to a division, but there are not three service battalions to a division. There is only one service company attached to a service battalion.

A: What are the other companies attached to the battalion, what do they do?

C: Well, their function is a big area breakdown. Supply, they have a complete supply battalion because the division can't move without supplies. One company can't possibly function with ten categories, and then with the primary function being supplies, they have a supply battalion. Then they break down into the other priorities: motor, supply, mess, there are other new cases, dispersing, which is a big area. You can feed them and pay them and they are happy. You take those two outfits away, and you get nothing but discontent. So the third company would again support the nucleus.

A: Basically, what we are talking about is the same type of organization that has existed in Youngstown and at Steubenville when they were active; however, they have deactivated now. It is the same type of function. In other words, you had an engineering company here which was part of something, and down in Steubenville you had

a rifle company. Now over there you have a service company, which basically they might provide a different function but the organization is the same. That is what I am trying to establish. Now, this battalion down in Albany, Georgia, is that the battalion headquarters that is there, or is it that the rest of the battalion is there or what?

C: Well, it is the battalion headquarters. The headquarters is only made up of a nucleus of a small amount of people. That is, that are full-time, that look over the responsibility. We are just a reporting agent of them. The decision agency is out of the 4th Marine Division. They are responsible.

A: Out of Camp Pendleton?

C: Yes, out of Camp Pendleton.

A: The Marine Corps has a different chain of command type series than like the Navy Reserve and the Air Force Reserve, and this is what I am trying to clearly establish. You just mentioned when you go on your two week ATD or your initial training period, you request and you get information directly from division, the battalion plays no part in this?

C: No, battalions, they are for ATD; battalion feeds you information. They feed it to the division, and the division feeds it to us.

A: So really you correspond directly with the division and the battalion is kind of off to one side, is that it?

C: No, we go through the chain of command. Really there is another step in our chain and that is the district headquarters. All of our communications go three places, they go to the district, battalion, division. However, if there is a decision to be made, it is from the division. We go through district as a courtesy, the district makes a recommendation I am sure to the division, but the division makes the ultimate decision.

A: So what do these district people do, how do they fit into the picture?

C: Well, they have an administrative session that works directly with the I&I staff. Basically they're an overseer for the I&I staff, that is all it basically is. The Marine Corps is in the process of eliminating all district headquarters and making divisions solely responsible.

- A: I see, it is kind of an administrative section for the action duty I&I staff.
- C: That is all it is.
- A: In case of mobilization, without divulging any classified information or anything like that, would you report to battalion then, is that it?
- C: No, I think in the possibility of mobilization the company goes to Camp Pendleton.
- A: I see. And the battalion might be someplace else?
- C: No, and the battalion, I am sure, would be there also. In other words, the nucleus is all pulled to one central location.
- A: Now, as a service company to the battalion and everything, do you ever go on training with battalion or at all?
- C: No.
- A: Oh, they go separately?
- C: Yes, they go separately.
- A: Where would they go, would they go to Camp Pendleton for training, is that it?
- C: Yes, within the nucleus of our company. In other words, I have a photo session, and I am sending people to various bases throughout the United States starting next month. Our battalion might give us four and they might have nine. They might send the other part of the battalion to fulfill three other commitments. They can't incorporate, in a regular establishment, 40 people, 40 dispersing clerks at one time. They have to split it up and divide it. The same with them, if they have an exercise, they don't need 22 photo people to cover one exercise. They do need two or three. They give us a commitment or two or three commitments and we cover that. Other aspects, other companies, pick up so that it is evenly distributed. You don't have 40 or 50 brand new people walking in and saying, "Well, here we are, where do you want us to go and to work?" This just can't be done, so they subdivide it into smaller groups.

- A: And this is how you mainly handle the people that can't make it during your two weeks that you are scheduled to go, is that it?
- C: Yes. That is not how we handle it, but it is a darn good alternate.
- A: How do you handle somebody after that? Let's say you have them scheduled for the motor transportation pool in Bridgeport, California, in July. What happens is Mr. X works for the city and the city says, "Hey, I can't possibly let this guy go this month." How do you handle this fellow?
- C: Well, by law, I think the law was passed by an act in 1968 that the employer has to give the employee two weeks a year. It doesn't specifically state what two weeks. In the SOF, there is a criteria where the commanding officer has some leeway--of course, work is not one of them. If he should be a graduate from a learned institution and taking a bar examination, something that he could actually substantiate that would create a hardship for the individual . . . The bar examination for instance, is given once a year, you miss it and you wait for a year. You actually unemploy that lawyer for one year. He has the authority, the CO does, to make the justification and excuse the man. The only person that has it is the commanding officer, I don't.
- A: That is the commanding officer of the company?
- C: Yes, of the company.
- A: Now, what happens to this man if he is excused?
- C: He has the opportunity, if the opportunity is available to us, to attend at a later date. This is why I say that these other increments have proven really valuable to me because I can say, "He can't go in July, I will get three commitments in March." He might be in school in March, he can't go in March either. Again, I will get commitments in August, if I can fit him into August. If I can't, then I will apply for home training center for two weeks. If that is impossible, then the CO legitimately can excuse a man.
- A: Give him a waiver?
- C: Yes.

- A: In your participation in coming up through the ranks, have you found that the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Reserve is a close-knit unit? In other words, once a Marine always a Marine?
- C: Yes, I really think so.
- A: Even in the reserve?
- C: Well, there is always the resentment, and I can see it, from both sides, being on both sides. There is always the resentment that a regular Marine has to a reserve Marine. I don't know whether it is jealousy or whatever it is. You know, two days a month and you are in and you are out. In the earlier cases it was three hours and two hours a night, and a week and you were out. There is always a little animosity and I think a little jealousy that plays a part.
- A: Do you think this affects maybe our training duties or anything like that?
- C: No, not unless it, I think, indirectly, affects the company. The animosity is so great between individuals, whether they be regular or I&I. The I&I counterpart can completely tear down the structure of the company, the reserve company.
- A: Now, do you participate with any of the other reservists in any social function? Are you friendly with them on a regular social level or strictly Marine contact?
- C: No, I really don't think so. I have a lot of close friends that I go to functions with, but it seems to be all military. The Marine Corps Ball, that is annual. I belong to the Marine Corps League, however, it is in Akron. But to actually participate with anybody that is within the company, no, I don't.
- A: You will see them during Marine functions?
- C: Well, I will see a man on the street or something like that, but actually to participate with them someplace other than the Marine Corps, I don't.
- A: Do you find that the Marine Corps is a separate part of your life?
- C: Oh yes, it is a separate part of my life.

A: In other words, you aren't a Marine every day of the week, just a little bit here and there?

C: Oh no, I don't mean it that way. I mean a separate part, I classify it as a job because it is a job to me, it is a second job. I spend probably on an average monthly basis, I probably spend an additional 20 hours in that training center. When you spend that much time, plus your two days, it becomes a job. To me it is a job, it is not just a career, but I find it due to necessity. I can't stay away and come in two days and find out what has happened in a month and be abreast of things. It is an impossibility.

A: So really it plays an almost everyday occurrence in your life?

C: Right. Well, there are distinguishing features, let's face it. The first thing is hair cut. If they look at your hair, they know you're in something. I have the same feeling towards an individual that walks into the office. If I see a guy that walks in with short hair, I know he is in some type of military unit. Usually 99 percent of the time I am right. People associate, they identify. One guy had a belt buckle, and I am wearing the watchband. You don't have to show it to anybody. All you have to do is sign something or put your hand on the counter and somebody will notice it. You identify through objects.

A: So in other words, you classify your participation in the Marine Corps Reserve as it is more than just a job; it is an extension of your life I would think. Does your family consider this the same way?

C: Oh yes; I have a son that is in the company also. I have a son that is a sergeant in the photo section. He has been in the company five years. I have another son that is a senior at Wilson High School. He is talking military; he is talking Navy.

A: Well, I can't hold that against him.

C: No, me either. He belonged to this sea cadet outfit for a long period of time. He is not military oriented because of indoctrination by me, because I don't really care. I don't want to make a decision for him that he is going to regret. I don't talk Marine Corps to him. I didn't talk Marine Corps to either one of them. They know what is there because I am affiliated.

- A: Do you think that the majority of, let's say, the old-timers as the quotation goes, are stereotyped Marines? Could you classify them in a right wing or left wing or in that type of an area?
- C: Yes, in today's current market I think you can, I really do.
- A: You say they would all lean towards the same way?
- C: Yes, one strong category or the other, yes definitely. You can persuade and you can talk and you can demand, but you still can't fight the attitude because it is going to show up, maybe not when you are talking to him, but when he is out by himself; that, you can't change.
- A: Do you think this individual is a dying breed or do you think that there is a new generation coming along?
- C: I think there is a new generation coming along. I would like to think that there is. Now these are my feelings about this, this is you and I talking. In my personal opinion, the entire country is anti-military. I don't know whether it is due to the fact that the young people created groups, the hippie group which has come and gone almost to an extent. I classify the long-haired group and the hairs coming down, whether they get the publicity and . . . Of course, there is publicity when deserters leave the service and go to Canada and go to foreign countries. Whether this has an influence on them or not, I don't know. There is a trend, but I think it will change again. There was the same trend in 1952, or I think 1953, hostility ceased in Korea.
- A: And you say that history is repeating itself?
- C: I would like to think so. I hope that if it got down to the nitty gritty where this country had to really put themselves on the line, I think they would come around. I think the individuality would cease and they would surely have enough sense to find out, we got our backs up against the wall and we either have to do one of two things; we have to either sit down and fight, or we have just got to get the hell out of here, period. I would really like to feel that this country would do that.
- A: Why do you think that the majority of the people, I am not just saying the old-timer type thing, but why do the Marine Reservists go to drills, is it for the money, patriotism? Why do you think he goes?

- C: Well, we are in the same period again where basically my Marines, the bulk of them, join for the six months program to beat the draft. This is a known fact, ask them. Most of them are educated. At one time, I had 95 percent of the company with a college degree. Now it is very definite that you are not going to offer this individual a monetary gain. Since then, things have changed, you can't get drafted because there is no draft. All right, so now he doesn't face a threat of going into the service period, so he stays away. So then you entice the individual who comes out of high school. You entice him with money now because he can't get a job and we have something to offer him, \$40 a month. You can join the program early, get a little seniority, make it to pfc [private first class], you come back a lance corporal if you are lucky and now you will be making \$60 a month. So it is strictly monetary, and it has also rubbed off with some of the people that have been there more than five years that originally came into the program to beat the draft. They find themselves unemployed and they find out that this is now a necessity. The monetary contribution that they receive is now a necessity. I have been told this many times. People that work for General Motors, General Motors goes down. They are in the process right now of going down and eliminating 1,500, I think, if the paper is correct.
- A: Do you see this as a gain for the Marine Corps or let us say the reserve services, or do you see this as a time when we are picking up the dregs of society?
- C: No, because the Marine Corps set these standards. If you don't meet the standards, you don't get in. At one time, I am sure you know, that recruiting was really downright, didn't exist. It didn't exist in the Marine Corps. It existed with low mentality type people. That is the person that doesn't attend the drill, doesn't really care whether he has the money or not, because he is going to spend it in a night once he gets it. So to him, it is nothing. He really doesn't need it then because to him it is a matter of, "How many hours am I going to have it in my pocket?" You can't reason, you can't convince, you can't do anything with this type of individual.

Now, we have a set of new standards; we are picking up people that have a high school education. You can reason with them. Of course, there is always the threat "I am going to send you on active duty."

A: Do you have an attendance problem in the Marine Corps Reserve, especially with mandatory drill or an obligator?

C: Yes, I would get problems. Yes, sure, without a doubt. I have had an attendance problem all the way through. We process people for eighteen months; we discharge people with undesirable discharges, which fortunately is a very small percentage. We would probably be about one-sixteenth.

A: How would you judge the overall effectiveness of the Marine Corps Reserve from your basic knowledge today? Do you think that it is providing a viable second line of defense? Is it ready to be mobilized?

C: Well, I don't know combat-wise because the service company is not a combat company. I can only go from experiences in the jobs that we are trained to do and in the indoctrination in two weeks. Actually, our function is to go in for two weeks, relieve or do the same job that is your counterpart. And we have done that. We received letters from every shop that we have ever worked in in Camp Lejune on the outstanding. Of course, I am talking again about these college people and people with accounting degrees that you go into a dispersing office and figure their wage. It is nothing really. We function well, but we are in a period now where these people are leaving and we are starting to restructure. I think they will do the job, they have always done the job. I have always been proud to be affiliated with that particular company. We create a little animosity again because we do the job too well in some cases. We go down and work for eight hours. We don't knock off on Wednesday afternoon and then . . . The PFT course and things like that, the regular Marine run, we work straight through.

A: My last question would be do you think this is all really needed? Do you think that we need a reserve strength of what we have today?

C: Oh, very definitely. I really do, I think that the allowances and allocations that are taken away from the regular establishments, you are going to need something. I think history shows that at any time this country has been in a major conflict, with the exception of the Vietnam War, that the divisions in the Marine Corps have been supported in most cases at least 50 percent. In the Korean War, 75 percent of the division was comprised of reserves. Now, if al-

locations are being cut down, you can't incorporate and entice new people because of the funds. If we would break out into something, what the heck are we going to do? Where is your second line of defense? Does it exist or doesn't it? If you are cutting down your first line, somebody better start to think about building a second line.

A: Is there anything that I have neglected to bring up that you think ought to be added to this discussion? Anything that you want to add personal?

C: Well, most of it is--these are my personal feelings-- I think that there is a strong need, and I really feel . . . Like I said, who am I? I am an individual, I have certain rights, I have voice, in which I can voice suggestions. I see--and this is my own personal opinion--I see a lot of undertone in this country. If your regular establishments can't put down an undertone then who is going to come into Youngstown, or New Castle, or Pittsburgh on a minute's notice to quell a major disturbance, other than your reserve components, whether it be Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or National Guard? All of us are going to have to group together. Unfortunately, one individual can tie up hundreds. It takes somebody to get out to quell a disturbance before things start to move again.

A: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Cramer.

END OF INTERVIEW