

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

National Guard History

Anti-aircraft Unit Experience

O.H. 191

PHILIP J. MCCLURE

Interviewed

by

David Arms

on

March 19, 1976

PHILIP J. MCCLURE

Philip J. McClure was born on January 10, 1925, the son of James Robert and Lattie Adaline McClure. Upon graduating from Struthers High School in June of 1943, Mr. McClure joined the Army. He was on active duty in the Army until February 21, 1946 when he was honorably discharged. Upon returning home to Struthers, Mr. McClure joined the Army Reserve but was an inactive member because of the lack of an anti-aircraft unit in the Youngstown area. Later, in 1951, when the National Guard established an anti-aircraft unit, McClure transferred and became an active member.

In 1946 until 1947, Mr. McClure was employed by the Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company and then later in 1948 by the United Postal Service. He is also a member of the American Legion Post 158, the American Postal Workers No. 2979, the Struthers Band Boosters and the Ohio National Guard, 437th Military Police Battalion.

Philip has received many awards and among them are the Good Conduct Medal, the American Service Medal and the Victory Medal. His interests include tennis and stamp collecting. Mr. McClure resides in Struthers with his wife, Viola and their two children, Lawrence and Lynne.

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National

INTERVIEWEE: PHILIP J. MCCLURE

INTERVIEWER: David Arms

SUBJECT: World War II tour of duty; joining National Guard in 1951; units in the area; past officers; drilling and equipment used; military police training; annual two week training program; future of the Reserves

DATE: March 19, 1976

- A: Mr. McClure, could you just basically start this interview by giving me an idea of your personal background, where you were born, brought up, educated?
- M: Well, I was reared in Struthers and of course, educated in the Struthers School System. And I spent practically all my life in Struthers other than the fact of going into the service, that is, full-time.
- A: You went to Struthers High School?
- M: Yes.
- A: You graduated from Struthers High School?
- M: That's right.
- A: When did you go into the military service?
- M: In 1943.
- A: You joined up in the Army?
- M: Well, I was to be drafted. So, rather than wait around and be drafted, I just went ahead as soon as I got out of high school. I went ahead and joined up and went in.
- A: I see. You joined the Army at that time?
- M: Yes.

- A: Did you join all by yourself or did a lot of people join with you that day? Did you have classmates or anything?
- M: At that time, I had a twin brother and he and I and another friend went in together.
- A: You all joined the Army, did you?
- M: Yes, we all went into the Army.
- A: Was that right here in Youngstown or did you have to go someplace else?
- M: No, it was in Youngstown. We went through up here at the old Armory up there on Rayen Avenue
- A: You say a brother and a friend joined. Did you go off to training together, is that it?
- M: Well, yes. We were inducted through Fort Hayes in Columbus and from there we were shipped out to California. And of course, we were together in the same outfit. And the one friend, of course, got transferred, but my brother and I stayed together all through service.
- A: What outfit were you assigned to?
- M: Well, I was assigned to the 125th AAA Battalion. We were in the anti-aircraft artillery. And that's what we were trained at out in California.
- A: Where was this in California?
- M: Well, we were in Camp Maan and the sub camp was Camp Erwin.
- A: Where is this?
- M: Well, it's right outside of Riverside, California. As a matter of fact, it is right across the highway from March Field, which was an Air Force Base at the time.
- A: March Air Force Base at the time. How long was this training at the time? It was during the war?
- M: We had a sixteen-week training program that we had to go through. That was in our basic. And then we went from there into our advanced training and finished up, although we were slated to come to the east, but we finished up down in Louisiana.

A: What units were you assigned to then?

M: We were assigned to the 125th AAA Gun Battalion which was a unit of the Air Defense Artillery.

A: And then did you get shipped overseas?

M: No, we were down in Louisiana and finished our training there. And then we went up to Camp Edwards, Massachusetts. And we were there waiting to be shipped out. As a matter of fact, we were due to go . . . I don't have the date. I forget now the date that they had assigned for us. And we were pulled back off of it and given furloughs and then sent back. And we left, let me see now, from Boston.

A: Did you go home on that furlough?

M: Yes, we went home.

A: So, you did get shipped overseas?

M: Oh yes.

A: Where did you go?

M: When we first got over there we went into England and we went to a camp that they called Blackshaw Moor. And we were there primarily to draw our equipment. And then we convoyed down through England to down around Dymchurch, Folkestone and the town area there and we were in what they called Hell's Kitchen. At that time this was the Buzz Bomb Blitz of London and of course, we were in that line of defense defending London against it.

A: How long did you serve over there?

M: You mean overseas in the entirety?

A: Yes.

M: Close to three years. It was lacking a few months of being three years.

A: And they took you over there by convoy in ships?

M: No, we didn't go by convoy. We went over on one troop ship. As a matter of fact, when we left we had an escort part of the way by a blimp. And of course, we did a zigzag trail and we made a big arc. We went all the way north and then come back around. We actually took seven days, which would have normally

have taken five days, but because of the arcs that we made . . . At that time, like I said, we didn't have the escort at all.

A: How were conditions aboard the troops ship? Do you remember? Were the conditions pretty good?

M: Yes, I would say that they were good other than the fact that most of us, being land lovers, why, we had problems trying to keep our land legs. And quite a few of the fellows did get sick, and of course, wanted to spend most of their time down in the hole and they would chase us out and make us get up on deck.

A: Was it nice weather or cold and nasty?

M: It was nice weather going over because we left in the spring of the year.

A: So, basically you served overseas in England the majority of the time?

M: No, we were only in England for about three or four months and then we crossed the channel and went over to Cherbourg, France and we set up a defense there. Of course, this is where part of the invasion was, in Cherbourg. We set up the defense there for Cherbourg, itself, against the Germans. We were only there, I think, about two weeks. And then we convoyed clear up into Belgium. And of course, we were still battling the buzz bomb at that time. This was our primary battle. And we were up in Holland and Belgium the rest of our stay over there until the war ended.

A: So really, the majority of the action that you did see over there was with the buzz bomb?

M: Right, buzz bomb. Well, except when the Germans broke through there in what they called the Battle of the Bulge. We were taken out of Belgium and sent down to the area. And we were set up then as anti-tank. Of course, the ninety millimeter gun, of course, being utilized for that purpose. And of course, I was the radar man, myself. And we were stuck out on OP, operation post, military bazooka, and grenades, et cetera.

A: Did you see any tanks when you were down there?

M: Not really. What I seen was a battle of explosions up the road. And of course, we waited in anticipation for the battle to come our way, but it never did. It just seemed to linger up just ahead of us. And it

never did come down.

A: I see. They kind of stopped them before they got down your way?

M: Well, evidently some of our own troops were up there at the time, but there was quite a battle going on. And according to our liaison officer of our unit, we were wiped out as far as 1st Army Headquarters was concerned.

A: So actually, you never got into the tank battle?

M: No, not into that type. No, our biggest thing was the buzz bomb.

A: Now when the war was over, did you come right home or did they leave you there for a while?

M: When the war was over, we hadn't had that much time overseas at the time, so what they did, they sent us back to redeployment camps and used us as military police for the troops that were being processed through the redeployment camps back to home station. And we spent a considerable amount of time in Camp Norfolk and Camp St. Louis. These were the ones we were in. I was in two of them and don't remember the other now, but one was the St. Louis.

A: So, was your main job directing traffic?

M: Directing traffic and helping fellows out that were being processed through these camps.

A: So, when did you actually get a chance to come back?

M: Well, then we came back in February of 1946. Of course, they had disbanded our unit. And most of our fellows, especially the older fellows, were sent back home before we were. And we did come back as a unit and our adjutant of course, took our unit designation to Washington there, where it was deactivated. But we were brought back through Indiantown Gap Military Reservation where we were processed and discharged.

A: Indiantown Gap?

M: Yes, Military Reservation.

A: Where was that at?

M: That's over near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

A: So, you were processed for discharge at that time?

M: Right.

A: So, what did you do then?

M: Well, what I did then, being in the Reserve, in other words, I was discharged one day from the Army and picked up the next day in the Army Reserve. And then when I came home, of course, I looked for an active unit that was anti-aircraft--what I was trained in-- and there weren't any available here in the area at the time. So, I stayed in the inactive reserve for a period of three years for which I signed up. And then I let my time lapse from February until April when I picked up again and joined the Reserves. And I went down in Youngstown here and tried to get back into some active unit, but here again, I leaned toward aircraft. And in the anti-aircraft there was still nothing available. So, I just stayed in on the inactive status until 1951 when the National Guard started organizing an anti-aircraft unit. And then this is when I transferred over into the National Guard then.

A: So actually, you were a member of the Army Reserve until 1951, even though you were inactive. Is that correct?

M: Right.

A: What kind of a unit were you attached to and where was this when you came back right after the war?

M: You mean on inactive status?

A: Yes.

M: You weren't really attached to any unit? You were just in the Inactive Reserve Corps. It was actually in a control group out of St. Louis, Missouri.

A: So, you weren't required to drill or any of that?

M: No, right. There wasn't any requirement.

A: Does that time count as far as . . .

M: Longevity?

A: But you didn't get any retirement points for it?

M: No, there is no retirement points for it.

A: So actually, when you were a member of the Army Reserve you never did participate in any of the drills?

M: No, like I said, I was looking for something to my liking which they didn't have here.

A: Was there anything anywhere around? Did they ask you to go someplace else to drill?

M: No, they tried to get me to come down into the Reserve unit that they had here. And of course, like I said, I didn't particularly want to change my branch. I was interested in what I was in, so I wanted to stay in.

A: In 1951, the National Guard in Ohio came out with an anti-aircraft unit?

M: Right.

A: What kind of a unit was this?

M: It was a ninety millimeter unit. Of course, this is what I had trained and spent all my time overseas with. And this is what I was interested in getting into.

A: That was here in Youngstown.

M: In Youngstown, right.

A: What was your job in that unit?

M: Well, when I first went in during this period of activation, they started with a headquarters battery then. And of course, I went into that and we really had nothing. We just trained as a unit, being that we were just being activated. I think I was only in headquarters for a period of three months when they started one of the line batteries. And of course, this is what I wanted to get into. And this is a battery then, so I went into that. And I served as a CRO, which is a chief radar operator.

A: What was your rank at that time?

M: At that time I come in as a sergeant, E5. But they didn't have that rating then. It was still just sergeant.

A: Now, as a sergeant, do you remember how much you made pay-wise or anything at that time?

M: No, I don't.

A: How many people were in this company at that time?

M: When we first started?

A: Yes.

M: It was approximately, I would say, 49 members.

A: Now that was just of the anti-aircraft?

M: Yes. Now, that's one battery.

A: How many units were started here in Youngstown in the National Guard at that time? Do you happen to remember that?

M: Well, they had a couple other troops that were already here. As a matter of fact, some of them were called out and went into Korea. I don't remember every unit's designation, but I think there were two units at the time that were in the Armory and they were called out and did go to Korea. And when they formed ours, then they formed the headquarters and then they formed the A battery, which made two units in the Armory at that time.

A: Now, you all drilled down at the Christy Armory? Is that it?

M: Yes.

A: When did you drill when you first started?

M: We used to drill one night a week and usually it was on a Thursday night. Each unit had their own night for drilling and it was a four-hour drill. And it was 48 drills per year.

A: How did the coordination work there? Did you have an officer in charge or a commanding officer?

M: Each unit had their own company or battery commander. And then of course, he had his own officer. We were broken down into sections. You had your range section and your gun section. And he had an officer who was in charge of each of these sections. And then of course, your section sergeants were in charge of the individuals. We had a height finder section and a radar section in the range section at that time. Of course, I was in charge of the radar section.

A: About how many officers were there?

M: There were usually about four officers in a company, or a battery because you had your battery commander, your executive officer, your range officer, and your gun officer.

A: What was the senior officer?

M: He was a captain.

A: Now, who did he report to? Do you know?

M: Well, we had a battalion commander at that time. We had formed another unit up in Warren and we also had another unit down in Alliance. So, we had two units here and two other batteries, one in Warren and one in Alliance.

A: Now, who was the battalion commander and where was he?

M: When it originally formed, it was Colonel Lake, Lieutenant Colonel Ben Lake. And he was the one that was instrumental in getting the units formed. He was from up around Warren. And he wasn't with us too terribly long. He had about a year, year and a half at the most. And I think he had a health problem and had to get out. And then the unit commander was Major Boyer. He became the battalion commander. Now, I could go down the line and give you [them] in succession if this is what you want.

A: Sure. If you happen to remember, yes.

M: Yes, I remember all of them. Colonel Lake was the original and then of course, Major Boyer followed him. And then he left and he went to Florida. He was working with the Veteran's Administration. So, he had to leave and go to Florida. So then, Major Melvin Frank then became the battalion commander and, of course, got promoted to a lieutenant colonel. And he was with the unit for about three years and then he was followed by Colonel Howard Cook, who worked in the battalion. He came into the battalion as the adjutant when it was originally formed.

A: That's Colonel Howard Cook?

M: Yes--and worked his way up to the battalion commander, which I thought was very nice. And then following Colonel Cook they brought a Colonel Davis in from the Columbus area, and he wasn't with us too long, about a year and a half. And he was relieved by Colonel

Schwartz. And then following Colonel Schwartz was Colonel Richard Landers. And then following him, which we have now as our present commander, is Colonel Conners.

A: Now, these officers, they weren't all from the local area as you mentioned. How was an officer selected for the command? Do you know?

M: No, I wouldn't say completely. Usually it depends in the state. They have their various ranks who are, of course, governed by how much time they've had in grade. And they try to get them promoted accordingly. Sometime some of them are pretty hot as far as time in grade. They've got to get promoted or get out if over time in grade according to ROPA. So, this is how we caught two of them really. But the others were ones that were promoted right through the ranks within our own battalion. Now, like Colonel Landers, although he was from Warren, he still was within our vicinity. But Colonel Davis and Colonel Schwartz and our present commander, Colonel Conners are all from down around the Columbus area. I'm sorry, about Colonel Conners, he's from the Toledo area.

A: He drives all the way up here for a weekend?

M: For a weekend.

A: Now, are there facilities down at the Armory for him to stay overnight?

M: Yes, we do have . . . They set up an apartment there. They used to have a custodian that lived in the Armory. And of course, he's gone to his own home. They do have a custodian, but the custodian lives in his own home. So, that apartment has been renovated and used for some of our officers who are from out of town. They do come in and stay overnight.

A: What is the relationship with the commanders of the unit with the active staff there, the people that are there all the time?

M: From what I've seen and know, it has been a very good relationship. Even though they are from out of town, they spend a lot of time on the telephone talking and keeping abreast of what's going on. And of course, they are sent all the publications the unit puts out and here again, they are kept abreast of everything. So, if they want to come to drill, they don't come cold. They know what is going on.

- A: The people, the civilians, they go there five days a week?
- M: Yes.
- A: Now, are these people members of the units that are attached?
- M: Yes, they have to be in order to hold their job. They must be a member of the unit in order to hold a job there.
- A: Do they have to be a member of the unit they are supporting or can they be a member of any unit?
- M: They have to be a member of the unit they are supporting.
- A: About how many are there down there right now? Do you know?
- M: Off hand, I would say twelve or fifteen. Of course, this includes the people who work up at the OMS shop. They do the maintenance work on vehicles.
- A: Now where is that?
- M: That's up on Gypsy Lane, off of Belmont.
- A: Now is that just for these units that are here or for any in this area?
- M: No, that's just for the units that belong here.
- A: Do you have your own equipment with you all the time or do you have to go draw your own equipment?
- M: Most of our equipment is issued to us, except when we go to camp. Some of the requirements they put on us that some of the equipment we don't have and then of course, we draw it.
- A: So basically, you have all of the things that you need to train on all of the time?
- M: Most of the time, yes.
- A: Now, when you do train on an average weekend at the time, could you just give me an idea of your schedule?
- M: You're talking about the present now?
- A: Presently.

M: Okay, before we get into this, I want to tell you this, The ninety millimeter units were phased out here back in 1964 and 1965, and we were changed to automatic weapons, forty millimeter guns. And we only remained that for two years. And then we changed over to military police for which we are now.

A: Okay, let me back up. Could you give me an idea of what you did when you had guns and stuff like that and what you have now.

M: When we had guns, of course, we had something to work with, something to train on. And there was no problem as far as training was concerned. Now, of course, we have the military police and it's a little bit different than what it was when you had something to work with. Here you are working with other parts of the Army when you are out learning traffic control, search and seizure sort of thing. You don't have anything really to work with except other people. You don't have your own equipment here. So, this is the type of thing you are getting into now with military police. And really, it has been harder to train military police than it was to train as artillery people because it is harder to set up a training program.

On the weekends we have classes usually lasting an hour, maybe two hour classes, that will last for half a day or part of the day. And then they do try to throw in some sort of practical exercise to go along with it. And here again, it's kind of hard to set it up. Now, we have a unit in Warren that goes out and works out at Lordstown with the security force out there. And then our Youngstown Unit now is under what they call a different training program. And it is going to go out in the field where they are going to employ all these people to be used during the training day rather than going and sitting in on classroom instruction all the time.

A: In this classroom training, in your opinion, is it valuable or necessary?

M: I don't really think so. I think the individual, himself, gains more by being out and doing something than by sitting in on a classroom, listening. The average individual, I think, is quick to grasp things if you take him out on the field without going into a lengthy explanation of it and by showing them what they are to do, they can do it and grasp it much quicker than I think, sitting in and listening to a class.

A: So, you changed over basically, from your original radar, MOS [military occupational specialty] type thing, to one of the military police?

M: Yes, military police.

A: What is your job at the present?

M: Well, right now I'm the operation sergeant. I work in the operation section, of course. My job is in training and then when we go to camp, working with the provost marshal, checking, as far as, I would say, traffic and making recommendations to the provost marshal to maybe take care of some sort of traffic congestion, reviewing all his reports and things and making these recommendations to him.

But of course, we don't get involved too much here at the Armory on this because our type of training doesn't get into this. So, what I get into primarily is working with the training schedules and seeing that the people who are responsible for the training and for the classes get it and also to help them in any training aids that are available for them and make sure that the classes are as interesting as possible.

A: Who do you report to?

M: Well, normally in the morning we have a formation and I report to the detachment. Headquarters detachment is what we are. And then of course, after our formation we go into the sections and then I am responsible to the S-3. He's in charge of plans and training.

A: How many people are presently assigned to the military battalion headquarters there?

M: The headquarters detachment itself?

A: Yes.

M: All right, there is approximately 55 people.

A: Now, down into the section, how is this divided? Equally?

M: No, it depends on what your TO & EO [table of organization and equipment] tells you. And this tells you how many people are in each section and what each rank will be and et cetera. This is the bible by which we have to go by. This is how these people are placed. But, as I said before, once they have their formation,

their roll call, and then they go into the sections. And they are responsible to that section. And one section may only have maybe only two or three men, where another section may have maybe fourteen or fifteen. It depends on what the section is in itself. You have S-1, S-2, S-3 and S-4 sections. And the you have a como section and then you have an augmented mess section and then you have a personnel section. So, you have people in all these sections.

- A: You say that you've got a table of organization. How well has it been manned in the recent . . .? In other words, what are you manned at, at the present time? Are you fully manned?
- M: No, right now we are under strength because of the six-year obligators are now starting to get out and, of course, this is where we are starting to lose people.
- A: I think we're all under that, anyway.
- M: Yes, right, we are all getting into that problem.
- A: Recruiting for the National Guard, has it always been a problem? Is it fairly fruitful?
- M: No, not really. It has not really always been a problem. As a matter of fact, at one time we used to have a waiting list. But since the draft has ceased, of course, this waiting list has likewise ceased. Our biggest thing now is to getting back to what it was when I first got into the Guard. You've got to get out and recruit people who want to be into it. These are the ones we are getting now, people who really want to get into it. We have a full-time recruiter in our unit. He's been working in the Cleveland area and he's coming back and he will be working in the Youngstown area in the next couple of weeks. But he took one of our units which is in Cleveland. They were something like fifty some people under strength, and he brought it up to within two of their full strength. Just this one man. And of course, this is his job. He is employed by the state as a full-time recruiter and this is what he does.
- A: You only accept veterans, is that it?
- M: No, we accept any.
- A: How does this guy get trained, let's say, any guy who walked in off the street?

- M: Well, we're running into a problem training-wise now. They had it set up and don't know whether you people come under that or not. The Army Reserve and the National Guard, of course, would send their people to six month active duty training. This would be their basic. But now this has been cut down to four months. But this is where they get their basic training and which we don't have to teach them, and train them. Before we used to have to do this, but we don't anymore. But they've got such a backlog on this now that it's hard. We have a female--an EW [enlisted woman] I guess they call them now--that has been waiting and she goes March 27 into training finally. And she has been waiting now for almost a year to get in.
- A: But she goes to the four month active duty training?
- M: Yes. They'll assign an MOS and job title. And then they will go do their basic and then they will train some in this job title that they are put in.
- A: And then they return in a specific military assignment?
- M: And then they return back to the unit and in a certain MOS that they are to fulfill when they come back.
- A: Do you get the majority from veterans picking it back up?
- M: Well, I would say now we are getting into this, but up until now, no. Well, we still have a few that we get in just coming out of high school.
- A: In your own opinion, what makes somebody join the National Guard?
- M: Well, there are varied reasons why. And of course, one of the big points today is the money end that they are trying to make it so attractive for the people as a part-time job that you just can't beat it. But this is one of the big attractions. But as far as there is other varied reasons, probably some want it because it's a diversion for them. Others get into it because they are interested in it. And it's hard to say what would be the biggest reason.
- A: Well, you said that there is a change. There used to be a waiting list and everything. Do you think that you are getting better quality people now than you did before?

- M: No. The reason I say this: When the draft was on, our level of education was high and of course, now that the draft has dropped and these fellows are getting out, the people we are getting in, their intelligence isn't that high so it is starting to drop.
- A: Now, why would you say that somebody might join the National Guard over the Army Reserve?
- M: Well, the National Guard has become the number one reserve force today and the Army Reserve has taken a second, I think. Because, well, you serve a twofold purpose. One, you come under the state organization and you are called out for varied things as trucker strikes, riots, disturbances, emergencies, be it like a flood, fire, things of this nature. So, you are utilized twofold. You are trained as an Army man and to be utilized as a military person, but you're also trained to be utilized for the secondary. And we've been used quite a bit for this secondary purpose lately.
- A: Would you think that they are becoming a glorified policeman or something like that?
- M: No, I don't think that they are trying to take away from the police. I don't think that that's the full intent. It's only as a force to be used in a disaster of some kind or in an emergency.
- A: Now, getting back to your main reason, why did you join?
- M: I got into the Guards simply because they were forming the unit that I was interested in at the time. When I came out of the service I wanted to stay in it and keep abreast of what was going on. And I knew that if I didn't that I would lose out. And then when the National Guard opened up the artillery and I got into it and I became more and more interested. And then as the years went by, I just found that I truthfully enjoy it.
- A: How does your family feel about this?
- M: My wife, of course, at first she was kind of reluctant about it, but she was willing to go along with me on it. And of course, I would say, at times it conflicted, but we all seemed to work it out. As far as my children are concerned, they don't know any different because they grew up with me being in the Guard.

- A: How do you feel about your two-week training program? Do you think that it's a valuable time? Do you look forward to it?
- M: Yes, I do, because really, you are putting to work all the learning and training that you have done during the year. And this is the purpose of your fourteen-day period. And I do look forward to it. And this year I'm looking forward to it more so than perhaps in the past years because we are getting into some field problems that we haven't had too much of an opportunity to get into.
- A: Do you find that people enjoy these times away from home kind of like a change of pace, too?
- M: Yes, I think so. It is a diversion, just as the weekend is a diversion for you, really. Of course, I think here again, too, that you've got to be a certain type of individual who can conform to it and to be able to bend with it, because it is a change. There is no question about it. Military is different than civilian. And you've got to be able to change and go with it.
- A: How does your family feel about this?
- M: Well, they've accepted it and there has been no problem as far as my family is concerned.
- A: Where do you usually go on your two weeks?
- M: Well, we used to go to Camp Perry, Ohio, but now in the last four or five years this has changed. Well, simply because of our change in structure, going from artillery where we used to fire guns out at the lake with no problem. And then when we are going to MP's and Camp Perry is just a small camp. I mean, we could send one platoon of men up there and that would cover the camp. Now, we went to Camp Grayling, Michigan one year and to Fort Knox, Kentucky. And some of our units have gone to Camp Pickett, Virginia and Savannah Depot, which is like a big warehouse place, where a guard company, they go out and guard. This is the primary purpose. And then last year, some of our units went up to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. And that's where our unit is going this year.
- A: Over all, if you had a choice to do it again, do you think you would?
- M: As a young man, yes, most definitely.
- A: I mean, you'd do it the same way?

M: I certainly would.

A: I've talked to some people that possibly thought that maybe they'd stay on active duty possibly.

M: Well, I had that opportunity. One of my officers tried to talk me into it. But after being in for almost three years, I wanted to get out for a while and of course, I don't know, it's hard to say what I would have really done.

A: Is there something that I might have overlooked or forgotten to ask you that you might like to add in there?

M: Not that I can think of.

A: One last question that I would like to ask you is: What do you see in the future of the Reserves, specifically the Guards? Does it look good or bad?

M: As far as manpower is concerned, I look for it to be a real problem. Of course, they are getting more and more women into it. I see a lot of changes having to be made over the years. I suppose this would not only apply to the Guards, but probably to any branch of service where we got women coming in now. The real problem there is being able to work with the women. I think that some of the men, I won't say all of them, some of them have looked on women as a sex symbol and here again, they are invading a man's domain that has been in existence for a hundred and some years. And it is going to be hard for those women coming in to accept some of the things that the men do. And it's going to be hard for the men to accept the women into the unit and learn to live with them and work with them. So, I really feel that this is going to be the real big problem being able to get the problem so that they can go together and work towards one common goal, and being able to retain these people in the Guard or the Reserve or Naval Reserve. This is going to be the real problem.

A: Well, thank you very much. I enjoyed talking with you this afternoon.

M: Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW