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- 1) What branch and unit were you in? *Army at Phu Loi 1970-1971, 275th Signal Battalion, 36-Charlie (cable splicer).*
- 2) What was your highest rank? *E-4.*
- 3) Are you still enlisted as a reservist or National Guard? *No.*
- 4) Why did you join the service? *Drafted straight out of High School ('Greetings from the President of the United States').*
- 5) What did you like the most about being in? *I was pretty wild when I got out of high school. The Army really squared me around, even Vietnam. It was almost a delightful experience where I got some respect, some morals and how to keep clean. Gives you a sense of pride, gives you great moral character for your country, more patriotic. A lot of kids today don't know what the flag means. We do what we do to keep them free and have their right of expression.*
- 6) What did you like the least? *Harassment fire from mortars and rockets, where they'd walk the fire into the base and then would split. Some of the people in the military weren't really competent because they were being pumped in so fast. Sometimes you wondered 'How does this function?' The Army today has a lot better quality people with the volunteer force. Some of the guys in our unit had committed crimes and the judge gave them a choice of prison or the Army. They actually turned out pretty good.*
- 7) What moment most defined your military experience? *When we took one of our satellite posts out; set up a convoy of trucks to go out there and pulled the site down. We got harassed a lot at this old French post the ARVN were manning. In fact, I was recording a cassette tape for my wife back in the States one night when we got hit hard, really hard. I had the whole thing on tape as we were firing grenade-launchers, small arms, and gunships came flying over us firing. The gunships came in fast and just obliterated the enemy force. The guys back at Phu Loi liked hearing the recording, but I recorded over it with some music I wanted to hear. Wish I had kept the tape because it sounded like a war going on.*
- 8) What made you choose firefighting as a career? *I came back to the States and, since I'd been in communications, I went into working for security system companies, but couldn't stand that kind of work and the people there, then into automotive field, then a friend of mine said 'Hey, you look like a fireman'.*
- 9) What do you like the most about firefighting? *Camaraderie, it's a very family-oriented bunch of guys and gals you work with, high morals and good work ethic. It's actually fun to come to work! I tell my kids, 'If you're going to get a job, you've got to have something you're going to enjoy because you're going to be doing it for 20, 30, 40 years'. I feel like I've been blessed because the job I fell into here is outstanding.*
- 10) What do you like least about firefighting? *We've got some people coming on the job now that think the job is owed to them, they just don't respect what the job is and they don't respect some of the people who are on the job.*