

Dwight Gates Student Worksheet 4- The Time Stamped Transcript

Directions: As you view your assigned section of the transcript, type each word uttered by your veteran interviewee. Words like “um or so”, or colloquialisms like “you know what I mean?” do not need to be included.

Transcription of Words	Time ended
<p>My name is Dwight Gates Military branch was military intelligence in the army and specifically I was an image interpreter which means I would look at aerial photography and determine what was down there. What kind of enemies’ positions or bunkers or fox holes and that kind of thing. I was a staff Sergeant that’s where I ended I went over there as a spec four which is a specialist fourth class I was promoted twice while in Vietnam.</p>	<p>1:00 Minute</p>
<p>I was about to be drafted. I had gone to college for two years and unfortunately, I hadn’t taken enough credits one semester because my father had a heart attack so I need to help out at home and I needed to get a job and so consequently when I graduated I got a note from my uncle Sam say I should come down and take a physical. At the time, I was thinking about being an archaeologist, the next Indiana Jones, and I decided I just go and enlist. Something that would be appropriate and bring a new skill it was associated with archaeology I gave the army three choices. Actually, the army gave me three choices I should say.</p>	<p>2:00 Minutes</p>
<p>So, they decided the third choice was the best choice for me was being image interpreter. That fit well for me because it went along with archaeology because one of the things, one of the tools and archaeologist uses is imagery; looking at photographs, aerial photographs, and this was a good opportunity to get a skill. So, I ended up being an image interpreter. So, I stayed in the army I was an imagery interpreter most of the time but I was an Intel analyst which means taking</p>	<p>3:00 Minutes</p>

<p>all of the imagery, reports, interrogations and such and putting it all in one package</p>	
<p>Package of intelligence and it ended up being a good career. When I got out of the Army I went back to school and got a degree in geography. I already got a degree in history earlier and so one of the things I was interested in is city planning. So, I was a city planner for a few years. But then I went back and into the civilian intelligence agency which was being an image interpreter again</p>	<p>4:00 Minutes</p>
<p>I was 20 years old and so I was pretty young as were just about all that went to Vietnam. They were all about 18, 19, 20 years old for the most part. When I enlisted, I was 20 years old and I just finished college and so one thing about Vietnam and the military in general was guys who enlist are usually 18, 19, 20 years old so I was pretty young. Not really, I joined on my own.</p>	<p>5:00 Minutes</p>
<p>Not really, I kind of joined on my own, there were friends of mine that were in the military about the same time, but I didn't go in with them at the same time. Yes, as a matter fact, a few years ago, I think 2008, we formed an organization for the unit I was in in Vietnam and we started searching for all the guys that were in the unit back then and now I've got, I don't know about a couple hundred people from the unit and we get together about every year and talk about the old days.</p>	<p>6:00 Minutes</p>
<p>Well, I was an imagery analyst and imagery analyst was like looking at photography. Today there more back at Vietnam fighters used as reconnaissance of the area they were searching and then they bring the plane back and we would interpret the imagery and that's what our unit did. Today it's a little different. Today they use more drones. It's an entirely different</p>	<p>7:00 Minutes</p>

<p>operation. Instead of developing the film when it gets back and sending it to the image interpreters like me; now a days, they're looking at drones and doing it real time you're flying over an area and you see something and the drone flies over.</p>	
<p>It's something different from when I was there. Yeah, the closer you can get to real time the better because in intelligence of course you want to as soon as you find something you want to report it so that it can be acted upon and so having a drone saves a lot of time. But we would be looking at the imagery several of hours after it was taken and in fact my unit use 24 hours to look at something but a drone uses real time, I am looking at something you're seeing right now</p>	<p>8:00 Minutes</p>
<p>Yes I was there During the 69 TET Offensive and the 69 Tet Offensive. It's not that well known. Everybody thinks of the 68 Tet Offensive when they think of when Vietcong attacked Saigon. In the populated areas like, Hue and Da Nang and that sort of thing, the 69 Tet Offensive was your hardly read about it at all and very small snippets do you see but it was a significant offensive. And in many cases, it was even worse than the 68 Tet Offensive. The type of 69 offensive was very</p>	<p>9:00 Minutes</p>
<p>Intense really, it started really in February but even leading up to that we knew Vietnamese the Vietcong and the NVA we're going to attack. In some indications were as indicated, then they were gonna attack right where I□ was Bien Hoa, longben and Saigon area as well as open to Da Nang area. The northern most combat core. And it was real intensive thing and it began on February 23 and I was asleep in my compound. And all of a sudden, the CQ came running up; that's the charge coordinator, that's the guy that's awake</p>	<p>10:00 Minutes</p>

<p>when everybody's asleep.</p>	
<p>He came running up into our base and he started yelling "red alert, red alert" which meant this is serious, this is an actual alert. And so we grabbed our rifles, and picked up our fighting positions immediately. And pretty much what was happening was a Vietcong company was right down the road from where we lived and it was in an open field and on one side of the field there was an MP battalion and on the other side was the train station into Benewah and this unit was shooting into the MP unit and the train station. They had actually taken the train station for short period of time and so we watched this happen from our compound.</p>	<p>11:00 Minutes</p>
<p>This was about a mile away from where we were staying and so we watched while they brought in a big helicopter. It was called the Firefly. The Firefly has a big huge searchlight. A huge search light and it would be flashing the searchlight and going in circles around the field looking for Vietcong that were in the field. And this went on for a few minutes. And then also up above with the searchlight there were two Cobra helicopters. They were attack helicopters and so after a while you saw these tracers going up shooting at this helicopter.</p>	<p>12:00 Minutes</p>
<p>The Firefly and then they sent down some tracers to the ground pinpointing where the shots were coming from. Then the Firefly moved out of the way and the attack helicopters came in and just started shooting up the area in the field and this went on for several minutes. And also, a little later before like him down and looked in a compound because we are out in the middle of nowhere we were out near some bridges that went to Saigon. They were strategic but we were really the only American troops out there. I remember some South Vietnamese troops in the area. And they came around and shine the Firefly to make sure we were ok and that</p>	<p>13:00 Minutes</p>

<p>was pretty much it for that night</p>	
<p>In the next two days, there were a lot of rocket attacks on the base where we were at Benewah Airbase, that's where the operations were. That's where we go from our little compound and then we go to dinner one place and our compound area one place which is by the airbase and then do the same thing on the way back at the end of the day. But for the next two days the airbase got hit with rockets and mortars, so that was going on so our guys that were working in air shift had to run the bunker when rockets would come in but in a case on the 26th three days after the initial attack.</p>	<p>14:00 Minutes</p>
<p>...13 hours or so they were beaten back. The Vietcong unit was pretty well wiped out. They didn't have a fire power to stand up to our aircraft, that was the beginning of TET '69. For the next 4 months we had to look at a lot of imagery. At one point there was only 4 of us on the night shift that did all the imagery because we had an inspection so the inspection took priority over the war. They took 4 of us and put us on the night shift and we had to look at all the imagery that was flown during that period and turned out that out of these 4 guys, i was 1 of them</p>	<p>15:00 Minutes</p> <p>15:00 minutes</p>
<p>ended up looking at 37% of all the imagery flown in Vietnam during that period so as you might imagine my eyesight was pretty well shot at the end of that. That was the '69 TET offensive of where i was</p>	<p>16:00 Minutes</p>
<p>as a matter of fact it was probably the less, the TET of '69 was pretty well anticipated several months before it happened the intelligence, that there was no doubt it was gonna happen. On november 1 in 1968 there was a bombing hold in the north and this allowed the north vietnamese to start sending all kinds of supplies down south for another attack. so for several months the intelligence sources, human intelligence, imagery</p>	<p>17:00 Minutes</p>

intelligence,	
...all that, you know signal intelligence. All that following this huge resupply effort. Since the bombing hold had taken place they couldn't be attacked along the hocheeman trail from north vietnam down . We had sensors, all kinds of indication that they were moving into the north part which was up along the DMZ, first core area and third core area, where i worked. So we knew ahead of time, in fact november fort, this is 3 weeks before	18:00 Minutes
...the offensive began when i got woken up in the middle of the night. I had written my mother and i still have the letter and I said, we're gonna be attacked and we know it's gonna happen around the TET of that year, which was, i think it was from february 17th to february 19th. The vietcong, the north vietnamese and i even said that they were gonna have a truce over offensive for 7 days leading up to february 22 which was the night before we got attacked and so it wasn't a suprise at all that we were gonna be attacked. The warning indications were there and we knew it was gonna happen, it was just a matter of what time of day and what day.	19:00 Minutes 19:00 minutes
She was also concerned and also i was engaged at the time so my fiancée, Kathy, she was concerned too. how would you feel if you got a letter from your son saying, hey i'm gonna be attacked. They were concerned the whole time i was over there. That's a difficult question, when i went over the vietnam, my view of the war is, at the time	20:00 Minutes 20:00 minutes
i went over was that it was probably a just thing to do and the reason for that was i done a little studying of what was going on in vietnam before i went there and i read some books by an author named tom dooley, dr. tom dooley and he talked about in the 1950's they had set up, the north vietnam and the south vietnam had set up the limitation line. A lot of the people in the	21:00 Minutes

<p>north were allowed to go south if they wanted to. A lot of people in the south could go north if they wanted to and in this book he talks about the atrocities that he saw of the people who were trying to escape communism of the north. One story that in the book</p>	
<p>I think it was deliver us from evil that he wrote. it talked about an orphanage and this really, even today really just paused me but this orphanage wanted to go to south they were, i think they were a catholic orphanage and the orphan master was beaten severely and he describes it in glorious detail and all the kids in that orphanage had a nail struck into their eardrums and that was kind of atrocities that were happening up in the north and so that really struck me and in college i had a project</p>	<p>22:00 Minutes</p>
<p>it was with the acauntase club to raise, it was over a ton worth of material to get sent to the orphanage and it was a project the marines had sponsored so i knew there was good reasons for being there. Another area was i flew as an are observer, handheld photographer and helicopter and airplanes and my first mission on a, this was after the 1969 TET offensive, was right towards the end I started flying these kinds of mission and I flew over this village and was told the vietcong had just been to this village, picked out 16 people</p>	<p>23:00 Minutes</p>
<p>...and shot them right on sight. It was pretty bad. The only thing that changed my opinion on vietnam, a little bit anyways was the fact, you had a lot of mismanagement going on, both on our side and especially on the south vietnamese. The political government and the military organizations were both corrupte. They didn't serve the people very well and from that standpoint. It was either a waste of our time to be there, perhaps so. That wasn't going to change and the other thing was that people themselves were</p>	<p>24:00 Minutes 24:00 minutes</p>

a little bit apathetic towards the war.	
<p>We had a very inelegant lady that worked in our club and she was reading all the time and one day i asked her who the president of south vietnam and she couldn't tell me. Was it worth our wild to defend somebody who didn't really care politically, i don't know. There's a lot of thing abou vietnam that are troubling and a lot of things i think had they been done differently it'd be entirely different. Yeah, i think i grew up pretty fast in vietnam. i think anyone who goes over there who is is teenager, young man,</p>	25:00 Minutes
<p>...you're gonna grow up extremely fast, you're gonna do things that you didn't think you could possibly do and in my case i went over, i was 20 years old, i'm just right out of imagery interpretation school and i didn't know pretty much anything. When i went over there, by the time i left vietnam i was in charge of the entire operations at my attachment. I was the NCOIC and i had been promoted 2 grades. When i got promoted to staff sargon i was holding down a position. I was a sargon, first class so i was 2 grades higher than i was at the time.</p>	26:00 Minutes
<p>You grow up fast, you do a lot of things fast. You get all kinds of experiences. You either grow up right away or you have a hard time dealing. Our tactics have changed quite a bit. The vietcong's tactics were pretty much you worked during the day and go out at night and shoot rockets and that sort of thing, that was the vietcong's. Then you have the north vietnamese army and they would come down and supplement the VC, they would actually fight war conveniently</p>	27:00 Minutes
<p>...the time i was telling you about, the north vietnamese came in and actually attacked our airbase, just like you would attack in a conventional way, your enemy. Airbase tactics are a little different. In our case we changed tactics right around the time in 1968. Up until 1968 the tactics were used primarily by general</p>	28:00 Minutes 28:00 minutes

<p>west won that had forgancy in vietnam were more large scale units like italians, brigades, that kinda thing. That meant that you had these large units going all over the country trying to find the enemy and it made it easier for the enemy to keep out of their way. If a large until comes in, the know get out of the way or in vietnamese</p>	
<p>...you might say dede mow which means get out of here and that was our tactics leading up until then. Turns out that wasn't the way to do it. General hebins came in right after the TET 68 and he changed tactics and what he would do was instead of having larger units going out trying to find the enemy, you had smaller units going out trying to find the enemy. Like company size and that way they could cover more territory than you could with larger unit and it was kinda cumbersome. So you had all these smaller units going out trying to find the enemy, trying to find caches cause that was important. the Vietcong and the north vietnamese</p>	<p>29:00 Minutes</p>
<p>... would try to send all this ammuniton and food into an area and then wait for the attack and then they'd have everything pre-positioned, and these smaller units could go out and find these caches ahead of time, and disrupt their operations. So, tactics was a very important part in all of this, and they were constantly changing, like I said.</p>	<p>30:00 Minutes</p>
<p>Oh, there was always something funny going on, we were constantly pulling pranks on each other, and things like that. One funny story I remember is probably one of the funniest stories the whole time I was in the army. We had this one guy in our unit that was kinda gullible, and even though he was older than most of us, he was twenty-five. So, we used to call him "Geezer," because he was the old man, I was twenty or twenty-one when I was there...</p>	<p>31:00 Minutes</p>
<p>...so we were getting ready for an inspection the next</p>	<p>32:00</p>

<p>morning. We were on the night shift, and one of the things we had to do is clean our rifles for the inspection next morning; so after we were done with work that day, we were taking our M14s and cleaning them. In the M14 they have this long spring, and Geezer had just gotten his rifle put pack together and he pulled back on the bolt, and the bolt on the M14 usually catches halfway back. Well, he was used to having a rifle at home where the bolt just slid back real easily...</p>	<p>Minutes</p>
<p>... and there was no catch in between, so he could not figure out why it was catching. So, he said "I can't figure this out," and the sergeant, who was on the team, said "Well, I had the same problem, you got the spring in there backwards!" So he took his whole rifle apart, turned the spring around, of course that did nothing for the bolt. He put his whole rifle back together again, and it still didn't work. I had a funny story, too, in a sense; I was on CQ, so I was in charge of the whole post, basically, our whole compound for the night, making sure that everyone gets fed...</p>	<p>33:00 Minutes</p>
<p>... on time and gets woken up in the morning, or if there's something going on, I have to wake everybody up. So, we had real good relationships with the green berets, the special forces. So, some of the guys who went to party were special forces, and they came back, and it was kinda late at night, we're waiting in the club. They were hootin' and hollering and acting up and drinking too much. It was keeping everyone awake, so I went into the club, and shoved the door open, walking in like a cowboy walking into a saloon. I said "everyone out of the club, and that includes <i>you</i>, and <i>you</i>,"</p>	<p>34:00 Minutes</p>
<p>... and I was pointing at two officers that were in the club; of course they outranked me, and one of them was supposed to be the officer in charge for the night. I was supposed to be working for him that night.</p>	<p>35:00 Minutes</p>

<p>Everyone left the club and it was kind of funny. The officers didn't hold it against me; they knew they were wrong, and I kicked them out of the club. Funny sight to see.</p> <p>Pranks? Oh, one of our favorite ones was, well, I looked at aerial photography, so sometime you'd have clouds on your imagery, so it's kind of obscuring what you're looking at...</p>	
<p>..So, one of our favorite pranks was; you'd get a new guy that just came over, and you're sitting there looking at your imagery and say "Oh, there's clouds there, I need some 'cloud-eradicator'," so we'd get one of the new guys and say "go to supply, and get a can of 'cloud-eradicator,' so we can wipe out these clouds." Occasionally, we'd find someone who would really do that. That was one of our favorite pranks to pull. We had others, however; we were constantly doing things.</p> <p>What really shaped my life was making rank fast, my life was really shaped because of Vietnam and then on...</p>	<p>36:00 Minutes</p>
<p>I made rank really fast, I read at one point there were 180 guys who made staff sergeant in less than two years, and I was one of the 180 guys out of all the guys in the army. So, that meant that I could reenlist, and by reenlisting, there's a critical shortage of image interpreters, and I got, as a reenlistment bonus about \$9,000, tax-free from reenlisting in Vietnam. If you reenlisted there, the money was tax-free. Also, I was way ahead of my peers, rankwise. So, that meant...</p>	<p>37:00 Minutes</p>
<p>... when I got back from Vietnam, my wife and I, I got married in June, 1970, didn't have to worry about a paycheck. There were times where we didn't even cash or bank our paycheck because there was no need to. We had plenty of money for starting out our life. Also, because I made rank fast in Vietnam, it meant</p>	<p>38:00 Minutes</p>

<p>that I made rank fast throughout my career. I was a sergeant-first class much faster than normal. The normal time to make staff sergeant in the army back then was four to six years, and so, by making it in less than two years I was always ahead of the game. I was always making rank much faster than...</p>	
<p>... normal. So, when I left the army I was a sergeant first class, and I went into the reserves. I made master sergeant really fast there, and before I got out I got a direct mission as a captain, and that's what I retired as.</p> <p>Without the war, my life would have probably been a lot different, I wouldn't have ended up doing what I did as an image interpreter. I might've been an archaeologist or a city planner, I was doing that for a short period of time. I don't know exactly what would've happened, but it would have been dramatically different.</p>	<p>39:00 Minutes</p>
<p>I learned to grow up, I was an immature teenager, and by the time I left I was doing things many years beyond my years. It made you grow up pretty fast. It made me grow up so fast because of the experiences. I had experiences that a normal person would not have. I had to hone my leadership skills, I had to deal with all kinds of problems that I probably wouldn't have dealt with if I wasn't in the war. For example, I was in a terrible truck...</p>	<p>40:00 Minutes</p>
<p>...accident there. That made me grow up fast; it made me thankful that I was a Christian, that I had a way of coping with that kind of a situation. Yeah, there was a lot of experiences that I just wouldn't have had otherwise.</p> <p>A typical day would be, if I was on day shift, for example, we would get woken up at quarter to six. At six o'clock, if you've seen the movie <i>Good Morning Vietnam</i>, we would hear this jockey, or the armed forces radio say "Good...</p>	<p>41:00 Minutes</p>

<p>Morning, Vietnam!” That would wake us up, we’d get dressed, and at about 6:15 we’d go out and do police call, which, in the early morning was a real challenge, because it was dark so you couldn’t see anything anyway. We had to do that, then we would hop on our truck, we had a two and a half ton truck. We’d go to a compound where we ate dinners, from there we would go out to our operations, our location was on the outskirts of the airbase. Then we’d pull our day looking at imagery and occasionally we had other chores like...</p>	<p>42:00 Minutes</p>
<p>we had to burn film because we constantly had all of this film coming in. We had to get rid of it and it was classified, so we would go out and make a big file of film and burn that. We’d wait for the imagery to come in and do that, so that was kinda what we did for work. Then we would kind of retrace the thing, we’d go back to the training compound, and end up back where we lived. Pretty much, our day was twelve hours on, from the time we woke up to the time we got home for the night, and we’d have twelve hours off, where we would sleep or try to sleep. Sometimes, during the day it got pretty hot so you would have to take malaria pills, and malaria pills would do you a real number on your stomach...</p>	<p>43:00 Minutes</p>
<p>... you could hardly sleep, because your stomach would be all messed up for a couple hours, or until the pill could take effect. That was one of the things you kind of had to deal with, but that was a typical day in vietnam. Like I said, night shift was kind of the opposite.</p> <p>During the day, one of the things you had was a lot of tasks you had to do, like take care of the trucks and stuff like that. So, even though you did a lot of looking at imagery throughout the day. You also had a lot of chores to do. The night shift, though, all you had to do was your work, so, I like the night shift, and...</p>	<p>44:00 Minutes</p>

<p>...I would always volunteer the night shift if I could. It was a lot of fun because you did what you were there for. The drawback of being on the night shift was we were right on the outskirts around the border of the airbase, and also the area was the headquarters for the vietnamese, They were targets for the vietcong. At night you had to contend with rocket attacks. You'd be sitting there looking at your imagery and all of a sudden the air raid siren would go off at the air base and we knew that about two seconds later there would be a rocket landing somewhere on the airbase. you would have to run out of...</p>	<p>45:00 Minutes</p>
<p>..treks that we did our work in, down the steps and into the bunker. There were some interesting things about that. One night i was writing to my fiancee, Kathy, I just started the letter to her i said "It's been a dull boring day". Then we heard this "woomp woomp woomp" It's the rockets hitting the air base so I race out down into the bunker. We sat there during the attack and then once that was over I came back and my next sentence was "I take that back we just had a rocket attack on the airbase". There was a lot of things about rocket attacks, you didn't know when they were gonna come. It might just be one rocket it might be twenty rockets. One time I was putting in for a...</p>	<p>46:00 Minutes</p>
<p>...Direct mission while I was over there and we had a which was actually a good thing. I had to ask one of the officers if he could write a letter of recommendation for me. I had to have a recommendation that I was a good leader. He says "oh I have no problem with writing a letter about your leadership. Every time we have a rocket attack you lead everybody to the bunker." The truck accident, It was in January, In fact January 9th 1970. It was lunch time so we were going from our operations area to where we ate and I was driving...</p>	<p>47:00 Minutes</p>
<p>... the truck. It was a big two-and-a-half ton truck. It</p>	<p>48:00</p>

<p>was a big truck not one that stops very easily. I was making a turn. Looking in my rearview mirror, no one was there. There was a slight curve going around so i didn't see anybody and I started my turn and a soldier on a motorcycle was going much faster than he was supposed to. Speed limit was I think 30 miles an hour and he was going 50. He tried to pass me on the left instead of on the right and when I saw him in the rearview mirror I slammed on the breaks but you can't stop a two-and-a-half ton truck that fast. He hit my front bumper that was turning...</p>	<p>Minutes</p>
<p>... and went down into a ditch and hit his head on a rock I think it was. They took him to the hospital but he died on the way to the hospital. It was very tragic but it couldn't be helped. That's something that bothered me for years and years and years and I probably had PTSD and didn't know it because of that. That was the worst moment in not only Vietnam but the worst moment in my life. Those are the kinds of things you ultimately get over, I guess, but it's still something that bothers you even today.</p>	<p>49:00 Minutes</p>
<p>One area we haven't talked about was my experience with flying hand held photography. That was an experience that was probably one of the most remembered from vietnam. Well I can't really say that a lot of it I remembered. Around may of 1969 right after towards the end of the 69 TET offensive an officer asked me if I would like to be involved in the hand held program. What this was, was instead of getting imagery from large airplanes that flew over vietnam we would go up in helicopters...</p>	<p>50:00 Minutes</p>
<p>... Or small single engine aircraft and what we would do is hang out the side and take pictures of enemy positions all over vietnam. That's something i wanted to do. As much as anything you just wanna get out of this little confined area we lived in, worked in, went to our meals in. I had a lot of really interesting</p>	<p>51:00 Minutes</p>

<p>experiences with that. The first one was the time were I flew over that village I mentioned earlier. The vietcong had come in and killed sixteen people. My second mission was probably the second most memorable mission I had.</p>	
<p>That was called a sniffer mission. Basically what we would do we worked with the special forces. They had this machine that was about four feet high and about two feet wide and it had two hoses tied to the skids of the aircraft or the helicopter. The area we were flying over is called "War Zone D". Which basically is anything in that area was vietcong or MVA there was no villages or anything in there. It was really heavily wooded, triple canopy jungle bunkers. We flew this mission and basically what it was I would sit on the side of the...</p>	<p>52:00 Minutes</p>
<p>... plane or the helicopter right next to the door gunne. We had another guy that sat next to me. The special forces sergeant would be taking the readings off the machine and he's say mark and this guy would throw down a smoke grenade, I would take a picture. Then there was two cobra attack helicopters that would come in and shoot up the area. We did this back and forth in one area. Another big mission was I got the job of taking pictures of all the special forces teams. I landed on top of this place I went to it was a mountain.</p>	<p>53:00 Minutes</p>
<p>Everything was flat in that area except one volcano, It sits up way above everything else in the area. We own the very top of the mountain so you had signal guys there, one team of special forces some infantry guys and signal guys. We owned the top and the entire mountain was owned by the vietcong. That was kind of an eerie place to land. Knowing that you were on the only safe part of the entire mountain. I flew into another place where there was a fight going on. Some special forces guys were surrounded about a mile</p>	<p>54:00 Minutes</p>

before we landed.	
<p>We landed by the base camp for the special forces and probably the coolest guy i've ever seen in my life, It was the commander of the unit he was sitting in his chair like I am here. At one side he had one radio on the other side he had another radio and about as he cool as he could be he was sitting there saying "okay guys hold on we got some good guys coming to get you" and the other one "what are you guys doing? where are you? we gotta get here fast because we're surrounded." He was just going back and forth like that in a very calm tone meanwhile his small little team was surrounded by vietcong. Sure enough they sent in whats called mic force. This is a special force that special forces would use if someone was in trouble and they'd bring in a bunch of...</p>	55:00 Minutes
<p>...actually I think cambodian soldiers in a small little special forces team and they would come in and take care of the situation. Another camp I went to, same thing, I talk to the lieutenant in charge that morning and he said we were almost overrun last night, the viet cong attacked us and if they made one more we would have been overthrown. That's some of the things special forces had to deal with. Probably the most exciting mission like that I did was an army we called them forde air controllers and basically this was in a small little airplane and their job...</p>	56:00 Minutes
<p>... Is to fly around see what's going on in the area and support any troops that get in trouble. They're the ones that call in the fighter planes so they would mark where the enemy was and the fighter planes would come in and take care of it. I was with this one guy and had to take some pictures of a river. I have to make contact with a small patrol that's out in the jungle at a certain time. and he says "would you like to fly the airplane?" I said sure, sounds like fun. He gave me a stick so I could fly the airplane around. I did that for a</p>	57:00 Minutes

<p>few minutes then he says “would you like to see what i do when I get shot at?” I said sure...</p>	
<p>...not knowing what he was gonna do. He goes into a dive and i could look through the front of the cockpit and the planes going around *like this as we’re heading into the ground then at the last minute he pulls out and and went up then he did a few loops and he showed me another maneuver and I thought it was basically the same thing as the first one. We were spinning and just going to the ground and I remember thinking “are we gonna make it” and at the last minute he pulls out. That was a real fun ride. My last example of this was when I had to go into the north west part of threecore, there’s an area called the elephant ear and if you look at the border it looks like an elephant ear.</p>	<p>58:00 Minutes</p>
<p>I went there and i went up to where the fac pilots were. The same kind of thing as an army guy. I had to fly an area mission and that’s the most dangerous mission to fly because you’re going one direction turn around come back this direction and you go this direction and if you’re an enemy down below you can tell what they’re gonna do next, gonna come around and go this way. they could put a bead on you and shoot at you. Normally you just wanna go in one way go out and then gone. We went into this area and it’s just on the other side of the cambodians where the main headquarters for all the fighting in the three core for...</p>	<p>59:00 Minutes</p>
<p>... the north vietnamese BC thts that was their headquarters so we're right where the headquarters supposed to be you know on the other side of the border. And the whole time the pilot kept saying, do you know how dangerous this is do you know how dangerous this is. I said yup this is what they told me to do you know so but that, that was a probably an exciting part of my tour over there, and one that i will</p>	<p>60:00 Minutes</p>

<p>always remember. Letters that, that's the main thing that got me through every single day. Letters from my fiancée and letters from my parents, my cousins. my fiancée Cathy would write me every single day. SO the mail call was the most important thing over there...</p>	
<p>... as far as you know get me through the day. It was reading letters and the you know I tried and write a letter. You know a lot of times you're just too busy to do that cuz you're either sleeping or working. But yea letters were important. I got a birthday cake when i turned 22 in vietnam. And that was that was fun we had a made a big party out of it on the night shift. Lit the candles and had cake. But yea letters far and away were the most important thing as far as getting a, and i think probably most soldiers that tell you that that's the one thing that gets you through...</p>	<p>61:00 Minutes</p>
<p>...First picture is, that's what I looked like when azbi the i first got over to vietnam. I was 20 years old. In fact you can even tell because the hat is the type of hat you get issued in the United States. first thing you do when you get to vietnam is you buy a hat that looks more like a typical baseball hat that you buy today. And so i had just gotten over there. And that's my m14 rifle. One that had the spring. And this is where I lived...</p>	<p>62:00 Minues</p>
<p>...So this is where I lived and it is an old vietnamese saw mill. And it was kind of like a french filla. And so I lived in this area. Any idea until you iijrjd the officers lived back here. Our club was down here. And our orderly room where are officer worked was right there. And we had a little boat dock back here so we could go water skiing on the river. And there were pools over there. That's pretty much where I lived. It was a very small place and it was out in the middle on nowhere so there was all that much protection. Fortunately we didn't get attacked...</p>	<p>63:00 Minutes</p>
<p>...This is where i worked at. And these are expandable</p>	<p>64:00</p>

<p>vans and they provided office space. This is a specially made van and it's called a TIIF. Technical Imagery Interpretation facility. And this is where operations were and this is where are reproductions center was. Guys who would develop the film and that sort of thing. So that's where I worked. Then this is me at work and you see i am going through some papers. And over here i've got, this is the imagery the aerial imagery. This little object here, black...</p>	<p>Minutes</p>
<p>... That's a stereoscope. you can pinch the film together to show the same part, there's overlap in the imagery. so you can look at the same point on one frame of imagery and on the other frame. And you pinch it together and use this and it pops up in 3D. So it's like a 3D type thing. So you can see easily through the trees. And then down here are measuring, this is a 2 magnifier so you can measure things on the ground. So you can see how long it is. So that's what I did and operations. And this is a light table so that it puts light up through the duplicator, positive film. So that's what I brought along...</p>	<p>65:00 Minutes</p>
<p>...for photos. Give you an idea where I lived and where I worked and what I was doing when I was there. You're welcome!!</p>	<p>66:00 Minutes</p>