

## Garrette Peck III 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>“ Yes, my MOS was 0311 which is a rifleman in the marine corps and most rifle men they call them in the field triggerman. because actually he goes through the jungle looking for the enemy. You have to shoot then before they shoot you type thing. I was in the marine corps. I was drafted into the army but I went into the marine corps for 4 years because my uncle and my grandfather they were all in the marine corps and</p>	<p>1:00 Minute</p>
<p>said if you’re going to vietnam you want to be trained properly go into the marine corps that would be the better choice. My name is Garrette Walten Peck III. And I have a son Garrette Peck IV who went into the marine corps as well. And my grandson Garrette Peck V we call him G five. But he’s three years old. I arrived in vietnam in April 1, 1966. I stayed for a period of 21 months. And out of the 21 months I was in the field about eighteen months. I was stationed in Vietnam in basically what they call I corps. Which is the roman numeral I which is 1.</p>	<p>2:00 Minutes</p>
<p>which was Quan tree province, and Quan nie province. Which butts right up to the DMZ which was the three mile buffer zone between north Vietnam and south Vietnam. I was involved in about 20 division sized operations during the total 31 months I spent in Vietnam. Out of those 20 operations most of them were related with army units and the army republic of Vietnam units as well as Korean marine corps units attached to us.</p>	<p>3:00 Minutes</p>
<p>Operation Hickory was in the Me Lie valley and the village of mylock was a stronghold for the north</p>	<p>4:00 Minutes</p>

<p>Vietnamese army, and we were to take that in three days. And we took it in about two days with a loss of about 40% casualties on our side and about 90% casualties on the north Vietnamese side. Vietnam was very hot. During the summer the temperature averaged about 110 degrees, and went up about as much as 120 degrees, and of course you had your backpack and everything so.</p>	
<p>We all went down to about 160 pounds or something because you carry what you eat, and you didn't eat much because you don't know when you're gonna get resupplied. A rifle platoon sergeant I was in charge of about 45 other marines under me and that number deviated from 45 to as low as 12 at one time. I guess it got pretty scary when we didn't have enough men to carry the wounded and dead to the LZ because we couldn't form a perimeter and fight off the enemy and still and still take care of the dead and wounded, so that was a pretty heroic experience I would say.</p>	<p>5:00 Minutes</p>
<p>Basically when I was wounded and sent back to the states I spent ten months in Bethesda naval hospital recuperating because I was shot in both legs. I got shot in my left leg with an AK-47 and it broke the femur and the fibula, and I had my right calf shot off, and I was subjected to the agent orange thing so that's the reason I had a kidney transplant that eventually caused me to get double pneumonia and I get it like every other year so it still affects my breathing quite a bit. So yes I still have that but like I said I keep moving on in spite of those things.</p>	<p>6:00 Minutes</p>
<p>And when they sprayed it on us, you would cough up blood and everything else for about 3 hours. So, and it would, the trees around us would turn brown in about three hours and then you could see for half a mile but the downside of that was they could see us for half a mile as well. So it really didn't do us any good, but they sprayed us many times. Sometimes in the night even when it was raining very hard, you could hear the planes up there, and they weren't firing anything so you knew they were spraying. Just about everybody, well I think everybody in my</p>	<p>7:00 Minutes</p>

<p>platoon has suffered some type of kidney failure or liver failure or lipno cancers are very high in the agent orange.</p>	
<p>Well the question is am I ever reminded of Vietnam by everyday events and yes. I go up the Andrews air force base quite a bit and when I hear the helicopters coming through I kind of think of it- is it a manufact chopper, is it a hughey attack chopper coming by? I kind of have a flashback, but I usually get back into reality pretty quick. But I'll be sleeping at home and I live in Dunkirk Maryland and there will be choppers that go back and forth from Andrew's Patuxent naval air force station. They'll come right over my house and I'll sit up in bed and my wife will say it's just a chopper or maybe it's just a state trooper chopper or whatever. But yes I do have flashbacks.</p>	<p>8:00 Minutes</p>
<p>Yes. I go back to Vietnam about once a year I'll be going back in February. We have two orphanages that our battalion actually built for young women we put through college.They don't have to be orphans or anything but it's called an orphanage. Basically it's a boarding house. We have two of them. We put 26 young girls through the university so far in the last 16 years, and one of them just got her masters in business administration from the university of Oregon. So 11 years ago she couldn't speak English. I'm very proud of the fact.</p>	<p>9:00 Minutes</p>
<p>Originally built the first one when we got together and said, well something we ought to be able to do because we went back to visit the spot where one of our marines had died on his 18th birthday. We thought it was such a tragic thing. That morning we were kind of singing happy birthday to him, and that afternoon he was dead. So we went back to that area and we looked around and said this area is the same as it was when we left. So we went down to the local village and there was still some of the same people there that were there. They were elderly now, they were our age. We said 'what do you really need' and they said they needed a well. So we hired a German firm to drill them a well, and it cost something like 300 dollars.</p>	<p>10:00 Minutes</p>
<p>500. So we had them drill them a well so they wouldn't have to walk a mile and a half to get fresh water. So then after we drilled the well they said "well the wells kind of something that's sustainable" but they don't have a school or anything else so we decided to build the orphanage slash boarding school type thing. And we provided room and boarding books and every time we'd go there i'd take two laps tops and i'd give it to one and she'd have to share it with two other young ladies. We had it loaded with everything they need to advance themselves and especially learn English. Vietnam was a patriarchal society</p>	<p>11:00 Minutes</p>

where the men ruled everything.	
<p>Women are really like not even third class citizens probably like fifth class citizens. If a man and a woman are married and the woman dies, the eldest son becomes the patriarch of the society. We did see a fifteen year old boy actually beating on his mother because he didn't like the fact that she wouldn't let him go play somewhere. We thought it was sort of strange but that's the way it is in Vietnam. We thought that was a lot but... I'll be going back in February we're building another- one of the orphanages that we actually build is for kids with cancer. Basically about forty of them we look after now but we need a bigger building and we already have the money and everything- we just go to make sure. I'm retired from the department of treasury as well as the department of the navy, and i'm an IT sort of guy.</p>	12:00 Minutes
<p>"I was wounded on March 3rd 1969 and i went to 3rd medical battalion which was located in Fubai vietnam which is on the coast and from there i went to Cameron Bay and from there to Japan and from there to Bethesda Naval hospital and i stayed in Bethesda Naval hospital for 10 months having surgeries done on my left leg and schrapnel in my face i had little bits picked out."</p>	13:00 Minutes
<p>"I left vietnam March 3rd, left the field march 3rd and they transported me out May 22nd we were in the Milok Valley, same Valley i got wounded before, but i was WIANE, wounded in action not evacuated in other words i had some schrapnel in my left axilla which is my armpit and the corban actually came and picked it out and put a bandage up in there and said ok back to duty type thing and there wasn't any problem with that but i got wounded later on in the same area that i was wounded the first time."</p>	14:00 Minutes
<p>"probably 100 meters from there and thats when i took the AK47 through my left leg and that was the event that took me out of the field. I was considered what you call "Combat non-effective" because i couldn't wear a combat boot and i had schrapnel in my behind."</p>	15:00 Minutes

<p>“Matter of fact 2 days from now my captain Richard Johnson, we were the 2 oldest in our petune i turned 24 in bootcamp so i was 25 as a petune sargant and he was 27 as the petune commander so were still pretty much in touch and i will pick him up at the airport in 2 days and we’ll do the Marine Court reunion. The saddest memory i saw was when i got out of Vietnam when i was going to University of Maryland, i got 2 degrees and i was watching tv one day when the Americans were leaving the embassy and people were trying to hang onto the helicopters.”</p>	<p>16:00 Minutes</p>
<p>“To escape and i just saw how pitiful that was because they knew the city was going to fall they should have at least evacuated the people that work for us and everything and i found that really sad that they didn’t take care of the people actually were fighting for their lives and that’s probably my saddest memory. we did go on “R and R” several times and i went to “R and R” Bangkok in Sydney Australia. But i guess the funniest part when when i got back from Bangkok to the “R and R” termanel where they send you out to your field and they said they couldn’t find a uniform for us to wear.”</p>	<p>17:00 Minutes</p>
<p>“Back there in the rear so we were supposed to go to field dressed up with what they call our “Class A summer uniforms” and you had your little ribbons and I just said “You really think i want to walk out in the field with you know a little purple heart and all these ribbons on and walk around the village” and the guy says “Well we don’t have a uniform, you’re going to have to wear what you have on” and i just said “I don’t think so i’m not going anywhere you’re going to have to Court Marshall me or something” I knew he couldn’t he didn’t have the authority but i just thought that was kind of humorous that they actually had the nerve to ask us to do that i still think of that being you know maybe satire still funny in a black humor if you will. alright thank you very much”</p>	<p>18:00 Minutes</p>

<p>“My only thoughts is when I speak to my son and my niece, we have several of us, in our family that are very liberal, several conservative. Most of the ones who have served with me were very anti-war, we're not anti-troop. We quite don't understand, well we did see that movie called <u>Why Vietnam?</u> It was presented to us for about 3 times before we left. We are mainly apolitical. I'm registered as an independent, I don't really care who is at the presidential level. I'm mainly interested in local politics; what they can do for the community.”</p>	<p>19:00 Minutes</p>
<p>“My message is that I don't think war is good for anybody, it's so far a quality of life type thing. There are still people devastated from the wars, WW2, Korea, Vietnam, and now the latest ones in Iraq and the rest of them.”</p>	<p>20:00 Minute</p>
<p>“ I was mixed emotions because, when I left my mother was very lucid. She worked in the White House one time, as part of the secondentrial pool for Franklin D. Roosevelt. When I returned she had the onset of dementia. I grew up in D.C. and went to catholic schools; she used to have me take her to church and everything, sometimes we would go to church and she would not realize where she was. I thought that was very sad, that I got back, and I kinda missed all those good times when my mom was still lucid. Most of my friends had either gone off to the army or whatever service, some were still serving. It basically wasn't a good environment, I didn't tell anyone I was in service or anything. I did walk with a very pronounced limp. One of my friends said ‘what happened to your leg there Gary?’ and I said I was shot in it, he said ‘you got shot? When?’ I said I was in Vietnam, he told said ‘ what are you crazy? People get shot their!’ Really?”</p>	<p>21:00 Minutes</p>
<p>“I just didn't want to have to explain, why i went or that type of thing. The war, people were mixed emotions, should we be there, or why were we there.</p>	<p>22:00 Minutes</p>

<p>Vietnam Veteran is in the newspaper and the newspaper would say local 7-11 was robbed by crazed vietnam veteran, they always put the descriptive adjective in there. It was like Vietnam veterans were like an open game on them, they had to be delusional or crazy to ever go.”</p>	
<p>“Not really, I still believe that one has to serve their country in some capacity, even if it's in a community level, you know peace or whatever. I still think everyone has an obligation to give back to society. I still go down to volunteer at the soup kitchen, do that every third week, and i get to meet and hear about people local interests. I will just vote for the person who will do the most for their community, as far as a national level, I'm not really to much of a topical subject. I don't watch much news or anything.”</p>	<p>23:00 Minutes</p>
<p>“Yes, I still above the opinion that, my uncle and my grandfather as well, my grandmother just passed, and my uncle is still alive. He said ‘well you served with honor, courage, and commitment and that's all your country can ask of you.’ He got wounded very bad at Sipan, he said he would go through it again, and yes I said I had trials and tribulations of these health issues now, but we all have challenges in life. I would definitely do it again, because I felt at the time, still feel that we were trying to stop the communists from coming in and slaughtering the people.”</p>	<p>24:00 Minutes</p>
<p>“When they did come over, to take over, they killed over 3 million of the South Vietnamese, that weren't of their political persuasion. So yes, I would definitely do it again, from that perspective. I go down to Parris Island about every 6 months, because I'm still a sorry sypien as well. I speak to the graduating class, usually it's the 4th marine division women's thing. Mainly they have me give them a talk about my service.”</p>	<p>25:00 Minutes</p>
<p>“Basically, I tell them to listen up and you have your uniform code of military service to live by, but i said, I</p>	<p>26:00 Minutes</p>

<p>quote Dalai Lama 'just be kind to people'. My philosophy is very simple, I was raised catholic, my wife plays piano at a southern baptist church. I go there and I go to a catholic church with my niece as well. I visit churches, but i believe god just looks at your heart and you can pray right next to your bed, if he feels like it."</p>	
<p>"one time we had several guys, this one lands corp, was named stocker, and he was sorta a bully type guy or braggadocio might be a little better term, and he was saying i wish they would show a bomb, ill kick their ass and all this stuff and about 20 minutes later, a bunch of mortar rounds came in and he was running to find a fox hole and of course we were right next to ours and he said 'can i get in your fox hole?' and i said 'no go kick their as.' but we made up this name, we called him staff sergeant debersurack and this one marine who had been in the very end for world war 2 and he came back in for korea, and he was there with us, he must have been about 47 then.</p>	<p>27:00 Minutes</p>
<p>and he was a lance corps, his name was dan labell, and he was with the press information officer anyway he was in the field with us carrying a rifle and he just kept saying how stupid all this is. that we seem to be walking all over the place but we weren't going anywhere. so i said 'what does staff sergeant debersurack have to say about it?' of course he was a fictitious person. and then we'd make up something and i said ' well tell him we're going on a float phase for 3 days and we tell stacker and stacker would say ' well i heard from staff sergeant debersurack', well to make matters even funnier, we ran a reunion 5 years ago and bob stacker comes in and he has his medals on, like the cold war medals and medals i never even heard of and i said ' what pawn shop did you rob? where did you get all these medals?</p>	<p>28:00 Minutes</p>
<p>so i said 'you got more medals than napoleon zeed</p>	<p>29:00</p>



<p>dacomb and rob says ' well if you look into the marine corps personnel manual, were entitled to wear all this and i said 'well it's not on my d214, which is your discharge, so if it's not on there i don't wear it' anyway he told me he said 'i was wondering if staff sergeant debersurack is gonna come to one of reunions and someone burst the bubble and said bob stacker, staff sergeant debersurack was just a made up person, we made him up just to humor you and he was crestfallen that he was duked all those years. poor bob still is licking his wounds.</p>	<p>Minutes</p>
<p>well i did get the silver star, which is our nation's 3rd highest award. our squad leader and i and 2 other men a rocket man named rafael jenkins, he was from georgia and hankerson whose fro new jersey, we were on a recon patrol way out in the middle of nowhere, its called arizona territory, they called it that because all they did was throw our chillery in there and they barely sent troops in there because they had so many of the enemy there. well they had this old railroad bridge that they were crawling across at night time and we were on the railroad bridge and the squad leader got shot and i was about 50 yards behind him and the rest of them, you know you spread out quite a bit so they can't get you all at on one round they say</p>	<p>30:00 Minutes</p>
<p>and so i crawled out there and got him and he was shot in both legs and he was bleeding profusely so i had to bandage him up and i put him on my back and i carried him back across the bridge to where the cormen was and then i took my m79 grenade launcher and 45 and his m14 and went back out on the bridge and i killed the 5 on the bridge who were shooting us and that's where i got the strap on my left leg so i got the silver star for that and the purple heart and then i got the vietnamese cross with the silver star later on and that's like the vietnamese medal of honor it's the</p>	<p>31:00 minutes</p>

highest award that the foreign country could give to a soldier from another country	
just that he needed help and he was bleeding profusely and i just said it's my duty to do that, he would do it for me and the others that were wounded they would come out and get us and the rest of the platoon was working its way up there at the time so i knew in about 15 or 20 minutes we would have fire superiority but i had to do what i had to do in less than 15 minutes because i didn't want him to bleed out and go into shock because more of our troops died of shock then actually the wounds	32:00 minutes