

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with John S. Raschke

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Veterans Remember Oral History project

Interview # VRV-A-L-2011-049

John S. Raschke, an engineer advisor with MAC-V during the Vietnam War in the Mekong Delta, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Oct 18, 2011 Location: Raschke's office, U.S. Attorney's office in Springfield

Date: Nov 1, 2011 Location: Raschke's office, U.S. Attorney's office in Springfield

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Betty Workman & Rozanne Flatt, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 67 pgs Total Time: 2:15 + 1:55 = 2.25 + 1.96 = 4.21 hrs

Session 1: Early life, initial training, & combat experience in Vietnam with MAC-V

Session 2: Combat experiences as MAC-V advisor in Vietnam in 1969-70 & post-war

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on Dec 19, 2011

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

John S. Raschke, *Veterans Remember*, VRV-A-L-2011-049

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: John S. Raschke was born on November 2nd, 1947 in Geneseo, Illinois, and grew up on the family farm outside of Geneseo. Upon graduation from high school in 1965, he worked at the local Farmall plant for a year, then enlisted in the Army in October, 1966. He attended Basic Training at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky in 1967, and during follow-on training as an Army medic, he decided to attend the Officer Candidate School, which he attended at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. In 1968 he was commissioned in the Engineer branch, then attended an advisor training school at Ft. Bliss, Texas, where he also received training in the Vietnamese language. In between these schools, he married his high school sweetheart.

Raschke arrived in South Vietnam in July of 1969, and was assigned to the Military Assistance Command – Vietnam (MAC-V) and stationed in the village of Vi Thanh, Chuong Thien Province (in the Mekong Delta region) working with various South Vietnamese army units (ARVN) as an engineer and infantry advisor. During the interview he talked extensively about the nature of those duties, and about the patrols on which he frequently accompanied ARVN units while stationed there. Raschke lived on a small compound with other military advisors, both military and civilian, but spent much more time with South Vietnamese units, experiencing the war from their perspective, fighting an elusive Viet Cong enemy. After he returned home on emergency leave in June, 1970, near the end of his one year tour in Vietnam, he was reassigned to Ft. Leonard Wood Missouri. He was discharged one year later, and attended Black Hawk using his G.I. Bill benefits.

Subject Headings/Key Words: service as an advisor in Vietnam; MAC-V, Military Assistance Command-Vietnam; Advisory Team 73, MAC-V; combat actions with ARVN (Army of South Vietnam) units; engineer duties in South Vietnam; Vietnamese culture; use of helicopters in Vietnam; patrolling in Vietnam; Officer Candidate School; Geneseo, Illinois;

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