

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Harold G. Holesinger  
Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Veterans Remember* Oral History project  
Interview # VRK-A-L-2008-016

Harold G. Holesinger, an Air Force veteran of the Korean War, and later the Adjutant General for the Illinois National Guard, 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: April 1, 2008    Location: Holesinger residence in Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): N/A

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt & Rosie Camille, ALPL Volunteers

Total Pages: 40 pgs    Total Time: 2 hr 1 min/ 2.02 hrs

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The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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# Abstract

Harold G. Holesinger, *Veterans Remember*, VRK-A-L-2008-016

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Harold G. (Harry) Holesinger was born on October 4th, 1929 in Morrison, Illinois. He joined the Illinois Army National Guard (Sterling, Illinois) while still in high school, and after his junior year at Northern Illinois Teacher's College, he quit college and joined the U.S. Air Force, signing up for a pilot training program. After a year of Air Force basic training and flight school, he was assigned to fighter-bombers, and received additional training on the F-84 Thunderjet. In late 1952 he arrived in South Korea and was assigned to the 8th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 474th Fighter-Bomber Wing, (later to become the 58th FBW). Holesinger flew approximately fifty-seven combat missions over the next few months, mostly close air support missions along the Main Line of Resistance (MLR), but also some air interdiction missions, missions that took him deep into North Korean airspace. He participated in the raids against the Toksan irrigation dam, which resulted in widespread flooding in the Pyongyang area.

Following the war, he finished his active duty tour and returned to college, also joining the Illinois Air National Guard. He soon was working full time for the National Guard in the 170th Tactical Fighter Squadron, later redesignated the 183rd Tactical Fighter Group. In 1983 he became the Adjutant General for the Illinois National Guard, assuming command of both air and army National Guard units. He retired in 1991. General Holesinger passed away on March 7, 2016 and was laid to rest at Camp Butler, a military cemetery east of Springfield.

**Topics Covered:** Illinois Army National Guard; U.S. Air Force during Korean War; F-84 Thunderjet; Airbase K-2 in Taegu, South Korea; close air support during Korean War; 474th Fighter-Bomber Wing; dams in Toksan, North Korea; Illinois Air National Guard; 170th Tactical Fighter Squadron; 183rd Fighter Group; 126th Air Refueling Wing; Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005; Adjutant General, Illinois National Guard; Governor Jim Thompson

**Note to the Reader:** Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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