

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Randy Boschulte

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

Interview # VRV-A-L-2015-022

Randy Boschulte, an Army Ordnance officer who served in Vietnam and also in the U.S. Army Reserves for many years, 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: Jun 2, 2015      Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Date: Jun 16, 2015      Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Date: Jul 1, 2015      Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Transcript  
being processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 1:42 + 2:05 + 1:33 / 1.7 + 2.08 + 1.55 = 5.33 hrs.

Session 1: Early life in Virgin Islands and officer training in Ordnance Corps

Session 2: Ordnance officer in I Corps region of Vietnam in 1969-1970

Session 3: Active Duty year following Vietnam, RIF and career in Reserves

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 14, 2015.

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

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# Abstract

## Randy Boschulte, *Veterans Remember*, VRV-A-L-2015-022

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Randy Boschulte was born on April 17, 1943 in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and grew up on the islands in what he describes as an idyllic setting. He attended Morgan State College, a historically black college in Baltimore, Maryland, in the early 1960s, where he got his first exposure to segregation in the United States. He also enrolled in the school's ROTC program in order to pursue his dream of a military career. Following his graduation on February 6, 1967, Boschulte was also commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps. He attended the Ordnance branch Basic Officer Course at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland, then received an extensive course in missile maintenance at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. His first unit assignment was also at Redstone with the Land Combat Division of the Missile and Munitions Center and School, assigned as the Administration and Operations Officer.

In April, 1969 LT Boschulte was sent to South Vietnam and assigned to the 80th General Support Group, part of I Corps. While there, he traveled extensively throughout the country performing a variety of ordnance related duties, especially maintenance support and combat equipment inspections. His work included support of several of the handful of National Guard and Reserve units deployed to South Vietnam. He returned to the states in 1970, determined to make the Army his career.

Now married, he attended the Ordnance Advance Course, then was stationed at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, home of the Army's Armor school, where he was assigned to the 30th Ordnance Detachment (Missile/Rocket) as the Detachment Commander. From 1973 to 1977 he served at Grafenwoehr, Germany with the 3rd Battalion, 60th Air Defense Artillery (Self-Propelled Hawk), a rewarding experience, but which occurred during a time when the military was downsizing. His next assignment was at Warren, Michigan with the Tank-Automotive Research and Development Command. In December, 1978 he was RIFed (Reduction in Force) from the active duty Army, and spent the next several years working in the private sector in a variety of jobs in Ohio and Michigan. He eventually joined the U.S. Army Reserves, and in May, 1985 was asked to return to full time duty due to President Reagan's military build-up, this time serving with the Reserves in the Army's Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program. Assignments included a tour in Ohio with the 693rd Maintenance Battalion as well as with the 303rd Ordnance Ammunition Group headquartered in Springfield, Illinois, where he served as the unit's Executive Officer. Randy retired from the Tank-Automotive Command Combat Vehicles Division in 1993 and decided to return to the Springfield area to be close to one of his daughters.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Army Ordnance Corps; Ordnance Corps officer during Vietnam War; Growing up in Virgin Islands (1950s); Morgan State College; Reduction in Force (RIF) in 1970s; Grafenwoehr, Germany; U.S. Army Reserves in 1980s and 1990s; Active Guard Reserve program; 80th General Support Group; 3rd Battalion, 60th Air Defense Artillery (Self-Propelled Hawk); 303rd Ordnance Ammunition Group

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