

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Gary Joyner

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

Interview # VRV-A-L-2021-027

Gary Joyner, a career Army aviator who served in Vietnam in 1965 and 1968, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember – Vietnam War* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Dates: July 27, 28 & August 17, 2021

Location: Geneseo Public Library, Geneseo, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2:35 + 3:07 + 2:57 / 2.58 + 3.12 + 2.95 = 8.65 hrs.

Session 1: Early life, military training and 1965 tour of duty in Vietnam

Session 2: Military assignments from 1966 to 1966 & Vietnam tour in 1968

Session 3: Post Vietnam Army career and reflections on his military service

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on September 29, 2021.

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

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Abstract

Gary Joyner, Veterans Remember-Vietnam, VRV-A-L-2021-02?

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Gary Joyner was born in Shawneetown, Illinois in November 1944 and grew up near the small town of Equality, Illinois. He attended high school in Dixon, Illinois while dreaming of flying someday, and graduated in 1962. In November 1963 he enlisted in the U.S. Army with the intent of becoming an Army aviator. Following Basic Training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, he attended the Warrant Officer Course, simultaneously receiving flight training on helicopters. In November 1963 he completed his flight training and was promoted to Warrant Officer 1. Later that month Gary arrived in South Vietnam, initially assigned to an aviation platoon in the southern part of the country flying UH-1 Huey slicks and gunships. He was later transferred to the DaNang area. Gary was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross while stationed in Da Nang.

WO-1 Joyner was next assigned to Ft. Wolters, Texas as an instructor pilot. In November 1966 he received a direct commission to Second Lieutenant and attended the Armor Officer Basic Course at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. By January 1968 he was back in South Vietnam assigned to the 7th Squadron, 1st Air Cavalry Regiment. During this tour of duty, he served in a variety of both command and staff positions and earned a Silver Star for gallantry. Upon returning to the U.S. he married Jill Pence before becoming an instructor at the Army's new Warrant Officer Career Course, then returned to Ft. Knox for the Armor Officer Advance Course. Over the next sixteen years he continued to advance in his career, with more aviation billets, including a rewarding tour with the Australian Army, followed by aviation safety positions, and for his last few years while stationed at Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois, as an Organizational Effectiveness Consultant. Much of that tour was spent visiting ammunitions and ordnance plants across the country. He retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel in April 1986. Gary also shared his born-again experience in October 1983, an experience that changed the direction of his and Jill's life thereafter.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Army aviation during the Vietnam War; Warrant Officer Basic Course; Ft. Knox, Kentucky; service with the Australian Army; 7th Squadron, 1st Air Cavalry Regiment; aviation safety officer; Organizational Effectiveness Consultant for U.S. Army; Silver Star; becoming a born again Christian;

Notes 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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