

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with David Bone

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

Interview # VRV-A-L-2016-013

David Bone, a Marine lieutenant assigned as a platoon leader for a reconnaissance platoon during the Vietnam War, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember – Vietnam War* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Dates: April 18, April 28, May 9 & May 23

Location: David Bone residence, Jacksonville, 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: 2:12 + 2:10 + 2:15 + 2:25 / 2.2 + 2.17 + 2.25 + 2.42 =  
9.04 hrs.

Session 1: Growing up in Jacksonville, years at Northwestern and Marine officer training

Session 2: Early experience in Vietnam as a Marine Recon Platoon Leader

Session 3: More experiences in Vietnam, Hill 488 and Navy Dive School

Session 4: Returning home, teaching at The Basic School, and life beyond the Marines

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on September 14, 2016.

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

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## Abstract

### David Bone, *Veterans Remember*, VRV-A-L-2016-013

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** John David Bone was born in September, 1941 in Jacksonville, Illinois, and grew up there, the son of a prominent physician. Following high school, David attended Northwestern University where he majored in biology, and also played center on the Northwestern basketball team. Over the next three years, he played against several centers who went on to fame in the NBA, but David decided to forgo his senior year of basketball to focus on academics. Upon graduation in 1964 he went through the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School, followed by The Basic School (TBS) in Quantico, Virginia. David's first assignment was also at Quantico, working with the school's demonstration unit. In May, 1965 he was transferred to Camp Pendleton, California where he was assigned as a reconnaissance platoon leader for the Reconnaissance Battalion of the 1st Marine Division. In August, 1965 the unit shipped to Okinawa.

Lieutenant Bone's unit arrived in South Vietnam in January, 1966 as part of a special landing force south of Quang Ngai; the unit was then based at Chu Lai. Bone led reconnaissance patrols in the I Corps area of northern South Vietnam. He recounts several of his most memorable missions, including one where his platoon surprised a Viet Cong patrol walking through a village, another where his platoon was inserted via swift boats to call in naval artillery on the Viet Cong, and an intense combat action at Howard's Hill (Hill 488), where his platoon was in an over-watch position. In the summer of 1966 Lieutenant Bone attended a naval dive school at Subic Bay in the Philippines, then returned to South Vietnam and worked as a diver for a short time. In September, 1966 he returned to the United States, and again worked as an instructor at The Basic School at Quantico. While there, he passed along the lessons of leadership, combat and survival that he had learned as a platoon leader in Vietnam. He was married in June, 1968, left the Marine Corps in September, 1968, and began law school at Stetson University Law School in Gulfport, Florida. Upon receiving his law degree, David returned to Jacksonville and began a long and successful legal career, retiring as a judge of the 7th Judicial Circuit, state of Illinois.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Marine reconnaissance platoon leader during Vietnam War; reconnaissance patrolling in South Vietnam; Hill 488 (Howard's Hill); TBS (The Basic School); Marine Corps Officer Candidate School; Northwestern University; Big Ten basketball; Naval Dive School; Jacksonville, Illinois; 1st Marine Division in South Vietnam;

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