

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Tom Bowman

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

Interview # VRT-A-L-2016-015

Tom Bowman, an Illinois Army National Guard colonel who led a contingent of Guard officers to Iraq in 2005-2006, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember-War on Terror* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Mar 14 & 16, 2016

Location: Bowman residence in unincorporated area west of Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2:18 + 2:55 / 2.2 + 2.92 = 5.12 hrs.

Session 1: Military career from 1990 thru 2005, and deployment to Iraq in 2005

Session 2: Command of ARNG liaison team with Multinational Div. in Iraq 2005-06

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on April 20, 2016.

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

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Abstract

Tom Bowman, *Veterans Remember*, VRT-A-L-2016-015

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Thomas (Tom) Bowman was born on May 9th, 1947 in Springfield, Illinois, and grew up on the north side of Springfield in a large Catholic family. He was interviewed in 2014 about his experiences as a medic in the 44th Medical Brigade during the Vietnam War, and in 2004 about his years in the Illinois Army National Guard following the Vietnam War, especially about his command of the 233rd Military Police Company in Springfield, Illinois. These interviews are also available in the ALPL Oral History Program collection. This interview briefly covers Bowman's career in the Illinois Army National Guard from 1990 through 2005.

In 2005 Colonel Bowman was selected to command a group of seventeen Illinois Army National Guard officers who deployed to Iraq. That force, entitled the Joint Forces Headquarters Forward 9, worked as an American Army liaison team to the Multinational Division which was responsible for an area of Iraq south and east of Baghdad. The area encompassing nearly 32,000 kilometers, with a population of over 3.34 million people, mostly of the Shia faith. The division's commander and its largest contingent was Polish, but eleven other nations had contingents in the division as well. The division was responsible for the security of the region until January, 2006 when the Iraqi government took over those duties following an Iraqi election. The division oversaw some 2,200 civil-military projects in the region during its tenure. Colonel Bowman's specific duty was to work directly with the division's senior command element, and to oversee the other Illinois officers, who were assigned to various staff sections throughout the division. The group's tour in Iraq was from May 2005 to May 2006.

Subject Headings/Key Words: American occupation of Iraq; Joint Forces Headquarters Forward 9; Illinois Army National Guard; Multinational Division in Iraq in 2005-2006; CIMIC (Civil-Military Cooperation); Camp Echo, Iraq; Faris Dawood (Iraqi translator); Major General Piotr Czerwinski, Polish Army; LTC Michael Zerbonia; Major Jeff Camp; Colonel Steven Huber; LTC Alecia Tate-Nadeau; Colonel Scott Thoele; LT General John R. Vines; General George W. Casey

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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