

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Robert Tyler

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

Interview # VRV-A-L-2013-102

Robert (Bob) Tyler, a Vietnam War era Marine Corps naval aviator who made a career of the military, retiring as a colonel, was interviewed on the dates listed below, as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember - Vietnam* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Dec 9, 13, 16 & 20, 2013 Location: Tyler residence in Decatur, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Bonnie Bruns, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Roberta Volkmann & Janice Culp, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 177 pgs Total Time: 2:19 + 1:59 + 1:53 + 2:39 / 2.32 + 1.98 + 1.88 + 2.65
= 8.83 hrs

Session 1: Early life, Marine Corps Boot Camp and Aviation Training

Session 2: Vietnam War tour flying CH-46 helicopters with Marines

Session 3: Reflections on service in Vietnam, return home and career through 1975

Session 4: Tyler's military career as a Marine Corps naval aviator from 1975 to 1997

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on January 9, 2014.

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

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Abstract

Robert Tyler, *Veterans Remember-Vietnam*, VRV-A-L-2013-102

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Robert (Bob) Tyler was born at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois in 1947. The family moved often during his first few years, then settled in Redmon, Illinois. Tyler graduated from high school in 1965, and then he attended college at Michigan Tech for a time, but dropped out of college and enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1967, based on a recruiter's promise that he would be trained as a pilot. Following boot camp and basic infantry training, he married Carol Albrecht and then attended Aviation Electrician's School at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Florida. Following this, he was accepted into the Marine's Enlisted Commissioning Program. By November 1968 he was in Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Quantico, Virginia and was commissioned in February 1969. He took flight training with the army at Ft. Walters, Texas and Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia.

Tyler shipped to South Vietnam in November 1970 and was assigned to a CH-46 helicopter squadron, HMM 262 (Helicopter Marine Medium), which was stationed at Marble Mountain near Da Nang. Over the next several months he flew missions almost daily, everything from routine resupply missions to flying VIPs and Medevac missions. The entire unit redeployed to Hawaii in May 1971, where he was able to complete his undergraduate degree. Over the next twenty-six years, Tyler stayed in the Marine Corps, moving frequently, becoming qualified in both jets as well as the KC-130 turbo-prop. He had multiple unaccompanied tours to Okinawa, along with accompanied tours throughout the U.S. He served in Washington, D.C. from 1982 to 1986 and took command of a KC-130 training squadron in July 1987 while stationed at Cherry Point, North Carolina. During Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990-1991, he was assigned as the director of safety at Marine Corps Headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. He finished his career as a colonel in charge of Marine Corps training systems in Orlando, Florida, earning Ph.D. in applied psychology along the way. He retired in December 1997 and worked for several years as a consultant before he and Carol moved to Decatur, Illinois in 2009.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Marine aviation during Vietnam War; CH-46 helicopter; KC-130 aircraft; HMM 262 (Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron); Marine Corps boot camp; military flight training; views on public protest during the Vietnam War; Marine Corps aviation officer career progression; Marine Corps training devices; in-flight refueling; aviation safety

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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