

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Randall Richardson

Part of the Illinois Public Media ([WILL radio.tv.online](http://WILL.radio.tv.online))

Central Illinois Vietnam War Stories project

Interview # VRV-V-D-2015-079

Randall Richardson, was an Army infantry platoon leader over in Vietnam from 1969 to 1971, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Illinois Public Media – WILL AM-FM-TV Central Illinois Vietnam War Stories project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: April 28, 2015      Location: WILL-TV Studio X, Campbell Hall, Urbana, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Cassidy Williams

Technical Support (cameraman, etc.): WILL staff

Transcription by: Illinois Public Media staff

Edited by: Illinois Public Media staff

Total Pages: 38 pgs.      Total Time: 1:19 / 1.32 hrs.

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The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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## Abstract

Randall Richardson, *Veterans Remember*, VRV-V-D-2015-079

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Randall W. Richardson was born in Champaign, Illinois on July 16, 1946. He lived in Oreana, Illinois at the time of the interview. After graduating from Eastern Illinois University in 1968, he received his military induction papers and he enlisted for a three year tour, with a commitment to become an officer. He attended basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, after which he went on to Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He then attended the infantry Officers Candidate School (OCS) at Fort Benning, Georgia. Following OCS, he stayed on at the school, serving as a tactical officer. From February of 1969 to October of 1971 Richardson served in the Republic of South Vietnam west of Hué as an infantry platoon leader with A Company, 2/327 Infantry Battalion, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. He recalls instances of firing on a small group of Montagnards, tensions between officers and enlisted men, racism in the Army and receiving a life-threatening note in his doppel kit (toilet kit). Richardson remembers the shock of his R and R trip to Hawaii, where he realized that many Americans lived as if there was no war going on. He also talks about the restrictions that were placed on the American troops in regards to fighting the North Vietnamese, including prohibitions against entering Laos and Cambodia. Richardson believes the American military was not allowed to win the war; however, he says he is proud that he served. The training he received positively impacted who he is today as a father and a worker, teaching him discipline, dedication, seeking one's goals and accomplishing the mission.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Infantry platoon leader during Vietnam War; Officer Candidate School; fragging; Randall Richardson; Hué, South Vietnam; Kit Carson Scout; A Company, 2/327 Infantry Battalion, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

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