

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Steven Turner

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

Interview # VRG-A-L-2020-059

Steven G. Turner, a career Marine Corps non-commissioned officer and veteran of the Gulf War and Somalia, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember – Gulf War Oral History project*.

Interview dates & location:

Dates: Sep 21, 28 & Oct 14, 2020 Location: ALPL Recording Studio, 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: 2:12 + 2:01 + 2:19 / 2.2 + 2.02 + 2.32 = 6.54 hrs

Session 1: Early life and early Marine Corps career through 1989 and tour in Korea

Session 2: Gulf War experiences with the 1st Marine Division in 1990-1991

Session 3: Service in Somalia, with the Recruiting Command in Iowa and later service

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on April 12, 2021.

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

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Abstract

Steven Turner, *Veterans Remember-Gulf War*, VRG-A-L-2020-059

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Steven Turner was born in October 1962 in Decatur, Illinois and grew up there, graduating from MacArthur High School in June 1981. He enlisted into the Marine Corps delayed entry program following his junior year, and completed Marine Corps basic training at San Diego in September 1981. Following the completion of his training in the communications field, specifically as a Morse Code intercept operator, he served in Adak, Alaska until March 1983. He was also married during this tour, and the family was next transferred to the Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Air Station in Hawaii until July 1986, with occasional short deployments to the Philippines and South Korea. Following another school, Sergeant Turner served in South Korea from January 1987 to February 1989.

In October 1989 he and the family moved to Camp Pendleton, California where Turner was assigned to the G-2 (Intelligence) Section of the 1st Marine Division, spending the bulk of his time processing security clearances. In September he deployed to Saudi Arabia with the rest of the division, and participated in the liberation of Kuwait in late February 1991. He returned with the division to Camp Pendleton, and was soon on orders to attend the Defense language School to learn Portuguese That was preempted when his section deployed to Somalia in December 1992 in support of Operation Restore Hope, essentially a humanitarian mission. The Marines lived on the embassy compound, which had been heavily damaged. The Marines returned in April 1993 before the situation deteriorated into violence against the UN forces stationed there. From 1994 through June 1997 Steven served as a recruiter in Iowa, an experience he discussed at length. He then returned to Camp Pendleton where he finished up his career as the Signals Intelligence/ Electronic Warfare Chief, retiring with the rank of Master Sergeant in June 2001.

Subject Headings/Key Words: communications specialty in Marine Corps; Gulf War, Sep 1990-Mar 1991; 1st Marine Division; Operation Restore Hope, Somalia; recruiting for Marine Corps in Iowa; Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; 1st Marine Support battalion, Pyong-Taek, Republic of Korea; Marine Support Battalion, Adak, Alaska; processing security clearances

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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