

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Neil Taylor

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

Interview # VRT-A-L-2011-048

Staff Sergeant Neil Taylor, a tactical air controller who was deployed with the Illinois Air National Guard to Afghanistan in 2010, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Aug 31, 2011 Location: Deveraux home in Macomb, Illinois

Date: Aug 18, 2012 Location: Deveraux home in Macomb, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Robert Deveraux, ALPL Contract employee

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:47 + 0:52 / 1.78 + 0.87 = 2.65 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 5, 2012.

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

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Abstract

Neil Taylor, *Veteran's Remember*, VRT-A-L-2011-048

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Neil Taylor was born on May 9th, 1985 in Decatur, Illinois and grew up in Blandinsville, Illinois. He graduated from Blandinsville's Northwestern High School in 2003. He attended Western Illinois University, and enlisted in the Illinois Air National Guard in May 2005, training as a Tactical Air Controller at Hurlburt Field in Florida. He serves with the 169th Air Support Operations Squadron based in Peoria Illinois (part of the 182nd Air Wing). He deployed to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2010. He and his partner Tech Sergeant John Oliver were assigned to the Company Observation Post at Kalagush in Nuristan Province. Their mission was to provide close air support capability to defend against insurgent attacks. Taylor is a civilian Paramedic and has also served as a volunteer firefighter.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Blandinsville, Illinois; US Air Force training; Tactical Air Controllers; close air support; 169th Air Support Operations Squadron, Illinois Air National Guard; Air Force recruiting; contrast of civilian and military emergency medicine; deployment preparations; Kalagush, Nuristan, Afghanistan; Air Force liaison with Army in Afghanistan; effect of air-dropped munitions; importance of experienced mentors in the military; operations in mountainous and rural terrain in Afghanistan; importance of training in preparation for War on Terror deployments;

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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