

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Daniel Kennedy

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-2015-073

Daniel Kennedy, an air cavalry officer in the U.S. Army who worked as a unit adjutant in the United States during the Vietnam War, 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: Mar 17, 2015

Location: WILL-TV studio, Urbana, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Natasha Mosquera

Technical Support (videographers): WILL Staff

Transcription by: Illinois Public Media staff

Edited by: Illinois Public Media staff

Total Pages: 28

Total Time: 0:56 / 0.94 hrs.

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

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Abstract

Daniel Kennedy, *Veterans Remember*, VRV-V-D-2015-073

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Daniel Bowers Kennedy was born September 15, 1946 in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. He served in the U.S. Army as an armored officer and an air cavalry officer from 1969 to 1976 during the Vietnam War. Kennedy was enrolled in the ROTC at Washington and Jefferson College and was commissioned as a second lieutenant on the day he graduated in 1969. During his flight training at Fort Rucker, Alabama, he flew UH-1H Huey helicopters, as well as OH-58s and OH-6s, both observation helicopters. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron Air, 17th Cavalry part of the 82nd Airborne Division, based in Fort Bragg, North Carolina after serving with the 6th Armored Cavalry Regiment stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland for two years.

Kennedy served as an adjutant in the United States, making phone calls to soldiers, telling them when they were going to be shipped to Vietnam. He never was deployed to Vietnam himself, as his orders to go were rescinded. He experienced survivor's guilt until the moment his son was born in 1982. Once, while wearing his Army greens, Kennedy was called a "baby killer" and was confronted at a bar. Despite this, he remains proud of his service and says the time he served were the greatest seven years of his life. At the end of the Vietnam War, Kennedy was among the captains who were RIFed (Reduction in Force) in 1976. Kennedy then attended the University of Pittsburgh Law School to fulfill his dream of becoming a lawyer. Because of his undergraduate degree in English, he wrote for many different magazines, including Life Magazine. Daniel Kennedy died on February 11, 2016.

Subject Headings/Key Words: U.S. Army aviation; Vietnam War; Vietnam War era protests; 1st Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry; 6th Armored Cavalry Regiment; 82nd Airborne Division; 6th Armored Cavalry Regiment; abuse of Vietnam veterans by American civilians

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