

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Paul Sweet

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

Interview # VRC-A-L-2013-061

Paul Sweet, a navy veteran on active duty from 1966 through 1969 in the Atlantic, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember – Cold War Oral History project*.

Interview dates & location:

Date: July 31, 2013 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Bonnie Bruns, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Cheryl Wycoff & Janice Culp, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 54 pgs Total Time: 2:27 / 2.45 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 22, 2013.

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

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Abstract

Paul Sweet, *Veterans Remember*, VRC-A-L-2013-061

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Paul W. Sweet was born in August, 1947 in Springfield, Illinois and grew up in Springfield. Paul knew at a young age that he wanted to join the Navy and was able to attend navy Boot Camp (basic Training) at Great lakes Naval Training Center between his junior and senior years in high school. Upon high school graduation in 1966, he deployed to Norfolk, Virginia and was soon assigned to the USS Canopus, AS-34, a submarine tender assigned to the Atlantic fleet and operating out of Rota, Spain. Sweet spent six months working in the galley as a mess cook. He then became a damage control firefighter.

He finished his enlistment in 1969 and came back to the Springfield area, where he enrolled in Lincoln Land Community College, majoring in architecture and engineering. He soon found employment at the Illinois Department of Transportation, working in the Bureau of Bridges and Traffic Structures office. In 1976 he joined the 3637th Maintenance Company, an Illinois Army National Guard unit, based in Springfield. In 1980 he transferred to the 183rd Fighter Wing in the Illinois Air National Guard, where he worked in the Civil Engineering section. During his many years in the 183rd, he went on many deployments, including Templehof Air Base, Germany in 1989, Reykjavik, Iceland, a ninety day rotation at Prince Sultan Air base in Saudi Arabia in 2000, and Incirlik Air Base, Turkey in 2002. He retired from the National Guard in early 2002. In July 2008 he joined a group of New Berlin citizens to begin planning for a veteran's memorial for the town. The memorial was dedicated on July 6, 2013.

Subject Headings/Key Words: navy duty on a submarine tender during 1960s; USS Canopus, AS 34; growing up in Springfield, Illinois; firefighting on board navy ships; 183rd Fighter Wing; 3637th Maintenance Company; New Berlin Veterans Memorial; Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia; Illinois Department of Transportation

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