

Bruce Boughner

Lowe Veterans Appreciation Video – November 11, 2020

My name is Bruce Boughner. I lived in Portland, was drafted, well more or less drafted. Me and two other guys decided that we wanted to get our service over with so we volunteered for the draft. So then I went to Fort Wayne in Detroit and to Fort Knox, Kentucky. My [uniform?], they didn't have basic training. So I went to Fort Carson, Colorado, got my basic training. My second eight weeks I went to Fort Gordon in Georgia, to study to be a message center clerk. Then I was sent to Fort Bragg where I spent the rest of my army career in North Carolina.

I was in the artillery division. I was [best?] to that cause if you are in the infantry you walk everywhere. In the artillery you ride. Even in basic training I was in the artillery. So I did do some walking there of course. You got to have your basic training done.

And message center clerk, I more or less wrote down things from other headquarters above us, headquarters below us. That's basically, that's what I did.

That's a good, good experience. When I got out I said that's a wasted two years. I hadn't been out [long?], but that was the best two years I spent. And if I'd had to, I would have went back then, but I didn't have to. I was two years active, six years inactive. I got a discharge in April 30th, 1963.

Everybody that I met I got along with. There's three other guys [?] got along pretty good. We went, we used to go down to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, in the summertime. Then once we went to Washington, DC, looked things over. And all the guys, all the three guys I went where they were college people and so, but they were good, good guys. Each from a different state. One's from Colorado. One's from Kansas and one's Illinois.

And as far as any outstanding experiences, I can't recall too many. We, I was stationed in a barracks with – well it was two stories and the highest ranking person on the - in the - on the floor called attention. So one time the barracks commander and the first sergeant came in and we buffed our floors every morning. So I ran over when we heard the door slam. And here I was sliding across the floor with my legs up. And they thought it was funny, but I didn't fall down.

And then another time I just wasn't involved in it. But we had two or three guys getting ready to ship out and one guy he wanted to go out drink so he did. So when he went out some of the guys [?] his bed just enough so it'd keep the springs up. Put two condoms full of water in his bed. Then he came in, of course drunk, got in bed; the mattress collapsed, everything collapsed. Broke the water. And he he was so drunk he didn't care. He just laid in there all night.

Other than that. I didn't have other ones, you know [traveling around?]. We - Fayetteville was our closest city, and we used to go quite often to a restaurant there on Bragg Boulevard and have coffee. I came home a couple times on leave. One time I came home, got the car, my car and drove it back.

I kinda enjoyed the service. I didn't want to re-up. When we, when I got out, I had to have three re-enlist talks. One, the old man, the first sergeant, the old man, I would call the [battery?] commander and then [?] main post. And the first sergeant said to the clerk he says, "I told him everything about the advantages of the Army," he said, "and the little bastard said he wasn't – wasn't going to reenlist."