

## Oral History Audio Log

Interviewee(s): Eddie Coker  
 Interviewer(s): Andrea Parker  
 Collection: War and Society  
 Project (where applicable): Vietnam War  
 Interview #: 1  
 Interview date: November 27, 2017  
 Interview location: Waco, Texas  
 Recording medium; duration: digital audio file; 1.57 hr.

H/M/S	Topic
00:00:00	introduction
00:01:10	background, joining US Air Force ROTC
00:05:02	getting drafted while a student at Texas A&M University
00:09:26	military training
00:14:00	public perceptions of Vietnam War and cultural upheavals in US
00:18:40	food and diet in the navy, challenges of maintaining weight during war, appendix rupturing, air force chow halls
00:24:48	stealing supplies from the air force
00:26:26	placement testing and preparing to go overseas
00:30:09	military marriages during Vietnam War
00:32:17	training in Coronado, CA
00:35:05	leaving for first tour of duty in Vietnam
00:38:06	various roles on missions, assisting with harassment and interdiction raids
00:41:33	witnessing casualties and dealing with grief and PTSD
00:43:03	responsibility of leading men on foot patrols
00:46:09	telling wife about his PTSD, reflecting on his PTSD in light of what the Vietnamese civilians went through
00:49:17	impact of PTSD on family members
00:51:00	second tour of Vietnam
00:52:48	Chief of Naval Operations Elmo Zumwalt Jr.
00:54:01	Vietnamese fighting tactics
00:55:36	opinion that war was being run in Washington, DC
00:57:56	more on Elmo Zumwalt Jr.
00:59:04	importance for leaders to have trust of those around them, more thoughts about PTSD
01:01:26	dealing with fear in combat, dropping leaflets from plane

01:03:48	leaving third tour early for health reasons, returning to A&M, meeting wife
01:06:10	close call during last patrol in Vietnam
01:07:29	investigating tunnels in Vietnam, watching out for snakes
01:10:48	various temporary duty orders he was assigned
01:12:54	nutrition's effect on PTSD
01:13:53	media coverage, changes in public perception of the Vietnam War
01:16:53	Agent Orange
01:18:50	why PTSD is recognized more with Vietnam War veterans
01:21:09	value of support groups and counseling in dealing with PTSD
01:26:40	continued discussion of impact of wars on veterans and their families
01:30:31	final thoughts on Vietnam War and how wars change those who fight