Vietnam War Era Service Survey Questionnaire

This survey seeks to document, by means of this questionnaire, the recollections and opinions of Vietnam Era veterans of the United States Army. Your responses are important to researchers and historians. For that reason, the questionnaire is rather lengthy. If the questionnaire does not give you enough space to answer or if you wish to address a question not specifically asked, please use a continuation sheet.

Please note that this questionnaire may be answered by anyone who served in the Army during the Vietnam Era (1945-1975) regardless of duty location.

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PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT


PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: Information provided will be used to document your opinions and recollections as a Vietnam Era veteran. Additionally, the information may be used for historical studies of the U.S. Army.

ROUTINE USES: None. The "Blanket Routine Uses" set forth at the beginning of the Army's Compilations of System of Records Notices apply to this system.

DISCLOSURE: Voluntary. However, failure to provide the requested information may preclude your recollections and opinions being documented in the U.S. Army Military History Institute's Vietnam War Era Service Survey.

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Donations

USAMHI accepts donations of items of significant historical interest, which include personal papers, letters, scrapbooks, diaries, memoirs, photographs, correspondence with family and friends, camp and unit newspapers, regulations and manuals, unit histories, and certain other books, professional military journals, maps, soldier art and unit insignia.

I do not have any historical material that I would like to donate

I wish to donate unconditionally the following items to the U.S. Army Military History Institute:

Audio tapes  Books  Camp/unit newspapers

Diaries  Documents  Films, video tapes

Insignia, unit patches  Letters  Maps

Memoirs  Periodicals  Photographs

Artifacts, equipment, uniforms, etc. (Please call the Army Heritage Museum curator @ 717-245-4364 for disposition instructions or provide a phone number so that we may contact you. Phone number _______________________________).

Have you already donated items to another library, college, museum, or archive? If so, please name the specific institution _________________________________.

I understand that in donating items to the U.S. Army, I must make an unconditional gift and relinquish all rights and claims to them. I agree that I will complete the necessary paperwork to document my gift and that the USAMHI may not return gifts once made, to myself or my heirs.

Name and Signature  Date
Personal/Background Information

Name ____________________________________   Highest rank or grade held ______
Present address _____________________________________________________________
City ____________________________________    State _______  Zip code ________
Dates of service ____________________________________________________________
Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) _____________________________________

GENERAL MILITARY SERVICE

Initial Entry

How did you enter military service?
1. Enlisted. Date _____ Age _____ Term _____ Place enlisted ________
2. Drafted. Date _____ Age _____ Term _____ Place drafted _________
3. National Guard called to Federal service. Date _____  Term of svc _____
4. Army Reserve called to active duty. Date _______  Term of svc _____
5. Commissioned. Source of commission _____ Where and when ______________

Please describe the local enlistment or draft process with which you were involved
_____________________________________________________________________________

What was your civilian occupation? __________________________________________

Did it have any bearing on your Army assignment? ____________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

How useful was your civilian occupation to you while in the Army? ___________
_____________________________________________________________________________

What was your initial reaction upon entering military service? ______________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Did you also serve in WWII? __ Korea? __ Lebanon? __ Dominican Republic? ___
Other "hot spots?" __ If you also served in Vietnam, how did this prior service prepare you for duty there? ________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Training

Please list the training that you received, as applicable:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. AIT</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Airborne</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>______</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Ranger</td>
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<td>______</td>
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<td>4. Special Forces</td>
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<td>______</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Aviation</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>______</td>
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<td>6. Language</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>______</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Other (specify)</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>______</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Why did you seek or receive specialized training? ___________________________
________________________________________________________________________
How well did your training prepare you for your subsequent assignments? _____
________________________________________________________________________
What additional specialized training did you receive upon assignment to a unit? In Vietnam? ___________________________
________________________________________________________________________

**Assignments** *(Please list "split" assignments during same tour if it applies)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Co/Btry/Trp served in</th>
<th>Dates assigned</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Commanded by</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Of Battalion/Squadron</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Commanded by</td>
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<tr>
<td>Of Regiment</td>
<td>Location</td>
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<tr>
<td>Of Division</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Commanded by</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duty Position</td>
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*2nd assignment* *(if applicable)*

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<tr>
<td>Duty Position</td>
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</table>

*3rd assignment* *(if applicable)*

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</table>

*Please use a continuation sheet if you had more than 3 assignments*

If you served more than one tour, did you volunteer for any of them? ________
How did your first tour affect your subsequent tour(s)? ____________________
If you were assigned to Vietnam, what was your reaction when you learned that you were going there? _______________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

If you served overseas, describe your experiences in preparing to deploy and what it was like getting there, either individually, by unit, or both ______

_____________________________________________________________________________

How were you received when you joined your unit? __________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

If you were assigned to Vietnam, please describe your first few days "in-country"

_____________________________________________________________________________

General Military Life

What were your opinions of the equipment, clothing, weapons, and rations that you were issued? ____________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

What did you think about conditions in the Army, for example, pay, food, barracks or housing, medical coverage, etc.? ______________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

What did you think about military courts and justice? _______________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

If you had prior service, do you believe that the military justice system was fairer, the same, or less fair during the Vietnam War than at other times? Did you receive and read Army news publications or a unit newspaper? If so, which ones? What did you think of them? ____________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

What information did the Army give you about what duty would be like? How was it presented (e.g., films, pamphlets, briefings, etc)? What was your reaction? ___________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

What information did the Army provide you about what service in Vietnam would be like? How was it presented? What was your reaction? ____________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

In your opinion, were awards and decorations distributed fairly? ____________

_____________________________________________________________________________
Did the personnel rotation system affect morale and discipline in your unit?
___________________________________________________________________________

Leadership

Who was the most important or influential leader, to you, personally, and why?
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

What did you think of your unit leadership while in service or while in Vietnam?
___________________________________________________________________________

What did you think of Army leadership above your unit level? _________________
___________________________________________________________________________

How did officers commissioned through various sources (service academies, ROTC, OCS, National Guard, direct commission) compare? _________________
___________________________________________________________________________

How did those officers or NCOs with prior combat experience (WWII, Korea, previous Vietnam tour) compare with those who had not served in earlier conflicts? _________________
___________________________________________________________________________

How often did you see your senior leaders - those at least two command levels above you? What were the visits like? _________________
___________________________________________________________________________

What did you think of military discipline in your unit and throughout the Army at the time (lax, moderate, fair, strict, harsh)? _________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Please describe any instances of particularly good or bad leadership which you experienced ____________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Please describe any instances of "fragging" or violence directed against leaders that you were aware of ____________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

5
Please describe any cases of desertion that you were aware of ______________

_____________________________________________________________________________

How would you describe the morale of your unit? _____________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Why do you think that the morale of your unit was that way? _________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

**Civil-Military Relations**

How well did you and your fellow soldiers get along with civilians in the US during training? __________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

If you were assigned stateside, what were relations with the civilian population like? _____________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

If you were stationed overseas other than in Vietnam, what were relations with the civilian population like? What was their reaction to our involvement in Vietnam? _____________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

If you served in Vietnam, what were relations with the Vietnamese population like? _______________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Were you involved with Civil Affairs operations or efforts to influence democratic reforms in Vietnam? If so, please comment on their effectiveness. __________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

What did you and your unit members do in their off time? ____________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

What was your reaction to the anti-war protests and activities happening in the United States? _____________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Did you come into contact with any war correspondents? If so, please describe your experience __________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

What did you think of the media coverage of the war at the time? ____________

_____________________________________________________________________________
Operations and Combat Experiences

What operations or combat actions did you take part in?

Tour dates   Unit   Operations/Combat Action
1. 

2. 

3. 

4. Please describe or comment on any combat operations in which you participated

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Please describe your "baptism of fire" and your reaction to that experience

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Please describe a "typical" day when your unit was committed to combat operations

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

How would you rate your unit's combat performance and why? ______________

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

If you were ever wounded, please comment on the circumstances, quality of medical system, thoughts about returning to your unit/combat, etc. __________

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
Did you ever operate with allies (South Vietnamese, Australian, Korean, Montagnard, etc.) in the field? If so, please comment on their effectiveness, as well as any special procedures used to facilitate those operations.

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Do you know of anyone who died from friendly fire or suffered from "shell shock?" If so, please describe the circumstances.

______________________________________________________________________________

Please describe a "typical" day when your unit was not committed to combat operations.

______________________________________________________________________________

What was your opinion of the enemy, either North Vietnamese or Viet Cong? How did they compare to each other?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

What effect, if any, did enemy propaganda have on your unit?

______________________________________________________________________________

Were you ever a prisoner of war (POW)? If so, please describe your experiences.

______________________________________________________________________________

Did you ever capture any enemy? Please describe the circumstances and how they were treated.

______________________________________________________________________________

Were your operations limited by any restrictions, such as limited bombing and "no fire areas?" If so, what was your opinion of such limitations?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

What was your opinion about My Lai and other incidents of this type? What was the general opinion in your unit?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Please comment on any other aspect of operations in Vietnam that you feel necessary or insightful.

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
**Personal/Unit Experiences**

Describe any experiences that stand out that you would describe as "good" or "bad"
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Did your unit experience any of the following? Please check all that apply:
__ Drinking (on or off duty)
__ Drug use
__ Gambling
__ Racial or ethnic problems/confrontations
__ Theft
__ Venereal disease
__ Violence against superiors

Please describe the circumstances or particular incidents ________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

What slang words or phrases, both military and non-military, do you remember as being popular during your service? Songs or music? __________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

If you served more than one tour in Vietnam, please describe any differences in the types of missions, troop morale, military effectiveness, leadership, relationship with the Vietnamese people, etc. from one tour to another ______
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

**End of Tour/Post-War**

What was it like returning home? ________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Did you remain in the service? If so, where did you serve after that? ______
__________________________________________________________________________

If discharged, what did you do after your discharge? ______________________
__________________________________________________________________________
What difficulties did you or anyone you know experience upon returning home?
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

If you went to college or trade school under the GI Bill after your service, please name the school ___________ Degree ___________ Dates ___________
Did you join the National Guard or Reserve after active service? If so, why?
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Did you join any national or unit veterans' groups? If so, please describe your experiences __________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

What is your opinion as to the accuracy of any histories/articles/shows about campaigns or operations in which you participated? _________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

What were your expectations at the end of the war as to America's place and influence in the world? The prospects for world stability? _________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

What "lessons" did the United States learn from the Vietnam experience? ___
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

If you have returned to Vietnam since 1975, please describe why you did so and your experiences there _________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Are there any questions that we haven't asked or any other issues that you'd like to address? __________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

If you have anything to donate, we would be grateful if you would use the postage-paid label to send these materials along with your completed questionnaire. If you would like more information about what we are seeking or have additional donations, please feel free to call or write.

Our address is shown at the top of the questionnaire. You may reach us by phone at (717)-245-3971. Or you may visit our Website: http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usamhi/. We welcome hearing from you.