

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF Historical Resources
MILITARY COLLECTION
MILITARY SERVICE INTERVIEW GUIDE

The purpose of the North Carolina State Archives "Military Collection" is to collect and preserve interviews, photographs, and documents pertaining to the military service of North Carolinians.

PRE-INTERVIEW NOTES AND TIPS:

1. This questionnaire is provided as a generic guide for conducting military service interviews. Though oriented toward ground forces service, this basic interview question guide can be used for recording service in any branch of the military. Korean War, Vietnam War, and branch of service-specific supplemental question sheets are available for use in conjunction with this question guide, as appropriate. Volunteers conducting interviews should use their best judgment in adding or omitting questions in order to obtain the best interview possible. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ THE QUESTIONS**

VERBATIM. FEEL FREE TO PARAPHRASE.

2. If available and permitted, use video in addition to audio recording equipment.

3. **Before you begin the interview, ask the interviewee to sign the release form permitting the Archives to retain the interview and make it available to researchers (subject to his/her restrictions).**

4. **POSITION THE MICROPHONE AS CLOSE BETWEEN THE SPEAKER AND YOURSELF AS POSSIBLE, AND ELIMINATE AS MUCH "BACKGROUND NOISE" AS POSSIBLE.**

5. Questions with an asterisk (*) are particularly important and should be given priority if time is a factor.

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- *1. Please state your full name. What is your current address?
 - *2. Where and when were you born; and, where were you reared?
 - *3. Where were you living at the time you entered service?
 - *4. What was your occupation before entering the service, and where were you employed or in school?
 - 5. a. What did you know about the general war situation prior to entering the service?
b. How did you get your information?
 - *6. When, where and at what age did you enter military service?
 - *7. a. Were you enlisted or drafted?
b. If you enlisted, why did you choose to do so? If you were drafted, how did you feel about the fairness of the draft?
 - *8. a. In what branch of service did you serve?
b. If you enlisted, why did you choose your particular branch of service?

over the others?

- *9. What was your highest military rank and your rate or job specialty (e.g. infantryman, radio operator, truck driver, cook, etc.)
- *10.
 - a. To what units, ships, camps, or stations were you assigned?
 - b. With what unit or ship did you serve the longest?
 - c. With which one(s) did you serve in combat?
- 11. Describe the process by which you were inducted into the military.
- *12.
 - a. Where, when, and with what unit did you take basic training?
 - b. What type of training did you receive?
- 13. How well do you feel the training you received prepared you to perform your assigned duties?
- 14.
 - a. Did you volunteer for any specialized or hazardous duty training (e.g. parachute, ranger, demolitions, etc.)?
 - b. If you did, why did you volunteer? Describe the training.
- *15.
 - a. On what weapons were you trained?
 - b. What was your opinion of your primary weapon?
- 16. Where were you stationed after completing your training, and for how long?
- *17.
 - a. What types of uniforms did you wear?
 - b. Were they practical for your job and well suited to the climate (If not, why not?)
- 18.
 - a. What was your opinion of the "chow" (food)?
 - b. Was the food tasty and adequate?
 - c. What types of things did you eat?
 - d. If you ever ate them, what did you think of the different types of emergency rations (e.g. D-ration [3x4oz. chocolate bars]; C-ration [6x12oz. cans of meat, vegetables, fruit, etc.]; K-rations [3 meals in individual cardboard boxes marked "Breakfast", "Dinner", "Supper"]; MREs [Meals, Ready to Eat,; or, others])?
 - e. What was your opinion of the cooks?
- *19.
 - a. How would you rate your officer and non-commissioned officer/petty officer leadership, and why?
 - b. Was there anything particularly good or bad about these individuals? Do you remember any specific examples?
- 20. For which officers did you have the most and least respect? Why? [The term "fragging" describes the intentional injuring or killing of a leader by his or her own troops. Did any of that occur of which you were aware? If so, what were the circumstances?
- 21. Most officers came from one of the service academies (West Point or Annapolis), the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), or Officer Candidate School (OCS). In your opinion, which ones tended to be the best, and which were the worst? Explain.
- *22.
 - a. Overall, how was discipline in your unit (or aboard your ship)?

- b. What were the most common infractions and how were they punished?
 - c. Was there a difference in the behavior of members of your unit (or ship) in combat versus in garrison (or port)? If so, why?
23. a. Were drinking, drugs, or gambling a problem? (If so, how did it affect the unit/ship?)
- b. How were such problems addressed?
24. a. Was "Absence With Out Leave" (AWOL) or desertion a problem?
- b. If so, why and how was it handled?
25. a. Was any type of discrimination prevalent?
- b. If so, on what was it based (race, religion, ethnicity, branch of service, etc.)?
- c. What effects did it have on morale and unit/ship efficiency?
- d. What corrective actions were taken to reduce or eliminate the discrimination?
- *26. a. How did you spend your spare time?
- b. Were the Red Cross, USO, YMCA, or other organizations available, and if so, how popular were they?
- c. What types of activities did the service members themselves devise for amusement, stateside and overseas?
- *27. How well did you and your fellow service members get along with the civilians while in the United States? While overseas? Explain.
28. a. How would you characterize the overall health of your unit/ship?
- b. What type of medical care was available?
- c. What were the major health problems you and your unit faced?
- d. How were they handled?
- *29. What was a typical day like where you were stationed (i.e. in what types of on and off-duty activities did you engage on a day-to-day basis)?

(ASK QUESTIONS 27-43 ONLY IF THE INTERVIEWEE HAD OVERSEAS SERVICE DURING WARTIME)

30. a. Prior to your deployment overseas, how well informed were you regarding the situation in the theater in which you eventually served?
- b. How did you obtain your information, and did you believe it? If not, why not?
- *31. a. How, when, and where did you arrive overseas?
- b. Can you describe your unit's preparations for deployment, conditions aboard ship, and the experience of crossing the ocean during wartime?
- c. How and where were you quartered upon arrival?
- d. How did the conditions compare to those at your previous duty station?
- *32. If you received additional training after arriving overseas, please explain the type and duration of that training, as well as where, how, and by whom it was conducted.
- *33. If you were involved in direct combat with the enemy, describe what a typical day was like.

- *34. a. Against whom were you serving/fighting?
b. What was your impression of your enemies?
c. What was your opinion of his tactics and weapons;?
d. How well organized, led, and supported were they?
- *35. a. If you were directly engaged in combat, describe the circumstances of your first enemy contact and how it felt.
b. Did your feelings change with subsequent action?
- *36. a. What hardships and/or shortages did your unit/ship face while deployed?
b. How were these shortages overcome?
- *37. a. How was the morale of your unit/ship?
b. What things tended to lift or deflate it (i.e. the arrival or lack of mail, pay problems, enemy propaganda, long periods in action without relief or leave, etc.)?
- 38. a. What types of "psychological" stresses did you face, and how did you handled them.
b. Were "shell shock" or incidents related to "friendly fire" a problem?
- 39. a. How did the unit/ship's crew receive replacements?
b. How were they looked upon and treated by the "veterans"?
c. Did the "veterans" assist them to assimilate quickly?
d. Were the newly assigned unit members the target of any particular pranks or jokes)?
- 40. If you worked with any of our allies, what was your impression of them?
- 41. a. Were you ever a Prisoner of War (POW)? **(IF NOT, SKIP TO QUESTION #39)**
b. If you were a POW, describe the circumstances under which you were captured.
c. Describe how you were treated when captured, and the experience of life as a
d. Prisoner of War (POW).
e. If you were tortured, relate how and why.
f. How and when were you liberated?
- 42. a. Did you receive any awards or decorations for heroism or outstanding service?
b. If so, what were they and for what were they awarded?
- *43. **(WWII VETERANS ONLY)**
a. Where were you and how did you learn of the cease-fire that resulted in "Victory in Europe (VE) Day" & "Victory Over Japan (VJ) Day"?
b. How did you and the people around you feel and react to the news?
- *44. a. How was it determined who was allowed to come home, and when?
b. When, and under what circumstances, did you discover that you were coming home?
c. How, when, and to where did you return?
- 45. **(WWII VETERANS ONLY)**
a. Explain how the "Point System" for rotation home and discharge worked, and whether you feel it was fair?
- *46. Where were you stationed and what duties did you perform until discharged?
- 47. a. What did you do after your discharge from the military?
b. Did you take advantage of the "GI Bill"? How so?

*48. **(ASK OF VETERANS WITH WAR-TIME SERVICE ONLY)**

Do you think "Hollywood" movies, television, and history books have accurately portrayed what you witnessed during the war. If not, why?

*49. What particularly humorous or sad incidents from your time in service do you recall?

*50. Did you see any famous people during your time in service, or have anything unusual happen to you or one of your friends?

*51. Overall, how would you characterize your military service. Would you do it again?

*52. What do you consider to have been your most interesting or important single experience while in the service? Why?

****Please ask if the veteran is willing to donate (or loan for copying and return) any photographs of himself/herself in uniform, or if they have any ORIGINAL letters, diaries, reminiscences, military papers, or discharges, etc. to donate [the Archives will accept photocopies of military discharges, and either originals, copy prints, or computer scans of photographs. All other papers must be originals].**

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MILITARY COLLECTION
NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
109 East Jones Street (location)
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RELEASE FORM

I, _____, (SIGNATURE of person being interviewed) hereby give to the North Carolina State Archives this interview and grant the said Archives the right to make it available to the public for such purposes as the State Archivist of North Carolina judges worthwhile. I also give to the Archives any and all copyright interests in the interview or any work derived from the interview.

NARRATOR (Person being interviewed): _____
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY YOUR FULL NAME)

Branch Of Service: _____ Unit/Ship: _____

Rank: _____ War/Conflict _____ Served from _____ through _____

County and State in which you were born & reared: _____

CURRENT ADDRESS: _____

INTERVIEWER: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____

Restrictions (if any): _____

**NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
MILITARY COLLECTION**

Aviation Service Supplement (Land-Based Pilots or Air Crew)

(FOR USE WITH THE “MILITARY SERVICE INTERVIEW GUIDE”)

***SIGN THE RELEASE FORM BEFORE BEGINNING THE INTERVIEW!**

On tape, the person conducting the interview should state his/her name, that the interview is being conducted for the North Carolina State Archives, the date, the name of the person being interviewed, and the location of the interview.

1. Why did you seek to serve in the field of aviation?
2. For what aviation-related Military Occupational Specialty (i.e. job) were you trained?
3. How, when, where, and for how long were you trained? Was the training sufficient?
4. On what types of aircraft were you trained, and for what jobs (duties)?
5. What was your favorite aircraft, and why?
6. If you were associated with a particular aircraft, what type was it and did it have a name? What was the significance of the aircraft's name?
7. Where was your air base or airfield located?
8. Describe your living and working conditions.
9. What did you do when you were not on duty?
10. Was there much rivalry between the “flyers” and non-flyers, or between your branch of service and others? Can you explain and give examples?
11. What types of missions did you fly, and to where?
12. While flying missions, how long did you normally remain in the air? How did you occupy your time in the air when not actually performing your flying duties?
13. What were conditions like in the aircraft when you were aloft (e.g. eating, sleeping, toilet, temperature, noise, etc.)?
14. If you were ever involved in combat either with another airplane, a ship, or anti-aircraft guns or missiles, describe the experience
15. If you were ever shot down, or involved in a crash or emergency landing, describe what happened.
16. If you were ever captured, describe what happened and what conditions were like in your prisoner of war (POW) camp. How and when were you released?
17. What are your best memories of your aviation service? What are your worst?

**NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
MILITARY COLLECTION**

**NAVAL SERVICE INTERVIEW SUPPLEMENT
(U. S. Navy/Coast Guard/Merchant Marine)**

(USE WITH THE BASIC "MILITARY SERVICE INTERVIEW GUIDE")

***SIGN THE RELEASE FORM BEFORE BEGINNING THE INTERVIEW!**

On tape, the person conducting the interview should state his/her name, that the interview is conducted for the North Carolina State Archives, and the date, location, and name of veteran being interviewed.

1. Why did you choose to serve in the Navy/Coast Guard/Merchant Marine rather than one of the other branches of the service?

2. Sea Duty (If no shipboard service, skip to Shore Duty section)

- On what ship or ships did you serve and when?
- What type of ship was it? What was its function?
- What was your normal, day-to-day duty station and what did you do?
- How, where, and for how long were you trained for your duty position?
- Were you trained adequately? If not, what should you have received that you did not?
- What was your "battle station", and what did you do? Where and for how long were you trained for your battle station?
- If you were in combat, describe what it was like to perform your duties under fire.
- Describe day-to-day the working conditions on your ship?
- What was your normal duty uniform?
- Describe your sleeping, eating, bathing and toilet facilities.
- How much spare time (off-duty) did you have? How did you spend it?
- If you were allowed to "strike" (apply) for a higher rating, what was the procedure? If not, why?
- Where/when did you go on "liberty," and what did you do?
- How much inter-service rivalry was there between the Navy/Coast Guard/Merchant Marine and other branches of the military service? What were some examples?
- How much rivalry was there between different ships and crews; and, between combat and non-combat crews?
- What did you think of aviators, submariners, UDT (underwater demolition team) members?

3. Shore Duty (Ask ONLY if served primarily on land)

- What duties did you perform on a day-to-day basis?
 - How/When/Where/For how long were you trained?
- Describe a typical duty day?
- If you had a combat duty station, where was it and what did you do?
- When, where, and for how long were you trained for this combat duty station?
- If you were ever in combat, describe your experience.

- What were your living conditions like (e.g. tents or buildings, “heads” [toilets], showers, mess hall, etc.)
- How much free time (off-duty) did you have? How did you spend it?
- Describe the “mess hall” (dining facility). How was the quality and quantity of food? How was it prepared and by whom?

4. Aviation Service

- What type of aviation-related duties did you perform?
- How/When/Where/For how long were you trained for these duties?
- If your plane had a nickname why was it so named?

5. Land-based Naval Aviation Service (Including Marine Corps and Coast Guard)

- Where was your airfield located?
- Describe your working and living conditions
- What did you do when not flying?
- How often did you fly? What types of missions and to where?
- How long did you remain in the air on an average mission?
- If you were ever involved in air combat either with an enemy plane or anti-aircraft fire, please describe the experience.
- If you were ever shot down or involved in a crash-landing, explain what happened.
- What was your most frightening experience in the air?

6. Shipboard Naval Aviation Service (Including Marine Corps and Coast Guard)

- Describe your working environment aboard ship
- What was your battle station, and what duties did you perform?
- Were your shipboard living conditions better than those for regular crew, and if so, how?
- What did you do when not flying?
- How often did you fly?
- Describe the experience of carrier take-offs and landings.
- How long did you stay in-flight on a typical mission?
- What types of missions did you fly?
- If you were ever involved either in air-to-air, air-to-ship or air-to-ground combat, please describe the experience?
- If you were ever shot down, describe the experience.
- If ever captured, were you imprisoned, or able to escape? Please describe your experience.
- If you were ever involved in a crash-landing, explain what happened.
- What was your most frightening experience in the air?

7. What are your best memories of service in the Navy/Coast Guard/Merchant Marine?

- What are your worst memories?

**NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
MILITARY COLLECTION**

US Marine Corps Supplement

(USE WITH THE BASIC “MILITARY SERVICE INTERVIEW GUIDE”)

*** [SIGN THE RELEASE FORM BEFORE BEGINNING THE INTERVIEW!]**

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ASK THESE QUESTIONS OF ALL MARINE CORPS VETERANS:

1. What attracted you to join the Marine Corps over the other services?
2. Where, when, and for how long did you attend “boot camp?”
3. How much did you know about the Marine Corps recruit training (i.e. “boot camp”) experience before you began it?
4. Describe your introduction to the Marine Corps (e.g. your initial arrival and first few days in boot camp).
5. Describe your overall impressions of recruit training. Was it as difficult as you had expected?
6. What types of things did you do in boot camp? What activities were stressed? Describe a typical day in boot camp from “reveille” in the morning until “lights out.”
7. Were the Marine drill instructors as tough as you expected? How so? How accurate were the portrayals of them in such movies as “The DI” or “Full Metal Jacket”?
8. Describe what your living conditions were like while in boot camp.
9. Was there a perceived difference between the recruit training offered at Pans Island versus that at San Diego? If so, what were the differences?
10. Did you feel that the Marine Corps attempts to instill in its recruits the feeling that they are becoming “elite” members of an elite organization? If so, how do you think they accomplished this?
11. If you have ever discussed recruit training with veterans from another branch of the armed forces, what is your opinion of the recruit training you received versus that which they received? How did it differ? How was it similar? In your opinion, which was better and/or tougher, and why?
12. In what primary occupational specialty did you train after boot camp? Where and for how long were you trained? How effective was your training?
13. Where was your first duty station after recruit training; and, what was your assignment?
14. The Corps states that every Marine is a rifleman first. What is your opinion of that statement?

15. Did you ever notice any animosity or rivalry between the Marines and other services? If so, describe how it manifested itself (e.g. jokes, fights, etc.). Can you remember any specific incidents?

16. Did you ever serve aboard ship? (If the answer is "Yes," ask a-c)
a. What ship and where?
b. What were your feelings towards the Navy and the sailors aboard ship?
c. What duties were you required to perform while aboard ship (i.e. ship's gunnery, security, etc.)?

17. Some people feel that the Army can do the job of the Marine Corps and that the nation does not need the Corps. What is your opinion of this statement and why?

COMBAT VETERANS ONLY

WWII ONLY: Did you participate in the Island Hopping Campaign of World War II? If "yes" in what battles did you fight? (e. g. Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Saipan, Tarawa, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, etc.)

WWII ONLY: Though not generally well known, the United States Army conducted a large number of amphibious landings in the Pacific. What was your opinion of the Army's role in the Pacific? If you had occasion to serve with or observe them in action, what was your opinion of the soldiers who fought in that theater of operations?

WWII ONLY: There were major differences between the war in Europe and the war in the Pacific. If you feel one was a harder war to fight than the other, please explain why it was so

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ONLY: Describe your combat experience in Korea. If you were involved in the Chosin Reservoir operation, Inchon Landing, the battle for Pork Chop Hill, or other specific action, please comment on your experience. What effect did the terrain and weather in Korea have on the fighting?

VIETNAM VETERANS ONLY: Comment on your experiences in Vietnam, with regard to how operations were conducted, their effectiveness, the "base camp" concept, helicopter operations, and the fighting techniques and qualities of the Viet Cong and/or North Vietnamese Army regulars (NVA). What was life like for a Marine in Vietnam?

ALL COMBAT VETERANS: How did you feel about the Navy personnel who served with the Marines in combat? (i.e. corpsman, chaplains, Seabees)

"OTHER-THAN-COMBAT" OPERATIONS:

If you were involved in any "other-than-combat" operations (i.e. show of force, peacekeeping, humanitarian aid, etc.), please comment on the mission, your experiences, and what you feel you accomplished.

OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL/PLATOON LEADER'S CLASS/OTHER COMMISSIONING PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS:

Describe how, when, and where you were commissioned. Do you feel your training was equal to that of enlisted Marines who "endured" Parris Island or Camp Pendleton?

MARINE EMBASSY GUARDS ONLY-

- a. What specialized training did you receive for embassy duty?
- b. At which embassy did you serve?
- b. What was your daily routine?
- c. What were your feelings towards the local population?
- d. Describe your interaction with the embassy staff and dignitaries?

**NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
MILITARY COLLECTION**

RESERVE FORCES SUPPLEMENT

(ARMY, NAVY, MARINE CORPS, AIR FORCE, COAST GUARD, or NATIONAL GUARD)

(USE WITH THE “MILITARY SERVICE INTERVIEW GUIDE”)

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On tape, the person conducting the interview should state his/her name, that the interview is conducted for the North Carolina State Archives, and the date, location, and name of the veteran interviewed.

QUESTIONS FOR THE INTERVIEWEE:

Please give me your full name, date and place of birth. Where were you reared?

If you were not in school at the time you enlisted in the Reserves/National Guard, in what type of work were you engaged?

Why did you choose to enlist in the Reserves/National Guard?

How, where, and at what age did you enlist in the Reserves/National Guard? How many years did you serve? Did you have prior or subsequent active duty service? If so, in what branch?

Into what unit did you enlist, and what was the unit's mission (i.e. what was it trained to do)?

Where, when, with what unit, and for how long did you receive your basic training?

Describe the types of training you received. Was it adequate? If not, why?

Describe the uniforms and equipment you received upon enlistment. Did the items of clothing fit well? Were the uniforms and equipment you were issued functional?

On what weapons were you trained? What did you think of them?

How often and for how many hours per day did your unit drill? Describe a typical “drill” period (what types of things did you do?).

Reserve/National Guard Service Supplement (Continued)

Where and for how long did you attend annual training (Summer Camp)?

Describe the types of training you received at Summer Camp. Was it worthwhile? Were you busy most of the time with training, or was there time for recreational activities (if so, in what types of off duty activities did you and your fellow Reservists/Guardsmen participate?).

After completion of your initial active duty training, were you ever re-called to active duty for state or federal service? **[IF NO, SKIP THE QUESTIONS MARKED WITH AN *]**

- Describe where you were sent, why, and for how long.
- * Describe how you were transported to the location of your duty. Was the trip uneventful? If not, describe what made it memorable.
- * If the mission was dangerous, or there was the possibility of personal injury, how did you feel about participating?
- * If you were involved in controlling a civil disturbance, such as a labor dispute (e.g. textile strike) or riot, what was the general mood of the troops with whom you served? What were your feelings towards the people you were charged to control? Were there known agitators connected with the event? If so, what were the feelings of the Reservists/Guardsmen toward them?
- * During this duty, were you ever threatened while on or off duty? What were the circumstances, and how did you handle the situation?
- * How were you armed, equipped, and clothed? Was it adequate for the mission, and if not, why? Did you have “live” ammunition? What were the “Rules of Engagement” (i.e. the circumstances under which you were permitted to fire your weapon)? Did you ever have to fire, and, if so, what happened to cause it?
- * What were your living conditions like while you were called-up (e.g. sleeping, eating, recreational, personal hygiene facilities, etc.)?
- * Give some examples of how you and your fellow Reservists/National Guardsmen were received and treated by the local populace?
- * How and when were you released from your call-up?

Did you ever serve in any units other than the one in which you originally enlisted? If so, please name them.

18. Can you recall any particularly humorous incidents connected with your time in the Reserves/National Guard? Were there any particularly sad incidents? Please describe.
19. When and why were you finally discharged from the Reserves/National Guard? Were you happy about leaving the service? Why or why not?
20. Overall, how would you characterize your service in the Reserves/National Guard (i.e. worthwhile, a waste of time, etc.)?

**NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
MILITARY COLLECTION**

**KOREAN WAR SERVICE SUPPLEMENT
*[For veterans who actually served in Korea]**

(USE WITH THE BASIC "MILITARY SERVICE INTERVIEW GUIDE")

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On tape, the person conducting the interview should state his/her name, that the interview is being conducted for the North Carolina State Archives, the date and location of the interview, and the name of the person being interviewed.

1. If you had prior military service, were you re-called to active duty, or did you re-enlist?
2. If involuntarily re-called, how did you feel about it?
3. Describe the weather and "smell" in Korea.
4. Describe how the weather in Korea affected individuals and military operations. Did you or any of your fellow service members suffer any cold weather injuries?
5. Could you tell a difference between World War II veterans serving in Korea and non-prior service members, and if so, how?
6. What did you think of the Korean civilians, and how did you get along with them?
7. What was your opinion of the KATUSAs (Korean Augmentation to the United States Army) that were assigned to US forces, mostly as laborers, early in the war? Later, this term was applied to ROK (Republic of Korea) soldiers assigned to US units. What was your opinion of them as soldiers?
8. The Korean War was the nation's first major armed conflict after President Truman de-segregated the armed forces. How do you think this affected the armed forces, especially operations in Korea?
9. As a civilian, how much did you know about the situation in Korea? Once you entered the service, what did they tell you?
10. How did you feel about United Nations (UN) intervention in Korea? How did you feel about the extent to which the United States supported this effort militarily?
11. How would you compare or contrast our intervention in Korea with that of Vietnam? How much public dissension was there regarding our sending troops to Korea⁹
12. How and when did you arrive in Korea? Did you receive any additional training? If so, describe its nature and duration.
13. Did you go into Korea with a unit or as an individual replacement? If an individual replacement, how were you received by those already in the unit? Which system do you feel would have been best as a means of supplying replacements in Korea, unit or individual, and why?

14. If you were involved in the defense of the Pusan Perimeter (summer, 1950), describe the experience. Likewise, if you were involved in the Allied push north beginning in the fall of 1950, describe what you saw and did.
15. What effect did the entry of the Chinese on the side of the North Koreans have on the military situation in Korea? How did it affect Allied morale? What concerns did you have personally?
16. Whether you served on the front lines in combat, or behind the lines in another capacity, describe a “typical day” from the time you arose to the time you went to bed.
17. Compare and contrast the Chinese and North Korean soldiers in regards to their weapons, tactics, and overall fighting qualities. Were they well organized, supplied, and led? Which were better and why? What did you think of them as people?
18. If you experienced any enemy propaganda (i.e. loudspeaker broadcasts, leaflets, etc.), please describe how it affected you and those around you. Did it adversely affect morale?
19. What psychological stresses did you and your fellow service members endure while in Korea? If you saw any cases of “shell shock”, how were they treated, and how were they perceived by others?
20. If you experienced any incidents of “friendly fire”, explain what happened, how it was halted, the results, and how those involved felt about it after it was over.
21. If you were ever a Prisoner of War (POW), explain the circumstances under which you were captured, and your treatment by the enemy.
22. At the time you were in Korea, what did you know about the conditions under which US and Allied prisoners of war were kept by the enemy? Did the possibility of being captured bother you? If not, why?
23. If you were wounded in action, describe how, when, and where it happened, and the extent of your wound(s). How were you evacuated and treated?
24. If you served directly in combat describe your first experience in regards to how it occurred, what happened, and how you felt during and after the action.
25. As a result of his studies on individuals in combat military historian Brigadier General S. L. A. Marshall claimed that only a small percentage of men ever actually fired their weapons in a battle. Do you agree with his findings, and was this the case in your outfit?
26. US Army General Douglas MacArthur, the Commander of American land forces in Korea, advocated crossing the 38th parallel into North Korea in order to bring a decisive end to the Korean War. What was your opinion of him, and why do you think he was right or wrong? What was your opinion of his relief from command by President Truman?
27. If you were in Korea at the time, how did the knowledge of the Panmunjom talks affect the morale in your unit? Did you see them as a genuine effort on the part of the North Koreans and Chinese to bring about peace, or simply as a stalling tactic?
28. Describe how and when you heard about the signing of the July 27, 1953 truce that ended the fighting in Korea; and, what were your thoughts regarding a “truce” versus a “peace treaty”? Do you think the door was left open for a future renewal of the conflict?
29. Do you think the United States should have used nuclear weapons to end the war more quickly and decisively? Why or why not? Do you think the fears of intervention by the Soviet Union were valid?
30. What awards or decorations did you receive from your service in Korea? Which ones hold the most meaning for you, and why?
31. How do you think Hollywood and television have treated the Korean War? If you saw the movie “Pork Chop Hill” with Gregory Peck, or either the movie or television series “M. A. S. H.,” describe your impressions of their authenticity.

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

MILITARY COLLECTION

Vietnam War Service Supplement

(FOR USE WITH THE "MILITARY SERVICE INTER VIEW GUIDE")

***SIGN THE RELEASE FORM BEFORE BEGINNING THE INTERVIEW!**

On tape, the person conducting the interview should state his/her name, that the interview is conducted for the North Carolina State Archives, and the date, location, and name of the veteran interviewed.

1. Veterans full name, date and place of birth.
2. Current address and telephone number.
3. Rank, branch of service, dates of service, and dates of service and unit in Vietnam.
4. Where were you stationed before your Vietnam assignment?
5. Were you enlisted or drafted? When/where/at what age? Was this for the Vietnam War, or were you already in the service?
6. Describe the training you received before going to Vietnam - basic, advanced, orientation? Was the training practical and adequate?
7. Did you volunteer for any specialized or hazardous duty training? (parachute, Special Forces, Ranger, etc.) Why? Describe the training.
8. What was the nature of your duty in Vietnam? What was your MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) and job description?
9. What was your primary weapon? Did you work on a crew-served weapon? What is your opinion of the suitability of our weapons versus those of the Viet Cong/North Vietnamese?
10. Describe your first day "in-country," your assignment, and the reception you received from your new unit?
11. Did you receive additional orientation and training before you were assigned to duty with your unit? Describe it.
12. Where you were located within Vietnam (i.e. main base and/or Area of Operations)? Give names and

- locations of any Fire Support Bases to which you were assigned. Describe what it was like to live there.
13. Describe your views of and experiences in combat or combat support operations (e.g. search and destroy, patrol operations, and ambush actions) in which you participated.
 14. What effect did the climate (alternating rainy and dry seasons) have on you, your unit, and your units' ability to perform its mission?
 15. How did the terrain— jungle, swamp lands, mountains--affect you and your unit?
 16. Did you or your unit locate enemy bunker positions, base camps, or weapons and supply caches? Describe what happened.
 17. Were either you, or your unit, ever involved in helicopter assault landings? Describe your job and what happened.
 18. How did your unit deal with “meeting engagements” (spontaneous, unplanned actions against enemy forces)? If your Fire Support Base was ever attacked by enemy forces, describe what happened.
 19. What kind of rations (food) did you eat while in your main base, and while on patrol? How were you resupplied with food, water, ammunition, and clothing while on patrol? How was this done, and was it timely and adequate?
 20. Did you go on R&R? Where did you go? Did this help you to complete your tour in Vietnam?
 21. What was the effect of the twelve-month rotation on your morale and that of your unit?
 22. What was the attitude of you and your unit toward fighting in Vietnam?
 23. What was your opinion of North Vietnamese soldiers, Viet Cong soldiers, South Vietnamese soldiers, and the South Vietnamese people in general?
 24. While you were in Vietnam, were you aware of the anti-war activities back in the United States? How did you and your unit feel about this?
 25. If you noticed any difference in attitude and fighting spirit as men in your unit earned their DEROS (i.e. departure) dates, how did it manifest itself in their behavior?
 26. Upon your return to the United States, did you have difficulties in adjusting to family life, with your friends, and job? How did the war effect you?
 27. Have you maintained contact with other Vietnam veterans?
 28. How do you feel about the war in Vietnam? Do you feel you and the United States military made a difference?

**NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
MILITARY COLLECTION**

**PARATROOPER SUPPLEMENT
(WORLD WAR II)**

(NOTE: May be used with the "Military Service Interview Guide")

*****SIGN THE RELEASE FORM BEFORE BEGINNING THE INTERVIEW!*****

As an introductory statement on tape, the person conducting the interview should state his/her name, the date and location of the interview, with whom the interview is conducted, and that the interview is for the North Carolina State Archives.

1. Ask the interviewee to state: a) full name, b) current address, c) date and place of birth, c) where reared, d) where living when entered the service.
2. Were you a draftee or volunteer into Army service? If drafted, what was your attitude toward the draft?
3. What were your dates of service in the Army, and what rank did you attain?
4. In what units did you serve while in the Army, and in what duty positions?
5. What was your primary military occupational specialty (MOS) while in the service? Did you receive other MOS(s)?
6. Where and when did you take your basic training? How long did it last and what was it like?
7. Had you ever talked to a Paratrooper before joining the Paratroops? If so, what did he tell you about their training?
8. How did you find out about the Paratroops?
9. What motivated you to become a Paratrooper? What role did each of the following play in attracting you to the Paratroops: the \$50 extra jump pay per month; the special uniform items and trappings; the "image" of the Paratroopers; a sense of adventure; the idea of belonging to an elite unit; a desire to be with the best and the toughest
10. Was the extra \$50 hazardous duty pay for being a parachutist worth it?
11. By what process were you selected for Paratroop training?
12. The Paratroops were considered a "special" or "elite" unit. What, in your opinion, made them so?

13. If you wanted to be in an organization perceived as "elite," why did you not join the Marines, the Air Corps, the Army's Rangers, or some other "special" type of unit?
14. There was a certain "mystique" surrounding the Paratroops that grew largely from their image as members of a tough, unique fighting force. How did that mystique manifest itself in the behavior of the Troopers themselves? (e.g. a definite attitude of superiority expressed by a "swagger" in their walk, or the way they wore their uniforms, etc.)
15. Paratroopers initially wore several distinctive and exclusive uniform items and insignia. Comment on the role each played in building morale:
 - A. the silver jump wing insignia with its colored oval background denoting one's particular unit;
 - B. highly shined jump boots;
 - C. trousers bloused (tucked) into the tops of their boots;
 - D. the parachute oval patch on their overseas caps;
 - E. specially designed multi-pocketed jump jackets and pants
16. As the war went on (circa 1943/1944), the Army decided to discontinue issuing certain distinctive Paratrooper uniform items (e.g. specially designed jump jackets and pants), and allowed non-Paratroopers to wear the same or similar items (e.g. Paratrooper boots; a new general issue fatigue jacket modeled on the jump jacket; allowed all soldiers to blouse their trousers into their high-top buckle boots; etc.). How did these actions affect your morale and that of your fellow Paratroopers.
17. Due to their aggressiveness and fierce pride in their status as Paratroopers, members of the Paratroops acquired the image of being tough, loud, cocky, hard drinking, brawlers. What was your "image" of the Paratroops before you volunteered to become one, and how much of what you had heard was true?
18. Some Paratroopers were known to sew a silver dollar behind the parachute oval on their overseas caps for use as a make-shift blackjack in fights. Did you or anyone you know of do this? Did it work?
19. The Army issued switchblade knives to Paratroopers for use in cutting parachute shroud lines in the event the jumper became entangled in them on a jump. But, some Troopers used these knives for settling personal grudges, especially at local establishments such as "The Town Pump," a famous beer joint on Hay Street in Fayetteville, NC. Did you ever see or hear of such activities?
20. How did you get along with non-Paratroopers in the Army [nicknamed "straight legs" or simply "legs"], or with members of other branches of military service [e.g. Navy, Marines, Air Corps, Coast Guard]?

JUMP TRAINING

21. Had you ever seen a parachute jump or even ridden in an airplane before you arrived at Jump School?

22. How long was Jump School, and how many actual parachute jumps were required for award of the silver jump wings?
23. How soon after your arrival at Fort Benning did you begin your training?
24. Describe your initial arrival at Jump School. What was your reception like and what were you required to do before beginning training?
25. Describe a typical training day at Fort Benning's Jump School, from reveille to taps (i.e. What time did you get up; what was your daily routine; what types of physical training did you do [running, push-ups, other calisthenics] and how much did you have to do; how much free time did you have during the day and at night, and how did you spend it; what types of jump-related training did you do?
26. Comment on each of the following subjects associated with Jump School:
 - A. Your first day of training
 - B. Your fellow trainees (what were they like?)
 - C. The attitude of your instructors towards the trainees
 - D. The "esprit d'corps" and enthusiasm of your fellow trainees
 - E. Type and amount of physical training
 - F. The time during the day that you did your initial physical training, and in what uniform
 - G. The distance you were required to run and at what speed (were both gradually increased)?
 - H. The hours of the day at which you ate your three meals, the length of time you were allowed to eat them, and what types of food you were served
 - I. The training uniform for other than physical training (e.g. type of helmet, shoes or boots, coveralls or two piece fatigues, etc.), and when you were issued actual jump suits
 - J. The different types of training apparatus on which you were trained, and what each was designed to teach you (e.g. mock door, swing-landing trainer [nicknamed "suspended agony"], 34 foot tower, 250 foot tower, parachute landing fall platform, wind machine, etc.)
 - K. The percentage of drop-outs from your class, how they were treated by the cadre (instructors) and their fellow students, and what happened to them after they dropped out?
 - L. What went on after the end of the formal training day (e.g. confined to barracks or allowed to leave post on pass) and what did you do to relax or prepare for the next training day
27. What did you think of your Jump School instructors? Were they physically tough and demanding? Were they abusive, if so, in what ways? Did you grow to respect them?
28. Today, instructors at the Parachute School are called "Black Hats" because of the distinctive black baseball style cap they wear. Did the instructors at Fort Benning have any particular name or title you were told to call them by when you were there?
29. Were push-ups meted out for punishment for rules infractions or incorrect performance of some task during training? How many were you normally given?

30. When learning to do correct parachute landing falls (PLFs), were you taught to land with your feet and knees together (as jumpers are today), or with your feet spread about shoulder width apart? Why do you think this was?
31. Did you ever consider quitting? What made you stick it out?
32. What were the four stages of parachute training (e.g. A-D)?
33. One of the four stages of parachute training during World War II was instruction on packing one's own parachute. How did you feel about jumping a parachute that you had packed yourself?
34. How many jumps were required to earn the silver jump wings? How many did you make during your entire career with the Paratroopers?
35. Comment on what was involved in "chuting-up" for a jump. What type of pre-jump procedures did you follow? Was there any refresher training or an equipment check by the Jumpmaster before boarding the aircraft?
36. Describe your first jump... how you felt in the aircraft, the actual jump, and the landing. How did you feel about your next few jumps?
37. If you jumped the C-47 aircraft, how did you like it? What was the ride like (e.g. was it noisy, cramped, hot or cold, etc.)?
38. If you were required to undergo glider training, comment on: what types of training you received; how it felt to fly in a glider; whether you preferred gliders or parachutes.
39. Were you required to do your own laundry while in Jump School? If so, when, where, and how did you get it cleaned and dried?
40. Describe the graduation ceremony at which you were awarded your jump wings. How did you feel?
41. What are your most vivid memories of Jump School?

POST-JUMP SCHOOL TRAINING

42. On what individual and crew-served weapons were you trained, and what was your opinion of them? What was your favorite weapon and why?
43. How much and what types of hand-to-hand combat training did you receive (e.g. judo, boxing, knife fighting, etc.)? What was it like? Did you enjoy it? Did it boost your confidence level?

44. Comment on the training you received relative to first aid, map reading and land navigation, field living and sanitation, grenade throwing, demolitions, communications, and the like?
45. If you went on any large-scale maneuvers during your time in training (e.g. the Louisiana Maneuvers, the Carolina Maneuvers), how they were conducted, and what was your role? Was the experience valuable?
46. How were your officers and non-commissioned officers? Do any particularly good or bad examples stand out in your mind? If so, why? What did you learn from them?
47. How was the "chow" (food) when you were going through Jump School? How was it as you progressed through your time in the Army? What did you most like or dislike about the emergency rations (e.g. "C" rations, "K" rations, etc.)
48. Other than the coveted silver jump wings, which had to be earned, when did you receive jump suits and the other Paratrooper-related items? What effect did this have on morale?
49. During the war, the Army used the T-3, T-5, and T-7 parachutes for personnel drops. Comment on the parachute you used most in reference to its weight, force of opening shock, oscillation, and rate of malfunctions.
50. Did you jump weapons exposed or in a protective case?
51. What types of jump injuries were most prevalent, and how often did they occur? Were you ever injured, if so, how?
52. One of the characteristics of the Paratroopers was their use of "macabre" humor in which they openly joked about serious injuries or death resulting from parachute jumps. They even had several songs about this (e.g. "Blood on the Risers"[sung to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"]). Why do you think they did this?
53. "Spit and Polish" was the rule in the Airborne, at least stateside. How were you able to get such a high shine on those brown jump boots?
54. If the Army provided any organized athletics for the men, what were they and how well were they received by the soldiers?
55. Many Paratroopers jumped wearing short leather gloves during the Normandy jump, but few seem to have worn them for later jumps. Why was that?
56. How was discipline in your unit both stateside and overseas? What were the most common problems, and how were they handled?
57. What happened to men who refused to jump after they had received their jump wings? Do you know of any instances where men refused to jump on a combat jump? What happened to them?

58. After you completed jump training and reported to a regular unit, who served as the Jumpmasters on jumps, and why? What special training did they receive?
59. How frequently did you jump after you reported to your regular unit?
60. Did you make any practice jumps overseas? If so, where and how many?

COMBAT JUMPS

61. If you participated in any combat jumps, comment on the following:
- A. Was it a daylight or nighttime jump? Which did you prefer and why?
 - B. The flight to the drop zone (e.g. its length, tension, physical discomfort from wearing so much heavy gear, etc.)
 - C. "Flak" (anti-aircraft fire)
 - D. Explain what happened once the Jumpmaster gave the order to "Stand Up and Hook Up."
 - E. What thoughts raced through your head as you stood, weighted down with parachutes and equipment, waiting for the command to jump?
 - F. Once you exited the aircraft, how long did it take for you to reach the ground?
 - G. Where did you land and how was the landing?
 - H. Did you land alone, or near some of your comrades?
 - I. What types of recognition devices or signals were used after the landing?
 - J. What types of assembly aids were used, and how long did it take to assemble your unit.
 - K. What did you and your unit do after the unit assembled (i.e. what was your mission)?
69. In what activities did you engage on a day-to-day basis after the landing? What was a typical day in combat like?
70. Where were you when the war ended?
71. When and where were you discharged?
72. Did you consider the Paratroops for a career? Why or why not?
73. What did you do after the war?
74. Did you save any uniform items, papers, or photographs from your time in the Paratroopers?

[NOTE: Ask if the interviewee is interested in donating any papers or photographs to the State Archives Military Collection, or if he would allow to us to copy one or more of his photographs].

**NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
MILITARY COLLECTION**

**"PARAMARINE" SUPPLEMENT
(WORLD WAR II)**

(NOTE: May be used with the "Military Service Interview Guide")

*****SIGN THE RELEASE FORM BEFORE BEGINNING THE INTERVIEW!*****

As an introductory statement on tape, the person conducting the interview should state his/her name, the date and location of the interview, with whom the interview is conducted, and that the interview is for the North Carolina State Archives.

******* *Ask the interviewee to state: a) full name, b) current address, c) date and place of birth, c) where reared, d) where living when entered the service.*

1. In what unit or units did you serve while in the Marine Corps; what was your highest rank; and in what duty positions did you serve?
2. Was the term "Paramarine" was in popular use in the media during World War II. Was it popular among the Marine parachute troops themselves? If not, what designation did you use?
3. How did you learn of the Paramarines, and what did you know about them before you joined?
4. What had you heard about the Army's Paratroopers?
5. Did you enlist specifically to become a Paramarine?
6. What attracted you to join the Paramarines instead of the Army Paratroopers?
7. Had you ever flown in an airplane or made a parachute jump before you joined the Paramarines?
8. Where did you take boot camp prior to reporting for parachute training? How long was it and what was it like? How were the drill instructors?
9. What was the selection process for acceptance into the Paramarines?
10. Describe the "average" Paramarine (i.e. the "image").

11. Did Marine parachute troops consider themselves "special," or "elite?" If so, what do you think made them so?
12. Do you feel there was a special mystique associated with the Paramarines? Did the individual Paramarines do anything to create or sustain this mystique? Did the Marine Corps do anything to foster it?
13. How did non-parachute qualified Marines react to the Paramarines?
14. What types of rivalries or trouble existed between the Paramarines and regular Marines? Marine Raiders, Army Paratroopers, Others?
15. Where did you receive your parachute training (Lakehurst Naval Air Station, NJ--after OCT 1941; Camp Gillespie, CA; or another site), and from whom? How were your instructors, how did they treat the trainees, and how did you address them?
16. Comment on each of the following subjects associated with Jump School:
 - A. Your first day of training
 - B. Your fellow trainees
 - C. The attitude of your instructors towards the trainees
 - D. The "esprit d'corps" and enthusiasm of your fellow trainees
 - E. Type and amount of physical training
 - F. The time during the day that you did your initial physical training, and in what uniform
 - G. The distance you were required to run and at what speed (were both gradually increased)?
 - H. The hours of the day at which you ate your three meals, the length of time you were allowed to eat them, and what types of food you were served
 - I. The training uniform for other than physical training (e.g. type of helmet, shoes or boots, coveralls or two piece fatigues, etc.), and when you were issued actual jump suits
 - J. The different types of training apparatus on which you were trained, and what each was designed to teach you (e.g. mock door, swing-landing trainer [nicknamed "suspended agony"], 34 foot tower, 250 foot tower, parachute landing fall platform, wind machine, etc.)
 - K. The percentage of drop-outs from your class, how they were treated by the cadre (instructors) and their fellow students, and what happened to them after they dropped out?
 - L. What went on after the end of the formal training day (e.g. confined to barracks or allowed to leave post on pass) and what did you do to relax or prepare for the next training day
17. What types of punishments did the instructors mete out for "foul-ups?"
18. How long did the parachute training last? Did it all take place at the same location?
19. What types of training did you receive at jump school?
20. Were you taught to pack your own parachutes? If so, how did you feel about jumping a parachute that you had packed yourself?

21. How much physical training was associated with parachute school? Was there more here than during boot camp? What types of exercises did you do, and how far were you required to run?
22. Which do you think was tougher, boot camp or jump school, and why?
23. Did you ever consider quitting? What made you stay?
24. How were drop-outs treated by the training cadre and their fellow trainees? What happened to them?
25. Approximately what percentage of the trainees who began jump training completed it?
26. Describe a typical training day from sun up to sun down.
27. How many jumps were required to earn the silver wings of the parachutist? How many did finally make during your career with the Paramarines?
28. What happened to "jump refusals" (men who refused to jump during training or after being awarded their wings)?
29. How did you feel before your first jump? What about the next few jumps?
30. Was there a pinning on of wings ceremony? If so, describe it and how you felt.
31. How frequently did you jump after you reported to your regular unit?
32. How frequent were jump injuries, and what were the most common ones? Were you ever injured, if so, explain?
33. What type of main parachute and reserve did you use? How were the opening shock and oscillation?
34. From what types of aircraft did you jump? What was your opinion of them?
35. Prior to a jump, what pre-jump procedures did you follow in regards to "chuting up," pre-jump safety briefings, Jumpmaster inspections, etc.?
36. On what weapons were you trained, and how did you jump this weapon (e.g. exposed; wrapped in a protective case; etc.)?
37. What special uniform items did the Paramarines have (e.g. special jump suit, boots, helmet, etc.)?
38. Did Paramarines wear the same specially designed jump boots worn by the Army's Paratroopers? When wearing their dress uniforms, were Paramarines allowed to "blouse"

- their boots (i.e. tuck their trouser legs into the tops of their jump boots) as a sign of their status as parachutists like the Army's Paratroopers?
39. Initially, Paramarines wore the same parachute badge as members of the Army. Did this bother the Paramarines?
 40. What was life like in your parachute unit? Describe a typical day's activities.
 41. What was life like in the barracks after training? Were you allowed frequent passes to leave the base? If so, where did you go and what did you do?
 42. How was overall discipline in your unit? What were the most common infractions and how were they handled?
 43. How much emphasis was there on "spit and polish," and how did this affect morale?
 44. One of the characteristics of Army Paratroopers was their use of "macabre" humor in which they openly joked about serious injuries or death resulting from parachute jumps. They even had several songs about this (e.g. "Blood on the Risers"[sung to the tune of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"]). Did the Paramarines joke in a similar manner, and if so, why do you think they did this?
 45. What was your opinion of your officers and non-commissioned officers? Do any particularly good or bad examples stick out in your mind?
 46. Did Paramarines receive extra hazardous duty pay? If so, how much? Was it worth it?
 47. If you went overseas with the Paramarines, did you make any practice jumps? If so, where and how many?
 48. Three combat jumps for Paramarines were considered in the Pacific, but none were ever carried out. What effect did this have on you and your fellow Paramarines?
 49. Did you participate in any of the three ground combat actions in which Paramarines took part (i.e. Gavutu [7 AUG 42] near Guadalcanal; Choisul Island [27 OCT 43]; or Bougainville [Nov 43])? If so, comment on which ones and what it was like.
 50. What was the reaction to the February 19, 1944 Marine Corps order to disband the Paramarines and blend them in with regular units? Why do you think Headquarters, Marine Corps chose to do this? How did news of the Army's 11th Airborne Division's combat jumps have on the morale of former Paramarines?
 51. There had been resistance within the Marine Corps to the whole notion of forming parachute and glider units from the beginning. Why do you think this was the case?

52. Many were sent to California to become part of the 5th Marine Division. If you were in a position to know, how were the former Paramarines received by their new division mates?
53. Describe what happened to you and your compatriots after the Paramarine units were disbanded.
54. Which duty did you enjoy most, parachute or non-parachute, and why?
55. Where were you when the war ended?
56. When and where were you discharged?
57. Did you consider the Marine Corps for a career? Why or why not?
58. What did you do after the war?
59. Did you save any of your uniform items, papers, or photographs of your time in the Paramarines?
[NOTE: if so, see if the interviewee is interested in donating any the papers or photographs to the State Archives Military Collection, or if he would allow to us to copy one or more of his photographs].

**NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
MILITARY COLLECTION**

"PRISONER OF WAR" (POW) SUPPLEMENT

(NOTE: May be used with the "Military Service Interview Guide")

*****SIGN THE RELEASE FORM BEFORE BEGINNING THE INTERVIEW!*****

As an introductory statement on tape, the person conducting the interview should state his/her name, the date and location of the interview, with whom the interview is conducted, and that the interview is for the North Carolina State Archives.

***** *To begin the interview, please ask the interviewee to state:***

- a) Full name*
- b) Current address*
- c) Date and place of birth*
- d) Where reared*
- e) Where living when entered the service.*

- * Were you enlisted or drafted? What were your feeling regarding entering the military?
- * For how long , where, and for what military job did you train?
- * To what unit(s) were you assigned?
- * What was your rank? How did you achieve it?
- * Where and when did you become a Prisoner of War? If wounded, how badly?
- * Describe the circumstances that led to your capture.
- * By whom were you captured? How did they treat you?
- * Where were you taken initially after capture? How treated there?
- * Was your POW camp for officers, enlisted men, or both? Did you have much contact with your fellow prisoners?
- * In what POW camps were you held? How long remain in each? Why did you leave one camp to go to another? How did the treatment compare at each?
- * What was your impression of life as a Prisoner of War?
- * What were your POW camp facilities like?

- * Did you have sufficient heat in winter; blankets; medical care; recreation; any form of entertainment?
- * What did you wear?
- * What did you eat? Was it sufficient and tasty? Were proper plates and utensils provided?
- * Was the camp sanitary? Were the latrines adequate?
- * How was morale among your fellow POWs?
- * How much did you hear about the conduct of the war? Did you believe it?
- * Did you receive mail and packages from home regularly? Anything from the Red Cross? Other sources?
- * Did you have any contact with civilians? How were you treated by them? What was your impression of them?
- * Did you have religious services? Were they important to the POWs?
- * Did you work either inside or outside of the POW camp? Voluntarily?
- * What type of work were you required to perform? How were you treated?
- * Did anyone attempt to escape the camp? Successful?
- * How and when did you hear about the end of the war? What were your feelings?
- * How and when did you find out that you were going home?
- * Where were you taken for repatriation? How were you treated by the guards and civilians with whom you came into contact during the trip?
- * How did you get home? Did your loved ones know you were coming?
- * What was your homecoming like?
- * What did you do after the war?

[NOTE: Ask if the interviewee has any photographs in uniform, or any while as a POW, or of the POW camp. Also, ask if the interviewee has any papers related to their military service they would donate to the State Archives. Photographs may be donated originals, originals loaned for copying and returned, or donated copy prints. Papers should be originals.

INTERVIEW TIPS

- * Always schedule an appointment
- * Dress appropriately
- * Arrive on time
- * Be prepared
- * Select the interview site carefully (comfort, privacy, access to electrical outlets, etc..)
- * Remember who is being interviewed! Let the interviewee do most of the talking.
- * Speak slowly, distinctly, and loud enough to be heard with ease
- * Ask brief, simple questions
- * Ask questions one at a time, not in a long series.
- * Pay attention and at least appear to be interested in what the interviewee is sharing with you.
- * If the interviewee is “on a roll,” and the material is germane to the interview, don’t interrupt, let’em “roll!”
- * Avoid asking questions that can be answered with a simple “Yes” or “No.”
- * Start your interview with simple, non-controversial questions
- * Do not be afraid to deviate from the interview question guide
- * Do not let periods of silence fluster you; give the interviewee time to think.
- * Do not worry if you “fumble” the wording of a question
- * Be aware of non-verbal communications, yours and the interviewee’s
- * Jot down ideas for follow-up questions rather than interrupt the interviewee in mid-story
- * Try to keep the interviewee on track by “politely” guiding the line of questioning back to the subject. Be patient and expect to listen to some material unrelated to the interview’s purpose.
- * Sometimes a negatively worded question will elicit a more complete answer than one couched in more positive terms (eg. “The General was known for being particularly rough on the troops. How did he get this reputation?”)
- * Periodically, establish a sense of place and time regarding the interviewee’s story
- * Do not dispute the interviewee’s version of a story of becoming argumentative. If you must challenge, do so diplomatically.
- * Try to avoid “off-the-record” comments, or the request to turn off the recorder so a really “good” story can be told. Once you allow one, you establish a dangerous precedent which may adversely affect your interview, or have unpleasant consequences afterwards. At best, much of your best material will either go unrecorded, or become “restricted.”
- * Do not switch the recorder “on” and “off” to save tape while the interviewee rambles. Such constant attention to the machine may make the interviewee overly conscious of its presence and either break their train of thought, or cause them to be less talkative.
- * It is generally best to have only the interview party and interviewee involved in the interview, unless there is a need for others to be present.
- * Try to record only one interviewee at a session
- * End the interview at a reasonable time (eg. 1 to 1.5 hours), unless the interview is going well and the interviewee indicates a desire to continue.
- * Do not use the interview as an opportunity to show off your own vocabulary, charm, experiences, etc.. Good interviewers do not shine, but their interviewees do.
- * If a follow-up interview is necessary, attempt to schedule it in person before you leave.
- * Be careful to make no promises you cannot keep regarding publication or the rights thereto,

- publication royalties, interview gratuities, copies of the interview, etc.)
- * Be sure the interviewee understands where, how, and by whom the interview will be used.
 - * Insure that the interviewee understands his/her rights regarding restriction, editing, etc.
 - * Above all, be courteous and remember the interviewee (and family, if involved) is doing you a favor by letting you conduct the interview!
 - * Do not fail to thank the interviewee, and any others involved with the interview, before leaving; follow this up with a written “thank you.”
 - * Leave the interviewee feeling that the/she has made a significant contribution to a valuable historical project.

MOST OF ALL, MAKE IT A FUN, LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL CONCERNED!

**LTC (Ret.) Sion H. Harrington III
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(“Tips” derived from personal experience, and from *Oral History for the Local Historical Society*, 3rd edition, Revised, by Willa K. Baum, 1995)

"NORTH CAROLINA NEEDS YOU!"

Colonial Wars---Revolutionary War---War of 1812---Mexican War
War Between the States---Indian Wars---Spanish-American War---Philippine Insurrection--- Boxer Rebellion



Mexican Border Expedition---World War I---World War II---Korean War---Vietnam War
Grenada---Panama---Desert Shield/Storm---Bosnia---Iraq

TO HELP PRESERVE HER PROUD MILITARY HERITAGE

The Military Collection of the Archives and Records Section, North Carolina Division of Historical Resources, sponsors an on-going program to better document the state's rich military heritage. The State Archives seeks to collect and preserve photographs, documents, and oral/video interviews related to the military service of North Carolinians, regardless of rank, branch, length of service, or era served. The Military Collection accepts donations of the following original items:

* **Personal Papers** (e.g. letters, postcards, diaries, and reminiscences)

* **Military Papers** (e.g. discharges, copies of orders, certificates, citations, and other official service-related documents)

* **Selected non-artifact memorabilia** (e.g. printed matter, souvenir maps and brochures, menus, picture postcards, booklets. etc.)

* **Photographs** (originals or copies) of North Carolinians **in uniform** (loaned images may be copied and returned at no cost to the owner)

[Due to space limitations and Archives collection policy, the Military Collection cannot accept artifacts (e.g. uniforms, flags, weapons, medals, ribbons, ID tags, etc.), or photocopies of papers.]

We must not forget the sacrifices made by others on our behalf!

If you have items to share, or are willing to conduct audio or video interviews with veterans using an easy-to-follow interview guide, please contact:

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