

**U.S. Army Military History Institute
ATTN: Vietnam Veteran Survey Coordinator (B)
950 Soldiers Drive
Carlisle, PA 17013-5021**

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.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: 10 U.S.C., Secretary of the Army; AR 870-5, Military History: Responsibilities, Policies and Procedures; and 16 U.S.C. 470, National Historic Preservation Act.

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.

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:

	Place	Dates
___ Basic	_____	_____
___ AIT	_____	_____
___ Airborne	_____	_____
___ Ranger	_____	_____
___ Special Forces	_____	_____
___ Aviation	_____	_____
___ Language	_____	_____
___ Other (specify)	_____	_____

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)

Co/Btry/Trp served in	Dates assigned	Location	Commanded by
Of Battalion/Squadron	_____	_____	_____
Of Regiment	_____	_____	_____
Of Division	_____	_____	_____
Duty Position	_____	_____	_____

2nd assignment (if applicable)

Co/Btry/Trp served in	Dates assigned	Location	Commanded by
Of Battalion/Squadron	_____	_____	_____
Of Regiment	_____	_____	_____
Of Division	_____	_____	_____
Duty Position	_____	_____	_____

3rd assignment (if applicable)

Co/Btry/Trp served in	Dates assigned	Location	Commanded by
Of Battalion/Squadron	_____	_____	_____
Of Regiment	_____	_____	_____
Of Division	_____	_____	_____
Duty Position	_____	_____	_____

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

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
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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.