

Interview Transcript

Interviewer: Brice Fennig

Interviewee: Mr. Michael Cornwell

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Interviewer: Okay, so do you mind going over your, you know, experience overall in Vietnam? You know, going in fresh out of Highschool and talking about kind of what you had talked about to the class of how you got involved with serving over in Vietnam? Do you mind?

Michael Cornwell: Like I did when I spoke to the class?

Interviewer: Yeah, yep.

Michael Cornwell: Well, I went to Jacksonville State in 1962...after staying out a year from high school, I had to work, get some money to go, 'cause you know, my family never went to college, and uh, Jacksonville State then...every male had to spend the first two years of college in the R.O.T.C. You know, you couldn't get away with that now, but anyway, so after you spent two years, then you had the option, you could decide whether you wanted to go into advanced ROTC. And really the main reason I'd consider it is because I'd make \$40 a month...

Interviewer: Yeah okay, pretty good!

Michael Cornwell: Ha, but you know I'm not, I'm not a gung-ho. But anyways, I got it in advance. We had taken a military science classes in the ROTC building and that was a part of your academic requirement. So, I'm staying in that, the two years between your junior and senior years, which is ROTC Summer camp, and our camp is going to Fort Bragg. So, go up there for six weeks, I think. And then after they've been billets, and you're like an enlisted person; in terms is

what you have to do is have various, like maneuvering, sleep out in the woods, marching, just everything that's associated with the military. We took a summer camp. And um...I came back to summer camp for my senior year, and I was thinking wow... and they had us, we had a brigade, and they had two battalions and ROTC troops, and I was the battalion officer or something anyway. And I was a distinguished military graduate and was number one in my class!

Interviewer: All right, how about that! Okay!

Michael Cornwell: Yeah well, I was not trying, and it was me and another friend, met him in chemistry. So then when I graduated in August, I had to go to summer school somehow wound up lacking a few hours—maybe because I took advanced ROTC! Then in August, when I graduated, it was told that George Wallace is at graduation in summer. I had my khakis on it and my mother; I got a black and white Polaroid picture of my mother pinned and my ButterBars on my khaki uniform. Anyway, on the stage right behind the curtain had a picture of George Wallace, you know, formal, and I cut his picture out of the placard that had a picture of George Wallace! So, then I just had a few weeks, and I had to report to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, to go to field artillery officer basics course. Every branch had its officer basic course. And then major course you know when you get promoted to major you have to pass this course. Because I had a regular Army commission, which is like a west point commission, I had to go to combat arms for two years; Infantry, armor, field artillery, or I think military intelligence. But anyway, I picked field artillery. They wanted me going Infantry and Im not going Infantry. I was working out and went the gym and was in good shape back then...but went back to Fort Sill. Let's see how long was I at...probably about an eight-week course; and it was pretty tough. You know, you had to compute fire direction, artillery rounds, all that stuff. We'd have to go out in firing range, sit out in our little stools, and then we had our little instructor, he was a Majors, he had been to

Vietnam, and you had to adjust fire. You know you got the guns behind...and shoot the artillery rounds, and then they'd land, and you'd see the smoke; you'd have to say, "add four hundred", "add one hundred", "drop one hundred", "move the asper this way". In my—we'd be sitting on our stools and just outdoors there in the range or something; you'd just see old tanks and stuff like that. And we were on a range, and we would have to call from the air! I'd never flown in the country! And the instructor he'd command the mission he'd said, "Lieutenant Cornwell, your mission, 82 245 mission over". I got in that bell helicopter, the early bubble, early, early, helicopter. I'd never flown! And the pilot, he helped me., you know he could talk to me without them hearing, and because, adjusting from the air, you know, you'd think it'd be easier! He would give me a bit of advice, "drop 400, drop 100", you know, "ten degrees", whatever it was, and I did that. And then, the next time I got called well we had these look-like planes, rolling, you know in gullies, you know out there for miles. And the round would hit, and you'd be looking at your map; you had your map, and you couldn't tell where it was; which one, you know, see how far it was. And you couldn't tell whether to add or drop. If somebody got called in, and I got called on, and neither one of us had adjusted properly. And then the major finally — the same instructor was with us through everything.

But anyway, he finally said what you had to do...is watch the wind and watch where it goes behind. They way the wind goes anyways. It was interesting. And we had one that one class; we'd have to lay a battery. Or if the _____ fell or tow vehicles. And it was like a survey... And you had to know how to ask what to do and do calculations on that —see field artillery it is not nothing you had to know math and everything. And we were still doing Fire Direction center calculating what size charge to use, what the range was, you know, had a range deflected protractor, and you'd have a map and then you'd have to calculate everything; how far the round

was going down. But uh, It was complicated. And after we had finished that class, we'd have tests on all of these, tests you'd have to pass. After I'd finished that class somewhere the Major told us that they'd got a computer down there and you've got to run and do it by hand. What they call that...FADAC! *(Field Artillery Digital Automatic Computer) * ...Field Artillery Direction...anyways it was confusing. Before that I graduated, and there was buddy of mine from the Jacksonville ROTC also, in fact he — we rolled out together. He got...what do they call it...held back, you know he had to repeat some classes. And in the meantime, the next batch of one hundred, another mutual friend of ours from Jacksonville, he came too. So, there was three of us out there from Jacksonville State, the same town. Of course, they were field artillery with their regular branch. They both went to Vietnam field artillery before I was there. A good friend of ours, he was at Hue in the battle of Hue, he got shrapnel in the head, flew him to Japan, doctored him up and sent him back to combat later. I already had my orders to go to USARV. United States Army in Europe. And I was going to Germany; I wasn't going to Vietnam. You know...Then! HA! I was an executive officer of the 1557 field artillery battery. Had six tracks, you know, we'd call 'em tracks, most people, they'd never met a tank, you know it's different from a parison. You've got the tube out here; you got the inflow part for the gunners, and all of them ain't ever actually fire rounds close. You'd go through backdoors, got your driver back front. I'd like to drive those tanks, I did everything; my men respected me because I did every part of that. From laying the battery, to being the gunner, you know you'd have to look through the telescope, survey instrument, and you'd have to adjust the angle of the two tracks and turret this way; you'd fire. Then I did assistant gunner, loader. That's where they'd pick up a hundred-pound rat laying on the tray. You'd push that ram where the gunner does, and it got an arm that come down and puts that shell up in the tube. And then you'd put powder bags, you know

separate powder bags, I mean this big around like that? And put those powder bags, and you'd push them up in there, and then you'd fire. And after the powder bags, if you weren't going to use that many, you have to be laying them out there in a ditch and have to burn those things up at the end of the firing.

Anyways, it was challenging. And then at some point later, I became an actual battery commander, a company commander at the age of...21? Let's see that was in '67, I was 24...commanding in, against one-hundred and fifty men. Six tracks, each track crew. So, I did that for six months, I was over there about a year and a half. And then it was moving, —my two years was coming up, and I was still in Germany, and I was switching to the ordnance branch. Ordnance because it was in Aberdeen, Maryland. Ordnance is, you know, they fix trucks and things...all that stuff. So, I had switched to ordinance just a few weeks, and fortunately there was an ordinance company saying, what you would call a concern, or probably like the fort in Germany, it was an all-German building, and we had occupied that. And you'd have billets and everything, PX, laundry and all that stuff. But then we'd go travel several hundred miles to go to Major training area. To grab some Bier...Bierfleschen. And we'd traveled in wintertime! I was in an open jeep in Germany. And we'd have the tracks. Were the tracks driving too? Surely not. Maybe they were up hauling? Anyway, it would be all my support vehicles and everything, I'm sure of the tracks while traveling considering we were going about one-hundred miles on the Autobahn. We'd go up there in the wintertime. And when I was battery commander, we had an exercise, and I was out surveying where to put the batteries, lay the guns and all that. And then you'd lay the battery, and then you got line of fire. You'd lay all the six guns, and then you'd go on the radio to get clearance to start shooting live rounds. Just very tightly regulated. You've got radio commands and everything. And I can still remember it, "Range control this is, whatever

my call sign was, request permission to enter the firing site and go dry”. That means you weren’t firing yet!

And...am I saying too much?

Interviewer: No! Keep going, keep going. Keep telling this story; this is good!

Michael Cornwell: I hadn’t talked about this in years!

Interviewer: Oh yeah

Michael Cornwell: And then, you’d made sure the batteries declined, lead this rifle, aim the the circle. You’d feel the fire direction center is set up, and that is the ones who are telling the gunners what to put on the guns and the bubbles and all that. And they get set up. They got ‘em out...and once that gets set up, “Range control, this is ‘whatever my call sign was’ see batteries out the firing port so and so”. And when you first went on, you would say, “Request permission to enter the net and go dry”. And you had to say all this, what I am describing...

Interviewer: That's a lot of back and forth.

Michael Cornwell: Yeah! And then once it got sent, “Range control this is crew battery, request permission to go wet”. “Permission granted. Out”. This is all necessary because we were there one time, and I think we were in...and they had an eight-inch battery, 8-inch is a two-hundred-pound shell, and it's not a closed track. But anyway, something went wrong and they overshot and fell in a bit like they were and they killed about eight people. That’s friendly fire there.

Interviewer: That’s why all that math is so important

Michael Cornwell: But anyway, I enjoyed the time I was battery commander. I’m thankful for my men, they respected me. I’d lead them on runs through the swine trip in the morning.

Anyway, I was not gung-ho, but I was. You know my uniform and everything.

But anyways, while I was switching to that Ordinance company, used to be, the department of the army decided they were going to send all these junior officers, that had anything to do with maintenance and ordinance, —which I was switching ordinance branch, but if you were transportation officers or Army Brigade or something like the transportation officers, they said all of us, a bunch of us, it was about one-hundred or so—, flew us to Maryland to go to, essentially it was ordinance basic course. And I never took one of the basic courses.

Let's see, I got there in April... trying to remember how much leave time I had before I was going to Vietnam. Anyways, a couple months there in Maryland. Got in a car with some other guys that could have the grace. It was a big water body; Chesapeake Bay was the water body out there, and they had those hydro boats. Anyways when I was there, I may have sent a letter when I was in Germany, sent it to the Department of the Army and I said, “I don't intend to make the army a career”, you know I had a career type commission. I said, “So when my time is up, I'll be getting out”. I sent it to resign my commission. I said, “But I know you're not going to let me. And I if I have to go to Vietnam, and if that is my status, then send me”. So, when I was at Maryland, I went home for thirty days, got married, my children's mother. Saying to them, “I'm going to war”. Anyways, got married, went to Vietnam, I was supposed to go to Quy Nhon which was up there close to the DMZ, for providing North and South buffer. I flew into Cam Ranh Bay.

There's a big Airforce base there, replacement station there. Replacement station is what you go through if you're entering or leaving. And I spent the night there at the replacement station; they had a little bar, you know. I don't know if I told this to the class, I spent the night, and when I was there, there was a kid out there with the special service extension of recreation, he had a ski boat. I went out there and water-skied out in Cam Ranh, the back bay there...choppy. Anyway

while I was there, they changed my orders and said, “We’re keeping you here in Cam Ranh Bay”. And I was like Br’er Rabbit been thrown in a br’er patch. I’d say, “whoopy doo”, I’ve been going to Major support command in Cam Ranh, probably was the safest logistical base in Vietnam that or maybe Long Vinh. (Vinh Long). So, they kept me there, came and got me with my bags, and took me to 69th maintenance battalion. I went and met the battalion commander; he was Lieutenant Colonel. And that day that I got there, he pinned my captain's bars on. You know, “You just got promoted”. So, he said he was going to make me a company commander of 128 Signal Maintenance Company. I said, “Sir, I don’t know anything about signals!”, He said, “You’d better by the field artillery unit here for six months”. “You don’t have to learn anything about signal maintenance”. “You’ve got command time, and you know how to be a leader”. I said, “Okay”. So, I’m signal maintenance company, basically, we had your regular billets, and the company orderly room, my office. And the base was almost like being back in the states on a civilian base...of course we had our firearms, back there. Then I had my own room. I said, the other captains from Missouri; it was just wooden regular billets. And we even had showers, what's notorious; you’d have these long open, like, outhouse, lids then you’d get a half of a 55-gallon jug cut in half, and you’d defecated into that, and after a while they’d slide them out. That was the job people got sometimes for discipline; you’d take those out somewhere and burn them. Because you could see a ways from the building area there, you’d see smoke going up and you’d say, “they’re burning shit out there!”

So, I did that a year, you know after six months, you know I was enjoying being company commander, but there was some other guy there, he needed command time. I guess he was gonna stay in. So, they put me up in battalion—staff, of the 69th maintenance battalion. And one of my main jobs was, I was the liaison with Vinnell corporation which repaired, you know, rebuilt jeep

engines and all these engines, mainly vehicles, you know big butler building. The managers there sitting in an air-conditioned office, you know to them, just like another job, I thought, “hell, that over here is the civilian based.” Probably had bullet holes, over in the billets where they lived. Vinnell was in-between, we were on the end of the peninsula, the support command one; and the airbase, I don’t know was maybe 5 or 10 miles inland and north, and the appraisal station, the airbase-BIG airbase, and the Vinnell corporation was in-between the big support command area, the airbase. So, I did that.

While I was company commander, I was battalion commander, we had some units in different smaller towns and villages in Vietnam. It’d be more than boonies. You know, they were more vulnerable. And the company commander, he regularly, I don’t know what he flew? A helicopter, but he was going to drive Tuy Hoa! I was trying to remember how far it was—I think it was all day to get there. * (about three hours). But you know, back then we were driving Jeeps on dirt roads. I got some pictures, nice pictures where we’re by these villages on the water there and the people standing out there, seeing their huts and that was what I was hoping for. Families would be standing in the doorway; I was just hoping nobody did anything. That day, that's what we were really worried about. Had your .45, grenades; didn’t have an AR15—you had an automatic M14, its .30 caliber, you know like the old M1 (carbine) that replaces automatic.

Then we got to one place, and there was an ARVN Jeep down there—recoilless rifle on it, and not only had been shot, but they did something to the road there, like a mine had been in the road. Anyway, Vung Tau pass you had to climb up the ladder, and we finally got to Tuy Hoa and there was an airstrip there. I really don’t think I’d much business going out, just kind of cruising! I remember we ate; they had a mess hall there; you know it was a base where they had facilities. When it came time to leave, and I don’t know who arranged this, we were going to catch a C-130

out of their airstrip right there. I guess our drivers, who had to drive us, drove back themselves. I hope they had somebody riding with them! We got in that C-130, and it was typhoon-like; rain was blowing horizontal! And I got in that C-130 and what did I think, "Hell! Is this thing gonna be able to fly in this rain?!" It didn't have any 'chutes, and I sat outside the giant fuselage inside. A battalion commander and some other folks; we were in that thing. And I got airsick in that thing. You can imagine; and I puked in my helmet there. Got back at dark to Cam Ranh Bay, and I stayed in my hooch for a while! I didn't do that anymore!

Cam Ranh Bay was between the peninsula; we were on support command and across the bay was Vietnam villages. But in between, there was an island, and it had a monastery on it; from the French. And of course, there was a Vietnamese village connected to a support command.

Interviewer: How much of a French influence did you see on these villages that you would pass by?

Michael Cornwell: Well, when you go to Nha Trang, which, was not a big-big city, but it was considered to be a city, and you could see the old French villas, you know the way the houses and building were built. You know, it would be a small village it would be I don't know something about like a bourg maybe bigger, but most of the more substantial homes, you could tell they were built by the French. They would have walls around them, and they'd be about six feet. And then the top of it, they'd poured cement, and they had broken glass all up in there, all the way around. (24:47.23)

Interviewer: So would you have rather driven back in those jeeps to Cam Ranh Bay in that monsoon? Or would you have rather flown back in the C-130?

Michael Cornwell: We wouldn't have driven in it; it was dark! We wouldn't have just driven back. But I know the battalion commander was there as well—some other folks were in that C-130. I hope that driver had somebody else to ride with or he'd ride by himself. I guess it was my driver. See, I had my own driver as a battalion commander. No- I had my own Jeep! I just had a personal vehicle. I'd drive it to billets, drive there. In Cam Ranh Bay it was on the South China Sea. Beautiful, beautiful, white water, water crystal clear. We'd go as officers to the Air Force Officers beach. And they had a sign, snorkel—. But my roommate and I, he'd ride with me, he'd get in my jeep and resist sand—it was like a desert, like sand, deep sand, and ready to go on the road all the way man, and I just put that Jeep in four-wheel drive and drive through that sand. I'd be in civilian clothes and all that. Then when I moved to battalion, I had used the jeep sometimes I had my own jeep. It was on its was on the ride back to the billets anyways. It was the PX, the mess halls, officers—we officers had our own mess halls. And they were building a spa there, one that they had finished just before I left, there was a spa! A new officers club, seemed like they had some shrimp or something.

Interviewer: Did you do any other activities like fishing or snorkeling?

Michael Cornwell: Snorkeling! Yeah, I was snorkeling at the air force officers beach; we'd sat out there all day. And son, I was dark, dark. I've got a picture of my face sitting in the office of battalions, hung up in the closet there. I would have been arrested now! You know, because of my darkness. Anyway, it was near the time, I was only battalion staff at the time, but we'd got rocketed somewhere, not in my billets, but anyways we got called out. And we'd practice being called out of a perimeter. I mean, it was like a model set or you know, we had those power ships stayed there permanently for power. You'd get power to the road. The rocket supposedly came from that island where that monetary was. Anyways we got called out with our arms, your live

ammo. I was laying up there in that foxhole; the sun came up, and it was just surreal. I said, "I can't really be here". Birmingham Alabama, laying up here in this foxhole, got a family back home. And then it was either an old DC-3 or a C-130, I forget which...probably DC-3, or as they'd call it, "Puff the Magic Dragon" and it had Gatlin guns out of both sides. You know what a Gatlin gun is, it you know, BRRRRR! Anyway, it was flying, I looked up there and it was flying. And it was still twilight or dawn. And it would shoot that Gatlin gun; you could see the traces going down.

Interviewer: Is it kind of like the A-10? The Warthog?

Michael Cornwell: Yeah, but that was before they had the A-10s. They had them C-130's with Gatlin guns on them, you can imagine. It seemed like they had a grenade launcher on them too. Anyways, early on when I was company commander, the blocking force, for the support command, was the south Korean unit. Australia had units along with the South Koreans, and I got some pictures of me and its dark and im sitting in a folding chair and were on the Korean base we got by that I was at, maybe battalion commander or some folks. And I guess there was some show, you know, singers or strippers or something and im sitting in a chair with a South Korean company commander there. And he gave me an AK-47. New, and he gave it to me. I wish I brought it home with me, but back home, "you know the FBI will search your home, they'll arrest you!" I wish I had brought it home, because it was like new. But what was said about South Koreans, the one reason Cam Ranh was such a secure base is that if we got any attacks on the mainland out of there, the South Koreans could go in there and kill everybody. Then, I didn't think so much about that, but you know, you see it as a threat to your life, it takes you back, you know that they were killing civilians, innocent folks too. It didn't happen while I was there. I may have gone over there one time, but I had just started.

So, a year of that, my roommate and I, we had an old gym. They had a universal gym in there, I was working out regularly then, hit dumbbells and had a bar and a half place, but they had five wheels and a diesel truck. We would go there at midnight. We had a mess hall, had a PX, post exchange, and got the latest albums there. And I had a reel-to-reel tape and speakers; we had that in the room! Only the latest! I had about twelve or several thousand feet of reel-to-reel tape that was all amongst the house. And I would get maybe 6, 7 or more albums on one reel. And I even bought a second deck that would record both directions. And my roommate and I, we had our lockers over in between, his bunk was over on this side and mine was on this side, but then we had...I was a skilled carpenter, so when I got on the living room you'd just have your beds and made the table and the chairs, but I made this pedestal, and we got a sink and hung 55-gallon drum outside, and I ran a hose to the sink so you could turn the sink on. And I built this like shelf and I had a blender there, made blends in that, and I also bought this little Sony t.v.; 9-inch-black and white t.v.. We'd watch t.v.; Star-Trek, we'd watch Star-Trek at night.

Now we had regular hours, get to work at seven, and a half-day off a week. So, as Vietnam goes, folks can say, "you had it good." And I did... and I recognized that. And I made several trips to Saigon for various reasons, made several trips to Na Trang, and they discovered—they had been over there for about ten months—that there was a small mountain up a way in Na Trang, and there was a Vietcong base hidden in there. They hadn't been there forever, and they didn't even know it was there. And what they said about Cam Ranh, rather than attacking us; they'd raid a pill-fridge, things we had at the depo; you know, supplies, food, everything, supplies from the depo...and get this, between us and the Air Force officers beach, there was a hawk missile, that was air defense, see, in like the armory, North Vietnam didn't have any jets! Now my friend in the Air Force was a Lieutenant Colonel, he was retired, but he was air defense artillery, and he

was stationed with the hawk unit. You know, you got the little house there that I told you about, it's up here on here a way, the one like this?, Air defense, missile. Now what, for what?!

And Na Trang had a good beach so once, sometimes we would go down and we would drive to Na Trang, and there was a building there, think of midtown, you know the second story shopping center with glass and all that...and there was a set of snow skis up in there, cross-country skis. I thought, "what!" I learned to surf the waves, didn't think about sharks back then. But going there to body surf the waves, it was just violent. Eat a meal in a restaurant, and I went to Saigon a number of times, and one time, for one time I went to go talk to a general officer when I was, because I was getting out of the army, and drive out to long bend and they get hit pretty rarely, drove through a rubber plantation just me and the driver made. I was anxious. And of course, the streets of Saigon. You know, early on they were throwing grenades, and we'd travel around on buses, like school buses in armored green, and they had metal grates on the windows so they couldn't throw the grenades in there. And I spent the night in a hotel there downtown, I think back then I said, I was a young, 20-something walking around Saigon, was finding my way around. Going here, going over there, going up to long bend to get transportation. And which is, I guess it was a part of the U.S. Embassy. Went up to a big room and it was like a big open dining room, people being served, women in like avondales or cocktail dresses, and, you know, U.S. embassy folks, there's civilians there. They came in from there.

And then when I flew back, I had to fly to Na Trang, and I kept wondering why I didn't fly to Cam Ranh? Flew to Na Trang, I saw the general in a Learjet and I thought, "Ain't this some shit." I was over here with these poor people, and these general officers taking jets.

Westmoreland, you know, he got more into that body cam. It was kind of a joke, though not funny, "well how do you know they's a Vietcong? Dead Vietnamese." One of the books I read, I

read a bunch of them, they've been kind of curious books. Vietnam was divided up, South Vietnam was divided up into four corps. I think it was four. I think we were a two corps. My corps was closer to the DMZ, 2 corps and 3 corps, and the fourth corps was down in the delta of South Vietnam. And people sit up there in these helicopters flying over, they'd see these Vietnamese children and they'd shoot them. They said, "must be Vietcong...he was running." Big poor farmer here was here trying to get out of it. That's part of the legacy guilt they talk about now. Yeah, we don't have direct PTSD combat, but we were a part of it...out there supporting it.

INTERVIEWER: Those instances like that where it made you, you know, after coming back home make you want to join the Vietnam Veterans against the war?

Michael Cornwell: I was in Vietnam one day, took a 24-hour flight, made it in Seattle, Tacoma. SeaTac. I still had my jungle fatigue on. Changed into my Khakis. But then, I caught the flight to Dallas, then went home. That was when they still had stairs coming down; you could walk off the airplane, and my now ex-wife was there to greet me. My parents were there. But then, I see my family and then I remember being in a, talking to the people there again, just got back from Vietnam two days ago, I went from Vietnam now I'm back here. It's...it's an adjustment.

Originally, I was supposed to go to Fort McClellan, which I was thrilled! That's Jacksonville State. We went out there in advanced ROTC and had events at the officers club, and have dances, and music, took our dates...drink beer. Pretend we were real officers. So, I said, I'd love to go back to Fort McClellan, and that's 50 miles from home and 10 miles from Jacksonville State, and I'd go up to campus and be a big man on campus. Anyways, I got changed support to Fort Rucker for a little Army Aviation. I forgot, what did I do there? I was to support folks...I didn't do too much, I know it's Vietnam Service, you know you have a unit. I had a USAV patch

on the right side; you know you've been overseas.

INTERVIEWER: So how long were you serving in the States before you retired or discharged?

Michael Cornwell: I had six more months when I got back, so I got out in February right after that. I guess that's the second or third Super Bowl. February of 1970. I got back in August, and I actually called them up and see if I could extend, to stay a little bit longer. You know I didn't have a job lined up yet. When I got out, I started teaching in Jefferson County, previously and all-black school. I volunteered to go. I went up to Jefferson County Headquarters, and this was 1970; I can remember going up there, and of course they would interview me. And went back and im talking to, in his 50's white guy, bald-headed, and he said, "You know I can send you to a white school or I can send you to a nigger school." I said, "I'll go to a Black school." And I loved it. It was me and three other young white males; we were all buddies, and we loved it there. We went with the same attitude, and they loved us too. You know, especially the lunchroom; they had wonderful meals! They'd see me coming! The meals were just wonderful. I loved my students; I was the assistant football coach too. Taught biology, let's see, I was there the rest of '70, and I started something in the summer and in the fall, '70-'71...I started grad school at UAB somewhere in there, '71 I guess. I was expecting that full year, lets see, '71, I got my masters in '72, but at some point then they sent us I don't know if they were closed in Brighton or what. But they sent me to Minor High School in Jefferson County, my wife and I lived there in Westend. I still had the '69 Corvette convertible. I was, let's see was I, I had just gotten out while I was at Fort Rucker. I'd say just \$10,000 while I was in Vietnam. You know, that was basically everything I made. You know, that's a lot of money in 1968, almost \$1,000 a month and everything. I don't know how or what money I used. Well, I didn't need any for the chow hall, eat and everything. I guess I'd keep the money occasionally to buy some 33 or 3rd

albums. But yeah, I had that. I had that corvette; it was silver convertible, \$4,900. That was the first one I had. I got my first one to go to Fort Sill, my '57 Chevrolet, I couldn't take care of it, it was just hard because it was disabled then before. Right after that I went to paratrooper school, when I came back to Fort Sill I went to jump school. And we went to paratrooping school and what was that? Three weeks? Something like that; three to four weeks. So I got the corvette in Fort Sills, Oklahoma, going to Fort Benning, and then when I finished paratrooping school, I was happy and I was within in the suburbs of Birmingham, up there in Mountain Brook, going too fast in the Cherokee in way—slid into a tree...totaled it. And I got cut up on one of my eyebrows. I don't get how they got lap seatbelts in? You know I wasn't going *that* fast, but you know, from the road, that whole concrete road was right slick and went around and sent me into a tree. Sent me to the VA hospital and put stitches in it. Parents came and got me, took me home, so now I was vehicle-less. Lets see, when I got to Germany, and I shopped around, and before I went to Germany, I found a '63 white convertible and bought it. Sent it to Germany, and drove it around over there, you know...a Lieutenant in a corvette! Oh, when I came back from Sill, I went back to Jacksonville State before I went to jump school, you know drive around all that R.O.T.C., the younger guys that I would see, "There goes Lieutenant Cornwell in that Convertible..." With that white one, I went down to, what's the name of that garnish its in that out area of Germany. Beautiful there. Went to some school down there. When I was coming back and the Germans said, it wasn't the autobahn because it had the roads, you got two roads going up, one lane coming back down, no passing coming back down. So I was passing going up—and Germans are notoriously fast drivers—and one was in my lane, and I got over far enough, I think I had the top down, and it tore the driver's side off the car and spun it around, and separated this, my clavicle. I think it was a German ambulance that got me and took me over to the north, to a town, city, and

the German hospital, they x-rayed me, took care of me, slept in the hospital bed there, you know they got like one patient just because that's where the one bed was. A buddy, Second Lieutenant from Schweinfurt came and got me, took me back to Schweinfurt, and after that, we passed down Volkswagens over there, but I was out of a car for a while then I got a, I think it was a '59 Beamer. It still had the leaves on the floor and gas tank try to flip it over.

INTERVIEWER: How long did you have that Vehicle for?

Michael Cornwell: I had that one until I went to Maryland. In fact, you know, all my stuff was back over there I needed to go back to get my purple lime.

INTERVIEWER: I heard those were notoriously dangerous.

Michael Cornwell: What?

INTERVIEWER: I heard the Beetles were notoriously dangerous to drive.

Michael Cornwell: Well, yeah because you only got the spare tire up front. You gonna hit somebody head-on. But yeah, that was my car. Even on the autobahn, I was just passing folks in that corvette. Anyways it was suitable for my needs because when I first got over there, before my corvette got there, I needed someone to drive me. I lived in a little old village. I didn't live on base housing. I lived out with a German family, a couple that had two daughters and I had the upstairs room up there and for me to get a bath, I'd let them know and they'd put charcoal brickettes and you know, put a big fire and it would be good. I think I got a picture there somewhere of me and my dear friend, from Washington State, wonderful artist, and he and I were best buddies, and I had that white corvette stingray, we got our picture standing by in our tuxedo's—the company major ball in Wurzburg, which was just third division headquarters. It

was a beautiful town, and we were going to that ball, but we didn't have our dress blues yet, so we rented tuxedos for that. Then later we got our dress blues, and I still got them.

INTERVIEWER: So how fast after, you know, you were done with serving in uh when you were working, you know, close to, what did you say, Fort...what was the one right after you got back from...

Michael Cornwell: Fort Rucker!

INTERVIEWER: Fort Rucker. How long after that did you decide to join the Vietnam Veterans against the war? Was it almost instant?

Michael Cornwell: No, they were formed in '67, and I had never even heard of them. But of course, I'm still not studying much about it. It was actually after I actually started teaching schools, I'd gotten out when I started studying all the history about who Ho Chi Minh was, about the French, about the imperialistic, you know we called it Manifest Destiny in the history group. It was actually Imperialism and subjugated with the boxer rebellion in the Philippines. I remember in the R.O.T.C. building, which was an old small school, but we'd go to the R.O.T.C. and have classes upstairs and the first two years, they assign you an M1, you have to go there and clean it all the time. And then you'd have a sergeant watch you go down the barrel and all that stuff. But they'd have pictures of the battles on the walls, and they had ones, I mean, about the Philippines, because that's where the colt .45 was developing, you know, knock somebody down, you know to show some battle tat, and when you think about it, what the hell were we doing in the fucking Philippines? See? The boxer rebellion and all the other foreign adventures we engaged in. That would take their lands. Anyways when I started teaching school, I started reading a lot of stuff, I don't remember how I actually—Oh! There was a guy here in Tuscaloosa

I don't know if he'd been in the army, but he was, somebody contacted me and I came down and met him over there when McFarland Mall was still there. He worked somewhere over there and we talked, and there was a meeting of the Southern chapter of Vietnam Veterans Against the War near Tallahassee. So, he and I drove down there together, slept in a tent, you know, open sleeping in tents, communal showers...women too! There was some kind of lagoon down there and folks were going swimming in there and I thought, "Hell, I aint going down in there, alligators in there, nooo." But anyway, you know we had a meeting organization and talked about VVAW and what we were going to do and of course it wasn't all just fun and games and then came back. And then that was when I was teaching school, that's where the organization, nationalization—I think they started up in New York somewhere there in 1967. But they were having a demonstration down in D.C. Dewey Canyon...II? Dewey Canyon was an operation in Vietnam, so this was a parody of that called Dewey Canyon II. And I said, yeah, I'll go, I was teaching school, you know, I'll take off. And some guys came up from Florida somewhere, I would have met them in Atlanta, but anyway, I met them somewhere and rolled with them up there to D.C. and that was the first time I smoked marijuana! Some old four-door sedan. Anyway, I had a sleeping bag, I had gear and I was gonna sleep in the ball. Sleeping on the ground between the capital and Washinton Monument! Then anyways, I don't even know how we ate? I guess you know, we had John Berry as our president of Vietnam Veterans Against the war. And then we went and lobbied all our congress people. That's when I talked to whats his name, Nichols. He was from Gadsden, Etowah County, U.S. representative. He's the one that said, "Captain Cornwell, I'd have to admit, I know very little about the history of the Vietnam War." That's when I was telling him about Ho Chi Minh and how the U.S. didn't want to have an election because we'd knew that the whole country would vote for Ho Chi Minh to be

president. We'd already sent up the South Vietnamese puppet government to do our bidding. But anyways, once he said that, it just hit me forever, I said I would never, these folks will say, something about some decision to make in congress and like that and people say, "well they know more, they know more." Like hell they do.

INTERVIEWER: When he said that to you did that want you to make you want to take more action and be more involved?

Michael Cornwell: Yeah! So, I stayed, so that was about '71 or '72 and I started law school in '74 and about '74. We weren't doing much as an organization. Because I know, my wife, ex-wife, was out living in the west end, and I'd been receiving notice that I'd been admitted into law school. So, this is probably summer, and then I started in '74 since I got my noticing time in the spring. But anyway, knock on the door, I'd already been admitted into law school, and it would have been the summertime, and two FBI agents came in... Questioning me, you know, about getting on VVAW activities, and I just laughed at them. Yeah, I just laughed and I said, "You're not doing anything, I'm not involved in anything that's going on, I don't know of any major information has been disclosed." But when I was in graduate school at UAB, that was when My Lai occurred, when My Lai was revealed and I remember speaking at a group at the Anti-War movement in Birmingham and I spoke at Bryant's Park because they were in the UAB area. Oak Park, and they had an Anti-War thing there and I spoke there and said, "I hate to say this but whenever I hear that a B-52 got shot down, I'm glad." And that's when Nixon was heavy into the bombing and I knew by then, we should never have gone and done to those Vietnamese people, It just... It didn't make sense to me.

INTERVIEWER: Did, you know, having your law degree, did that make you maybe—

Michael Cornwell: I didn't have a law degree then...

INTERVIEWER: Then, but when you ever got it, did that make you want you to know to take more action and become—did you ever have the thought of joining a political office or anything like that?

Michael Cornwell: Maybe I should have, but I didn't have the money, and I didn't have the desire. I was certainly concerned with politics day in and day out, which I still do...

INTERVIEWER: Do you think you could make more of an impact protesting instead of having to...

Michael Cornwell: I don't know that most American's, even in a Vietnam unit, in a protest don't understand. But most American's still didn't understand everything about that. They just, American's had the idea, if we are at war, we wear the white hats and were protecting our freedom if we go to war. Which is just ridiculous. No Vietnam Veteran that I know is going, "Well what can we do more to protect our freedom, our country over here, what can we do?" You just want to live and go home. While you were out beating the bush everyday and you'd wanted to go home. And you didn't see... what you were doing over there, that was patriotic called protecting your country and your loved ones. You knew you weren't. But I remember when Saigon fell, I had finished the second semester of Law School finals, you'd just have one test and I'd finished it. My first year is completed and I was with some buddies and had the tv on Saigon. And I said, "I'm glad. I'm glad it's fallen. It should have fallen." So much, so much stuff. But you know, and folks get home and American's they go from, they go from one war to the next. Then when Iraq heated up I thought, "My God, we'd learned nothing. Nothing, nothing, nothing from Vietnam." There were Bushy folks telling us that we've got to go to war against

Iraq and terrorism. Terrorism had nothing to do 9/11. And for the American's, you know, I said, most Americans, American society, it does nothing so well as being so easily led to war. Start the drumbeats. I remember Marine General Anthony Zinni, four-star, back when a lot of generals were saying it, we don't need to be talking about all the propaganda to go and change their life. And he said, "You see, why is it that people never fired a shot in anger at the ones that are most enthusiastic about going to war, so they're going to be sending somebody else. Always send somebody else's kids." I said, "you're right." During that time, I got back involved in the Anti-War movement, I went to D.C. for that 40,000 people showed up for the _____ I forgot what that acronym was I forgot what that stood for. We had 40,000 people ordered for the demonstration all day. All day. Had a few counter demonstrators, like 50 people. I was back into it and I got it on my truck there and it says, "Iraq is Arabic for Vietnam." So even worse is you think you've learned something. But America don't, they still got disjunction. Whoever we're killing, we're right to be killing them. That's the nature of the nation. You always hate the defenseless.

INTERVIEWER: You were even talking about it when you came to class, every time you see the flyovers over the stadium, or you see these tanks on display, you were like, the only reason we have these, and the only reason people think that this is cool is because they're only machines...

Michael Cornwell: And part of that ingrained war mentality. "I got chills, the jet flew over you can get chills." And you know singing the national anthem. Most times, I used to, I wouldn't even stand up for the national anthem. I certainly put my hand over my heart; I certainly sang the national anthem. I used to tell my classes, when my teachers, you people flag worshippers, but if you start talking to them about the flag is just a symbol, but if you ask them what it symbolizes,

they're not thinking about that. They're not thinking about justice and equality, honor and integrity, protecting those that need protecting; they're not talking about that. They just get concerned with burning the symbol, but you can burn up what it stands for or destroy that. They're not concerned about that.

INTERVIEWER: Were there any lessons that you took from seeing the protests around you, and you protesting, that you talked about with your classes that you ever taught? Any lessons that you learned that you told your students in your classrooms?

Michael Cornwell: You mean when I was teaching legal studies? OH! You mean when I was teaching high school!

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, teaching high school, any lessons that you took from being overseas that you implemented in the classroom?

Michael Cornwell: Well, they were sort of a brand or transition from, you know, live in Vietnam among Vietnamese, and, you know, they were, of course, it was almost like segregation here with the races in Vietnam. The thing where they were, they're not restricted, but you stayed me recognizing that we were really doing some guys for laundry or cleaning it and she just out there working on it. Yeah. And that's the one job I had was paying the Vietnamese workers. PS's. What did they get paid, but uh. So they was that, and I'm just calling it an awakening. Living in Germany and living in Vietnam, seeing the world is bigger than eventualism. I don't know people of South, you know, they're specially. And then, start taking in all black school, going into history of slavery and segregation and Jim Crow and the Klan and all that stuff that stuff. Native Americans. And I've been saying that I read, I buried my heart at Wounded Knee', and now it's down that time. I just can't. So long ago, and that's not the only

one. There's one that was in Castle Rock or something in Colorado where they did the same thing, they were not even warriors or even war men. They killed the whole village. At wounded knee. And his answer was, "we're restoring these battles for these soldiers at wounded knee, they deserve it." I'd like to bitch slap him. Even at my age.

Interviewer: Like Little Bighorn and Custer.

Michael Cornwell: Yeah, I remember when I was in the 6th grade, I did like to read and I got very good grades, and my 6th grade teachers encouraged me to read more, I read a book on Custer then. Well, that book is entirely different. He was a hero. And watching these westerns on tv, and they pull up every time they shoot the Indian. And I just studied history and real history. Real history and factual history. I read a book, in the service called, 'America's Conflict of Creed and Reality' written by British Officers. But it went over all the hypocrisy, you know, just all the democide against native Americans, and then slavery, its what we were founded on. And what about violence, and they said, basically said, too much violence, violence is American is apple pie if its boxer rebellions, China and all that stuff. I'd say now, we're the most warren nation on the planet. Continuously. You got Hegseth...little dick syndrome.

INTERVIEWER: Did you see that he changed the Department of Defense to the Department of—

Michael Cornwell: To WAR! You know what they were thinking, a wimpy guy...so insecure, so trying to be macho. He talks about the beard. And to shave. And I see a picture of him and has got those not even full sideburns going down. And I said, "you wish you could grow a beard!" Cut those sideburns off, cut that long stuff off, and get you a marine haircut. An alcoholic sex abuser.

INTERVIEWER: So, I want to keep talking about the protests. You know, you first joining it. Were you getting any backlash from buddies maybe back from when you were back in Cam Ranh Bay? Were they cutting you up a little bit?

Michael Cornwell: No, I didn't... I had a friend he wasn't a vicious man, but good friends lived in Pennsylvania, somewhere close to New York, and I went and saw Al, and my executive officer lived in Portland, Oregon, but he extended for a year. You know it young guys out of flight school, had a good situation in Vietnam. He had just stayed there for six months, as the Vietnam war was winding down and I was getting on with my life and career, you know, going to law school. But my philosophy, my political views were fixed in me, and they were ingrained, you know. And that's what I say, all of that forever shaped who I am now and my views about government and humanity. Identity to me. And then after I finished law school, let's see, '77 then I came to the public defender's office at '78 and I started a relationship with the office secretary is what ended up getting divorced. And I actually joined active reserves in 1980, so I had been out 10 years. And I forgot who contacted me, but somebody contacted me and I ended up in Hoover. And I needed money and it paid us \$400 a weekend. So I end up going on the reserve, and once a month, and then we'd go up and down the eastern seaboard with command post exercise. That's what we did. We drafted brigade and division, ex command post exercise, just gonna play war, we have all these units moving around. And then we'd go reserve in the National Guard, and we'd go up and down the eastern seaboard and over to Wisconsin and put on a command post exercise. I was in that 10 years, but there was a bunch of Vietnam Veterans in that unit. I don't know that we talked about, oh I'd say a bunch of them, I knew some of them from the Jacksonville State R.O.T.C., they were there. We didn't get into discussions about that, maybe we did, but it'd be brief. You know, Vietnam had been over by then, so. Then we had that

silly thing in Granola. Granola? Grenada! Not a cereal, Grenada. My buddies knew here, my family knew about my attitude had changed when I came back from Vietnam, what my attitude was, and it was just army, defense department, war, what we do. And we were friends, at that time I was a criminal defense lawyer and entered the defense works. I made some really good friends. Jim was a state attorney lawman, got promoted to major. Because I had that 10-year break in service, there was a certain point in 1988; I was going to have to get out of the reserves. Because that would be, let's see, '88, '66, well that's just 22 years. Anyway, I couldn't say anything about my time in service, getting time and terms situation. Well, you could stay back but you would have to stay back as an E-7.

INTERVIEWER: So is there any advice that you would give to, you know, any soldiers, who are on active duty who are against what they are fighting for but still want to serve their country. What advice would you give to those situations?

Michael Cornwell: Especially with the ones we are facing now. For what the military is being called upon to do. I hope, we've seen it before, a four-star admiral retired from sudden command only before so to keep them boats. I was so glad to see it. I watched the whole thing about it, that how many people Hegseth met, when they were meeting in D.C., that meeting, I was glad to see there was no clapping, they were just stoic. Even Trump came out and no clapping. No, they were just silent. I could tell; you could see it. There were clues not only with calling, but how they were being used. You know get general immunity the first go around with Trump and then now its, "he's a facist, and a big threat to the government." Of course that, one of the first things they did with the defense department was remove all the head legal officers, first, the cheif of staff and then various branches, then the top legals and lawyers in the office, GA corps removed them. Well, it hasn't to come down to shooting of American citizens yet, but they certianly can.

The national guard in active marines going into cities, its a prelude conditioning people not to be alarmed or think much about that. We had Kent State in '74. Nobody was ever prosecuted. So, there are two things that I've been hoping are looked upon in the sort of ball against supreme collapsing democracy and fascism and dictatorship, the constitution, and the military. Confusion, refusing to do things. But I was suprised when they blew that first boat in the Caribbean and at some point, that was somebody to say, no I can't do that... It hadn't even gone to congress.

Now more things change that should remain the same.

INTERVIEWER: And you had mentioned in class that people who see you wearing your veteran's cap, the people who say, "thank you for your service", you don't really appreciate that as much, and that you have something to say to them

Michael Cornwell: Well, I usually don't... What I say to them is, its not something I say to somebody I am just passing by, sometimes I say, "I wish the service could have been more beneficial and honorable", something like that. But usually, especially for some mutual veterans, I say, you know I got that Vietnam Veterans bumper sticker on the back of my truck, VVAW, our motto is, "Honor the Warrior, Not the War". That way, you're honoring the serviceman, but you're not honoring the war. So that's our motto, "Honor the Warrior, Not the War", I'll say that sometimes to people. You know if I have time to engage them in conversation, somebody that I often see, I know them.

INTERVIEWER: Is there something And, you know, we could say to, you know, that reciprocates what you feel? What is that?

Michael Cornwell: Oh yeah. Obviously, from the number of veterans against the war. Thousands of extended demonstrations. It started in '67 and it still exists. You've got Iraq and

Afghanistan you know joining it, you know, it starts with anti-war. Just like I did, and my perception, my vision, when I started looking and studying and learning, it bleeds into everything. Racism, genocide, Native Americans, continuing wars of imperialism and what our foreign policy is really based on. We don't give a shit about people from other countries, about the indigenous folks who still live here. It's what's best for the U.S., our strategic interest. That's what we were concerned about. You know, some people might be thinking, well, you know, I'm applying to protect more folks at the interest, but the government's reasons for going there, don't have that kind of conscience, you know, compassion or desire, to make the world a better place for these poor folks in there. Whether it's people in the Congo and Africa and Idi Amin, he's killing folk, we'd go there and protect them occasionally, we might, what is the saying, the clock that's wrong is right twice a day, occasionally we'll get it right, but the ultimate goal is not to enhance the lives of the people we say we were going over to protect. It's, what advantage is this for the U.S.? If there is no advantage strategically for resources, we don't care. The whole thing about going to Vietnam, I said, "we don't give a shit about the Vietnamese rights", if we cared about their freedom, why didn't we go in there and attack the French who had them as a colony and subverting them? Why wouldn't we attack the French? We're dropping bombs on Vietnam and their just as North as communist China who is the largest communist nation in the world, and Nixon is going over there, drinking wine with Deng Xiaoping, clinking glasses, and we're still killing Vietnamese and getting masses killed in Vietnam destroying the country. Destroying the people, agent orange, all the birth defects, still births, deformities. Inflicted onto U.S. soldiers too. They went over there. And if you were in Vietnam, you were exposed to it. I guess maybe we were on a peninsula, but it certainly came on a ship. They supplies come in through there, these Airforce bases.

INTERVIEWER: Are there any books that you have read that you've read that you would recommend to people?

Michael Cornwell: You know, it's been so long since I've read one, but I used to read regularly. I got some in my library somewhere, maybe if we have another meeting, I'll bring some pictures, bring some books. Well not just that, the veteran newspaper, in every one, they spend all day books written by people like me, you know nothing matters. It would be soldiers, Marine's, Navy people, you know somebody here in the worst of it as the fighting in the jungle and and other people that make it like I was on Air Force Base and working woman on the B-52, writing about the war.

INTERVIEWER: Did you write anything when you were, when you came back?

Michael Cornwell: Me? I just tried to explain to people why I was a Vietnam veteran and why I opposed the war. And every war since then.

INTERVIEWER: Are there things that you tell people who are gung-ho for, you know, being shipped off, do you or have you encountered any people like that and give them a little advice, like, well...

Michael Cornwell: Now that you mentioned that, well, its just, the closest I've been recent to a career military person and I wouldn't say Rod was gung-ho, Rodriga, is a seal, I met him in Vietnam, in 2019 I met him in a campground. I was camping up here and his wife was down there, I went to the campsite, and somehow Vietnam came up and we were talking about the Vietnam war, I don't know I was even aware at the time that Rod was a seal. Of course he had been overseas. But we became just the best of friends, him and Rebecca, and he gave me the medallion, the seal medallion. You don't give those away. That has to be something special. He

was stationed at San Diego then, but his parents were Mexican, they had become, no he was born in Mexico and they became citizens. But when he joined the military, Rod was not; you would not know that he was a seal. It's a career, and I guess he has been in situations where he can live with it and certainly, I didn't criticize Rod because I knew he was a good person. Cause there was an incident, we hiked out to glacier because it was an iconic hike, and it was the fourth of July, but it was predicament weather, freezing, cutting rain, he and Rebecca and I hiked up there and we got up there and there was a guy there with his wife and they had like a newborn, like weeks old, and it was windy and I said, I can't believe those folks got that baby up here. And he had on a hat or something, some kind of militia looking stuff, and then another guy came up, thinking he had a big pistol, maybe a big knife trying to be macho, militia type guy. But anyway, they wanted at least some hot water. I thought it was to warm something up for the baby so Rod went down to a glacial pool and fired up his stove up for him and boiled some water for him but I thought it was for the baby. But anyway, Rob's leaning down something talking to him and I'm standing to the side and just watching those guys and Rebecca, his lovely wife was there and she said, "where you from?" He said, "San Diego" And she said, "What do you do there?" He said something about, he mentioned, he was not going to say, you know you could tell they wanted, "wow how many men have you killed?" you know, that kind of mentality. And he was a seal, in fact when we would rise with the sun peaks that night, I said, "Rod, I just want to tell you I respect you and how you handled those guys." You would never know Rod was a seal and he had all those tools and was just a sweet person. Sweeter than those guys who questioned him with that nature. I guess he could sense who these guys were, you know, they wanted him to say.

INTERVIEWER: So, you would say humility is a big aspect and a great quality to have for someone who's like passionate, I would say, about it. About what they were fighting for

Michael Cornwell: I think he originally joined because his brother joined and he was a seal. They were in Belgium I think, and he was going somewhere to a school or something, he's got maybe 10 years ahead. We never talked about specific missions he was on, but he might be on one that was worthwhile, but Rod is not one of those people who delights in that. He might not even be in anymore. They've been here long enough, and he was just a good person. Rebecca is so sweet and we always tell each other we loved each other. Pulled into the campground and he gave me his medallion. He said, "we don't give these out you know" and I said, "I know you don't." And I treasure it. So, an old Vietnam Veteran and a Modern Seal.

INTERVIEWER: Do you still keep in touch with any of your friends from Cam Ranh Bay?

Michael Cornwell: Well, no I guess. The one JSU R.O.T.C. army buddy is the one who got wounded at Huy. He lived in Atlanta, he went to law school. He had two children, his wife died of cancer, he was in Apalachicola and he married a female priest Christmas service, and now he goes to Scotland a lot, his last name is Harris. Mickey Harris. Me and him talk a couple times out of the year. In fact, he used to the JSU '60s reunion, we'd go up there in the homecoming, stay at Fort McClellan, there was an old BOQ, made a nice hotel, and one of the alumni had bought it, and you know we could rent for about \$30 a night. And the people looking for a nice room and eating area use that as headquarters for homecoming activities. Vicky used to go to that too, I'd see him there, and I talked to him recently too. We were close in college.

INTERVIEWER: Well, is there anything else you would like to tell me about? Your experience, Dewey Canyon II, teaching, you know, law classes.

Michael Cornwell: I guess the main thing is, is that it shapes your worldview of humanity and the oneness all of us. And how killing folks and going to war, we just don't seem to learn, we

just don't seem to learn. We are as primitive as ever. And were still killing people and justifying it.

INTERVIEWER: Well, I really appreciate you sitting down with me, thank you very much.

Michael Cornwell: Gosh, I think about one thing, and you know...From my Law school to teaching in an all-black school in the 70s and developing a worldview, a view of humanity.