

Markley, Doug US Army

[00:00:13.28] MARK FRANKLIN: So let's start with when and where you were born.

[00:00:17.02] DOUG MARKLEY: Emporia, Kansas. 1947. We was a farming group. One brother, or had one brother. But yes, we were farmers. We went to two schools, one through eight. And then, nine through 12. And God, the entire school was maybe 35 people for eight grades and high school wasn't much different for four grades.

[00:00:49.17] And I went there until my 10th grade year when my folks split and I went to Wichita. And went from 35 kids in the entire school, to a little over 2,500. So it was sort of a culture shock for a couple of years.

[00:01:09.63] MARK FRANKLIN: Big change for you. What was that like growing up in Emporia, Kansas?

[00:01:14.55] DOUG MARKLEY: I enjoyed it. I mean, I wasn't wild about the farm because sun came up, sun went down and you worked all the time in between. But it was nice because everybody knew each other and everybody helped each other out. And it just wasn't packed, it wasn't crowded. And I don't like crowds to this day.

[00:01:43.83] DOUG MARKLEY: I went to college for about a year. And this was '65, '66. The draft was coming around and one reason or another. I knew I was going to get drafted. So I enlisted and got that over with. And in those years you just didn't have much choice. It was, you were either going to get drafted this year or next year or the year after that.

[00:02:12.93] I keep telling everybody, it was like you have four branches. I couldn't swim. I'd never been in an airplane. And I figured the Marines work too damned hard. So that just left the Army. And my brother was in the Army. And I figured, if he can do it, I can do it.

[00:02:34.23] And at that time, he was an officer. He had gone through OCS as well, but artillery. So the Army was it.

[00:02:45.15] MARK FRANKLIN: And what year was that that you enlisted?

[00:02:47.76] DOUG MARKLEY: '66.

[00:02:48.99] MARK FRANKLIN: Did you have a sense of what was going on in Vietnam at the time? Did you have a sense of what was happening?

[00:02:54.66] DOUG MARKLEY: You had an idea. I mean, you always heard about it on the TV, the news. But not as much as what you would get later on in '69, '70, '71 and so forth. But the government was giving a war and invited everybody. So it was just a matter of time when you got your invite as well.

[00:03:19.23] Draft was there for purpose I guess. And it was a means to filling up the services. Surprised a lot of them when they got drafted into the Marines, but so be it. And you need bodies and that was one way to get it. And it's just a way to serve the country.

[00:03:47.52] DOUG MARKLEY: Fort Jackson, South Carolina, getting up first thing in the morning like about 5:00, running five or six miles, and then coming back for breakfast. So that we could then get out in the field again for another hour of PT. And they tore your body apart and put it back together the way they wanted it. And I was probably never better conditioned in my life than when I got through that. And it's what I expected it and it's what I got.

[00:04:24.67] I was kind of a wuss, basically. So it had to be something to prove to myself. Yeah, and the Army was one way to do it and the infantry was another way to do it.

[00:04:38.48] MARK FRANKLIN: So you chose infantry.

[00:04:39.46] DOUG MARKLEY: I chose infantry.

[00:04:41.50] MARK FRANKLIN: So after basic training, where did you do your infantry training?

[00:04:44.98] DOUG MARKLEY: Little obscure place in Alabama. Oh god, what did they call that place? It's down in Anniston, Alabama.

[00:04:53.36] MARK FRANKLIN: Is it Fort--

[00:04:53.82] DOUG MARKLEY: Fort McClellan.

[00:04:54.28] MARK FRANKLIN: --Fort McClellan? Oh, Fort McClellan.

[00:04:55.96] DOUG MARKLEY: There it is. And that was a trip. I mean, that was a basic training center-- or not basic, AIT for infantry in the middle of God knows how many WACs. And I mean, there was no playing around or fussing around or anything else, but-- dry county, dry everything, except for the EM club on post, which you couldn't go to because the NCO's were mad at you, for one reason.

[00:05:32.92] MARK FRANKLIN: So getting a pass was tough.

[00:05:34.09] DOUG MARKLEY: Yeah. I kind of enjoyed it. I mean, we talked about that earlier, about firing different weapons and getting familiar with a 3.5 rocket launcher, which I learned to hate quickly. The machine gun, the M60, the M14s, M16s, grenade launcher and whatnot.

[00:05:59.77] And we got just enough infantry training, the tactics and so forth, probably to make ourselves dangerous. But that's what the training is all about, being sort of an introductory to everything. And it worked.

[00:06:17.62] MARK FRANKLIN: What didn't you like about the rocket launcher? And I'm assuming you mean the light antitank equip-- the LAW.

[00:06:21.67] DOUG MARKLEY: Yeah, the 3.5 was the old World War Two thing.

[00:06:25.06] MARK FRANKLIN: Oh.

[00:06:26.56] DOUG MARKLEY: The first round downrange always-- all the little wires would burn out and you'd collect them all over this half of your face. So that's what I didn't like about it. The second and third round weren't so bad, but the first round was always a bear.

[00:06:44.50] MARK FRANKLIN: Do you think that training prepared you for what you were going to face in Vietnam?

[00:06:47.74] DOUG MARKLEY: Oh god, no.

[00:06:48.95] MARK FRANKLIN: No?

[00:06:49.52] DOUG MARKLEY: No. You learn how to fire the weapons and clean them and change rounds and one thing or another, but that was totally different. It was a new ballgame. DOUG MARKLEY: I was an old man when I went. I was 21. And went over in '69, early in '69, and came back later in '69. But yes, some of the kids-- kids-- coming in as replacements-- well, I turned 18 last month and here I am.

[00:07:36.26] But it was unique because they gave you a card. You could buy X number of cigarettes, you could buy X number of liquor, beer you could buy, but hard liquor you had to have a little card for. Well, I had it because I was 21. And nobody else did. I mean, some of the sergeants running around there didn't.

[00:08:00.17] MARK FRANKLIN: They were too young?

[00:08:01.13] DOUG MARKLEY: They were too young. But I left out of Fort Travis in California, went to Oakland and stayed there for two or three days, getting paperwork and quarantined and whatnot. And left for Travis-- we flew over through Hawaii. What was it? Wake Island. Tiny little thing. And then, Philippines. And then, on into Bien Hoa.

[00:08:30.24] MARK FRANKLIN: Tell me about that? Your first impressions getting off that airplane in Vietnam.

[00:08:35.16] DOUG MARKLEY: Well, crap. And that was about it.

[00:08:38.67] MARK FRANKLIN: Really? What struck you?

[00:08:39.75] DOUG MARKLEY: It was in the middle of the night it seems like, if I remember. And you get off and it was like a blast furnace. The airplanes were civilian aircraft. Semi air conditioned and packed, but when you got off, you had the heat and the smell. And then, some

idiot in the Air Force was going to put you in a bus and drive you to Bien Hoa-- or Long Binh, the replacement center down there.

[00:09:11.90] And he thought it was funny because he had a nice job as a driver and the rest of us had to put up with him. I initially went to the 9th--

[00:09:24.71] MARK FRANKLIN: 9th Infantry.

[00:09:25.91] DOUG MARKLEY: 9th Infantry. And from there to Bearcat, down to Dong Tam and several other little places. And they didn't last long because Nixon brought the 9th Infantry home. They just packed up the division lock stock and everybody that was a short timer, went home. Well, they went back to Hawaii, I think.

[00:09:53.26] But unless you had nine or ten months in country, you didn't go. You got transferred someplace else. And I wound up with the II Field Force just north of Saigon a little ways. And then, I was still 11B when I went up II Field Force, but I was sort of a gofer. Someplace for some people to do and things to do.

[00:10:26.23] MARK FRANKLIN: Both at the 9th, and when you went up north.

[00:10:29.23] DOUG MARKLEY: Well, now the case, if you like rice, you're in business. But the food-- they had-- whenever you was around the chow hall was open. And I don't remember too much about the food except rice for 19 meals a day. They had an abundance of rice. And there was some guy standing at the door handing you malaria pills, which you never took.

[00:10:59.92] But you had one major side effect. And that was the GIs. And if you sneezed, God only knows what would happen, so I never took them. They gave you some when we left country too, and I don't know if anybody ever took them. DOUG MARKLEY: Just rifle and 11B. That's what I was supposed to be.

[00:11:29.31] MARK FRANKLIN: What'd they have do?

[00:11:31.19] DOUG MARKLEY: Carrying a rifle, being a part of a squad. So that was it. I mean, hell, I was a PFC. DOUG MARKLEY: I never got close to too many people.

[00:11:50.89] Well, one guy from New York, he was just unusual to me. I mean, he was built like a fireplug and he showed me pictures before he got drafted. And he had been a biker. He was huge, chains and leather and everything, all hanging all over him.

[00:12:14.12] And now, here is this guy with a short haircut and built like a fireplug. And great personality, I mean, nice guy. Something you wouldn't think of is a hardcore biker. Guys from New York, you didn't know what to do with. But they're just like anybody else. They have a life.

[00:12:42.26] And they're maybe Jewish or black or whatever. And it got to the point, it didn't make any difference what color they were because you poke a hole in them, they're going to bleed red just like anybody else.

[00:13:01.14] MARK FRANKLIN: Now '69, '68, '69, the country is going through the civil rights movement. There's a lot of social tension, a lot of racial tension. Did any of that-- did you witness any of that in your units in Vietnam?

[00:13:13.92] DOUG MARKLEY: Not really, I don't think it hit full time over there until maybe '71, '72 or something like that. But I never saw any of it.

[00:13:26.49] MARK FRANKLIN: During your time you didn't see it?

[00:13:27.63] DOUG MARKLEY: Yeah.

[00:13:29.22] MARK FRANKLIN: Any particular memories of the popular culture? For instance, if you hear a song from back that time today, it brings back memories. Or songs or books or movies that you remember?

[00:13:38.55] DOUG MARKLEY: In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida.

[00:13:40.08] MARK FRANKLIN: Do you?

[00:13:40.92] DOUG MARKLEY: Oh god, yes. I got back, I had to go buy that album if-- another-- and would sit there and listen to it for hours. And people thought I was nuts. But that was it.

[00:13:54.81] MARK FRANKLIN: That's the one that stuck with you.

[00:13:55.67] DOUG MARKLEY: Yeah.

[00:13:57.22] MARK FRANKLIN: Did you have much time to yourself, and any time for recreation? And if you did, what kind of recreational activities were you able to do?

[00:14:03.73] DOUG MARKLEY: No, not really. It was like a seven day week type thing.

[00:14:15.80] MARK FRANKLIN: Describe some of the operations that you participated in as an 11 Bravo with the 9th, or later.

[00:14:22.43] DOUG MARKLEY: I haven't a clue what the names of any of that stuff was. When they tell you to do something, you go do it. If they give you a stir stick and a bucket, you know what to do with it. If they say get on a helicopter and go here, get off, and walk until you can't walk anymore, that's pretty much it.

[00:14:45.12] And the south wasn't as bad I guess. I mean, I've talked to other guys who were stationed further north up in the mountains and whatnot. And we didn't have any mountains to climb up and down. It was all swamps, rice paddies, or just grass. And it was just one day after the next, the same thing.

[00:15:12.20] MARK FRANKLIN: What unit in the 9th were you assigned to?

[00:15:14.48] DOUG MARKLEY: 5th of the 60th, I think.

[00:15:17.06] MARK FRANKLIN: Was that a mechanized unit?

[00:15:18.23] DOUG MARKLEY: Yeah.

[00:15:19.61] MARK FRANKLIN: What kind of daily operations did you do? Describe one.

[00:15:23.96] DOUG MARKLEY: About everything was platoon level. And intelligence being what it is, kind of a contradiction in terms-- there's a bunch of guys over here in this little valley, go flush them out and do whatever. Well, when you got there, the only thing that's there is 17 birds and 4 monkeys. And that was essentially my knowledge of anything.

[00:15:56.62] MARK FRANKLIN: Right.

[00:15:57.23] DOUG MARKLEY: I mean, you didn't sneak up on anybody, especially with the platoon. And if you had a mech track anywhere nearby, they knew you were coming long before you ever got there.

[00:16:14.63] MARK FRANKLIN: How about the leadership? Describe the leadership of your unit while you were in the 9th Infantry.

[00:16:20.72] DOUG MARKLEY: It seemed like halfway decent folks. I mean, it was mostly sergeants. I mean, you'd have a company commander, I guess. But, hell, you never saw him. And squad leaders were younger than you were-- well, me anyway.

[00:16:42.74] MARK FRANKLIN: Did you have confidence that they knew what they were doing? Or--

[00:16:45.29] DOUG MARKLEY: They were there, yeah. I mean, if they had been there longer than I had, it just makes sense. DOUG MARKLEY: You always had new radios coming in. Whether they worked or not, I don't know. Starlight scopes, we didn't have. Medical stuff. Probably the helicopter is the best thing they ever invented for medical because the guys were in the field and then they were out of the field.

[00:17:19.60] MARK FRANKLIN: When we were going through the Pentagon, you mentioned the M79 grenade launcher, that you really enjoyed that weapon. Tell me why.

[00:17:27.43] DOUG MARKLEY: It looked like and felt like a miniature shotgun to me. And it was kind of like a toy. I couldn't hit the broad side of the barn with it, but it was fun to shoot. And so was the M60. But that's 20-some odd pounds worth of stuff I didn't want to carry.

[00:17:53.50] DOUG MARKLEY: My most fun memory I guess, I met a guy, he was from California someplace, but he was a driver for a lieutenant who was a liaison officer of some sort. And that's all he did, was just drive this poor guy around. Well, this lieutenant wanted to go and take his girlfriend, his Vietnamese girlfriend, to the zoo in Saigon.

[00:18:21.70] And this guy asked me if I wanted to go with him because he was just going to dump the LT off. And we were going to go goof around. So I did. And that was interesting. That was fun, mostly just drove around. We hit all the fun sites, the Cholon area, which wasn't very bright. We got down by the river and Tu Do Street and some of the other more questionable areas.

[00:18:50.56] But drove around town. I'd never seen people like that, just masses. You'd think the May Day parades downtown are bad. I mean, bicycles, Lambrettas, motorcycles, the only cars would be a Jeep, and we were driving it.

[00:19:14.62] And the ARVNs would drive through town with a five ton, and they would slow down to make a curve and that's it. Anybody in the way, that's their problem. But it was an interesting city. DOUG MARKLEY: When I got on the bird to go home.

[00:19:39.95] MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah, I've heard that. We hear that a lot.

[00:19:41.63] DOUG MARKLEY: I imagine. DOUG MARKLEY: Probably the day I got there. There's this whole, crap, what am I going to do now? You know, you're not necessarily scared when you go over. I've thought about that more and more and it's more like being terrified.

[00:20:03.50] I mean, you don't know what's coming up until they tell you. And then, everything is just like, that's just another day in paradise. And one more day is just like it was yesterday, but you're a day shorter.

[00:20:21.64] MARK FRANKLIN: Did you participate in any firefights with the enemy while you're there?

[00:20:25.14] DOUG MARKLEY: A couple.

[00:20:26.10] MARK FRANKLIN: Any that you can describe?

[00:20:28.68] DOUG MARKLEY: I'd rather not. It's like I say, terrified is one thing, and-- it's just something else. DOUG MARKLEY: I met a guy who was British. It was kind of a funny story. I know how true it is but he came to the United States. He wanted to become a citizen. And in so doing, he got drafted.

[00:20:58.27] And he was over there, complaining. So what the hell am I doing here? I'm not even American. But he was on his way home. So it didn't make any difference. I mean, I saw some of them but I never had any interaction with them.

[00:21:15.22] MARK FRANKLIN: How about the Vietnamese military, any interaction with them?

[00:21:19.00] DOUG MARKLEY: Not really. I mean, they would be on guard, guard posts and whatnot. They seemed to know what they were doing. But again, I didn't know. I really didn't care as long as they were on guard and I wasn't.

[00:21:37.12] MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah.

[00:21:43.88] DOUG MARKLEY: It was sad. It was kind of funny at the same time. I mean, it was sad that they had to go through that. And the villagers, they had been on this rice paddy for 1,000 years, multi generations or whatever. Regardless of who won the war, they was going to be on that rice paddy doing the same thing for the next 100 years. And that was sad because they really didn't care. They just wanted everybody to go away and leave them alone.

[00:22:21.17] And then there were those that wanted us to take them home. Can we go with you? Can you put me in your bag? Can you do this? What's it going to take to go home? They wanted to leave the country. And probably some of them did when all the shooting was done and they got on the boats and went out. And-- but it was both sides of the coin.

[00:22:46.82] MARK FRANKLIN: Anybody approach you and say, hey, can you get me back to the States?

[00:22:50.30] DOUG MARKLEY: Well, there's always the mama sans and the baby sans and whatnot that would bring it up, and there was no way in hell are you going to do it. DOUG MARKLEY: Well, letters, yeah. But my nephew was in Iraq, And it was a totally different war. I mean, they had computers and one thing or another and he would put on a Skype, I guess it is. Chat back and forth to his wife and family and whatever.

[00:23:28.88] And we didn't. I mean, there was no such thing as a computer. And you would write and they would write back. And you had the telephone thing. I never went there because the lines were always so damn long. And I never could figure out this time zone nonsense. What day is it going to be? Much less what time it is back in the world. So I never went and that was really the only communications you could have.

[00:24:06.46] We heard the guy had walked on the moon. That was in everybody's vocabulary then. We didn't hear about the heavy stuff up in Pennsylvania-- Woodstock.

[00:24:26.29] MARK FRANKLIN: That was in New York. Yeah, OK.

[00:24:27.46] DOUG MARKLEY: Yeah, New York.

[00:24:28.42] MARK FRANKLIN: Yeah.

[00:24:30.10] DOUG MARKLEY: They didn't let us hear about that.

[00:24:31.79] MARK FRANKLIN: They didn't tell you about that?

[00:24:32.68] DOUG MARKLEY: No, no, no, that was fun to listen to when we got home.

[00:24:38.65] MARK FRANKLIN: So other than the moon landing, any other news that you heard from home? And if you did, how did that affect you?

[00:24:45.49] DOUG MARKLEY: News news, no. It was just basic stuff I guess, for them. They didn't ask any questions, and they didn't say, oh, Fred and Barney got into a wreck down on the corner or one thing or another. So it just-- didn't.

[00:25:06.67] MARK FRANKLIN: So after your service in the 9th, you moved up to II Field Force. And you said you were pretty much a gofer, but describe that. What kind of duties did they assign you? What kind of things did they have do?

[00:25:17.41] DOUG MARKLEY: Well, everything but stick stirrer. And it was just, go for this and go for that. And take a ride with him or just kind of kill time until we send you home.
DOUG MARKLEY: It must have been September, I suppose. Early September of that year.

[00:25:43.96] MARK FRANKLIN: '70 or--

[00:25:45.58] DOUG MARKLEY: '69.

[00:25:46.33] MARK FRANKLIN: '69.

[00:25:47.80] DOUG MARKLEY: So just in time to start college, or a week or two later or something. College was easy to get into because, my mother was the registrar.

[00:26:02.83] MARK FRANKLIN: Where?

[00:26:03.73] DOUG MARKLEY: Wichita State. And if you went there for sign up day, you got all the cards you needed anyway. And then, just kind of showed up.

[00:26:15.01] MARK FRANKLIN: Well, talk about going home. How did you get there? And by what means? And what was that like going home?

[00:26:20.98] DOUG MARKLEY: Well, again, we flew home. And flew back into Travis, got there-- again I think in the middle of the night. I don't really remember. Didn't get to sleep. I mean, everybody-- you walk down the corridor, and there was the sign that says PCS this way, or permanent change. And ETS, you're going home, go that way. And of course, 90% of the people went to the ETS thing.

[00:26:51.79] MARK FRANKLIN: So you were getting out.

[00:26:52.84] DOUG MARKLEY: I was getting out. And it was fill out this paper, fill out that paper, go take this-- the physical was a joke. In the middle of the night, you walked down this line in your skivvies. And the guy says, do you really want to give blood? I says, not particularly. Hold this cotton on your arm. And go to the next station.

[00:27:24.03] OK. Get there, and he says, you really want to pee in that bottle? Not particularly. Write, negative. Next station. That was a physical.

[00:27:36.25] MARK FRANKLIN: That was it?

[00:27:36.89] DOUG MARKLEY: That was it. And got to take a shower for-- oh, I guess probably 30 minutes. I mean, you couldn't wipe the stink off. And they gave you a new set of clothes and told you how to get to the airport. And that was it.

[00:27:55.96] MARK FRANKLIN: Did you wear your military uniform to the airport?

[00:27:57.77] DOUG MARKLEY: Yeah, it wasn't as bad-- I don't recall-- as a lot of people say things happened to them. One, I was so damn tired I couldn't see straight. And I just went, I had my pay, I got a ticket.

[00:28:15.52] And I remember we flew through Denver, and then into Wichita. And nobody said anything to me. Nobody spit in your face or one thing or another. And I remember the flight from Denver to Wichita, I was in the baggage class about three or four rows back from first class, which was apparently having a party.

[00:28:50.68] And the stewardesses were up there, was just having a gay old time with some of the rich guys up there. And all I was doing was getting annoyed and trying to sleep. But no, I never had any problems in uniform. When I got home, it was the first thing I took off. And two days later, I was out trying to find a job.

[00:29:20.16] MARK FRANKLIN: Well, talk about that reception from your family and friends when you got back to Wichita.

[00:29:26.05] DOUG MARKLEY: Well, I mean, it was-- glad to have you home. I was married at the time.

[00:29:32.17] MARK FRANKLIN: Oh, you were.

[00:29:33.01] DOUG MARKLEY: Yeah.

[00:29:33.40] MARK FRANKLIN: You were married before you went?

[00:29:34.66] DOUG MARKLEY: Yeah, but my idiot brother-in-law thought it was funny, he put satin sheets and pillowcases on the bed. And one, I wasn't used to really sleeping in a real live bed, much less a slick one, chasing the pillow all night. And he thought that was great fun. But that's OK.

[00:30:03.70] MARK FRANKLIN: What did you do after the war, when you came home?

[00:30:08.56] DOUG MARKLEY: Well, I went to college, finished college.

[00:30:12.55] MARK FRANKLIN: What did you get your degree in?

[00:30:14.11] DOUG MARKLEY: Biology and chemistry.

[00:30:16.75] MARK FRANKLIN: And what did you end up doing after college?

[00:30:18.76] DOUG MARKLEY: Going back in the Army.

[00:30:21.19] MARK FRANKLIN: Did you really?

[00:30:22.96] DOUG MARKLEY: Yeah, I went to OCS. And then half a dozen schools after that.

[00:30:32.41] MARK FRANKLIN: What branch when you went back?

[00:30:34.00] DOUG MARKLEY: Infantry.

[00:30:34.66] MARK FRANKLIN: You went back in the infantry?

[00:30:36.67] DOUG MARKLEY: Yeah, it's the only thing I could spell.

[00:30:40.09] MARK FRANKLIN: You had a degree in biology and chemistry. OK.

[00:30:43.24] DOUG MARKLEY: Well, I found out-- I mean, biology and chemistry is fine, I loved it. But with a bachelor's degree, you're educated enough to wash bottles in some laboratory. And of course, you always have this grand idea that you're going to be this mad chemist over there. You know, little white lab coats and pouring this into that and building stuff and creating great things for humanity.

[00:31:13.06] No, no. With a bachelor's degree, no. So ultimately, I went back to grad school in environmental chemistry, which then wound up having-- helping me out later on when I got a job for an environmental construction company. And since I knew anything about the environment they didn't, that was a pretty good match.

[00:31:45.58] MARK FRANKLIN: Well, how did that work was going back in the Army?

[00:31:48.31] DOUG MARKLEY: Well, this was many years later that I started that.

[00:31:51.43] MARK FRANKLIN: So how long-- so you went back to the Army to make a career. How long did you stay when you went back there?

[00:31:55.84] DOUG MARKLEY: I didn't really go back to make a career out of it. I was just kind of sitting there one day and the sergeant says, here fill out this paper and go over to this building and talk to these guys. So I filled out the papers in triplicate, went over to the building and talked to three officers that I didn't really know. And about a week later, I'm in OCS.

[00:32:21.95] And this is-- OK, this is going to be fun. I'd given it some thought before. But unlike basic training, where they took your body apart and rebuilt it, they took your mind apart and rebuilt it. So it was kind of fun. It was creative.

[00:32:45.11] MARK FRANKLIN: Where did you end up going after OCS?

[00:32:49.01] DOUG MARKLEY: Fort Benning. Was there for quite a while through various schools. And then went to Aberdeen, the chemical school. And from there, back to Fort Riley for a little while.

[00:33:06.32] MARK FRANKLIN: What did you do at Fort Riley?

[00:33:08.36] DOUG MARKLEY: Infantry. I was a rifle platoon leader then. And I didn't like that. But then another battalion had an opening for a mortar guy and I had been through the mortar school, so that worked. They gave you a Jeep. Yeah.

[00:33:28.49] MARK FRANKLIN: What type? 81mm mortars, or what type?

[00:33:30.32] DOUG MARKLEY: Four deuce.

[00:33:30.84] MARK FRANKLIN: You had the four deuce. You had the big ones.

[00:33:32.45] DOUG MARKLEY: Yeah.

[00:33:33.44] MARK FRANKLIN: And how did you like that?

[00:33:34.94] DOUG MARKLEY: I loved it. I had great guys. And the four deuce was fun.

[00:33:42.44] MARK FRANKLIN: By four deuce, what do you mean? A 4.2 inch.

[00:33:44.33] DOUG MARKLEY: Yeah, 4.2 inch, or 107mm. And they're too heavy to carry through the field. So in those days, we had Gama Goats. We could throw them in there and the lieutenant had a Jeep. And these guys live like kings. I mean, they had hammocks. They had the whole nine yards. And this is heaven.

[00:34:09.38] MARK FRANKLIN: Did you get your Gama Goats to work?

[00:34:11.33] DOUG MARKLEY: Yeah, yeah. If nothing else, they were resourceful.

[00:34:15.80] MARK FRANKLIN: OK.

[00:34:16.40] DOUG MARKLEY: Yeah.

[00:34:17.18] MARK FRANKLIN: So how long did you stay in the Army?

[00:34:20.00] DOUG MARKLEY: Total, I mean, from beginning to end, 26 years.

[00:34:22.94] MARK FRANKLIN: 26 years. So you retired active duty after 26? And that included your enlisted time?

[00:34:28.61] DOUG MARKLEY: Oh yeah, yeah. I spent about seven or eight years I guess, enlisted total.

[00:34:34.22] MARK FRANKLIN: And after the Army, then what?

[00:34:37.37] DOUG MARKLEY: The environmental chemistry, deal with this company that was called Geocon at the time. And that was a specialty construction company, remediation company. It wasn't an engineering company. It was totally construction.

[00:34:56.87] And I did marketing and seminars and God knows what all else for those folks. And gave presentations all over the country. And I enjoyed it. I got to travel. And the last company I worked with was doing the same thing. But I worked out of my house and I worked part time.

[00:35:21.67] They paid me a bunch of money to do that. And I could go to work in my skivvies, and just about no one knew that I was going to talk to on the phone. And then what I needed to I could go out of town. I could go to California, I could do this, that, and the other. And do the seminars, talk to the EPA, talk to the engineers and go to site visits.

[00:35:45.49] And the fun part about that was, for the last three years that I worked, I never saw or talked to my boss. He was in Florida. The owner of the company was in McLean, Virginia. And as long as I did what I was supposed to, they was happy. So was I.

[00:36:09.31] MARK FRANKLIN: Did you have any problems adjusting to life after Vietnam?

[00:36:12.46] DOUG MARKLEY: I had trouble dealing with people. But also, I learned to deal with people. Before I had gone in, professors in college or high school teachers and whatnot, I was intimidated. OK, yeah, they know so much more than I do, I feel like a moron, one thing or another.

[00:36:38.34] When I came back, I didn't care. They put their pants on one leg at a time. And if they made a snappy remark, so did I. If I didn't know the goddamned answer, I wouldn't ask you the question.

[00:36:55.71] And it took a lot of them aback, but they weren't any better than I was. They just knew stuff I didn't, yet. And that helped. OCS was the same way. Had I gone to OCS before I went over, I'd have never made it. I would have washed out within the first 20 minutes.

[00:37:21.48] After that it was like, yes sir, no sir, three bags full. You can do whatever the heck you want. I've seen worse and I've heard worse, and it's for a reason. But it just adjusted your attitudes I guess, towards people you thought were superior at one time or another. And they're not. So it was a good experience, I think, in the long run.

[00:37:57.92] MARK FRANKLIN: It gave you a certain amount of confidence.

[00:38:00.29] DOUG MARKLEY: It did, and when I did get a commission, I treated my men the way I would have wanted to be treated. And I never asked anybody to do anything I wouldn't do, hadn't done, or couldn't do. And I worked out fine.

[00:38:24.24] MARK FRANKLIN: Do you stay in touch with any of the fellow veterans from either Vietnam or later?

[00:38:31.48] DOUG MARKLEY: There's a couple that we email jokes back and forth every now and then. And some of them I would like to, but they're probably dead by now. I mean, we're not spring chickens anymore. And we're lucky that the ones that are here are still here.

[00:38:53.31] MARK FRANKLIN: Do you attend any reunions or anything like that?

[00:38:59.09] DOUG MARKLEY: Generally not, no. I mean, they're, god, all over the countryside. And we travel but it's personal. And we had spent a lot of time in Europe, and a lot of cruises, and one thing or another. But then, this pandemic nonsense put that at a screeching halt.

[00:39:29.86] MARK FRANKLIN: Did your experience in Vietnam affect the way you think about troops coming off battlefields today?

[00:39:34.90] DOUG MARKLEY: Well, what they're getting is a whole lot more than we got. We got home, we were the scum of the Earth. And these guys are coming home and people are actually happy. They're there greeting them at the airports. They're giving them a parade or one thing or another.

[00:39:56.90] And that's what they deserve. They've been through hell. And we didn't get that. And now, I've got a hat that says, Army Retired on it, and Army Retarded on it, and God knows what else it says. And people in the grocery store will say, thank you for your service. I'm not real sure how to react.

[00:40:22.06] Yes ma'am, thank you. I enjoyed it, whatnot, but that hasn't happened in 50 years. And it just started I guess when this Iraq thing started to wind up. And it's unusual. I mean, they would do just the opposite back in the '70s and '80s.

[00:40:49.85] MARK FRANKLIN: What do you think that war meant to you and your generation?

[00:40:53.51] DOUG MARKLEY: My generation, I guess, we were a mixed breed. There were so many people in my age that not only no, but hell no. We don't need to be there and protest anything. And it was kind of comical at the same time because they would kill to get into a BD uniform so that they could go out and protest. And what's all that about?

[00:41:21.73] But the guys-- I mean, we were all in the service for years. And that's the only ones that you really hung around with. Your neighbors and whatnot, yeah, they knew you went. They didn't ask questions. It was kind of like a taboo subject. And I didn't press it, and they didn't either.

[00:41:51.49] MARK FRANKLIN: How do you think the Vietnam War is remembered today?

[00:41:55.09] DOUG MARKLEY: They're probably ashamed I guess.

[00:41:57.52] MARK FRANKLIN: Who's they?

[00:41:58.57] DOUG MARKLEY: Well, the guys that were against it, the girls, people my age and a little bit younger, a little bit older-- who knows?-- that they actually put us through that. One, sending us over there. And then two, the way they treated us when you got back.

[00:42:22.06] MARK FRANKLIN: Are there any lessons you like to pass on from your experience in Vietnam that you'd like to pass on to this or future generations?

[00:42:30.07] DOUG MARKLEY: Nothing I can really think of. I guess just keep your head down. DOUG MARKLEY: I don't know how to put it into words. It's like thousands of names up there. Some of them you knew, most of them you didn't, but it's somebody thought to put that together for everybody.

[00:43:00.76] MARK FRANKLIN: You said you recognize names up there. Any that you served with or folks that you went to school with?

[00:43:06.79] DOUG MARKLEY: Some or both, yeah, I've got the list. We're going to go over there, I think in a day or two, and take pictures or whatever. DOUG MARKLEY: From what I've seen of it so far, it's awesome. I mean, it's something we didn't get 50 years ago.

[00:43:33.66] And it's kind of unusual. I suppose maybe something happened for the World War Two or the Korean War veterans or whatnot. I wasn't part of that, so I wouldn't know. But just to remember 50 years later, is a pretty awesome deal.