Grand Valley State University
Veterans History Project Interview
Bob Arntz
Length: 16:34

(00:15) Background Information

- Bob was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on June 8, 1944
- He went to Greenville high school and worked on his father’s dairy farm
- After graduating from high school Bob got a job working in a factory
- He later enlisted in the Army at a recruiting center in Detroit in 1968

(4:30) Training

- Bob was sent to Fort Knox in Kentucky in February of 1968 for training
- He went through 8 weeks of basic training and was sent to Maryland
- Bob went through another 14 weeks in mechanic school

(7:20) Vietnam

- Bob was sent to Vietnam in October of 1968
- He worked as a mechanic as a while, but did not enjoy the dirty work
- He then worked driving semis for transportation all over the country
- There were mines all over the place that they had to work to avoid
- Bob drank a lot of beer while in Vietnam, but did not have many memorable experiences in the country

(8:55) Fort Riley, Kansas

- After serving in Vietnam, Bob was sent to a Fort Riley for about 15 months
- The base was made up of very old buildings and Bob eventually moved off base
• While in Kansas he drove 10-ton semi trucks
• Bob enjoyed living in Kansas and really liked the weather

(11:20) After the Service
• After being discharged, Bob moved back to Michigan to be with his family
• It took him 1.5 years to find a decent job
• He began working in Grand Rapids, eventually got married, and remained at the job in Grand Rapids for 15 years
• Bob became a much more responsible person through his years in the service
• He now believes that everyone should spend 1-2 years in the service