

Wisconsin Veterans Museum

Research Center

Transcript of an

Oral History Interview with

MICHAEL ELY

Radio Operator, Marine Corps, Vietnam War

Wisconsin National Guard, 1974-1994

2012

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**Ely, Michael.** Oral History Interview, 2012.

Master Copy: 1 .WAV

User Copy: 1 audio cassette (ca. 70 min.); analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

### **Abstract**

Michael Ely, from Madison, Wisconsin, relates his military experience that included his time with the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War as well as his twenty years in the Wisconsin National Guard (1974-1994). Ely enlisted in 1962 after leaving school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He discusses his signing up at the recruiter's office. He then comments briefly on his training at Camp Pendleton in southern California. Upon shipping overseas (for a total of 13 months), Ely joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines as a radio operator based on Okinawa. He participated in trainings and maneuvers in various locations in the Pacific, including Taiwan, Japan, and the Philippines. Ely relays that at the time of the Gulf of Tonkin Incident, his battalion was deployed in moving up and down the coast of Vietnam for almost two months at the ready. After a short break, his force resumed this duty for another month, with a planned amphibious landing being canceled during this time. Ely then reflects on how he is officially considered a Vietnam veteran although he never set foot in-country. Ely left the Marine Corps in December 1964. The interview continues with his explaining his involvement in the supply section of the 13<sup>th</sup> Evac Hospital as part of the Wisconsin National Guard beginning in 1974. He comments on his inability to become an officer due to his being over the age of thirty and having family commitments. Ely outlines the 13<sup>th</sup> Evac Hospital's activation in November 1990 after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, which included training at Fort McCoy. He was part of an advance party that deployed to Saudi Arabia in December 1990. By January 1991, the hospital was established near the Iraqi border and began to receive casualties when the First Gulf War began in February. Ely notes that most of those treated were Iraqi prisoners of war. Ely returned home in early May 1991, with his unit being formally deactivated three years later. He explains that he could have transferred to another Guard unit at this time, but decided to be discharged. Ely goes on to say that there continues to be annual reunions for those involved in his unit. Ely describes his occupation at the Evac Hospital, which entailed obtaining and distributing water. Ely concludes by relating a humorous story from his time in boot camp.

### **Biographical Sketch**

Michael Ely, a Madison, Wisconsin native, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1962. He served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines in the Pacific, including off the coast of Vietnam. Ely left the Marine Corps in 1964. He joined the Wisconsin National Guard in 1974, serving for an additional twenty years with the 13<sup>th</sup> Evac Hospital, which deployed overseas for the First Gulf War.

Interviewed by Sam Driscoll, 2012.  
Transcribed by Lexie Jordee, 2014.  
Edited and Abstracted by Joe Fitzgibbon, 2014.



## Interview Transcript:

- Ely: My wife said don't mumble [both laugh].
- Driscoll: Okay let me just say a couple of words here and we'll get started. Okay this is Sam Driscoll. This is January the 6th, 2012. I'm here at the Veteran's Museum with Michael Ely who's going to describe his activities in the service. So Michael it's all yours [Ely laughs]. Or should I call you Mike?
- Ely: Either is fine. My first experience in the military was when I joined the Marine Corps when I was eighteen years old. I grew up in Madison, Wisconsin. Went to Eastside High School and after high school I enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and actually attended one semester. And it was kind of a disaster, it really wasn't for me. And I was, you know, living at home with several brothers and sisters. It was--I was gettin' a little antsy. And several years before, or sometime when I was a teenager, I read some books and some history books and the Marine Corps had always fascinated me. I had always thought that if and when I ever did go in the service, that's where I'd go, so. I remember that--I remember enlisting pretty vividly. I took an exam. The last exam at the University was in January, actually, of 1962. That's when the semesters were a little different [Driscoll coughs]. But I remember walking out of that last exam and walking down Bascom Hill and up State Street onto the east side of the square where the recruiters office was at the time and I go walking in there and I stood there in front of the desk. And this sergeant looked up and he said, "What do you want?" [Driscoll laughs]
- Ely: And I, kinda taken a back a little bit, and I said, "Well I was thinking about joining." And he looked at me, says, "You're kinda fat aren't ya?" And I had no response, I didn't know what to say at all. And he says, "Sit down." And I sat down, he pushed some papers over and he said, "Sign." [Driscoll laughs]
- Ely: And by this time I'd regained a little bit of my composure and I said, "Well, wait a minute. Don't you have any like programs or schools or any of that sort of thing?" And he just said, "Kid, we give you nothing but four years of a hard way to go." I said, "Okay, I'll sign." But then he did say, well, he says, "Actually there is one deal." He says, "I'll give you this, we're looking for people to service communicators. Doing communications." And he says, "I can give you this little quiz and if you pass the quiz you qualify to go to this school, and we'll sign you up there and we'll do our best to get you in there." And I said, "Okay." So I took this quiz and along with that deal, if you passed and you were able to get in this school, you qualified for a three year enlistment and not a four. So I did and I went in for three years, or signed up for three years. And I was due to leave in about two weeks and I went down and went down to a tavern, actually, where young guys used to hang out, out there on the east side. And I was talking to a friend of mine who's name was Butch Hougie[sp?], who also grew up in Madison and we were buddies all through high school. And I told him what I did and he

said, "Jeez I wish you woulda told me that. Cause I've been wantin' to get outta here too." And I said, "Well why don't you go down on Monday." Cause this was a Friday afternoon, remember. And I said, "Why don't you go down Monday and sign up and, you know, I think they have a thing called a buddy program or something." So he did. And then a couple days later, I don't know, he called me or I ran into him, he says, "Yeah I signed up." And he says, "Yeah we're going on the same date on this buddy program." And what's funny he says, "Yeah this is gonna--four years is gonna be a long time." And I said, "I'm only going for three." And they never told him about this program[both laugh]. So the buddy program was kind of unusual, we went--well not unusual but we went to basic training in San Diego. And I was in one Quonset hut [a lightweight prefabricated structure of corrugated galvanized steel having a semicircular cross-section] and he was in another. And we barely ever even talked the whole time. And then when basic training was over, we actually got assigned to the same battalion but we were in different companies. And, you know, so he ended up with kinda his friends in his company and my friends and so forth. But it was a great experience. I'm just--it just can't be duplicated. I'm very happy I did that, very proud.

Driscoll: Yeah.

Ely: I can't say that it was really happy when I was there. [Driscoll laughs]

Ely: Because like everybody else we were just--we counted the days 'til that enlistment was over. 'Cause it was a lotta training and so forth. But I remember also before, just before we went in, I had a--we also knew this other guy, a couple of people actually, that had actually been through the Corps and done their service. And one guy, his name was John, in particular, I said, "Well I'm joining the Marine Corps and I'm really lookin' forward to it." And he says, he says, "Mike." He says, "You're not gonna like it." I says, "Oh shoot. I'm gonna love it, I know I will." But when Butch and I arrived down in San Diego with a couple of other guys and we got on the bus that took us to recruit depot, a couple of drill instructors jumped on the bus and started screaming and yellin' at us. And the first thing that flashed through my mind was, you know, maybe John was right [both laugh]. So--but after boot camp I spent about a year and a half at Camp Pendleton in southern California. And then we were shipped overseas. I was with the--my job--I did eventually go to radio school. I forget the number of the MOS [Military Occupational Specialty] now, twenty-five, something or other, but not that that matters. But what ended up was as a radio operator in an 81 mm mortar platoon in an infantry battalion. Battalion was the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment [narrator probably means to say 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion], 5<sup>th</sup> Marines in California. And then we went overseas and we had one unusual thing happen on the way overseas. We were part of the way over when the actual Bay of Pigs [was a failed military invasion of Cuba undertaken by the CIA-sponsored paramilitary group Brigade 2506 on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1961. Brigade 2506 was a counter-revolutionary military, trained and funded by the United States government's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The group intended to overthrow the revolutionary left-wing government of Fidel Castro. Launched

from Guatemala, the invading force was defeated within three days by the Cuban armed forces, under the direct command of Prime Minister Fidel Castro] incident happened in Cuba. They stopped the ship and I can't remember if they turned it around or not, but they stopped the ship because everything was kind of, kind of up in the air as to what was gonna happen. There was a possibility that there might be, you know, some US involvement and if that was the case then we might have been the people who would be involved. But then, you know, things kind of straightened out there and we just continued our trip. And eventually ended up in Okinawa [island about 400 miles south of Japan] where that was a station, we were stationed in Okinawa. Pretty country, actually. I mean all the devastation that had happened in World War II was pretty much gone and grown over and so forth. But only spent about half the time that I spent--I was overseas for thirteen months but only about half that time was actually on Okinawa because we went here and there and everywhere on maneuvers and so forth. And we went up to Japan for six weeks for cold weather training. We went a couple other operations in Taiwan and the Philippines. And then, also, at that time and prior to that and even all through the Vietnam War, there was always one reinforce battalion of marines that were aboard ship. Sort of as a ready force in case there was trouble here or trouble there and so forth. Well, each battalion that was stationed in Okinawa took turns being this, what they called it "The Float Battalion." And my battalion, which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines in Okinawa, was aboard ship as the float battalion at the time of the Gulf of Tonkin incident [Confrontation between US and North Vietnamese naval forces in August 1964. The outcome of these two incidents was the passage by Congress of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which granted President Lyndon B. Johnson the authority to assist any Southeast Asian country whose government was considered to be jeopardized by "communist aggression." The resolution served as Johnson's legal justification for deploying U.S. conventional forces and the commencement of open warfare against North Vietnam] which, well, without going in a whole lotta detail on that. Well anyway, since we were the ready force we--the fleet or the small squadron of ships that we were all on headed down to Vietnam. And we were ready for--to make a landing if, whatever the circumstances might be. Well, never did make a landing. But we floated up and down the coast of Vietnam for *fifty-seven* days.

Driscoll: Wow.

Ely: Within site of the land. And so I never did set foot in Vietnam but I saw it. And from what little I could see it looked nice, it was very green [Driscoll laughs]. And then after the fifty-seven days, we came off station and went to Hong Kong for four days for like an R and R [rest and recuperation] type of thing. Then we went back down to the same station and floated for another--well I believe the second time was twenty-eight or twenty-nine days, something like that, and again, no landing.

Driscoll: Mhm.

Ely: Although at one time, whether it was just practice or whether it was supposed to be for real or not we actually got ready to make a landing. They did just like in the movies, you know, with the cargo nets over the side of the ships and these landing boats upside and you know they passed out all this ammunition and all this kind of stuff and we climbed over and we got into these boats. And then the thing was called off, so-- And I don't know I was just a private back then, they didn't tell us anything, so whether that was--they actually called it off or whether it was just practice, I guess I'll never know. But that's as close as we came. And then by the time that second thing of twenty-eight, twenty-nine days was, then we went back to Okinawa. And then that--about that time I was, we were due to cycle back to the States, you know, and we did. So I was in the theater of operations, you see, I never did set foot in Vietnam, I was never in combat but the United States government and the United States Marine Corps consider me to be a Vietnam veteran.

Driscoll: Sure.

Ely: Having served in the theater of operations but sometimes people ask me if—"Are you a Vietnam veteran?" And I don't quite know how to answer that.

Driscoll: Yeah.

Ely: 'Cause, you know, the Corps and government said yes. But I, somehow I don't really feel like I was compared to a whole bunch of my friends and family, my brother. Who were actually in country and directly involved. Fact my brother Chris, who I guess emulated me or someday joined the Marine Corps after high school in 1967. And he ended up at Khe Sanh [in South Vietnam, battle occurred there from January 21<sup>st</sup> to July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1968] during the siege.

Driscoll: Mhm.

Ely: So that was, that was a little bit harrowing I guess.

Driscoll: Yeah.

Ely: So-- but thinking back, and this [laughs], you know, we're forty, forty-five years down the road here now. And most of the things that I remember are just funny or good times, you know.

Driscoll: Mhm, sure.

Ely: Don't remember any of that toil and the sweat or anything like that. It's just--and the older I get, the prouder I get that I did that, I guess.

Driscoll: Mhm, sure.



Ely: And then I got out. And at--in December of 1964. Then September of 1965 I went back to school at the University [of Wisconsin-Madison]. 'Cause at some point, like I said awhile back, you know, I thought, you know, the University wasn't for me. I just, you know, I went in the service and at some point during that time I got to thinking, well maybe school wasn't so bad after all, you know [both laugh].

Driscoll: I think it made you less [inaudible]—

Ely: Yeah [laughs]. So anyways I went back to school. And about--ten years later, probably, I was talking with some friends of mine and a couple friends of mine that I'd gone to high school with and so forth that belonged to a National Guard unit, an Army National Guard unit, in Madison. It was the 13th Evac Hospital. And they said, "Oh, why don't you give this a try, why don't you try it out?" And I thought about it for a while and then I started a job with the state of Wisconsin. I worked for the Department of Agriculture in their food safety division. And my territory was down in southwestern Wisconsin and I was stationed in Boscobel. And one of the guys I worked with down there who was actually from Lacrosse [WI], kinda lower on the floor, he'd been in the army national guard. He was in an engineer outfit in Onalaska [WI] I believe. Well anyways he got to talking about it too one day and he says, "Yeah you oughta try it." And at the time I just started a job and I just got married and had a child on the way and the job I was doing didn't pay a whole lotta money and I was looking at \$50 a month and that, that seemed like a lot of money at the time. Well actually it was a lot of money at the time. So I decided to join the guard but rather than going up to Onalaska, I opted to go to Madison with some people I knew. So it was in 1974, I believe, that I joined the National Guard, Wisconsin National Guard. And in the 13th Evac Hospital, it was known at the time. I was not a medic, not trained as a medic, but that hospital was--or the unit was a completely self-contained hospital. They could--well it was mobile. It also had supplies, session, cooks, motors, and so forth. All of the peripheral stuff that it took to operate a hospital without any external support. So I ended up in this supply section. And I actually spent twenty years in the Wisconsin National Guard. What was kinda funny [laughs] is when I joined, I was prior service. I was enlisted when I was in the Corps and I joined the guard as enlisted too. But they, they gave me a rank of E-3 [pay grade equivalent to that of lance corporal], which was actually a promotion from what I was when I got out of the Marine Corps. And I thought that was pretty neat. [Driscoll laughs]

Ely: And then since I'd been to school, I was approached by somebody and asked if I was interesting in going to officer training. And they showed me these pay sheets and it was a considerable difference. Plus I was, at that time, you know, qualified at least on one or two levels anyway. But it turned out that I was too old. 'Cause I was, now like about, I'm thinking, let's see in 1974 I woulda been thirty-one years old when I joined the Guard. And the Army had a--I think you had to be like thirty years old. You could be more no more than thirty when you were commissioned as a second lieutenant. However they had--there was a waiver, of course, the Army could give you a like a one year waiver so you could be thirty-

one and then thirty-one and then there was a couple of waivers. But anyway the only way I could beat at that time was to go down to Fort Benning [GA] to officers training school down there. Which was a, you know, a full time thing. But under the circumstances I said, you know, I was married and expecting a child and had just started this job. There's no way I could do that but the Wisconsin Guard had a program where you went, I think it was once a month, up to Fort McCoy [WI] for a year, year and a half and then a couple of AT's, annual trainings, and you'd get a commission. But that year, year and a half, whatever it was, woulda taken me beyond the limit for age so that kinda-- But I was happy where I was. It was a tremendous bunch of people. When I first joined, because I spent twenty years in the Guard, and I almost didn't make it through the first year because one of the things, one of the apprehensions I had about joining the Guard was that, about the discipline and so forth. And harking back to Marine Corps days and I'm thinking, well now I'm thirty-one years old, I don't need people to tell me when it's time to shine my shoes.

Driscoll: Mhm.

Ely: Or trim my fingernails or whatever the case may be. So I was a little bit hesitant. And then when I joined the Guard it was kinda so far the other way that I was just kinda flabbergasted. And it took me awhile to kinda wrap my mind around the fact that these were two entirely, you know, different, types of units with two entirely different missions. And as it turns out the mission that this hospital had, these people were able to perform that mission very, very, very well. But, you know, to go from being a storm trooper to a hospital worker so to speak was a little bit different. So anyway in 1990, the nation of Iraq invaded their neighbor Kuwait. And the United States pledged their support to Kuwait. And sometime during the summer of 1990 I believe it was, they started alerting all these reserve units and guard units that they may be activated to participate in some type of operation. And indeed that became the case. And in November, I forget the exact date, it was around the middle of November of 1990, the 13th Evac Hospital was activated. And they changed their name I think to the 13th Combat Support Hospital. But anyway that was activated to support operations in Kuwait. And we all went to Fort McCoy and started training, which was again a little funny in a way, ironic when we look back. We were going to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, you know, desert countries, with extreme temperatures. And we went up to Fort McCoy to train for this in the snow. [Driscoll laughs]

Ely: So on December 30th, I think it was, 29th or 30th of December, about twenty-five or thirty of us left the United States to go to Saudi Arabia. The twenty-five or thirty people were the advanced party for the unit. And we flew over and we were supposed to, you know, do whatever, you know, advanced parties do. And we went to a port, it's called Dhahran. Which is actually where the headquarters of the American-Arabian Oil Company [Arabian American Oil Co. (Aramco); now known as Saudi Aramco] was. But anyway we were at the harbor doing a couple of things, we were getting ready for when the main body got there. But also

sometime during that fall, we'd taken all of our stuff, all of the hospital supplies, everything from, you know, mess gear to scalpels. And we loaded 'em in these transport containers and put 'em on rail cars and off they went, somewhere, I think Baltimore if I'm not mistaken. Anyways they were loaded aboard ship and this stuff was taken to Saudi Arabia aboard ship. And there were a couple members of the unit, like Mike Wilson and [inaudible], anyways three or four guys that accompanied this stuff supposedly to keep an eye on it. Anyways we were there waiting for these ships to come in plus the rest of the hospital personnel who were flying over at some point. And they were all flying these civilian aircraft, big 747s that were volunteered or commandeered or whatever from--so anyways we were there on the dock there in this great big old warehouse, along with several other advance parties from all kinds of units who were basically doing the same thing. And they brought in--well we ate MREs [Meal, Ready to Eat; a self-contained, individual field ration in lightweight packaging bought by the United States military for its service members for use in combat or other field conditions where organized food facilities are not available] plus we had hot meals that people--the Saudis set it up and they were, I'm not sure who paid for it all, but they were basically Pilipino cooks and so forth who served basically *their* cuisine. Which I really like but some people think, you know, it's pretty spicy, so [laughs]. And sooner or later, sometime about the middle of January, the rest of the people in the hospital got there. And the ships had gotten there with all of our trucks and all of our gear and so forth. And everybody got together and we headed out to where we were supposed to be stationed. Which I found later on a map. We didn't--not everybody was sure where we were going, it's sorta trackless out there. But there was a road and we were, oh a hundred, a hundred-fifty miles west, northwest of Dhahran. About fifteen miles from the Iraqi border and where we set up our hospital. And we got out there and it was cold, it was darn cold. And just like, this is January, and you think the desert's hot but it's, you know, it's not. And if you've been in the desert in California or Arizona you know it's same thing. We had to actually scrape frost off the windshields of the truck in the morning. But we got this set up and in, I think it was sometime in February the war started. Which I believe lasted four days or something like that, the land war. But our hospital actually received more casualties than any other hospital that was set up there. We weren't the only hospital out there. But, well I think we were the best and we were the most complete or the most competent and that's where they sent the casualties. Most of which were actually Iraqis who were prisoners of war.

Driscoll: Okay, yeah, okay.

Ely: And they patched 'em up and then they--there was, you wouldn't call it embedded, but attached to us there was a--well they were the--like the active arm of the CIA or whatever they are, you know, forget the term. But then they took charge of the prisoners after that for interrogation and so forth. Then after the war ended, since we were, you know, an evacuation type of hospital, the job was to just patch these people up and get 'em in shape so they could be transported into facilities for long term care and so forth. So within a week or two after that war was over, you know

by the end of February, we were done. I mean the hospital was done. Except for, you know, sick calls for our own people and stuff like that so. Then it became a matter just waiting, "Well okay this is all over when do we go home? When do we go home?" Well it was the 4th of May of 1991 when I got home. And reason I remember that date is because it's the day before my birthday. I mean ordinarily I wouldn't have remembered the date but— [Driscoll laughs]

Ely: So and then about three years later the unit was actually deactivated. And I was given a choice at that time I could either basically retire or transfer to another unit. And I had twenty years in with the Guard plus my other active duty service and I was pretty used to the people I served with and that's where all my friends were so I elected to be discharged or retire. And every year to this day we still have a reunion, every summer.

Driscoll: Good, good.

Ely: Which is relatively well attended, usually somewhere between fifty and eighty show up. I think full strength in, you know, was 300 and some people. But actually the unit was in three detachments. There was one in Madison, one in Eau Claire--or Chippewa Falls actually and one in Marshfield. But in Madison there were probably 250 people or so, you know, just gonna be a third of 'em at least keep in contact and get together at least once a year, so--

Driscoll: When your unit was handling all the wounded and injured people, what was your job?

Ely: Well I was still--well my job was basically procuring and distributing water.

Driscoll: Oh. Well in the desert that's probably a pretty good job [laughing].

Ely: Yeah we had a--we started out with--we had a couple of these, I forget the number or what they even designated, what they call 'em now but they're tankers. Look like milk trucks almost, you know, most people in Wisconsin are familiar with what a milk truck looks like. And for water. And then there were these trailers they pulled which were water tanks also which were called buffalos. I don't know the derivation of the word but--

Driscoll: Yeah.

Ely: So where we were, there was no water, there was no well. So we had to go get it. And a few miles down the road there was actually, I think they were a reserve outfit, not a Guard outfit, from Iowa. And well-digging, or something of the equivalent, was their thing. And there was a well, so we could go down there, get water, and bring it back. And eventually they actually constructed a pipeline from this of PVC pipe, so we didn't have to run the truck back and forth all the time. And one of the--and we had showers when we first got out there. And imagine

how cold it was. And we had a water heater but we couldn't get the thing running [Driscoll laughs] right away. Eventually we did but we just couldn't get the thing running for, you know, several days. So we bring this water back and these showers were, well basically we had a tank sitting on a tower and you got underneath 'em. They had a nozzle and they let the water, you know, run down on your head and then you'd turn the valve off and-- But this water wasn't much more than forty degrees and--

Driscoll: That's cold [both laugh].

Ely: But eventually by, you know, March or April it did start to warm up outta there. And we got outta there in May and I'm glad we did because, you know, by July and August it woulda been, it woulda been hot, so. But that kind of in a nutshell is my military career.

Driscoll: Okay, okay. Let's see if I have any other questions here that might-- Was there any funny things happened to you, that you remember?

Ely: Well, going back to Marine Corps days there were--there's always funny things in boot camp. And sometimes they--people always say how was that, you know? And I'm sometimes a little hesitant to describe it because unless you've experienced it, it's hard to relate. People either think you're lying or you're exaggerating or whatever but--

Driscoll: Yeah I know, I know.

Ely: But one time--I actually was pretty--I got along pretty well and didn't have it too hard as compared to some guys who get, you know, who constantly were fouling up and but I just remember one time. We ran in and out of these barracks--we had three Quonset huts that our platoon was in. And there were about twenty guys per hut. And when we would form up, they'd say, the drill instructor would yell, well it's the equivalent of "Get Ready." And then he'd say, "On the road." And that meant you had to go out and get in formation. And the last person in formation always got--was always punished. Punished in the sense of having a bunch of push-ups or you know, that type of thing, or the thing they called the step-up board, where you just step up and down, up and down, up and down. Anyway, I stood right--I was in the first squad and I stood right in the front so you couldn't get away with anything up there. And the guy next to me his name was Becker, and I forget what his first name is now, this was a long time ago, but Becker was always one of the last guys. And one day Becker was last again and the drill instructor just said, "Jeez, Becker." He says, "You're just like the balls on a boar." He said, "You're always draggin' behind." [Driscoll laughs] And I'd never heard this expression before, so I just started laughing. I mean, you know, I was trying to suppress a laugh but I was snickering and so forth. So the drill instructor looked at me and he says, "Ely, you're not so god damn hot yourself. [Driscoll laughs] So Becker, you stay where you are, Ely you know, you get on the step up board."

Driscoll: [laughs] Well the number one, thank you for your service.

Ely: Oh, you're welcome.

Driscoll: This is a form that we need to have you sign. This is--it's a, giving the rights of whatever it is on the tape to the organization.

Ely: Okay.

Driscoll: Yeah, if you wanna take the time to read it you're certainly welcome to.

Ely: No, I, no, a standard form. [both laugh]

Driscoll: Okay need you to sign it right there. Okay, then I think we're done.

Ely: Wow. That was pretty easy.

Driscoll: Yeah, forty minutes. Okay let's go back upstairs for just a minute.

**[End of Interview]**