

## Jared W. Holly

**Interviewer:** We're at the Nevada State Veterans Home in Boulder City, Nevada. Today's date is May 11, 2006. We're interviewing Jared W. Holly. My name is Shannon Berndt and our cameraman is Ed Feldman. Thank you so much for helping us with this.

**Jared W. Holly:** You're welcome.

**Interviewer:** You were in the army?

**Jared W. Holly:** Uh-hmmm.

**Interviewer:** Tell us a little bit what you were doing before you joined the army?

**Jared W. Holly:** I worked a lot as a busboy before I joined the army and I was also going to school.

**Interviewer:** To college or were you still in high school?

**Jared W. Holly:** I was going to high school. I didn't try college.

**Interviewer:** Okay. What made you decide to enlist into the army?

**Jared W. Holly:** Well, I was going to be drafted.

**Interviewer:** So you would rather enlist rather than be drafted?

**Jared W. Holly:** Uh-hmmm. And it turned out my lottery number was so high, it never would have been touched.

**Interviewer:** [Laughter]

**Jared W. Holly:** I found that out the day I got my hair cut off.

**Interviewer:** [Laughter]

**Jared W. Holly:** [Laughter]

**Interviewer:** And where were you living at the time?

**Jared W. Holly:** I was living in Newport Beach, California.

**Interviewer:** And that's where you enlisted?

**Jared W. Holly:** Mm-hmmm.

**Interviewer:** Why did you choose the army?

**Jared W. Holly:** I do not know. It seemed the thing to do at the time.

**Interviewer:** No other branch of service interested you as much?

**Jared W. Holly:** Nope.

**Interviewer:** No? What did your parents think about you enlisting?

**Jared W. Holly:** My dad thought it was fine.

**Interviewer:** I am sure your mom was probably pretty worried.

**Jared W. Holly:** Hmmm.

**Interviewer:** Did you think that you would be going to Vietnam?

**Jared W. Holly:** I didn't know.

**Interviewer:** Tell me about your first days in the service?

**Jared W. Holly:** Oh, they were pretty hectic, a lot of training. I was at Fort Irwin, California.

**Interviewer:** Was it pretty grueling?

**Jared W. Holly:** Mm-hmmm. Whipped me into shape.

**Interviewer:** What was your... what was your job that you did?

**Jared W. Holly:** I was the armored personnel carrier driver. That was my primary MOS.

**Interviewer:** And who did you drive or what did you drive?

**Jared W. Holly:** I drove the armored personnel carrier.

**Interviewer:** I'm not sure I know what that is.

**Jared W. Holly:** It is a big tracked, a tracked vehicle that transports troops.

**Interviewer:** Oh! Okay. So, after you were trained to do your job, then you were stationed in South Korea?

**Jared W. Holly:** Mm-hmmm. Yup.

**Interviewer:** And what did you do in South Korea?

**Jared W. Holly:** I did a lot. Well, full guard duty at the Freedom Bridge over there up by the demilitarized zone.

**Interviewer:** Was it pretty calm or was there shooting?

**Jared W. Holly:** No. No shooting.

**Interviewer:** Oh none.

**Jared W. Holly:** A lot of field exercises. It's very cold over there in the winter.

**Interviewer:** Is it? Did you drive the...what you were trained to do? Did you do the job that you were trained to do over there?

**Jared W. Holly:** Mm-hmmm. Yes, I did.

**Interviewer:** And where would you take these soldiers...that you....

**Jared W. Holly:** We would go out in the field and there was....

**Interviewer:** Just continuously training and doing this.

**Jared W. Holly:** Mm-hmmm. Yup.

**Interviewer:** Let's see. What was your most memorable experience?

**Jared W. Holly:** A lot of driving my armored personnel carrier back across the Freedom Bridge to the South Korean side where the sprockets came loose and the armored personnel carrier driver almost went off the bridge into the river.

**Interviewer:** Oh.

**Jared W. Holly:** [Laughter]

**Interviewer:** [Laughter] That would be, that wouldn't be too good.

**Jared W. Holly:** [Laughter]

**Interviewer:** [Throat clearing] How did you pass the time? Did you have free time where you could go in to a town or anything like that?

**Jared W. Holly:** Mm-hmmm.

**Interviewer:** What was the closest town that you would go into?

**Jared W. Holly:** There was one outside the [##] 04:45 beach, the [##] 04:46 compound.

**Interviewer:** And, did you...what would you do?

**Jared W. Holly:** Oh, we just sit around drinking beer, eating the local food.

**Interviewer:** What was the local food like?

**Jared W. Holly:** It was great.

**Interviewer:** Was it?

**Jared W. Holly:** Mm-hmmm.

**Interviewer:** Better than what they served you at your, on base?

**Jared W. Holly:** Mm-hmmm.

**Interviewer:** [Laughter] It was? What kind of things did you eat?

**Jared W. Holly:** Oh, just things like egg roll kinds of food.

**Interviewer:** Did you make lots of friends?

**Jared W. Holly:** Had a fair amount.

**Interviewer:** You keep in contact with them now?

**Jared W. Holly:** I don't even know where they are anymore.

**Interviewer:** Umm.

**Jared W. Holly:** Unfortunately, one of them turned out to be the Son of Sam, David Berkowitz.

**Interviewer:** Oh really?

**Jared W. Holly:** Mm-hmmm.

**Interviewer:** You served with him, huh?

**Jared W. Holly:** Mm-hmmm. Same company.

**Interviewer:** So did you know him? Was he kind of, I mean how was he?

**Jared W. Holly:** He was a very calm guy.

**Interviewer:** Oh. Hmmm, I guess you never can tell?

**Jared W. Holly:** No, you can't.

**Interviewer:** What did you do for recreation?

**Jared W. Holly:** Just walked around the village outside the compound, that kind of thing.

**Interviewer:** Were the people friendly?

**Jared W. Holly:** Mm-hmmm. Yes.

**Interviewer:** What about the language barrier?

**Jared W. Holly:** Oh, I learned to speak enough to get me along.

**Interviewer:** How did you celebrate the holidays?

**Jared W. Holly:** Hmmm, we really didn't.

**Interviewer:** It was just another day.

**Jared W. Holly:** Mm-hmmm.

**Interviewer:** Did you get lots of letters and packages from home?

**Jared W. Holly:** No.

**Interviewer:** No. Did you send letters home? No. Your parents? I think your parents would want to know what you were doing.

**Jared W. Holly:** [Laughter]

**Interviewer:** Do you recall the day that you left the service?

**Jared W. Holly:** Yes, I do.

**Interviewer:** When did you leave the service?

**Jared W. Holly:** Oh about December 20<sup>th</sup>, just a day or so before Christmas, 1972.

**Interviewer:** And what did you do?

**Jared W. Holly:** I came into Travis Air Force Base in Oakland and caught a plane back out to Newport Beach. Apparently, my dad and my stepmom got separated by then.

**Interviewer:** How did you adjust from being in the structured army corps to a civilian life?

**Jared W. Holly:** I adjusted pretty well. I went out and found employment.

**Interviewer:** What did you do?

**Jared W. Holly:** I did things like working on boats, been helping build them.

**Interviewer:** Did your war-time career help you in any way?

**Jared W. Holly:** No.

**Interviewer:** How did your experiences contribute to your thinking about war and military service? Did it change after you served, than it was before you enlisted?

**Jared W. Holly:** No.

**Interviewer:** No. You were, it says here that you were born in New Jersey?

**Jared W. Holly:** Yes, I was.

**Interviewer:** And then your parents moved to California.

**Jared W. Holly:** Mm-hmmm. There's a whole bunch of us moved to California back in 1968.

**Interviewer:** How did you end up in the Las Vegas Valley, Boulder City, or Henderson?

**Jared W. Holly:** Oh back in 2003, I had a heart attack. Was living in California at that time and then later that year, I had a stroke, then my wife and I sold our house in California. We moved to Kentucky for a year then came back here to buy a house.

**Interviewer:** So your wife, where does she live?

**Jared W. Holly:** Over in Henderson.

**Interviewer:** In Henderson.

**Jared W. Holly:** Mm-hmmm.

**Interviewer:** Nice area.

**Jared W. Holly:** Mm-hmmm.

**Interviewer:** Nice place. We live both from Henderson. [Laughter] Let's see. I guess that's probably all that I have unless you have any other memories or experiences you'd like to share with us.

**Jared W. Holly:** No. I'm all good.

**Interviewer:** All right. Well, thank you so much for helping us with this.

**Jared W. Holly:** No problem. My pleasure.