James Mulvaney Oral History Interview

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Marrapode: My name is Nick Marrapode. I'm here at the Pritzker Military Library with Lt. James Mulvaney. Just to get started can you tell me when and where you were born?

Mulvaney: I was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1934.

Marrapode: Did you grow up in Chicago?

Mulvaney: I did.

Marrapode: Can you tell me a little bit about the experience of growing up in Chicago? What was going on around the time you were, I guess, growing up?

Mulvaney: I was born on the North side of Chicago, and I clearly remember December 7th of 1941. I was actually at Peterson and Ravenswood at a pony rink; my older brother was hired to lead ponies around for small kids. The news came over that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor, and this was about a mile and a half from my home and I remember running home and hiding under the bed. I was seven years old. And in any case after that I started delivering newspapers. I always had a job after probably 10 years old, delivering Saturday Evening Post, delivering newspapers, then when I was old enough working as a grocery clerk and going through high school. [F]or one reason or another, I did want to be a macho guy, I wasn't. I wore glasses and was called a professor, but I did box, I was a golden glove boxer in high school, and then Korea came in 1950 and I was 16 years old and I had no desire to go to college. I felt that I was just too stupid to be in college, and my mother persuaded me to go to college because if I didn't I might be drafted and sent

over to Korea and be killed by these Communists who were killing so many of us and that persuaded me to go to DePaul University, there I discovered the ROTC program.

Marrapode: Can you tell me about what you were studying at DePaul and how you got involved in the ROTC program?

Mulvaney: It was the first year that DePaul had Army ROTC and I really had no, I had probably no idea of what I wanted to do when I grew up. I was in the liberal arts college and had not of course declared a major, but this ROTC promised in the last two years of college some kind of money and an opportunity to get a commission because I knew eventually I'd be in the military because of the draft. Then I got into ROTC as a freshman and was sort of [a] disinterested student, but I really loved ROTC. In any case I ended up majoring in speech and very active in student activities and not really taking the scholarly part of school, I just had a lot of fun in college, and then of course in June of '56 got my commission and BA in speech.

Marrapode: Can you tell me a little about the ROTC summer camp program? What that was and what role that played?

Mulvaney: That was an awesome experience. We were all from DePaul University, like the first members of our family to go to college. DePaul University at that time was a blue-collar university we called it a streetcar college. [W]e lived at home and took the public transportation to and from school, but mostly city kids. And in any case in between our junior and senior year we had this, six weeks of summer camp and we were sent to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. At Fort Campbell, Kentucky the 11th Airborne Division was stationed there and it was preparing to rotate to Germany in an operation called Operation Gyroscope where they actually rotated divisions from American bases to bases around the world. In any case these 11th Airborne people gave us what was basically considerably army basic training and these people were totally committed, totally, total

fanatics especially about jumping out of airplanes and they ensured us that if we didn't go airborne, have an airborne [identifier], we had no future in the Army.

In any case one Saturday morning they had a drop, and dependents, you know wives and children of the members of the 11th Airborne Division, were all out there in bleachers, and the transports came by and one trooper came out of the plane and the chute never opened up, it's called a roman candle, it did come out of the pack but it never inflated and that persuaded me right then and there not to go airborne. Even if it might spoil my military career if I decided to make it one. It was really intense training that I've ever been grateful for the 11th Airborne, those people were what you would consider them nuts but they drove us to the limits of our endurance. Let me say when, eventually the 11th Airborne did get to Germany, their behavior was so outrageous and so destructive that the Germans demanded that they be relieved, so they were removed from Germany and disbanded.

Marrapode: Can you tell me a little more specifically what got them removed and disbanded?

Mulvaney: It was just apparently their behavior in Germany. On the 4th of July at Fort Campbell, right on Route 41 there, the gate; even at that time it's 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles [were there], although they had been deactivated at the time. On the 4th of July, they had a carnival, this gigantic squad tent, could sleep about 30 or 40 people, and there's this sign there, "We'll tell your fortune." We're all naïve college students from Chicago, and basically it was a whorehouse being operated by the 11th Airborne, just outside the gate on Route 41. These guys would just stand on the, what would you call them, the railings on the second floor of our old wooden barracks and just jump off of them because they just love to jump out of things and fall down.

Marrapode: A pretty rambunctious group of guys.

Mulvaney: It was just a most wonderful and great experience.

Marrapode: When did you join active duty military service? When did that happen?

Mulvaney: We graduated from college and got our commissions in June of 1956 and at that time we got our orders for active duty. Now at the time we were told that the active duty requirements had been changed because the Army was rapidly downsizing. Congress was really cutting its budget fantastically, so that originally we had agreed to a two-year active duty tour and then I think six years of reserve. That would be our obligation instead of being drafted for two years. Upon graduation we were told that if we didn't want to go in for two years active duty we could simply go in for six months active duty and then have another two years tacked on as reserves. I opted for two years of active duty because I was thinking this might be a career for me, and I had volunteered for the infantry. We were given an opportunity to choose our branch and I thought if it's a career, infantry would be my most promising pathway to promotion. My orders [are] for November 26 of 1956 to report to the infantry school at Fort Benning. I needed a job and my brother met a forest ranger with the Department of Agriculture and at the time he had a job in California at the Lassen National Forest where they did timber improvement work. [T]hey were not fighting those summer forest fires in California, so he was able to line me up a job as a foreman of a tree pruning crew and the crew members were inmates from Folsom and San Quentin Penitentiary. [W]hat we would do is everyday go out and prune trees and of course then we'd get a call we'd go out and fight forest fires. In any case that's where I learned the inestimable value of the NCO, because my first crew I had a young guy named Tate and he was just a wise guy, a slacker, and another older guy who was like a bully, and I'm a liberal arts graduate. I'm an idealistic; I'm going to make the world a better place. In any case this bully was, I thought, threatening my authority trying to run my crew so I came to the defense of this underdog Tate. This young punk who was the bully understood this guy a troublemaker. I couldn't understand that and in

any case I insisted that the bully be moved to a different crew to my regret because I learned at the end of the summer that this guy, this young guy who I thought I was protecting really let me down. I learned right then and there that if and when I'm ever a platoon leader the value of the NCO, and that paid off big.

Marrapode: Having a tough guy in your unit?

Mulvaney: Oh yes, right, that later on it just came in enormously valuable.

Marrapode: What was your rank at that time?

Mulvaney: I was, I had no rank of course. I went in as a, commissioned as second lieutenants, so then I reported to Fort Benning, the infantry school, Basic Infantry Officer Course as 2nd Lieutenant. We were told that we were all officers and gentlemen and that we would be expected to do exactly what the sergeants told us to do. Sergeants were the instructors.

Marrapode: What kind of training did you receive there?

Mulvaney: It was fantastic. It was really; it was the greatest educational experience I ever had. We were taught how to put together and take apart every weapon in the infantry rifle company and of course how to use it. We were taught map reading, leadership, of course [and] mine fields. It was just the entire operation of an infantry rifle company. We were personnel matter, human resources, all in 15 weeks. Apparently George Marshall, you know who George Marshall is?

Mulvaney: It was his idea to create this kind of school, which had not existed apparently before World War II. But the way the instructions were given, how visual aids were used, was just state of the art. I can't imagine a more effective educational system.

Marrapode: It was very intensive, but it was very well…

Mulvaney: I was in liberal arts of course, I had never taken a multiple-choice test in liberal arts so we, everything was essay tests, and everything at the infantry school was multiple choice. This was entirely new to me, and I didn't understand, I did not do well. I took it very seriously. I really, some of the guys there were just going through the motions, but I studied hard, and thinking this might be a career, but I did poorly in class standings. When I look back upon it and I realize it was because I didn't know how to do multiple choice tests because what I learned, I learned actually paid off very well when I was an instructor, eventually with a rifle company.

Marrapode: You found you knew the practical knowledge very well.

Mulvaney: I did.

Marrapode: But you just weren't a good test taker.

Mulvaney: No, right, so I had a different learning. I learned the difference between a good test taker and somebody who understands the subject. There is a big difference.

Marrapode: When was your training completed and where were you assigned after that?

Mulvaney: That was interesting. I had, we were again at Fort Benning. We were all being indoctrinated in the importance of going airborne. You must jump out of airplanes to be a real army officer. There's no future for you in the Army, unless you go airborne or at least a ranger, Ranger School. The First Sergeant told us that before we knew where we were going after we graduated, the First Sergeant told us that the people ahead of us, in classes ahead of us, who were volunteering to go to Airborne School right there at Fort Benning, that was like three weeks after our 15 week basic Infantry Officer Course, that those people would be going to, probably, we don't know the First Sergeant didn't know,

to Germany. Well everybody wanted to go to Germany. We had heard about Oktoberfest. This is the place to be and therefore the people that went around to Ranger School were also there. The people who weren't volunteering just ready to go back to, go to work were mainly going to Korea. I said I did not want to go to Korea. I knew nothing about Korea, and I had no idea that the Chinese were still there lusting for Seoul. I thought we were at peace like we are now we think we're at peace. I did not know how dangerous, Korea was, it was just a dirty place that I didn't want to spend a year in. I wanted to go to Germany, so in any case I did volunteer for Ranger School. I was not, I could not pass, I failed the physical, so I thought well if I fail the physical then the PT then a good chance I'll be in Germany, but no. I had gotten my orders for Korea.

Marrapode: You say you didn't really know much about Korea.

Mulvaney: No.

Marrapode: What had you heard about the Korean War while it was happening few years before?

Mulvaney: I knew enough about it to not get drafted, and go there when I got out of high school. I knew it was a dangerous place, but I knew that in 1953 the major hostilities had ended. They had the truce of July of 1953, but what I knew about Korea that it was just a filthy dump. I didn't think that there was any… It was a dangerous assignment. I didn't think people were being killed there.

Marrapode: You just didn't think it was going to be as fun as Oktoberfest in Germany.

Mulvaney: Yes, right. I pretty much figured there was no future for me in the Army. The career that I'd thought I'd have because I wasn't going to be airborne. That was, they made that pretty much clear to us, if you don't jump out of airplanes you're not going to go very far

in the Army.

Marrapode: Can you tell me what unit you were assigned to and when you deployed to Korea?

Mulvaney: We graduated in April or so, sometime in April of '57. Then my orders were to report to San Francisco for debarkation to Korea. They flew us over there in private charter planes and we flew to Honolulu and then to Wake Island. This was before jets, so we had to refuel at Honolulu and refuel at Wake Island, and then to Tokyo.

Marrapode: How long did the flight across the ocean take?

Mulvaney: That was horrible. I mean it was sitting in a seat. I can't imagine, it seemed like, eight or nine hours, 10 hours, propeller planes from here to Honolulu, or San Francisco to Honolulu and then to Wake Island. It was even people who didn't have claustrophobia were so glad to get off the plane. It was like being in a prison in a small cell, so but it, maybe 30 hours total. It is 10 hours now with a jet. I would figure probably, it was probably between, almost, from San Francisco to Honolulu 8-10 hours. Yeah, it seemed like a total of about 30 hours, and we didn't spend that much time on the ground just refuel and get going, but with our boxed lunches.

Marrapode: How much time did you spend in Tokyo when you got there or did you continue right on to Korea?

Mulvaney: No, they had what was called a pipeline. Actually the pipeline started in San Francisco, and the pipeline was of course individual replacements unlike now units are activated, units, people who know each other, trained together, who go to Iraq or who go to Afghanistan. This was not the case, it just was, and this was throughout the Army. The pipeline system, replacements were on [an] individual basis, and individuals would report to a unit and replace somebody, some individual, whose tour had expired, and then that

person would return in the pipeline. You didn't have unit cohesion like you do have now.

Marrapode: Right.

Mulvaney: I don't know. I imagine it was a few days spent in Tokyo, and then we were flown over to Incheon at Kimpo Airport, Airbase, and there was the original Pan-American Tower, Air Control Tower, like you have over at O'Hare only it's filled with holes from artillery shells and bullets. I think I had a picture. I don't know if with what I submitted, but we got off, and it's like pictures I saw of Berlin after the war.

Marrapode: Incheon is where the American forces had landed.

Mulvaney: That was the invasion, right. Right and that was, see that's like a suburb of Seoul, maybe five miles from Seoul.

Marrapode: Seoul had been retaken a couple of times during the war.

Mulvaney: Back and forth, right, but I mean this was my first indication that this could be still dangerous. I mean I was just out of college it wasn't, seriously. They took us, I don't think we got into Seoul, but there was no such thing as streetlights anywhere. I mean everything was still, if you can imagine pictures of Berlin after the war, the rubble of Europe that was pretty much how it was then. Then, and this was the major hostilities ended in July of '53, so this was like April or May of '57, four years later, and it's still a war zone. I mean, there's no sign of any of any rebuilding, of any recovery.

Marrapode: What kind of impression did that make on you when you arrived?

Mulvaney: I started getting concerned that this party's over. One officer, one Captain, at Fort Benning had told me that, "Jim, you know, if you're going to Korea, you're going to be in the real Army, the real Army." I didn't know what he meant by that, but I learned. So in any case, we were taking, I was taken to the 24th Infantry Division, what they call "Repl Depot," that's "replacement depot." R-E-P-L, called "Repl Depot," and we're sleeping in a big squad tent there. We were told we would be given our orders for our

assignment until our, whatever units we were. Now this was just like outside, like we were at the 24th Infantry Division was just like five miles North of Seoul. I got my orders for the 19th Infantry Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division.

Marrapode: Where were they stationed?

Mulvaney: Straight North at the DMZ.

Marrapode: What was the base or the post there like?

Mulvaney: All right, we were probably in the back of the two and a half, and I remember there's the railroad, railroad track, [and] the railroad that runs from Seoul runs up through the DMZ, on to Pyongyang and then to China. This is the main invasion route, the classical invasion route from the Chinese, the North Koreans, everybody who… South Korea was like Poland, everybody was invading it, and this is flat, opened country, easy to travel. We had the MSR, which means Supply Route and the railroad parallel to each other straight North and I remember seeing this ancient rail freight trains with people just on top of the freight cars and clinging to them traveling North on this train. I thought, "This is something like out of the First World War!"

Marrapode: Where were they going?

Mulvaney: Up North, I don't know, well there was some still some communities up North.
So this was another sign, the air terminal, still being all shot up, then seeing all these civilians clinging to the sides of boxcars (laughs). So anyway we get up and we cross this river, this big bridge it's called Libby Bridge, across this river. The river was called the Imjin River and we were very close to the mouth of the Imjin River, and the, it was called the Yellow Sea and now it's called the China Sea which is to the West of Korea. Korea's like a peninsula. The China Sea, the Yellow Sea, and the Sea of Japan here, so we cross the Imjin River on this *new* concrete bridge. The Imjin's about a block maybe more, wider, big, an incredibly wide river. We cross into there and there're no civilians, and

there's no villages. We're going through villages all the time, ancient villages with straw, thatched huts all of that stuff, and see poverty, really bad poverty, kids out there in the dirt. It was like some other century, it was incredible. Anyway we report to Headquarters of the 19th Infantry Regiment, and I remember being brought into the Officer's Club and they're playing, what were they playing, Elvis Presley "Jailhouse Rock." I said, "Oh thank God! Some sign of civilization, they know about Elvis here!" I didn't think; it was like traveling back in time. I said, "This is, you know, you know, one of these Twilight Zone experiences." I didn't know the world was like this. I'm from Chicago, a city kid, and thank God they're hearing about Elvis Presley. We're in some contact with the world that I used to know. [T]hen I got assigned to, what was it Golf Company? B-C-D-G. Yeah, it was Golf Company, 2nd Battalion of the 19th Infantry. I'm sitting around there at the Regimental Headquarters and this First Lieutenant shows up, he's the Company Commander, to pick me up, so he, these are like farm, I mean the Regimental Headquarters if you could visualize a ranch or farm. [It is] relatively hilly terrain, forests, not forests, but a lot of vegetation, but very hilly and no civilians. I'm taken to the com, we called them compounds, they call them camps now, is called a camp, a company sized compound of Golf Company 2nd Battalion, and so my new Company Commander this is Lieutenant Ted Jenes, J-E-N-E-S, and he tells me that he was an enlisted man who got his commission through OCS. You know what OCS is?

Marrapode: No.

Mulvaney: Officer Candidate School, so this was unlike college students, who we can go through college and because we have a college degree plus some basic training we get our commission. He served as an actual Private, the lowest of the low, on active duty and volunteered for Officer Candidate School, which is very difficult to get into. [O]ur system, which is unique to the American system, allows the lowliest of the low to

become officers, which he did, so this guy is no nonsense. This is a strict, strict boss, and I had always had jobs, so I was used to bosses that I'm sort of glad of that.

Marrapode: You knew what to expect.

Mulvaney: You know what to expect, right. They tell you what to do, and whatever it is, but it sort of concerned me it might be too tight-assed, really petty and stuff like that, but I felt like I was in good hands. This guy ran a good show. [He said,] "We're the only two officers, so I can't spare you for Executive Officer. I need to have a platoon leader for the weapons platoon." That's three recoilless rifles, three 60 millimeter mortar squads, three mortars, three recoilless rifles. [He also said], "You're the platoon leader of the 4th Platoon, weapons platoon." The platoon leaders, of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd rifle platoons are all Master Sergeants, and their platoon Sergeants are all Master Sergeants, so I'm surrounded with these NCOs who I have learned from California I was in good hands and not with some asshole just out of college. I felt good about that. Now if I hadn't had that experience in California, I'd say, "Why are Sergeants given the same authority as officers, you know what is, what kind of a deal is this?" For me because of my California experience, I felt much better than my peers being experienced NCOs than other guys like myself. So in any case we go to the Battalion Officer's Club for dinner so I could meet the other officers and they had a lot of these Captains, Majors, and they reminded me of the civilian employees I had dealt with as, in California with the Forest Service. These people were deadwood; I mean they're just putting in their time for their pensions. They had been in World War II. Some of them had been in combat in Korea. They were I imagine in their 40's, and they were, a lot of them were former enlisted people who got battlefield commissions, but when the war was over they didn't go back to civilian life they stayed in there hoping to get a career. [T]hey were miserable, they were bad, sarcastic, unhappy high school students just complaining, dragging their feet. These are officers! I could not

believe it; Majors and Captains, bad mouthing the Battalion Commander, and laughing and joking. It was like this is the real Army? In any case we have dinner, meet these people, and then we go back to our compound. Now it's like a farm out in the country, and we were like a mile from the DMZ. Which I had told there's several hundred thousand Chinese on the other side of it and Mao Tse-tung hasn't given up the idea of capturing Seoul, and Mao is there and Seoul was there and we're in between. So I have my pot, my steel pot and my pack and I had my carbine and I got 30 rounds of live ammo, a magazine, all next to my bed. I take this seriously. I didn't know that we're two and a half miles away or three and a half miles away from all these Chinese, and I had thought they had went back to China. I didn't know they stayed in Korea after '53. So anyway, two or three in the morning, "Lieutenant Mulvaney, we're having a practice alert. Lieutenants Jenes, practice alert?" Troops were up sort of like on a hill and the troops are down in the assembly room. You get your men and move out. So I go down there and there's total darkness, no light, no sound permitted and we have, we're really under strength, probably 100-150 men standing in line in front of the supply room with their claim checks to get their weapons. But there couldn't be any talking, no sound, because the Communists might hear it, they're so close. And there couldn't be any lights, you had a double curtain in the supply room and it was first come, first serve, so if you had a machine-gunner waiting for his machine gun and his ammo bearer was 20 people back they couldn't be together. First come, first serve. (Laughs) This is nuts! I mean we were better prepared, we're fighting huge forest fires in California, we knew about, we have our trucks you never park your truck face-in, you always have your truck parked so you don't have to back out and turn. I knew how to be prepared for an emergency. This is insane! I said, "This is" I said, "Now I understand Pearl Harbor." He said, "Don't worry about it, Lieutenant Mulvaney. This is, this is from Washington." Apparently there had

been some unfortunate accidents. Troops had their weapons in their barracks with them and of course in the course of cleaning their weapons, working on them, sometimes somebody forgets there's a round in the weapon and goes off and some soldier gets killed or wounded and then the parents and the loved ones complained to their Congressman about their loved ones being the victims of negligence in the Army. So the Department of Army said no weapons in barracks, must be locked up in the supply room.

Marrapode: How long did it take to get the weapons out to everybody?

Mulvaney: Must've been an hour. I had to wait for my mortar crews. I think there's like three guys in each mortar, it's just, [and] that was the beginning of my education that this was the Army at its worst. I got to later see the Army at its best. [B]ut this was partly the vast amount of dead wood inherited from World War II and the Korea thing. This ability of Americans to forget they're in danger, we get so complacent. But in any case I learned that I learned well at the Infantry School because Lieutenant Jenes had a mentor, this General Bonesteel. It was like he was the Assistant Division Commander, and he somehow or other had taken a liking, I don't know where, to my Company Commander. [W]e also had one, the First Platoon Sergeant Walter Sabalauski and he's a former boxer, a Lithuanian guy from Chicago who is much older than me, old combat veteran, and I didn't realize that I was surrounded by the crème. I mean now looking back upon it Jenes, had been designated as, he ended up a Three Star General. From being an enlisted man, and Walter Sabalauski, now the Air Assault School at Fort Campbell is named after him. Not air, jumping out of airplanes, but using helicopters and infantry. I had no idea how blessed I was. We trained and we were outside year round training. The Army has set a lesson plan for everyday of the year, and so we trained on every weapon, whatever it was, and I was basically an instructor. Our Regimental Commander was, he didn't want to have any kind of problems reported and any kind of VD, STD, or court-martials or

anything else because it would reflect badly on him because he was up for promotion. [H]e didn't want to have to report that there were any court-martials in the regiment or there was any VD and so therefore we had building anarchy with troops, fights and things, and we as Officers would try to do something about it. [H]e'd say, "No, no, just don't make waves." Like city politics. We had no land mines or barbed wire obstacles or anything between us and the Communists. Whatever land mines were there were left over from '53. We had these stakeout listening posts at night. [W]hen darkness fell we'd post listening posts along the South-edge of the DMZ, [with] one Korean. Oh yeah, half of our men were Korean called KATUSAs, Koreans attached to the United States Army, so half of my men were Koreans. We'd have one American and one Korean at each listing posts, and the idea was to catch line crossers, spies, black marketers or whatever it is. And in any case it was, except for our Company, everything else was half-hearted. It was just, people putting in their time to get their pensions.

Marrapode: Did that begin to change at all? Did that? Was there more discipline and more professionalism?

Mulvaney: April and May, I got there in May. Well a lot of this had to result because the Army was broke, the Army was running out of money and in any case Russians were building up this enormous fleet of missiles. They couldn't build bombers like we had to come over the North Pole. In fact I had a classmate of mine from DePaul, got a job with Motorola instead of going [to Korea]. He married my girlfriend, stole her from me. He comes out of DePaul, but he had also been an engineer, IIT guy, and he gets a job with Motorola to install NORAD. You know what NORAD is?

Marrapode: Yes.

Mulvaney: Alright, so he was one of the builders of NORAD over there. Well that was because the Russians couldn't come up with the bombers, had these missiles so we needed this early

warning system. The artillery, the Air Force couldn't get the money for fighters, big tax pay, like now the taxpayers didn't want to pay money for National Defense or National Security. So in any case the Air Force couldn't get enough fighters to knock down these incoming Russian bombers and missiles. [T]he Army artillery comes up with the Nike. Remember the Nike?

Marrapode: Surface-to-air missile?

Mulvaney: An anti-aircraft missile. We had it here along with Michigan, Belmont Harbor, Montrose, and all across the Northern tier of states, and because the Air Force couldn't afford to have enough intercepting fighter planes, they were only in for bombers to Strategic Air-Command, bomb, blow, destroy Russia. The Air Force couldn't get interceptors, so the artillery took up the job. [O]f course a Nike missile by itself isn't going to knock any Russian missiles down, so they were nuclear tipped, small one-half, one KT nuclear warheads. The same thing came up with the ground infantry division. [H]alf of us are Koreans, can't even speak English. All of our equipment is World War II junk, so what we have to do apparently this is what [was] decided in the Department of the Army is "Go nuclear." So we got nuclear tipped weapons, Honest John Rockets and they reorganized, let me go back farther. The traditional division/organization was typically full strength, 18,000 men with three regiments. Well this was classical Napoléon battle of large masses of troops meeting large masses of troops on the European plain. We can't do that anymore. The United States can't afford large masses of troops, so therefore we have to go nuke, rely upon nuclear which I think we're going to be doing again. In any case they said let's abolish the traditional Infantry Division, the three Regiments, and we'll have what's called a Pentomic Division. You have to Google this because you never hear about it anymore. Pentomic, five, instead of three Regiments, we're going to have five Battle Groups, and these will be widely separated, recognizing the effect of nuclear

radiation. We're going to disperse on the battlefield and we're not going to require as many men, instead we'll have, I think we used 106 millimeter recoilless rifles to shoot the Honest John Missile, which was like this. In November of '57 we transformed, the 24th Infantry Division was reflagged as the 1st Cavalry Division, and we no longer had regiments or battalions, that was abolished. Instead we had Battle Groups so we became the 1st Battle Group of the 8th Cavalry Division in November of '57. Now I never saw any nuclear tipped weapons, it was very highly classified.

Marrapode: Did you know that they were there at the time?

Mulvaney: Yes, we felt great finally because we were prepared just to be run over by a couple hundred thousand Chinese there was no way we were going to do more than delay their attack, but this was, and this happened in Europe too. This is every Infantry Division in the Army transformed to Pentomic in '57, and so they all had nuclear weapons until the Cuban Missile Crisis in '62. There wasn't even a red hotline. [F]ive months later Mao starts to withdraw his Chinese Army from North Korea like in February of '58 when we had the nukes.

Marrapode: You think that was a direct result of that?

Mulvaney: Some say it was, and others say that Mao had just recently taken over China and he needed the troops for something else. Who knows, you know?

Marrapode: You're commanding the Weapons Platoon still after the division is reorganized?

Mulvaney: No, because then we only had 60 millimeter mortars, they're little tiny little things it was sort of a joke, like cap guns, with what we were dealing with, hundreds of thousands of Chinese. No, Jenes took me with him and he became the Company Commander of Delta Company, 1st Battle Group, 8th Cavalry. [I]t was like a merger, so we became a much larger unit. We were only in a small compound like maybe 160 of us. Now there were over 200 of us but we're more widely dispersed from the rest of the troops in this

Spoonbill area, we were surrounded by the Imjin River.

Marrapode: Can you tell me a little about the Spoonbill area and how that, what that figured into the defensive strategy?

Mulvaney: First of all the DMZ, going from West to East, the Korean Marines were manning the DMZ from the coast, the China Sea up to us. Maybe, I don't know, 10 miles of DMZ, then the United States Army, that was us, we had about 12 miles of DMZ. We were the frontline troops on that, and then the rest of the DMZ was managed by the ROK Army the Republic of Korea Army, which would be like 160 miles of Korea over to the Sea of Japan. So in any case where we were in the middle of the classical invasion route, so for whatever reason, that I don't understand it, The Spoonbill was the Imjin River which may have come out of North Korea. [W]here we were, I wish I had a sketch of it, a map, it came down like this and went up like this, creating like a peninsula; went off in and went into the China Sea, and the Spoonbill was American. Now it's where we were, the American troops. [W]e were 90 percent surrounded by water, so our only exit was up at the DMZ to the right or to the left. [T]hen we had this bridge, the Libby Bridge, down at the bottom that was our primary means of escape and but that was just fully loaded with explosives that was going to be blown and so we were trapped in here. I would think we were there like bait. I can't imagine them all pouring down here and not being able to cross the river because the bridge had been blown. [B]ut we were able to fire, we had high ground, we could fire to right to the left, so whatever it was it was considered strategically very important and that we had it. [S]o then we had simply five of these super-sized companies situated in the Spoonbill area.

Marrapode: In the case of an invasion they would fight kind of a delaying action and then if they were overrun they would blow the bridge and hopefully trap the invading armies in that river peninsula?

Mulvaney: Yes.

Marrapode: Okay.

Mulvaney: But see then on the internet, I've been on the internet since then with guys who had been there at the same time, we used to have websites and blogs, most of them are sort of died off right now, but he had a 4.2 mortar section and his job was, is zeroed in on, automatically to fire on us.

Marrapode: The units around had their guns trained on your position?

Mulvaney: Yes, and we were in the bait. I'm feeling that's the only reason why we have to get these Americans come after us and hopefully get to the bridge but they'd all be funneled into this one area where they could be nuked.

Marrapode: Nowadays the Demilitarized Zone is fairly heavily fortified on the border.

Mulvaney: Oh yes, oh right.

Marrapode: Was that going on at that time?

Mulvaney: No, then it was just two barbed wires across all of Korea, no, all we had was like a farm. Have you been on a farm? You've seen a fence, a cattle fence?

Marrapode: Yes.

Mulvaney: That's what it was, and with white engineering tape on the top so that planes passing would know this is the DMZ, and I'd be out there and I'd stand there and I'd see our jets go, "whoosh," right into North Korea. I said, "You bastards! (Laughter) You're jeopardizing… (More laughter)." They went in there to take pictures I guess.

Marrapode: You didn't want them pissing off the Chinese and the North Koreans and bringing them into the…

Mulvaney: Right. I had one; this is an incident, one of my platoons, one of my squad leaders from when I was a Platoon Leader. I had become executive, Jenes left and was replaced. [H]e had been Sergeant Barnes, he went AWOL, and our new Company Commander was a

real jerk. He demoted him from Sergeant to Corporal but wouldn't transfer him out of the barracks to a different unit. [W]e had spent a lot of time together, really had a lot of respect and liked this guy well it turns out that he's got two wives, one at Fort Benning and one at Fort Jackson, and I'm the Executive Officer and I'm getting these letters from creditors in Columbus, Georgia, or whatever it is. These wives are not paying their bills, and they want Corporal Barnes to pay them. And he's only got like a month to go see so I find him and I say, "Look I got these letters, Company Commander knows, I'm going to sit on them, right, you know, just stay out of trouble, right, don't make waves, and you'll be home and you'll be able to care of this stuff." One Sunday afternoon the Company Commander's at the Officer's Club, and I'm inspecting the guard to go out to the DMZ, for when it gets dark you have to be well armed, right? In any case somebody comes running up to me, "Corporal Barnes is drunk." [A]nd by this time under new command we had weapons in our barracks, Corporal Barnes ran to is barracks, got his rifle and commandeered our ammo dump. Mad at the world, this is a little similar to a story that happened in Afghanistan a little while ago. And I said, "Oh shit, he's in the ammo dump." And my fear is he's so enraged and crazy he's going to go north and go into the DMZ and start shooting up Communists. I put a call into the Company Commander, telling him, and he hides, he doesn't show up for hours. I got to pin him down, I'm still young enough to think I am immortal like a teenager. I'll go talk to Corporal Barnes in the ammo dump, which is, like a block away from the company area. So I go there no weapon or anything like that. "Corporal Barnes, try to calm down, talk about that." BOOM! He shoots, starts shooting at me, bullets flying, and I dive into a ditch, and finally we got him fixed there, he's not leaving he's not going to North Korea, and one of his buddies finally talks him into giving up. But that was the story, but my fear that he was going to go into North Korea is what prompted me to do this stupid thing.

Marrapode: Same thing with the jets, you didn't want to tripping off anything or start anything.

Mulvaney: Yes, I mean I took this very seriously.

Marrapode: Can you tell me a little about kind of maybe your, to bring it back to your experiences a little bit like the, kind of your daily routine, what you were responsible for in your unit and what your unit was responsible for on the base and in the area?

Mulvaney: In the beginning of course, I can tell you I was Weapons Platoon Leader, I was training them to operate the 60 millimeter mortars, and the Koreans were much better at math, which is mortars is trigonometry. Koreans were always better with math than Americans, like you'd expect today. [B]ut then because we had acquired another officer who was an Executive Officer, I would be the instructor for the Company between April and November. We'd constantly be outside training, how to use our weapons, conducting attacks or withdrawals, all of that sort of thing, so I did a lot of instructing as well as worked with my Weapons Platoon.

Marrapode: Okay.

Mulvaney: We transformed into Pentomic. I became a Rifle Platoon Leader for a time, so then I'd be out with my Rifle Platoon and my Squad Leaders doing exercises. [T]hat's [what] platoons do; attacking, withdrawing, what all those maneuvers are. And then when Lieutenant Jenes left, no somebody else left, I was still, Jenes was there, I became Executive Officer. Well that's sort of like Chief of Staff, sort of like office work, so then I was pretty much inside. I was basically running the motor pool, all these vehicles, mess officers, supply officer [and] doing a lot of management type stuff. I kind of had the full round of activity except being Company Commander, I never became the Company Commander; but a lot of training, a lot of training and administration because you're just like a small company. You have to provide all of this logistics to the units.

Marrapode: Did your unit do a lot of patrolling or sentry duty kind of watching the DMZ for any

North Koreans?

Mulvaney: Yes, that was our basic… That's every night. At nightfall right, we'd post, we had one, [and] we patrolled around our listening post. [W]e called them stake outs, right, we call them stake outs, and they were at night. We'd have a Sergeant at the guard take them out, put them in their spots, and then [the] Officer, if I was Officer of the Guard, it'd be my job during the night to go and make sure they're awake, and encourage them and let them know they're not alone. See here's another example of it. Before, in the first, with the 24th Infantry Division, with what you would call the "Uninspired Army" right, we had no hotlines so there's no direct telephone contact between these stake out, listening posts and regiment and higher headquarters. You would have to go through a lot of delays. So once we got, and I shouldn't say enough about him, Colonel Kelley Lemmon, he was our Commander under the Pentomic Division. He was a real great commander, so we got hotlines. He's the one who put weapons in, we got, weapons in the barracks. We became the real Army under Colonel Lemmon. He had won a big award in World War II in saving a bridge for General Patton. He had been the Captain of the swimming team at West Point, and in any case, and this is, you can Google him Colonel Kelley Lemmon, a great story. Anyway, he's a Colonel with an advanced reconnaissance platoon ahead of Patton going towards the Seine River. In any case gets in his, I imagine a highly mobile scouts, they get to the, and there's this bridge that they're trying to save, I'm not sure what happens to the bridge, but anyway Colonel Lemon gets on the other side of the Seine, which is probably like 1000 feet wide, takes off his clothes, he's the Colonel, swims across the river and there's these rowboats that the Germans apparently had left along the banks so he ties them together, and swims back across the Seine pulling these rowboats. That enabled his unit, our troops to save this bridge for Patton!

Marrapode: That's crazy.

Mulvaney: I'm here, this is the story, [and] we have this river again. And again this river is like a block wide, well we're frontline troops the 8th Cavalry, but do you know what the 7th Cavalry is? Have you ever heard of the 7th Cavalry?

Marrapode: Custer's unit.

Mulvaney: Custer's unit. Apocalypse, did you see *Apocalypse Now*? You know the cowboy hats. These people hate, they're arrogant, they they're going around singing about Custer like they were so proud of the 7th Cavalry that nobody else in the Army has done anything. We hate their guts. Well they're backing up the Korean Army on our right, but Sunday afternoons, August, sort of like a day off, and I'm Officer of the Guard, and the phone call comes. Colonel Lemmon says "There are people in the river." You can understand how he'd be concerned about people in the river, because our bridge packed with explosives. "There's people, in the river get them out of there." So I get a jeep, it's like the bluff, and my driver Yashazumi, we drive up on top of this bluff, and there they are, the 7th Cavalry Sunday afternoon swimming party. [A]bout 50 of them swimming in the river, and I order them out of the river. "Out!" "Fuck you, you old shit! The 8th Cavalry, you guys lost your colors in Korea." Apparently the 8th Cavalry is the only unit that lost its colors to the Communists. All this ridicule and crap, so I come back and tell the Colonel, "It's the 7th Cavalry and they won't get out of the river." Whatever it is, the next Sunday the same thing, so I tell them, Yashazumi, "Go get a carbine out of the supply room." [S]o he gets a carbine I have a carbine, we got a 30 round banana magazine, familiar with it?

Marrapode: Yes.

Mulvaney: It's like an early version of the AK-47. [I]t's as close we had to an automatic handheld rifle, so my plan is to go up on the bluff and I had my carbine with no ammo in it, and Yashazumi has a carbine with 30 rounds of live ammo and they don't see him and he can shoot into the dirt. I'm standing on the bluff and [I say], "Colonel Lemmon wants you out

of the river." Again the same response, the finger, the whole thing. And well, "If you did not evacuate the river, I'm going to have to open fire on you." A Liberal Arts solution. "Whoa, whoa, bull shit asshole!" All this crap. They're naked, their boots and uniforms and their fatigues, they're all up on the bank of the river. Yashazumi has instructions to expend the 30 rounds when he hears me, so I point the empty carbine and count to three (imitates machine-gun noise). I would be court-martialed if I did this today. All I see is bare asses, running out of the river, jumping into the backs of their trucks, and leaving their boots and clothes on the bank. (Laughs) So of course their Colonel calls my Colonel, "What the hell is going on over there?" My Colonel praised me for my actions.

Marrapode: It worked.

Mulvaney: It worked, you know, but I…

Marrapode: Can you tell me a little bit about South Korean soldiers that were serving with your unit? Kind of what your opinions of them were of the time, a little bit about that.

Mulvaney: When I got there, I was hearing about how useless and how cowardly and how undisciplined they were. But our people or, they were trained by us, and they were as good as Americans and from time to time we got to see the Korean Marines come in, and they were really impressive. I didn't get to see any ROK Army people, but you have to remember that only in 1950 they were occupied by Japan. Was it '50 or '45? They had been, [they] weren't allowed to speak Korean, they weren't allowed to have weapons, they had really been beaten down by the Japanese occupiers for 40 or 50 years. So our American veterans from World War II went over there [and] had no respect for them because they had no concept of organization or how to fight. They were pretty much bad-mouthed by our American/Korean veterans. My experience with them or the ones we trained were smart, cooperative, a lot more, and they were grateful because their relatives were starving in the villages. These guys were getting three meals, clothes, a place, they

were getting paid. I would imagine they had a lot of incentive to be good, but the ones I dealt with were… See I fortunately didn't have them next to me in when the active fighting was going on, and when they were running away like the earlier Korean veterans. Yes, but at the time our people were great.

Marrapode: What was the relationship like just kind of in general between the US and the Korean soldiers, the ROK and the US Army?

Mulvaney: I lived in isolation in this Spoonbill. My time spent outside of there was one, I think once I went to Seoul. I didn't have any contact with the actual ROK Army. They weren't in our sector, but there was typical contempt among the Americans that "Nobody's as good as us", but I was very dependent upon them, and the ones I was dealing with in our unit. I was pretty grateful to have them.

Marrapode: Can you tell me about some of the people in your unit? Is there anybody that really stands out in your memory or anybody that you really admired?

Mulvaney: Well naturally Ted Jenes, my Company Commander. He certainly helped me to become a better officer, a better soldier, and a better person, really outstanding example. Another guy was Leonard R. Williams and he was career army and he came over from the 1st Cavalry in Japan in July of '57. He was [an] Airborne Ranger, and we were roommates and close friends for most of the time I was there. Keith Kretschmer, another example, we picked him up when we transformed. He was with another company so when we came under Pentomic our new company, he was our Weapons Platoon Leader so I suspect he was top secret classification. He would be the guy who had the nukes with his recoilless rifles. Keith had gone to military school so he... People who go to military school are right at home in the Army. They learn in high school all how to do things no one else knows how to do and Keith started dating a Donut Dolly. They were volunteers, Red Cross I think, and we'd be digging bunkers up on top of the hill and they would come

up with coffee and donuts, donut holes, and pin the tail on the troops and that entertained. It gave us chance to see females once a month or something. Keith is dating this Adine Williams, she was from Chicago, and any case he and I think because we had vast more amount of military acquaintances and knowledge, he became an advance man for President Nixon, married Adine, and then he became the Chairman of the Board of Oppenheimer Investment Bank. I mean he's a billionaire.

Marrapode: You were digging ditches with him.

Mulvaney: Yes, right, but he's like a wild man. You imagine military school people can get away with anything and Keith and of course Walter Sabalauski, he'd been my Platoon leader. He was apparently killed in Vietnam, but whatever it is he did in Vietnam, it was huge because they named the Air Assault School at Fort Campbell behind him and Colonel Lemmon. [M]y experience with the 24th Division was disastrous. I mean and seeing these deadwood and Norman Schwarzkopf talks about the same thing. We were the same age, and instead of going to Korea, he went to Fort Campbell when I went to Korea he was out of West Point and joined the 101st Airborne which is supposed to be the elite of the elite and he describes the same thing I described at Fort Campbell, all this deadwood. That they were worse than deadwood, they were undermining anything anybody was trying to do, and anyway anybody else…

Marrapode: You were lucky to serve with some pretty admirable characters?

Mulvaney: Oh yes, and I think mainly it was not by accident, I think Keith Kretschmer and Leonard Williams and Walter Sabalauski because of Jenes, whatever it is, he was able to get people and I can't figure out how I got there because my class standing at Fort Benning wasn't impressive. I was down at the bottom, so I don't know how I was lucky enough to serve with Jenes.

Marrapode: In the paperwork you gave us, you had a couple of I guess what you would call

performance reviews…

Mulvaney: Yes.

Marrapode: Done by some of those Officers and they were really good.

Mulvaney: Oh yes.

Marrapode: You changed, your class standing, might not have been that well.

Mulvaney: No, that's it!

Marrapode: Your standing within the unit was quite good.

Mulvaney: Right and see that's when I learned the difference between be taking tests. I thought I was a real dummy from when I saw my class standing at Fort Benning, but it turned out we were in the attack of the Infantry and Tanks. Jenes had me running the thing, attack, infantry, and tanks together and certainly we do it.

Marrapode: Was this an exercise?

Mulvaney: Yes, training.

Marrapode: Okay.

Mulvaney: Our Battalion Commander was there, Colonel McBride, he's watching this thing and in the middle of it he said, "Stop that! That's not how it's supposed to be done! Mulvaney, you're doing it all wrong. The infantry is supposed to be somewhere else." [I]n respect to the tanks, but I had brought my books from the Infantry School and this is how it was done. I said, "Well this is how we were taught to do it at Fort Benning," he said, "Where can you prove it?" And I got my book and brought it over, "Well why don't they tell us about these changes? They never let us know these things down there!"

Marrapode: Did you do a lot of relatively large scale maneuvers and training?

Mulvaney: [T]he idea was the Communists were going to come. Our job is assuming, hopefully, they come, we can withdraw at night so we go through what is called the night-withdrawal. [We] quietly move all of our stuff back to another position, yet maintaining the

appearance that it's fully manned and then we'd be back in our position and then pull the remaining people out and then in the morning we would counter attack.

Marrapode: Okay.

Mulvaney: That's all we did. Night withdrawals, counter attack, night withdrawal, counter attack.

Marrapode: Okay, that is the basic plan.

Mulvaney: Right.

Marrapode: Draw them in, withdraw at night, and then once you have them in a position that you had guns already trained in on, counter attack.

Mulvaney: Right, and then I got sent as an umpire over to the 7th Infantry Division. They were doing winter exercises in the Chorwon Valley, and I was assigned to a Company who had a platoon of Thailanders, Thai-Landers, from Thailand. We were all in a, this is a United Nations force. This is all a United Nations operation, probably the only good one they ever had, but I remember this Thailander Officer. I had a bottle of Jim Beam, they were sleeping outside in sleeping bags in the winter, and he had this bottle of Thailander whiskey. [H]e conned me into trading my Jim Beam for Thai whiskey and the Thai whiskey is like Log Cabin Syrup. What a mistake this was, but anyway the Company Commander that I was umpiring was the Son-in-Law of the 7th Infantry Division Commander and he was all show-business. He had the infantry sitting on the tanks, riding the tanks, where they'd really get picked off in attacking the hill, but that way he got there first and so he won the prize. That was the old Army that was before we transformed into the Pentomic, so that was still the old type of stuff Schwarzkopf talks about.

Marrapode: But things really did change quite a bit?

Mulvaney: Oh yes, serious, we became the real Army. It was wonderful.

Marrapode: Was there a lot of replacement of what you've called the "old wood," the old Officers?

Mulvaney: Good point. RIF, we had RIF, Reduction in Force.

Marrapode: Okay.

Mulvaney: Reduction in Force, a lot of the deadwood had permanent rank as enlisted men or NCOs and earned it in World War II or Korea. Where they were permanent Sergeant's First Class, permanent Staff Sergeant, permanent whatever, but then they got battlefield commissions. These were Captains, Majors, [and] some Lieutenant Colonels. Well RIF came along and they were given the choice leave now with whatever pensions/benefits they would have, which I think they lost everything, get out or revert, or revert to your enlisted or NCO rank. I remember as a Platoon Leader, I mean every day we thought nothing of running up and down hills, there was people running along the lakefront here; we would go up and down without changing speed. We're accustomed to it like goats and I remember getting one guy who's a major potbelly, the whole thing, and he was a Squad Leader and terrified of having a heart attack on the thing. It was brutal, it was tragic.

Marrapode: It really forced a lot of the older guys out, and kind of made room for the newer, refreshed Army?

Mulvaney: Yes. See that's another thing that turned me against staying in there because Jenes told me that he wasn't looking forward to being Captain for eight years. Those 1st Lieutenants had to be 1st Lieutenants for, I said, "My god, you'd be ready to retire, and you're going to be a Captain." But of course then this RIF program changed all of that.

Marrapode: While you're patrolling and you're posting sentries and your unit's kind of doing all this stuff on the DMZ, was there any contact with North Koreans? Did you ever find anybody trying to sneak across or any patrols that had strayed or anything like that?

Mulvaney: All I'd see is in the morning, footprints in the snow between our listening posts. All these footprints, and one time I was running an exercise, night withdrawal.

Marrapode: Yes.

Mulvaney: Counter-attack, and our unit, I'm the enemy I'm there with again Yashazumi he was our

Company Clerk and we also picked up a couple of Hungarian Freedom Fighters, who had the Hungarian Revolution of '56. They were able to escape against the United States and then they were drafted. And these Hungarian Freedom Fighters and the Koreans and Yashazumi was Japan, he was Japanese.

Marrapode: It was pretty diverse.

Mulvaney: We were the United Nations. It was the United Nations, and Yashazumi was my faithful jeep driver. I really pissed him off because we're there, we're the enemy, the Company's over there on that hill and we're up there and look down and we're just a half a block from the DMZ. [W]e're practicing parallel to it, we look down and here's these two civilians down there at the, the little concealed area right, civilians. [I]t's starting to get dark, I said, "We got to grab them, Yashazumi." I said," You go one way; I'll go the other way." I've got the live ammo, I don't think he had live ammo, I got the live ammo anyway, he doesn't but he's got, he must've had live [ammo], but whatever it is. I get into position to apprehend them before he does, and foolishly I don't wait for him, and they immediately put their hands up. They're civilians in dark clothes and all of this stuff, and they're just waiting for dark. I assume they're on their way north, and then I got them under control and Yashazumi shows up and is pissed off because he didn't get to participate in this great victory. So we call Headquarters, the 24th Infantry Division. [O]ur Captain who's our Battalion Intelligence Officer, he comes out in a jeep and I got this carbine pointed at these two dangerous guys, and he tells the both of them, "Get in the back of the jeep." They're our guys, they were going north.

Marrapode: Really?

Mulvaney: An intelligence guy put them there before we showed up to screw this thing up.

Marrapode: You captured your own intelligence?

Mulvaney: I captured our own guys, and I was shot at by my own, men, so…

Marrapode: Yes.

Mulvaney: These are; I didn't win any medals. (Laughter)

Marrapode: Can you tell me what your outlook for the future of that situation was while you were there? When you're in this Spoonbill Defense are, what you thought the future of that, of South Korea and North Korea and the DMZ and all of that was going to be?

Mulvaney: I never dreamed that South Korea was going to develop into what it did. [I]t just, we were not told that the Chinese left, so for whatever reason, I don't think I found out about it until about five years ago on the internet. There was, I think there's something in my material.

Marrapode: Yes.

Mulvaney: Some announcement from the People's Liberation Army that they left American dogs, imperialistic dogs, whatever we were. We were not told that they left, so I mean I left there assuming…

Marrapode: That they were still…

Mulvaney: That Seoul is still 30 miles away from the Chinese Army, and that I was ready to go back. [Y]ou really get personally involved in that stuff, but I was glad to leave, I mean I was happy to go. It just seemed to me, I mean I never dreamed as a kid that the Cold, that the Soviet Union would collapse. Growing up in Chicago, I never dreamed that the Chicago Mafia would be gone. I mean these things I never dreamed would happen in my lifetime, but they have. To me nothing was going to change in Korea. I could not imagine the progress of the people which I learned helped. Vietnam helped; the War in Vietnam was pretty much supported by Korean industry, which I never knew.

Marrapode: I didn't know that.

Mulvaney: Yes, that's what one of the great benefits of the Vietnam War was the creation of industry in South Korea to support the war.

Marrapode: Militarily the situation in Korea hasn't change that much. The Chinese are gone.

Mulvaney: Yes!

Marrapode: The tension is still very real, I mean there's border clashes there.

Mulvaney: Right, well from what I've heard there's no more, US Troops are not on the DMZ anymore. I think that's all Korean now.

Marrapode: We still have a large contingent of troops stationed in Korea.

Mulvaney: Right, yes, and I don't know if that's simply to give the United States a reason for getting involved if North Korea attacks. Because we're there they're attacking us, or.

Marrapode: Was there ever, was there anything about your deployment there that you found particularly frustrating? Maybe something even about your daily routine or just…

Mulvaney: Well equipment. I can understand. When I was leaving I didn't want to go fly back. I didn't know of the jet passenger planes had come into existence while I was there, so I did not want to go back on a plane. [S]o I was given the choice to go back by troop ship, which I also regret, but little did I know that if I had chosen a plane we would've gone back in a jet, a jet plane. But anyway I was brought down to Kimpo to go back to the United States. [A]nd there was this Captain with me, Sparkman, from our unit and all we had was junk. We actually did use paperclips and bailing wire to keep communications with... In any case he took me to this depot and as far as the eye could see you could see new, brand new jeeps, trucks, equipment of every kind. It's called ASCOM City, right near Inchon and Kimpo, ASCOM City. It's all this enormous stuff that we could've had, but then on the other hand if we had it and the Chinese came, they would have had it. But I was angry, I said, "Why wouldn't they?" Because typically in the politics of the Army, the people in the back skim off the crème of the stuff for themselves and the black market. You assume that when you are at the end of the pipeline you're getting the crumbs. Well I knew that, but I didn't realize that there was so much, so many crumbs,

we could've… No, well what I resented was when I got back and I thought I was a veteran and I went to the American Legion and my neighborhood at Broadway and Hollywood to join the American Legion, and so, "You're not a veteran." That's the only thing I resent, "You're no veteran. You're a former serviceman." I said, "Oh…"

Marrapode: "I thought I was in a combat zone."

Mulvaney: Yes, that's the only resentment I have.

Marrapode: Did you keep a journal or write a lot of letters home or?

Mulvaney: I did. I did write a lot of letters home.

Marrapode: Who did you write to?

Mulvaney: Basically my mother and brother.

Marrapode: What kind of stuff did you write about?

Mulvaney: [I wrote about] what was going on without upsetting them.

Marrapode: Yes.

Mulvaney: Yes. I'm sorry my wife and I are empty nesters. We went, moved to Park Ridge, and our kids grew up and left, so in '08 we sold the house, and I don't know where those letters are. Yes, that's too bad, yeah.

Marrapode: Were you able to spend any time away from your post, be on leave or anything?

Mulvaney: Two R&R's.

Marrapode: Where?

Mulvaney: Japan.

Marrapode: Can you tell me a little bit about that?

Mulvaney: Yes. The, my first R&R I went to Japan, and this was interesting. I didn't realize how new racial integration was to the Army in '56 and '57. I grew up here in Chicago. My fraternity was all white, but we had this black basketball [player]. The DePaul basketball team was pretty prominent at the time [there was] Bill Robinzine, and I thought that it was time for our fraternity to have a black guy. [W]e had a local chapter so we could do that. That's one of the things I did in college that's sort of radical at the time. So I, Leonard Williams here was career Army. I hadn't realized at the time how new integration was to the Army. Leonard and I were sharing this Quonset hut on the DMZ and he asked me to stop and visit his girlfriend Violet at Camp Zama. She was a nurse, Army nurse that he had been dating so one of the things I did was, on R&R, is take a train from Shinjuku, the big train station in Tokyo out to Zama and visit her. I never realized what an impact it had on him and her having this white officer coming and visit her, a black Army nurse. I just never knew how weird this seemed, how revolutionary that was, and another thing I think my first night in Tokyo. I don't know who the hell I was with. We went into this military hotel. I was looking for a cheap, cheap hotel and this apparently catered to the military from all over the world. For whatever reason they're in Tokyo and it was like something out of a movie, like the Foreign Legion or something, (laughter). The fighting and the screaming in all the different languages and the drinking, but after that I just went to a regular middle class type Japanese hotel.

Marrapode: Not the kind of place you'd get a real restful night sleep?

Mulvaney: No, no, it was a mad house, God, and then I remember a night club and I couldn't believe

it. The Japanese were watching Superman on television, and the Ginza, the department stores, all Christmas decorations, Christmas trees and Santa Claus. I said, "What?" These things, these little things that turned out to be transistor radios we didn't have, high-tech. The Club Tennessee, I mean nightclub that they just love the Country and Western music so no I didn't [do] that, the Zama, the Zama thing, and Wild West guys. Then my second R&R was sort of just uneventful. I just went around like tourists and stuff. I didn't get into any trouble. Oh, yes, one thing that really impressed me was the villagers between the villages. You had a lot of white and black Americans living with Korean women in the villages, and they would get pregnant. [T]hese guys would rotate back through the pipeline. The tour was 16 months then. These guys would leave, and then in the villages they were bringing in great stuff from the PX. Their women and the babies were doing great and their relatives as long as the GI was there to bring in, they left. The idea of what the economy was at the time, in the middle of the night then these babies would be taken out between the villages and put in roadside ditches, white babies and black babies to starve. You'd be driving by in the jeep and you see these great green stomachs like road kill, and so I didn't mess around. I didn't want to leave any kid of mine in Asia. That was how the economy was. There's nobody to feed that baby.

Marrapode: When did you learn that you're going to, I guess you knew when you were going to be rotated home, that was, was that a fixed and you were kind of looking forward to it coming up or?

Mulvaney: Yes, we called it the FIGMO chart.

Marrapode: The what?

Mulvaney: FIGMO, F-I-G-M-O, FIGMO. "Fuck it, Got My Orders," an acronym. The FIGMO

chart, when you got to be a short timer. [I]t's just a calendar, you mark off the days.

Marrapode: You were pretty happy to be getting shipped home?

Mulvaney: Yes, well we had this, what really what spoiled it is this Company Commander when Jenes left, he left like in May/June, I left in August, late August, early September, he left in June. We got this regular Army, he wasn't like me he had a permanent commission, and he had only been staff at Battle Group Headquarters. In any case he was just a totally, a total narcissist, he only cared about himself. It turned into what we had before Pentomic where he was just pandering to the NCOs. Our 1st Sergeant, he was a great Sergeant, Sergeant Gore. He was the first ass-kicker they turned against and they blew up a stick of dynamite in front of his [quarters], he had what they call a butler quarter, it wasn't a Quonset hut, it was similar shape of one. They exploded a stick of dynamite during the night when he was sleeping in there to intimidate him. This was a hangover from the old Army, and I was inspecting weapons and I'd found a rocket launcher that the trigger didn't work. I told the Platoon Sergeant, "Take this to the supply room, get the trigger working." The next Saturday, I go to the rocket launcher, no it's still not working. I said, "No pass, you're not going, you're not going to Seoul, this is Saturday." He goes to the Company Commander and has the Company Commander overrule me, and so these guys are running wild. The 1st Sergeant, they tried to blow him up, they're running me, they have complete control over this, and he's the 1st Lieutenant, our RA, and then we had the shooting incident in the ammo dump. That brings an investigation. Thank God we got this guy out of the Army because, this was a great sense, you're right I did feel a great sense of accomplishment getting that guy out of the Army because I did the stupid thing of going to the ammo dump. So in any case we have this investigation of this shooting, and Colonel Lemmon's mad at me because I requested a searchlight and a tank. [I]t's

getting dark, I was concerned about North Korea, Colonel Lemmon was concerned about getting promoted to General, so he didn't want Division to know that this was going on. (Laughter) I'm in trouble for requesting a searchlight and a tank, which I guess was stupid thing to do anyway. In any case I've got like three weeks to go on my FIGMO chart. This is after the shooting in the river, which I didn't get into trouble, but this is the middle of August or the end of August. In any case there's this great investigation, and the investigator, I can't remember who it is, can't believe all of this. I can only remember a couple of the stupid, destructive things this Company Commander did, but in any case I hear nothing, and they said, "Do you want us to prosecute/court-martial Corporal Barnes?" I said, "What would that involve?" "Well we have a hearing," and I told them, "Would I have to stay longer?" "Yeah, you'll have to be a witness." I said, "Well I want to go home."

Mulvaney: Apparently it's Corporal Barnes' third court-martial. Three and you're out, so we agreed that nothing happened. While I; they take me off to Battle Group Headquarters and I'm returning in a jeep, and I see my old pal Corporal Barnes being on his way back to the States to be dishonorably discharged; come and go, and we salute as we pass. [T]hese guys burned out, but in any case the, my leaving. When an officer leaves at the Battle Group Headquarters you get a chance to talk to the officers who come for dinner from the Battle Group, and all of the officers who preceded me did nothing but criticize Colonel Lemon for his chicken shit discipline. His; how much fun he spoiled for the officers while they were there. They were glad they were leaving. They had lived in the good ol' days with the 24th Infantry Division when nobody gave a damn about the Communists. So they did nothing but criticize him. All I did and we had a lot of new officers now who didn't remember the old days. I just went through, itemized the things that we didn't have then, that Colonel Lemon brought to us, so it was supporting him and praising him for his

accomplishments. No mention of the shooting thing or anything else like that, so anyway the next morning I'm in my jeep to be taken back to Inchon/Kimpo and this Lieutenant Winkleman who had been sort of my buddy from sort of like an assistant. Lemon said, "All your pals are leaving here today, Company Commander's gone, the NCO's are gone, cleaned out the whole mess." So that, no I have to say I felt, I really accomplished something there.

Marrapode: Can you tell me, I guess about the experience about going back home?

Mulvaney: Yes.

Marrapode: What is was like to get home and what you did when you got there?

Mulvaney: I decided the Army was not career for me.

Marrapode: Right.

Mulvaney: Right, but I have learned that being employed is stupid. I mean being employed by a company is stupid because I had worked in college as an office boy for something like the Saturday Evening Post, so I saw it go bankrupt. I saw all the people in magazine industry were like the TV industry is now, and overnight it collapsed. A telegraph from New York, I worked at thirty-three, 333 North Michigan, Curtiss Publishing Company and I mean all these… it was like *Mad Men*. You ever watch *Mad Men* on TV, the advertising agency?

Marrapode: No, but I'm familiar with it.

Mulvaney: Whatever it is. I mean this was the cool life, advertising. I was on Michigan Avenue as a college student drinking it up at the tavern club with these space salesmen and suddenly

these guys who were my role models were all walking the streets trying to get jobs with neighborhood newspapers, and I said I am not going to be an employee. I'm not going to trust any employer, that's why I figured I could trust the Army. I didn't know that they would lay-off too while I was there. I said the thing for me to be is self-employed so I'm going to be a lawyer, so I'm going to come back and go to law school. I came back all filled with enthusiasm about being a lawyer. In addition to finding out I wasn't a veteran, that was my disappointment, but I said screw it. What, that's the past, so I just jumped into law school. I started, I got back in '58, September of '58 and in January I was over here at DePaul Law School; a whole new life. I didn't have any wounds; I wasn't suffering from any trauma or anything.

Marrapode: Was there anything about the transition from military to civilian life difficult for you?

Mulvaney: I could not believe how complacent and ignorant the American people are. Yes, I said I can understand Pearl Harbor, I can understand 9/11 now. American people just assume that everything, nothing bad is ever going to happen to them. Communism, I just didn't realize what a present threat it was. But, and I was hoping to get called back for Vietnam to use my thing, but never was. They didn't call any reserves for Vietnam. But yeah I was ready to go back to use what I thought I could do.

Marrapode: Thinking back about North Korea and the DMZ and that whole situation now, has your, the way you think about it or your opinion of I guess the North Koreans and the Communists changed over time?

Mulvaney: The Soviet Union's collapse.

Marrapode: Right.

Mulvaney: Communism is like China. Communism is like Capitalism. Except in North Korea they're just crazy people. It's an outdoor insane asylum, North Korea.

Marrapode: Yes, it's a very impoverished country, it's…

Mulvaney: Yes, just look at South Korea and Japan and China. They don't have to live that way, but it's this family that just perpetuate. Yeah, just look at about it as a family that owns that real-estate and... I don't think of it as a movement or an economic theory or anything like that.

Marrapode: Do you feel it's been fairly, I guess invalidated as an economic theory or as a political theory?

Mulvaney: Yes. As far as I learned that the theory of Communism was international socialism and that the only way it could work is for one economy that they'd have to have control of the entire world's natural and human resources for Communism to work. They needed, see I never dreamed that Stalin wanted South Korea so that he could get Japan, that's what he wanted, Japan. And that's what Harry Truman did is he stopped the acquisition of land by, that's the only, that's the first time Stalin was stopped from acquiring new real estate.

Marrapode: Do you maintain any of the friendships or do you reestablish the contact with people you served with?

Mulvaney: I still, with General Jenes. We exchange Christmas cards and things, but I lost track of Williams. We did keep in touch with each other, and I lost track of Kretschmer. Yes, there's so many of us who are dead, and not able to communicate anymore, but changing. [W]e kept in contact until recently but not anymore.

Marrapode: What kind of impact has the time you spent in Korea had on your life, working, and

raising a family and all that, and what do you think younger generations can learn from your experiences there?

Mulvaney: I raised two sons, and I practiced law, and I feel those are real accomplishments that I'm really glad that I did those things. I did some significant things as a lawyer too, but nothing to me compares to what I, how I helped the Korean people, gave them time to get their act together. I bought them time. That I was part of that, how many guys in the Cold War, all those Americans who were there just buying for South Korea to become what it is. I think that is probably the most significant of my accomplishments, so I feel great about that. As far as younger generations, their opportunity to as far as I think the military, where a sniper in Afghanistan has to talk to a lawyer before he can pull the trigger. I really can't envision being in the service and having lawyers all over the place. The Communists had a, what were they called? Every unit down to the squad had a party official in the Soviet Union. The Soviet military had a party official with every military unit down to at least Platoon and you had to check before you did anything to make sure it was politically correct, and I think that's where our military is now, got to be legally correct, and I just can't imagine serving that way. It's being done, something beyond my comprehension.

Marrapode: Reminds you of maybe of turning in the tickets to get your weapons kind of situation right?

Mulvaney: Yes, I was here, a book, an author, when you were in the other building, and this guy, Davidson I think was his name, military, it was about the infantry, he was talking about the infantry. He talked mainly about; one of the guys he talked about was Daryl Daniel who was the Division Commander of the 11th Airborne when I was at Fort Campbell. He talked about Daryl Daniel and some other American General or Colonel in World War II

and talking about the infantry and just what the infantry does, and it was pretty much looking in the past. He's talking about how they were able to just roar through Europe doing what we do, killing people plus breaking things, infantry doings. How there's some city that they went into we didn't know much about, house to house combat, but somehow or other these guys were able to do all of this in these European cities, and how great it was. I remember my asking him a question and somebody else did too, and so that no longer applies with global TV. Now that infantry men are fighting in cities, you're not out in the country where a lot can happen and nobody sees it, but here today's infantry, you're in on global TV all the time. Plus all of this social network, television, video, and things, plus you have lawyers from the UN, you have lawyers from the USO, you have lawyers from all over the place. There's no way in hell, and I asked him I said, "What is the Infantry School doing, alright, in teaching infantry people about how to stay out jail for violating the law?" He had no answer for that, he was some professor from Kansas, an expert, holding himself out as an expert on the infantry and we got infantry men going to jail being prosecuted as criminals in war zones. What are they being taught how to stay out of jail? And he had no answer, and some other guy feeling more strongly about it got up and they had to put the hook on him. What do you say to these young people when you go into the military; the American people are treating the military like criminals. [Y]ou're guilty beyond, you're presumed guilty, you have to prove you're innocent, but you're expected to kill people and blow things up at the same time.

Marrapode: Is there anything else you'd like to share or anything that I thought I would ask you that I didn't?

Mulvaney: It's just [would] be my plane ride home, we took a ship, and of course this storm followed us out of Yokohama. I think it was like a week from Yokohama to San

Francisco and the storm followed us most of the way, and I was sea sick and miserable, but we get to San Francisco. Where they have us over, they say we have to go over to Oakland, there's, about 30 of us going to Chicago. Thirty of us going to, you talk about military budgets, and this charter plane is up in Oregon. It's going to come and pick us up at about three in the morning. I figured well you call in [a] DC-3 or something. A two engine plane holds about 30 passengers. This thing shows up they take us out to Oakland Airport, it's rusty, there could be rust holes in it. I'm the Officer and sitting in the back of the plane, all of these enlisted men, and we're on our way to Midway Airport, in Chicago. We leave at about three in the morning or whatever it is. I wake up and I look out and see the mountains and all the windows on the right side of the plane I can't see out of, they're dark, and there's a stewardess, and I say, "What's wrong with that?" "Oh the scavenger pump on the right engine is not working. The scavenger pump is what is at the bottom of the engine and it recirculates the oil up to the top of the pistons so it comes down and it's broken, and so that's all the oil coming out of the right engine."

Marrapode: Gosh.

Mulvaney: (Laughs) There we are over these mountains. I was in the no frills army. We land in Cheyenne, and we're going to get more oil. More oil in to the right engine, and we get to North Platte, Nebraska. We're out in this cornfield, some farmer airfield, [and] just no mechanics anything around and I'm the Officer in charge and the pilot and the copilot. I said, "We've got to call Washington." I said, "Isn't the Union Pacific," because I have spent a lot of time on the Union Pacific. I said, "Can't we get some buses to a train station and we can take a train in to Omaha at least?" Not unless, not unless we can get Pullman Sleepers. Army regulations say, "You cannot transport troops cross country unless there are sleeping accommodations." So there's no way we can do it by train.

Marrapode: Did you start walking?

Mulvaney: No, instead we got, I don't know 300 miles between here and Omaha, and we're all anxious to get home, so we took a vote, let's try it, put more oil in it, and we got to Omaha, and there we were met by United Airlines Red Carpet Plane. So I kind of felt I left a Third World country when I left the Army. I just learned the American people and the Constitution, because of their bitter experiences with the British Army, there are all kinds of provisions in American laws that are very discriminatory against the Army as opposed to the Navy. Americans don't like soldiers in their community, rightfully so.

Marrapode: That's interesting.

Mulvaney: It is because now they're concerned about the drones and we'll bring the troops home here and let them protect us from the terrorists, the law won't let the Army do that. The Navy can, the Air Force…

Marrapode: But not the Army.

Mulvaney: Yes, thanks to the British Army and the way they abused our founders.

Marrapode: Well I don't have any more questions for you.

Mulvaney: Good, well I hope this went well.

Marrapode: Yes, it went great. Thank you so much for sharing your experiences. Thank you for your service.

Mulvaney: Yes, I wish my kids were interested but they have no interest in the military, but not even a word that it exists. Okay, we did it huh?

Marrapode: Yes.