

Davis, Kimberly

Karger, Jaden

Period 3

Dave Farmer  
U.S. Army  
1975-1977  
2018

### Dave Farmer

War is an experience that only the bravest of souls encounter. Only certain men get to experience the dreadful and harsh conditions that war has to offer. Climate, weather, supplies, all have to be put into consideration, and how they can impact a man's mind and mentality. With these factors in mind, only the courageous, bold, and strong-minded enlist in the military. This is the story of Dave Farmer and his time in the U.S. Army.

Dave Farmer is a veteran that had served in the U.S. Army for three years. He was born in Chicago, Illinois. Here, he would stay and go to high school at Olympia Fields High School. Eventually, he and his family moved to St. Petersburg, Florida, where he would finish off his high school career at Dixie Hollins High School. The overall "atmosphere" of Florida is much different than that of Chicago. To start off, the climate is very different. Florida is typically warm year-round, and is also very humid, compared to Chicago's changing seasonal weather. Racial discrimination and controversy was another difference. Florida is much more prejudicial than that of Chicago. Eventually, after high school (graduated in 1971), Farmer moved to California, where his war story begins.

Following his graduation, Farmer decided to enroll in the draft. The system is based off of a lottery. Your seating in the lottery is based off of your birthday. Farmer was #211, which meant he was not drafted for Vietnam. Eventually, Dave Farmer moved once again, this time to

California in 1975. Here he enrolled in the military at a station in Los Angeles. He decided to enlist to visit Europe, and for benefits. He also did not have enough money to go to college, even though he did get accepted into University of Southern Florida. After enlisting, he went into training. Training was an eight-week experience for the Army, while other divisions like the Marines had an eleven-week experience. This is part of the reason why Farmer went into the Army. The eight-week experience was brutal and rigorous. After training, Farmer would be sent into battle.

During Farmer's time serving he met new people and even gained new characteristics that he uses still to this day. Farmer loved to have fun with his associates and just be able to enjoy life. His time in the service still allowed him to enjoy his favorite aspects of life. During his time serving in the Army he had taken part in different jobs. One of his jobs in which he enjoyed with great amount was being a truck driver for the Army, he was also in charge of protecting the weapons. He had taken part in a eight week training that he felt shaped him into being a very disciplined person. The conditions such as sleeping and eating where sustainable. At times him and the others would sleep in the woods and tents, but sometimes because of the weather conditions the tents would freeze. Because there no longer had been food service done by civilians they ate off of MRE and at times would trade food for wine or beer. Beer was also something that the people in the Army had a lot of.

Dave Farmer's time serving was a lot of work. But at times it was fun and laughs he will never forget . Some of his most memorable times were waking up at 2 a.m and walking out in a frozen suit just to use the restroom, or running from a missile in the woods at night. All were which he looks back on and laughs. Dave's life over the years were filled with adventures and excitement. He wanted to see the world and he wanted to see new things. His choice to become a

part of the Army was one of his best decisions as he says the Army “shaped me into who I am today.” He served in many parts of the Army and he was a great friend to those around him. He is beyond satisfied with the choices he has made. He felt that joining the Army could be enjoyable and life changing and hasn’t looked back or had regret of his decision since.