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David Guadian
Period: 3
Jeffrey Lopez Sr.
Army
1965-1967
2018

Jeffrey Lopez Sr.

Former veteran Jeffrey Lopez was born in 1946 in Riverside, California. The year 1965 was the year life would change for his following years of his young adult life. Two years of his life were committed to the US Army where he drafted in 1965, leaving Riverside at 19 years old.

Being in the Army he went through a series of emotions that physically and mentally tore him down. He was in aware that for the next two years he got it through tough times in life changing events on his journey by getting on a bus and going to the destination he needed to go to he had to start by getting the right uniform. Then learning all the basics including having memorized was the military service number.” One thing you needed to know was your service number and the drilled that into your brain so that you could never forget it.” Lopez mentioned. The soldiers are very country control always having to follow commands. They tell you when to sleep went to wake up as well as when and what you get to eat. For them their food would be canned but if you were lucky they’d for they get food is it over like Lopez did. Lopez would get pan dulce from his mother every now and then, it came so compacted from all the travel he would finish it in a bit. But as Lopez said, “There’s a method to their madness”. While he would have his choices made by the military Lopez knew it was for a good purpose that was beyond him. In his training he started off learning the basic things then moving forward to a job he would have to take on.

His job as a driver when he asked the officer for a chance to try driving the tank. After the conversation Lopez was left with the job to stay as driver. He mentioned driving the tank was not at all complex and that it was more like driving a go cart, they were made to be easy to learn for the soldiers. Though it wasn't too hard by the time it took up was pretty rough and driving was exhausting Jeffrey Lopez explain the hallucinated once because he drove 15-16 hrs. straight. Lopez told the story that he remembered clearly and described as one of the most stressful and scary experience he ever encountered. Lopez said "There was five trucks all lined up driving and I got told him to move up in the front and lead the way." Jeffrey Lopez talks about when he moved up to front the driver that was previously in front told Lopez he had it under control. As they were moving to the river bed ahead, the leading truck explode on a mine and Lopez witnessed his friends from the truck fly out from the truck. Lopez explained it like being in a video game but it was actually real Lopez explained as one of the scariest moments he had in the Army. Lopez mentioned that from time to time they would experience combat but it wasn't ever that bad once you were getting shot of periodically but mostly the guys in the primeters would take care of the situation. But that didn't mean you should had let your guard down. Lopez talked about one night he was watching over the pole with another guy that was assigned. They both had fallen asleep throughout the night which for Lopez it was frightening since it could had lead to an attack on the base if they weren't paying attention..

Lopez overall described his experience as positive because you learn to grow and how to push yourself of the world he never thought of seeing before. He was very excited and happy the last day of his service. While even though Lopez said some of the veteran would be treated badly and called baby killers, he was still able to find a job and end working with concrete for the

following years of his life. Jeffrey Lopez explain experience was tough just like any other veteran. His life change and he learned so many skills and also growing stronger mentally from being drafted to the Army even though it was frustrating at times he would he wouldn't want to change anything from his service experience.