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Period 5

Arlan Roll
Army
1967-1969
2018



Arlan Roll

Arlan Roll was a normal United States citizen who then was drafted into Vietnam at the age of twenty. Arlan Roll was born in Denver, Colorado on 1947. After the two years he spent at Vietnam, he spent his life in Orange County until 1970. He went to college, met his wife at that college, then had kids. When he first joined he went to basic training and on Sundays you'd get off to go to church and rest. He was training at "Tiger Land" as he put it. Tiger Land was a place so you can train to be an Infantryman. The training program was for twelve weeks. During his time in vietnam he kept constant and good contact with his family, especially his mother. Mr. Roll was one of the more lucky people while in vietnam because he was able to use a long distance radio in a camp to talk with his mother. His mother would send letters every week and she would send him film so he could take pictures and send them back. When he was eighteen to nineteen he told us before he shipped out a couple of guys when to a bar to get drinks and bowl. After training they would stay in a base camp and do whatever command they were given whenever they were given it. They were often sent on patrol to check out an area and make sure it was secure. This is where they were in combat the most. Combat in the vietnam jungle was terrible because they were fighting in someone else's home there were many traps and hiding spots that they didn't know about and could get ambushed at. Arlan fortunately he didn't run into any traps. He first arrived at an air base called Tano. You would spent two to three days at Tano. He had a friend there that helped him telling Arlan where to go so he can avoid sweeping and

cleaning toilets. After Tano air base he was moved in to the 90th replacement. One of the first things he saw was a Zippo which was an APC that shot napalm to burn down the jungle. He was apart of Mechanized Infantryman. A time he was in a firefight as a Sergeant having a team of three or four people versus two hundred of them (Vietnam's Northside). When he was in the same firefight he noticed one of his guys wasn't shooting Arlan got next to him and said "If you don't shoot I'll shoot you". This was a guy who thought he was cool till he got into war. One time he got hit with a piece of shrapnel on the back which he was offer a purple heart. Which he didn't apply for. Another time he got before was his driver didn't see a bomb crater and their vehicle flipped on its side. He was pinned in the vehicle but his arm was sticking out of the vehicle was battery acid dripping on his face. There were a something they got to do for entertainment and one of them was to blow up stuff with C-4 explosives. He was asked to set off the explosives to cause a distraction and they let Mr. Roll to choose what they blew up. He chose a large tree since there was really nothing to destroy. They rigged up the explosives to the tree and a few minutes later they blew it up. The tree shot up into the air a few feet fell straight down and then tipped over. Another of his greatest times was when he went to a village with medical people so they can help the villages people. He was one of the greatest moments because he was helping people and when walked around the borders at night so during the day he would have fun and at night he would work. He meet a guy who was in the Army called Rabbit and he was the chief who fed the guys rabbit and water buffalo. In another firefight several APCs were blown up and he had to receive the soldiers who died dog tags. He had no bad feelings about his service. If the same thing happened or his children in the future he would want them to join the armed forces, but he would want them to join the Navy so his children don't have to experience the horrible things about war.