

Kaniecki, Chester

Post- WWII



When did you enter the military? How old were you when you entered and how long were you in the military?

“I entered into the military in March fourteen 1954.”

“I was...eighteen.”

What boot camp did you go to? How long was the boot camp? Did you go to a second Boot camp? If so then why?

“Fort Dix, New Jersey. I stayed there for sixteen weeks.”

Did you join the military voluntarily? If he responds yes ask: What made you join the military? If you joined voluntarily then what made you choose that particular branch of military?

“I was drafted.”

What branch of military were you in?

“I was in the army alpha core skylark, which is army personnel working for the air force, I was an engineer. I was diggin’ ditches.”

What equipment did you use on a daily basis?

“Shovels, we were fillin’ the runways.”

What rank did you achieve?

“I achieved, well at that time special force class was equivalent to a corporal.”

Were you wounded while you were in the military? If you were in what way were you wounded?

“No, nothing.”

Where were you stationed?

“I was stationed in Japan.”

Were you in any famous campaigns or battles?

Did you receive any awards or medals for your service?

“No.”

What was a “normal or average Day” while you were in the military?

“Well, getting up at six o’clock in the morning, standing revelry and having to go in for breakfast and then going out and working on the job at hand.”

What was your normal or most common routine while you were at war or battle?

What type of firearm(s) did you use?

“We did construction, building roadways.”

While at war, what helped you pass the time?

“Well, I went to town, went for vacation in Japan. People were very nice there. Basically we just hung out with each other.”

How'd you break the language barrier? Did you speak Japanese?

“No, they spoke English. They spoke better English than some of the people here.”

While at war, what helped you get through hard times?

“Well I was not in, actually, a war; I was stationed there with the engineers. I didn't go into combat.”

After you came home from war, did your perspective on anything change? Did you carry anything from the military with you after the war?

“No.”

“Well after this, I went to college in a military, didn't carry anything in or out.”

What did you go to college for?

“Business.”

Is there anything you would like to add or say that I missed or is there anything that you would like to talk about?

“Truthfully not much, I mean there was a...being eighteen years old and in a strange country, which I knew very little about, I figured I came back with a little

bit more knowledge. Came back by ship, I flew over there by plane. But, uh, I came home after my two years were up. I also brought a photo.”

Can we see it?

“Yeah. I dunno which one is better; I think the one of at my base. That one there is in Japan;



this one here's at fort Dix.



You know when you first come in they take pictures of you in some kinda hats, at that time, see we had a, uh, think called Eisenhower jackets in our uniform.”