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When I was in college, the Universal Military Draft was in effect so to stay in college and to prevent being drafted for six months of military training, I joined the Army Reserves in College Station, Texas, and served with that unit during my last three years at Texas A & M .

I attended six summer camps during a six-year period, three summers to Fort Polk, Louisiana, and three summers to Fort Hood, Texas. The first year was infantry basic and the other five years were field artillery practice. I took my two-week vacation from work to go to camp each year. I enjoyed Fort Polk better than Fort Hood because I liked the swamps and the trees better than the desert.

During my first summer, we cleaned abandoned barracks at Fort Polk, which had been deactivated after World War II. Another year, we were at Fort Polk when the hurricane, I believe it was Carla, came in to the coast. We had some damage at the post, but very little.

One summer I was the driver for General Earl Rudder, commanding officer of the 90th Infantry Division. He was a very highly decorated soldier when the 90th was involved in World War II. We were never activated to serve, other than our normal summer camps. During the Berlin Crisis, word came down that one of two Texas units would be activated and our unit was being considered. Fortunately, they chose the 49th Army Division.

We understood when we went in that we could be called to active duty.. I went in after the Korean War but before the Viet Nam War. We knew that the purpose of the Army Reserve was to be there in case we were needed. We were resigned to that fact, but not happy when we thought we may be going to active duty.

I moved to Dallas, after graduation in 1960, and I was an intern architect. I worked 42 years as an architect and, I retired October 1, 2003.

We came to GABC in 1965, the last day that Lester Collins preached. We're now in Troy Guinn's Sunday School Class. I've seen a lot of growth here. I had the good fortune as an architect to be involved in the design of the Family Life Center, the Adult Ed Center, and the expansion of the Sanctuary. The sanctuary expansion project was a was a very rewarding project to be on and a big project at that time, but compared to this new building, quite small.

I have two daughters, Lisa Reeves, who is married to a career military officer, and they have two children. My other daughter, Jeanie, her husband, and two children live in Fort Worth .

Certainly I see God's hand in all decisions that were made.

I've never felt that I directed my own life. Since I've had a very happy life, I assume that's worked out real well. I see a real divine guidance that's been involved in my life all along. Again, not through any real plans that I've made. I was fortunate to be academically inclined, so going to college was very important to me. My family was destitute. My father was a sharecropper and he died when I was a senior in high school. I had an older brother that was enrolled in college at the time, and he had to drop out. We had no idea how it could be accomplished, but we were very determined to get an education. We all felt that was a natural course of things for us. So through some scholarship aid, I was able to get in A. & M. that fall and my brother transferred there after working several months to save up enough money. My mother and all my brothers (there were five of us), moved to College Station. We kind of helped each other out so we could graduate. Not all of us went to college. My older brother got a Ph.D. and became a professor at the University of Indiana.

Yes, it really is a wonderful country in which that can happen. It can still happen and a lot of people still don't believe that or don't realize that. If you have insufficient financial backing, but have a desire, there are people out there who will help you. I got a five-year scholarship to A. & M. from a lady I never met. She was a daughter of a military man, a pilot named Easterwood. The airport at College Station was named after her father. We corresponded. She lived in Dallas and I

would write her a letter occasionally to let her know my progress while I was in school and after I graduated. Occasionally I'd get a note from her. As a matter of fact, she extended the scholarship a year on her own because architecture is a five-year major.

I enjoyed the summer camps, other than being away from my wife. It was a chance to be outdoors most of the time with some friends of mine from college and then later on, some friends I met at a military unit in Dallas. The night meetings once a week were sometimes hard to get up for, but they were always interesting. The work I did in the field artillery, working with maps and charts, was something that I was really interested in and enjoyed doing. We would not even be within sight of the field artillery that was doing the firing, but there'd be someone calling us on the radio (or phones with wires strung along the ground) They would call in information and we would chart it on the map and then tell them how many rounds to fire, how many bags of powder to put in the ammunition, and the elevation and the Azimuth, They would set that and fire. Then a forward observer who could see where it hit as compared to where it should have, and would call us back. We could rechart and tell them how to modify their settings to fire again. Those Howitzers could fire for miles. We had 105 and 155 Howitzers.

The National Guard and Reserves were a very important after 911. As I heard it explained yesterday, the Army Reserve is basically set up to provide technical support and the Guard to provide the the field operations. Most of the reserves are kind of operational oriented rather than field oriented and that's why I think we see the guard being the people that are called out when they need someone to go to active duty. I had a National Guard friend that was Air National Guard, I believe. she had to go to Italy during the Mid East Crisis. So they are much more ready to shoulder their weapon and get out there in the streets and do something. The reservists, as we were, opened the base for people to come down and train rather than being the ones that were actually sent back to active duty. But the 90th Division could have been reactivated.