

Veterans interviews – RETURN TO: Judy Allen, Choctaw Historic Projects, PO Box 1210, Durant OK 74702 –
judy.allen@choctawnation.com. 580.513.7984.

Interview conducted by:

at (location):

Date and time:

NAME -- David Davis

September 19, 2023

Birthday -- June 9, 1948

PHONE -

ADDRESS -

Next of Kin and their contact info:

WIFE. Annie M. Davis

Are you Choctaw? Can you share a copy of your CDIB and/or Membership card? yes

In which branch did you enter? U.S. Army

Division -- Signal Corp

Unit -- 361st Signal Battalion & 459 Signal Battalion

Were you Drafted or Enlisted -- Drafted

(If enlisted) Why did you choose that branch?

RANK at discharge: Specialist 5 OR E5

Years served – from- 69 to 71

Peace or wartime? Viet Nam WAR

Where did you attend basic training? – FT. POLK, LOUISIANA

WHERE DID YOU SERVE? – FT. POLK, Ft Monmouth, New Jersey,
& Vietman.

What was your job while in service? – Micro-wave operator/system operator

Did you make any special friends in service? Who were they and do you have any stories? – Friends with
UNIT members, mostly CO-WORKER IN OFFICE

And commanding officers that you especially remember? – Lt. Michael Miller - he was
the officer in charge in Viet Nam

Were there any animals (work or pet) around the areas you served? If so, what was their role? –
mostly stray dogs that came around the compound.

Was there a point during your service, that you decided the military was, or was not, the right career choice?
(Please explain) –

Was drafted & just wanted to serve my time
Service I just completed one year and 5 months and was
drafted and drop out of Central State University with
one week finishing the semester. Lost all my
credit.

Is there a battle or point during your service that you would like to describe so that future generations can better understand what military life can be - for better or worse?

MEDALS AND CITATIONS RECEIVED

NDSM VSM ARCOM GCM DL SPS M-16

Stories of Military Service:

What or who did you leave behind when you joined the service? (family, child, pet)

only wife
was boarded on bus with 3 others drafted to Okla City to be sworn. 4m local Board 45 in Idabel, Okla

What type of training or schooling did you have?
In att I sent to Ft Monmouth, New Jersey for Micro wave training

Microwave repairman

What is your most vivid memory of your time training or in school? What was the BEST part? What was the WORST part

Amount of snow in New Jersey, Given 2nd chance in the training I took. At the schools worst part was when I learn I was going to Vietnam

Did you serve alongside other Native/American Indians? How did that inform your experience?

I was the only native american at the school

What did you think about the chow? (at base and in the field!)

Since I was in service, I adapt myself to eat whatever.

What was your first assignment after basic training?

To a school in Ft Monmouth, NJ To be microwave operator

Did you receive any specialized training? If so, what?

In microwave repair & radios repair

Did you qualify with equipment (vehicles, aircraft, radios, weapons, etc.)?

(If Yes) What was training with that equipment like Repair Field radio, fail by 2 points & was to take the school again, In 2nd chance I passed it.

What was the hardest part of training? - Being class all 16hrs & taking test after each session, If you fail you were awol & put on duty.

Did you receive any promotions? Could you tell me about them?

Went in PVT1 - after Basic Training was given accelerated promotion in Feb to PVT2 -- in July 70 PVT3 - 3 days

What was the hardest part of the military life-style for you to adapt to? Why do you think it was?

Being married with wife home & family - and NOT knowing if I would make it back home. Later Spec 4

What was the easiest part of the military life-style for you to adapt to? Why do you think it was?

Wartime Service vs. peacetime service.

Where did you serve? Serve in Cam Run Bay and DaNang in Vietnam

Were you in a combat, combat support, or combat service support role? Or did the war zone make that designation irrelevant? Combat support. thru radio communication and was connected to the Air force support.

(If combat/ wartime) How did your combat (wartime) experience change you? My wife says I happy go lucky. After returning, I was completely change.

What kinds of friendships and camaraderie did you form while serving, and with whom?

Became friend, Tom Gilliam He + I was the only to go NAM Fm School

How did you stay in touch with family and friends? Thru mail & once thru HAM Radio

What did you do for recreation or when you were off duty? Played pool, checkers Chess and Dominoes in spare time Also, go the gym at the air Base, played Basketball, and lift weights

Do you recall any particularly humorous or unusual events?

Was there something you did for "good luck?"

Pray

What was the best part of your service experience?

Coming home & visiting family members

Do you recall the day service ended? Where were you when your service ended? Did you return home? Where were you?

Left Cam Run Bay & came to Ft Lewis, Wa. Then flew to Dallas D.F.W. from Washington. Then caught a

How did you readjust to civilian life? Did you work or go back to school?

Bus to Paris, TX
Had Bad dreams, and would have screening and rolling for several years, OK now.

Reflections

How did your military service experiences affect your life?

According to my wife, My character change, lost my happy go lucky spunk,

What are some life lessons you learned from your military service?

I think the military - made me grow up and learn to be a responsible person.

Are there lessons to be learned from the way Native communities treat their veterans?

I appreciate the Choctaw Nation for recognition to veterans with tokens given to each veteran.

How has your military service impacted your feelings about war and the military in general?

I probably would do it again, to protect my country & family

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to share your recollections of your military service.

Is there anything you would like to add that we have not covered in this interview?

There is alot to say, not enough space, so if you have any question, I welcome your call.

Is there anything else we should talk about that we haven't covered?

What do you wish more people knew about veterans?

Native American veterans?

Questions not related to your military life:

Where were you born and who were your parents and siblings? Any of them veterans?

BORN IN Tahlequah, OK, Jesse and Ennessie (Baker) DAVIS - DAD was in

What did your parents/grandparents do for a living? DURING WWII

Dad was a Sawmill employee - mother was home maker

Where did you go to school? (youth and adult)

WRIGHT CITY School - 1-12 yrs / EASTERN OKLA College / Central State University

What did you do for fun growing up

Play Baseball in summer / Basket Ball, baseball in school

Did you have brothers and sisters?

2 Brother 2 sisters

What are some family traditions that have been passed down?

Church Camp, VACATION

Bible School + camping

What was it like growing up Choctaw? Did you ever face adversity as a youth, or as an adult?

I had a hard time learning to speak English, I had a mild youth life, and really have been except in my adult life, because of the knowledge I had in the jobs I could do.