

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

Interview conducted by:

at (location):

Date and time:

NAME -- Robert Bryant

Birthday -- [REDACTED] 1958

PHONE -- [REDACTED]

ADDRESS -- [REDACTED]

Next of Kin and their contact info:

Seling Sicher Bryant [REDACTED]

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

yes, yes

In which branch did you enter?

USAF

Division -- 349 AMW

Unit -- 749 AMXS

Were you Drafted or Enlisted – Enlisted

(If enlisted) Why did you choose that branch?

Love Air planes

RANK at discharge: E-9

Years served – from-1981 to -2011

Peace or wartime?

Both

Where did you attend basic training? -- Lackland AFB TX

WHERE DID YOU SERVE? – Travis AFB, Ca

What was your job while in service? - Aircraft Maintenance

Did you make any special friends in service? Who were they and do you have any stories? –

yes

And commanding officers that you especially remember? LTC Jones

Were there any animals (work or pet) around the areas you served? If so, what was their role? –

no

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

loved it all the way

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?

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#### MEDALS AND CITATIONS RECEIVED

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#### Stories of Military Service:

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

wife and son

How did you get to your initial point of entry? Fly

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What type of training or schooling did you have? Aircraft Maintenance

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What is your most vivid memory of your time training or in school? What was the BEST part? What was the WORST part Best learning to fix jets

Worst Marching

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

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

Great

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What was your first assignment after basic training?

Travis AFB

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

Aircraft Maintenance

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

(If Yes) What was training with that equipment like

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What was the hardest part of training? getting up early

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

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

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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? *Travis AFB*

Were you in a combat, combat support, or combat service support role? Or did the war zone make that designation irrelevant? *Support*

(If combat/ wartime) How did your combat (wartime) experience change you?

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

*Great ones*

How did you stay in touch with family and friends?

What did you do for recreation or when you were off duty?

Do you recall any particularly humorous or unusual events?

Was there something you did for "good luck?"

What was the best part of your service experience? *Serving my country*

Do you recall the day service ended? Where were you when your service ended? ■ Did you return home? Where were you? *I retired at Travis*

How did you readjust to civilian life? Did you work or go back to school? *most of my time*

*was in the reserves*

**Reflections**

How did your military service experiences affect your life? *made it better*

What are some life lessons you learned from your military service? *Service before self*

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

*Honor them*

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

### 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?

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 Fresno, Ca (Dad USAF, Korea) Brother EE USAF*

What did your parents/grandparents do for a living? *chicken rancher, Field Hand*

*Mechanic*

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

*San Jose, Ca*

What did you do for fun growing up

Did you have brothers and sisters? *yes 2 Brothers*

What are some family traditions that have been passed down?

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

*Grandfather insulated us from Choctaw ways*

Do you speak any Choctaw? *very little*

Did you marry and have children? Tell me about them, including their names.

Did you have a non-military career after service?

*Teacher*

Do you have advice for future generations?

*Serve*

How would you describe yourself?

What is most important invention you have seen in your lifetime *Cell phones*

What has amazed you most during your lifetime:

How has COVID 19 affected your life? *Masks are a barrier*

Do you have any photos from your life (including time in the military, when you were a youth, during your career, adult life with family, or other photos that are important to you and your memories)? Can you share up to 15 of those photos with us? Please list a description of any photos you are sharing?

Can you share copies/images of any discharge papers or other military documents? Please list what they are:

Do you have any news clippings, significant event programs, or other material you would like to share? Please list the items.

Can you please share an image or copy of your DD214?

Anything else you would like to share or donate that helps tell your story?

PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE FOR SIGNATURE AND DATE, IN ORDER TO GRANT PERMISSION FOR CHOCTAW NATION TO UTILIZE THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION! YAKOKE!

Mail him the ✓ May 12, 2023  
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Print participant name: [REDACTED]

Date: 5/6/2023

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Signature of participant or guardian of participant

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