

**T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection**

**ABSTRACT**

**INTERVIEWEE NAME:** Fleet Trahan

**COLLECTION:** 4700.0988

**IDENTIFICATION:** Vietnam veteran

**INTERVIEWER:** Donald Pierce

**SERIES:** Americans in Vietnam

**INTERVIEW DATE:** 5/14/75

**FOCUS DATES:** May 28, 1968 - Dec. 30, 1969

**ABSTRACT:**

**Tape 1442.1, Side A**

Birthplaces of parents; Trahan born in Baton Rouge; siblings; parents' occupations; childhood illnesses; active in sports later; attended Trinity Christian college in Zachary, LA.; was drafted, inducted in New Orleans; most of his fellow recruits were Yankees; training at Fort Polk; ignorance about the army before he was drafted; testing at boot camp reception center; drill sergeants very mean, crude, abusive; definition of a gig line; not allowed to leave for funeral of close friend; counting down days till end of basic training; Trahan hit a drill sergeant with a shovel, got in big trouble; cleaning the barracks; basic training made him tough; graduation day at Fort Polk; "TTA", a.k.a. Treetop Airways; confusion upon his arrival at combat engineer training; yard work on base; Waynesville, MO, closest town to base; milk shortage at base, Trahan had to spend a day guarding the milk supply; assigned to F Troop;

**Tape 1442.1, Side B**

Prized piece of jewelry he got appraised at \$4,000; Vietnamese houses; simple diet of Vietnamese; Buddhist religious observances in the home; twenty days R&R in Thailand; first experience smoking marijuana; effects from getting high the first time; continued use of marijuana; buying marijuana, prices and amounts; other MPs who smoked marijuana; ease of growing marijuana in that area; mountain that caught fire, making everyone terribly high from the marijuana growing on its side; terrible headache from using water pipe that had been used for smoking opium; prevalence of heroin.

**TAPES:** 1 (1442.1)

**TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 36 minutes

**# PAGES INDEX:** 2 pages

**RESTRICTIONS:** None