Interviewer: I’m here with Kenneth Mayo in his home, and I’m going to interview him about Vietnam. Are you aware that I’m going to tape this interview?

Veteran: Yes.

Interviewer: How old were you when you joined the Air Force?

Veteran: 18.

Interviewer: What was it like being 18 and being in the service?

Veteran: Homesick. I was used to doing things my way and on my time. I said Uncle Sam tells me what to do, when to do it, how to do it.

Interviewer: What influenced you to decide on the Air Force?

Veteran: Seeing my friends come home in a pine box.

Interviewer: You saw your friends come home in a pine box?

Veteran: Yes. They got killed in Vietnam, and I wanted to make sure I came home alive, so I took the Air Force. I figured I’d come home alive even though it was twice the length of duty.

Interviewer: How long was the duty?

Veteran: Four years.
Interviewer: What was regular duty?
Veteran: If you got drafted, it was two years. If you joined, it was four years.

Interviewer: Did your family support you when you enlisted?
Veteran: Yes. I had three brothers in the service besides myself.

Interviewer: Where did you train at?

Interviewer: What was your ‘tech’?
Veteran: Supply. I kept the supplies in and kept the supplies out, and kept planes running.

Interviewer: Then where did they send you?
Veteran: Travis Air Force Base, San Francisco for a year and a half, and then I went to Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado, for two years.

Interviewer: Did you have any contact with civilians in the United States?
Veteran: Yes. The Air Force did quite a bit of their work through Civil Service.

Interviewer: Did you ever go overseas to Vietnam?
Veteran: No. (Much of this comment is muddled and impossible to understand.) I was ordered to go, but my brother got shot, and my discharge date was before my orders to go to Vietnam.

Interviewer: What time did you wake up every morning?
Veteran: It depended because we rotated shifts. They had A Shift, B Shift, and C Shift. If I was on A Shift, I would pull duty from six to nine. If I was on B Shift, I would work until six in the afternoon. If I was on C Shift, I would work from three in the afternoon until midnight.
Interviewer: What did you think of the protesting that was going on?
Veteran: I did not like it. If they didn’t like it, they should have moved there themselves and get out of the United States.

Interviewer: What were some of your other duties?
Veteran: I shipped supplies all the time to different bases in the United States and overseas throughout the war. As requests would come in for different things, I would make sure it was packaged and ready to go overnight. When I was in Colorado, I was an instructor on how to set up and operate a warehouse, so someone else could do it in Vietnam when my tour of duty was up.

Interviewer: Can you remember a duty you were required to do that disliked?
Veteran: Standing in a flat line waiting for some general to come in for a ski trip at government expense.

Interviewer: What was your rank?
Veteran: Staff Sergeant.

Interviewer: How long did it take you earn that rank?
Veteran: Two years. {Can’t understand the rest of this statement!}

{Tape stopped. Transcriptionist forced to make the determination that the quality of the tape is too poor to continue attempting to transcribe any further.}