

Oral History Synopsis:

**TONY HERRELL (65): Local Businessman Relates Vietnam US Army Special Operations Group Experience**

Interviewer: Steve Sheridan

Tony Herrell, a local convenience store owner, describes the reasons for his 1966 enlistment in the U.S. Army and his subsequent decision to volunteer for the high-risk Special Operations Group (SOG). The secret war operations he experienced, often took him behind enemy lines and anonymously across neighboring borders and into major fire fights.

Tony was born in Arkansas and grew up in Holland, graduating from Holland High. After a brief stint with Davenport College he concluded that classroom learning was not his learning style and he enlisted, leaving his mother a short note. For what seems to be the most significant three years of his life, he volunteered for tough assignments and built a collection of comrades with whom he keeps up to this day. His stories about close calls and good luck during his covert operations are compelling. Even more interesting are his reflections on the residual emotional affect of this experience on his life afterwards. Steve Sheridan's interview delves deeply into this experience.

This is a video that would give a high school U.S. History class first hand insights into the complexity of this controversial war. It's also a tribute to the unsung and often abused soldiers who served in Vietnam.

Video and Slideshow available for viewing in the OSH.

