

Wisconsin Veterans Museum
Research Center

Transcript of an

Oral History Interview with

JAN P. HOLESOVSKY

Second Lieutenant, United States Army, Vietnam

1996

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Holesovsky, Jan P., (1947-). Oral History Interview, 1996.

User Copy: 2 sound cassettes (ca. 90 min.); analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Master Copy: 2 sound cassette (ca. 90 min.); analog, 1 7/8 ips, mono.

Abstract

Jan P. Holesovsky, a Wauwatosa, Wis. native, discusses his stateside service as a second lieutenant with the United States Army during the Vietnam War. Holesovsky was drafted into the service by the lottery system shortly after completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His reaction to the lottery was one of patriotic acceptance. Holesovsky describes anti-war protests on campus and says the National Guard was called to the university to help control rioting. Entering service in 1971, Holesovsky talks of basic training at Fort Jackson (South Carolina) as well as attending Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning (Georgia.) He discusses basic training in some depth including experimentation with new physical training and the tough fairness of his drill sergeants. Holesovsky describes the types of people that he served with; their varying religious, racial, and socio-economic backgrounds. Holesovsky describes taking the "College Option" that would guarantee college graduates a spot in Officer Candidate School after completion of basic training. Upon his completion of officer training, Holesovsky describes his assignment to Fort Devens (Massachusetts.) Holesovsky says that most of his active duty was spent at Fort Devens and identifies his duties such as administrative supply officer, property book officer, advisor to the troops, and his role as an executive officer and company commander. He tells of the necessity, as a property book officer, to count every equipment item to avoid problems. Holesovsky also discusses his role in the Army Security Agency and, as an officer, he says that he was able to live on post with his family. Holesovsky also speaks of "social protocol" and expectations for a young officer. Responding to questioning about alcohol and drugs, Holesovsky tells of two inspections; one which yielded large amounts of contraband, and also of a soldier booted out of the Army Security Agency for one marijuana joint. Holesovsky talks of ending his active duty commitment in 1974, joining the reserves with the 84th Infantry Division as part of the "2-2-2 basis" --two years of active duty, two years of active reserves, and two years of inactive reserves. In 1975, Holesovsky completed active reserves, but later rejoined the reserves with the 2nd Battalion of 339th Regiment, 1st Brigade, 84th Infantry Division in 1976, because he missed the military, where he remained for the next thirteen years. Holesovsky describes being in charge of a drill sergeant school, his brigade's change to armor brigade, and annual training at Fort McCoy (Wisconsin.) He also describes the noticeable difference in military spending during Reagan's presidency. Holesovsky also describes his more recent service as a command and general staff officer course teacher in the Reserves. He says his World War II veteran father's advice was to always keep all military paperwork, advice he shared with his troops when he worked as an advisor, and tells a story how this advice was helpful in obtaining a VA home loan.

Biographical Sketch

Jan Paul Holesovsky (1947-) served as a second lieutenant with the United States Army. Upon finishing active duty in 1974, Holesovsky entered the Army Reserves and served with the 84th Division of Fort McCoy (Wisconsin.) Upon completion of active duty, Holesovsky moved to the Madison (Wisconsin) area and in addition to his work in the reserves, worked as a department administrator for the University of Wisconsin

Interviewed by Mark Van Ells, 1996
Transcribed by WDVA Staff, ca. 1997.
Transcription edited by Brooke Hoesli, 2007.

Interview Transcript:

Mark: Okay, today's date is January the 16th, 1996. This is Mark Van Ells, Archivist, Wisconsin Veterans Museum, doing an oral history interview this morning with Mr. Jan Paul Holesovsky, a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict. Thanks for coming in today.

Holesovsky: Thank you.

Mark: I appreciate it. I apologize for my cold; I'm a little "under the weather." I may not be as perky as I usually am.

Holesovsky: No problem.

Mark: I suppose we should start at the top, as they say. Why don't you tell me a little bit about where you were born and raised and what you were doing prior to your entry into the service.

Holesovsky: Born in the greater Milwaukee area, in Wauwatosa, in 1947. Obviously, a "baby boomer," post World War II, went through high school and everything in Wauwatosa, spent first 18 years of my life there and came here to the University of Wisconsin, graduated from high school in 1966, entered University of Wisconsin here in Madison that fall. This was obviously, the beginning of the wind-down of Vietnam. I was in the lottery system at the time. My birthday came up in lottery with a low number. I knew that I was going to be drafted upon completion of my college education and basically decided that if I was going to do this, I'd do it on as much of my own terms as possible so I began to, as I was getting closer to graduation, began to look around at the different possibilities, what I could volunteer for so to speak. Actually, it was interesting because when I first, the first place I looked to was an Army recruiter and at that time the only thing in my background, I had had a number of years during the summer of working as a land surveyor and that possibility within the service was fairly closed; it didn't appear like there would be any opportunity to continue that in a military sense so I looked around the different services as well. My cousins, I had two cousins, both of them were in the Air Force and they had sort of brain-washed me so I at least try the Air Force and I thought, well, it would be, I didn't have the eyes to be a pilot but I was good enough to be navigator so I had gone through their battery of tests and had qualified except when I went down to Chanute Air Force Base for a physical, because I had had a collapsed lung due to an automobile accident way back in December of '66, they disqualified me even for a navigator so that possibility with the Air Force didn't look very promising. I went and talked to the Navy people. They sent me through their whole battery of tests and I was qualified to go to their officer training school but they couldn't guarantee me any slot and couldn't put me in any kind of reserve status or anything like that before a slot would actually open and I knew I'd probably

be drafted before that would happen so that didn't look like a very good possibility. So actually I wasn't about to go and talk to the Marines; I didn't have any desire to become a Marine. So I went back and I talked again to the Army recruiter and since the first time that I had spoken with him, which was a couple of months anyway, they had instituted what they called the "College Option Program" which said that if I would graduate from college with a degree, they would guarantee me a slot in Officer Candidate School upon successful completion of basic training. And I said, well, as long as I wanted to do this on as much of my own terms, as an officer hopefully, as possible, that seemed to be the only option that really was open to me. So that's in essence what I did. I signed up, they put me into a reserve, non-active reserve status for a couple of months upon graduation from college and I was in that status until I went on active duty the end of July of 1971. Went through basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and on to Fort Benning, etc., etc.

Mark: I'll ask some questions about your basic training and that sort of thing but I'd like to backtrack a little bit about--

Holesovsky: Sure.

Mark: -- to the college years.

Holesovsky: Okay.

Mark: Now these, as I'm sure you're well aware, were very colorful years in the history of the--

Holesovsky: Very much so.

Mark: -- University, shall I say. I'm interested if you would comment on some sort of, the atmosphere on campus especially towards the war and towards the military in general, and where you fit in in that. What the attitudes were.

Holesovsky: I was a college student and my concentration was college, to get my college degree. There was obviously a great deal of protest on campus. I often walked across campus with a wet handkerchief across my face because of the tear gas that was out there. There were protests. They had called out the National Guard. The National Guard came in in a show of force, etc., etc. I personally didn't get involved in that, in the protest or anything like that. I just really remained neutral during that time. But there was, there was an awful lot of unrest.

Mark: As you say, remained neutral. How common of an attitude do you think that was in young men such as yourself?

Holesovsky: That was uncommon, I would say.

Mark: You would say so.

Holesovsky: I would say I was definitely in the minority. Either you, most of my friends and everything like that in college were either strongly opposed to Vietnam and voiced their opinions in various ways or they were very much in favor of supporting the governmental stand and everything like that. Like I say, I pretty much remained neutral. I didn't take one side or the other.

Mark: And focused on your studies. Now, of course, there was, before 1969 there was the old draft system. That was no longer the system so you had a deferment at that time.

Holesovsky: Correct.

Mark: And then in '69, you must have been in your senior year by that time?

Holesovsky: Let's see. I graduated actually in January of 1971 so, yeah, my senior, I managed to squeeze four years into 4 1/2.

Mark: Which is actually pretty good by today's standards I think.

Holesovsky: By today's standards, for sure.

Mark: I'm interested in your reaction to the lottery system and the big night when they drew the numbers and you discovered yours.

Holesovsky: Uh, again, that was the system that was in place and I already said, you know, this is the government, the government's way of doing things and I accepted it as it was. Again, I didn't have any opinions one way or the other. You know, you get yourself into a situation like that, you know. I guess I felt a patriotic sense in the fact that, you know, this is my government and I was going to support it in the way that the government felt best at that particular time. They went from a draft system where I was deferred because I was a college student and into this lottery system, and it's a real crap shoot there. I mean, it just depends on where your number was picked and mine was picked low and I accepted that as such and so be it.

Mark: Just out of curiosity, do you recall your draft number?

Holesovsky: It was in the very low 100s.

Mark: Oh, really.

Holesovsky: But more than that, and I, the predictions and everything at that time was that anybody under about 130 or so was sure to go. That's about as much as I can remember.

Mark: Okay. So, basic training, as we had spoken earlier, your father was in World War II so he had had some military experience but you had had none at this time.

Holesovsky: No, none whatsoever.

Mark: So describe to me if you would your voyage into the military and the steps you took to go from Mom and Dad's house to Fort Jackson, and then what happened at Fort Jackson.

Holesovsky: Okay. As I entered my last semester of college in the fall of 1970, I was married, I had gotten married that summer. My wife was pregnant at the time, two weeks after we were married she got pregnant, so we took that last semester, and that's when I really did all my investigation as far as different options that were available to me. So I had a little one on the way and I knew that I was, had made the decision to join the Army under the College Option Program and I knew it was going to be, there was going to be some time of separation. I knew Vietnam was winding down. My wife was, of course, worried that, you know, oh, you're joining the service and you're going to Vietnam and you're going to get killed and here I am with a little baby and would be there all alone. I pretty much assured her that I wasn't going to Vietnam, they weren't sending new people over there, only those that were volunteering, etc., etc., so that wasn't that big of an issue. Where I was going, who knew? All I knew was that I was going to go through basic training and make it through that and on to Officer Candidate School and after that who knows 'cause I had no idea what branch of the service or anything like that that I was interested in or anything like that. My son was born on the 5th of June of 1971 and I entered the service on active duty on the 28th of July of that year, so my son was only a couple of months old when I and a number of others who had signed up on the same day to go to Officer Candidate School, actually to go to basic training first. We all got on a plane in Milwaukee and off we went.

Mark: Down to Fort Jackson.

Holesovsky: Down to Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Correct.

Mark: And what was your reception like there?

Holesovsky: Reception at Fort Jackson was, it was good. We were, they had nice barracks there. In fact, the barracks at the reception station were far better than anything we saw after reception station. They were nice brick and they

were new and they were air conditioned. You had sort of a zero week while they got your clothing and got your shots and everything like that.

Mark: Is this where the haircut occurred as well?

Holesovsky: Oh, absolutely, absolutely. We all lost our hair and, actually I tried to, initially I thought, well, I'd at least get it to meet Army standards. It was still long on the top and short on the sides and everything like that and after a couple of weeks at Fort Jackson I said it's all coming off, this is just too much of a bother. Of course, and that's interesting that you mention that because I remember the first weekend that my wife came to visit me, she almost didn't recognize me when she saw me for the first time. We entered, flew down to Fort Jackson, went through the reception station and got our clothing, got our issue, and you got assigned to a company and all that within that zero week. And, of course, they had us out there doing the things that all good basic trainees do in the military and that's out there cutting grass and picking the sand burrs out of the ground at Fort Jackson to make everything spiffy and look great. So we got oriented in that first sort of zero week much like I would think basic trainees get oriented today. Then it was on into basic training itself. I was, I had been a good athlete in high school and in college as well and so physically the basic training didn't bother me. I excelled in, from the physical aspect of things.

Mark: Now this is in terms of marching, running and that sort of thing.

Holesovsky: Running, doing physical training and they were, of course, experimenting at the time with various events in the physical fitness test, the annual physical fitness test that we all take in the military. They had a five-event test at the time. They were experimenting with different events. They thought maybe a crab crawl would be better than something else. So throughout my time within the military I've actually taken two, well, between, you know, on active duty I was, I did this five-event test that was the, there was a run-dodge-and-jump, there was push-ups, there was sit-ups, there was a horizontal ladder, and a one-mile run. Today it's a three-event test of push-ups and sit-ups and a two-mile run. Like I say, they were experimenting with various tests. We were sort of a guinea pig. We had done different events — this crab crawl, a low crawl and different things as possible events that they were thinking about incorporating into the physical fitness test but the one that we actually took for record was that five-event test. Now I did that both in basic training as well as Officer Candidate School. Then they changed it. Once I was out and off of active duty and in the reserve system, they had changed it. In fact, at one point it was, there was no upper body or lower body event at all. It was just like a three-mile walk or four-mile walk or something like that and you could run it or walk it or whatever you wanted to do. All you had to do was complete it.

Mark: Did you get much weapons training and that sort of thing in basic training?

Holesovsky: In basic training we, basically it was M-16 weapons training. We got familiarization. They showed us the M-16 machine-gun and a 45-caliber pistol and we saw things like the law and we saw things like weapons systems and things like that. We didn't actually do anything with them. It was more familiarization. They had some big display of fire power that we all went to and it was all impressive and everything like that but we never got any hands-on other than in basic training. You really, in eight weeks you really don't have time to learn a lot in detail about other than just learn how to assemble and disassemble your M-16 so you could basically do it in your sleep. All the other things, the drill and ceremonies and all the other things that involved war and military law and all the different basic orientation-type classes that you had to go to. And, of course, we marched, and typical to any military if you're not there early, you're late and it was an awful lot of marching and standing in line and that sort of thing. But through basic training it was I guess pretty much what I had anticipated or expected. From the little that I knew about the military I wasn't going to go, they knew I was going to go on to Officer Candidate School so I was put in a leadership position. I was made a squad leader and those sorts of things and that was good experience as well.

Mark: I was curious as to whether or not you discussed the military with your father, who was a veteran, and did he have any advice for you? And what was his reaction to your joining the service? And if he talked to you about it, did it help in basic training at all?

Holesovsky: The best advice, my dad would talk about his experience in World War II if you asked him questions. Other than that he really didn't spend a lot of time although I knew that during my time in late, say, junior high and early part of high school he wrote a book, or he attempted to write a book called The Devil Chaser and it was just taking all the letters that he had written from my mom, he used that as his source, and his memory and some of his experiences and telephone calls and talking with some of his friends from World War II, he wrote this book of his experiences called The Devil Chaser, named after the jeep of his chaplain. That was good. But other than that, I mean, he talked proudly of his service and of his time in the service and he was not ashamed of it and he enjoyed it and he made some very long-lasting friends. As far as advices — the best advice, really about the only advice he said, he said, "Jan, when you go in everything that happens to you will be documented and you get a copy of whatever it is, whether it's orders or pay slips or awards or anything like that," he said, "you will always have a copy. Make sure you get your copy and you make sure you save it. Don't ever throw anything away." And I have, literally, boxes up in my attic with stuff right from day one. I can show you my initial pay voucher when I earned I think it was \$127 the first month that I was in the military service, which

isn't a whole lot when you have a wife and a child to support and everything like that.

Mark: Even back then I'm sure it wasn't.

Holesovsky: Yeah. But that was the one piece of advice and I'm always remember that and I've always stuck to it and believe me, in more cases than not, that has come in handy. A perfect example, once I was out and I was out looking to purchase a home, I said, well, the veterans have a loan and I talked to the guy from the Veterans Affairs office and he said, "Well, just come on up and bring your paperwork with you and we'll process the loan." So I gathered up what I thought was the appropriate paperwork and went up there and he looked at it and he says, "Well, this DD 214 is fine but where is your other one?" And I said, "I have more than one?" He says, "Well, you should have." He says, "You were an enlisted person first and then went you went from enlisted status into officer candidate status or actually upon completion of Officer Candidate School you then became an officer and you would have gotten a DD 214 separating you as an enlisted person and then you became an officer and then you'd have one when you got out." And I said, "Okay, I'll go home and look for it." And I went and rummaged through the box and sure, enough, there was another DD 214 just like he said there should be. And I, you don't throw anything away.

Mark: Uhm, so this training lasted eight weeks.

Holesovsky: Eight weeks at Fort Jackson.

Mark: I have another question about basic training. I'm interested in your observations and recollections. Who was in basic training with you at the time? What sort of people were entering the service? I assume that you went through it with draftees and with volunteers and other people going to OCS and just a big mix of people. Could you just give me sort of a ...

Holesovsky: Right, there was. There was a huge mix of people. There were individuals that were fresh out of college; there were ones that were very, very well educated; there were ones that were right out of high school; all from all different types of socio-economic backgrounds; there were Blacks; there were whites; there were Hispanics; all mixes of races, religions, creeds, etc., etc. It was really a mixed bag. I had come in with a couple of individuals, well, we signed up together. There were three of us as I recall that had done this College Option and the three of us were sort of headed to Officer Candidate School together upon successful completion of basic training and that in fact did turn out to be the case. Not all three of us graduated from Officer Candidate School. There was one that ended up dropping out for physical reasons. He couldn't cut it physically. He was very much overweight and that sort of thing. But it was really ...

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Holesovsky: ... basic training did that I can recall is it really, and it's typical of the military. I mean you work as a team. And it taught you team work. And it taught you discipline. And it taught you to listen to instructions and do what you're told. And whether you liked it or not. You had opportunity to voice dissatisfaction but still there was a task to be done and if you didn't do it as a team, you found yourself out there ostracized by the rest of the group and it just wasn't worth it. So you really learned to work together as a team. I remember as a squad leader we had one of our, one week one of our tasks was to make sure that the latrine was clean and spotless. I had a group of guys that didn't especially cherish that task nor did I, but as a leader--I was a squad leader--I got down there right with them with my paper and my toothbrush and everything else and we scrubbed and cleaned and we did it together. And somebody, they didn't know how to do it, I'd be there and I'd help them and show them, sort of learn by doing and lead by example as opposed to just saying, "Well, I'm squad leader. You've got to do this and you've got to do what you're told." You get in there and you show them how to do it if they don't know how and you lead by example which I've always found to be the best form of leadership that there is.

Mark: What was discipline like? I mean, there's the image of this guy with the Smokey Bear hat who might take you into the wood shed and ...

Holesovsky: The image of the Smokey Bear was very accurate. In fact, we had a number of drill sergeants assigned to our particular platoon throughout the eight weeks of basic training. Actually I had two. We started out with the first one and he had, he had other things on his mind. He had a gal off of post and he ended up spending more time with her than he should have and the company commander actually relieved him as our platoon sergeant and our drill sergeant and we got a replacement for him. But both of them were very much according to, I guess they acted very much in the stereotype that I had of a drill sergeant — tough, disciplined, but fair. They did things, you'd wake up, they'd come in in the morning to wake you up and they'd grab a garbage can cover and start beating on it and that was your wake-up call, and you sprang out of bed, and you made your bed, and you flipped your quarter on it to make sure it would bounce, so that everything was to standard, etc., etc. They were tough, they didn't cut you any slack, but they were fair. It was the same way for everybody. We were all in the same boat.

Mark: So then you went off to Officer Candidate School. How long was that? How different was it?

Holesovsky: Officer Candidate School was a very interesting experience. It was six months long, it was the old infantry Officer Candidate School. We were the second, last six month infantry Officer Candidate School to ever go through that program. What was somewhat discouraging to us was the fact that they were experimenting with what they called the Branch and Material Officer Candidate School, which was only fourteen weeks long. They were experimenting with this program, they said we can teach everything that a person needs to know to be an officer in fourteen weeks, then spend the money and send them to their branch school and teach them the specifics of whatever branch they get commissioned in as opposed to what I did. In fact, I was a perfect example of why they switched to the Branch and Material. I went through infantry Officer Candidate School. I learned all about the infantry, all the weapons and the tactics, and everything like that, and it took them six months to teach me all of that, spending all that money. When I graduated, when our class graduated, at that time the fiscal year was different than it is now, we graduated in the middle of April and we were getting towards the end of the fiscal year and there were only seven infantry slots open and we had a class of 105. So only seven of us got infantry commissions and I was not one of those seven. And I chose military intelligence and got my commission in military intelligence. And the government had to teach me all about military intelligence so they sent me up to Fort Devens, Massachusetts to the basic crypto officer course up there to teach me all about the Army security agencies, specifically within military intelligence. So they spent all this money teaching me about the infantry, then I didn't get an infantry commission, I went MI, specifically Army Security Agency, then they had to send me up to Devens at \$21 a day TDY for 100 days, plus the housing and everything else. So they spent another chunk of cash on me to train me as a military intelligence Army Security Agency officer. Then, ironically, I spent the balance of my two years of commissioned service at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, then came out, joined a reserve unit which was a basic training unit. Back to infantry so all my infantry training did help. I mean it was an excellent background to come into the reserves with. And then the reserves, in their reorganization, changed and went armor, so then they had to teach me all about armor and I then switched branches from military intelligence to, and now I consider myself, an armor officer and have continued along that line. I was a perfect example of why they went to the Branch and Material Officer Candidate School 'cause they were just wasting too much money training people again, and again, and again. So the decision to do that was a good one. But we had people, we had companies that were right across the street from us that started after we had started and graduated before we graduated. And that doesn't set too well, especially when you have to, when they're the mid-level candidate and then the senior candidate, then you have to salute them. And we didn't like saluting people that had started after us and were going to finish before us so that didn't set real well. But again it

was part of the system and you have to realize that the government's doing these things and you take it for what it's worth.

Mark: Now, how would you compare the officer candidates to those with whom you trained in basic? I assume there's the educational difference.

Holesovsky: Right. There's definitely an educational, I think they were a group of individuals who were much more motivated. There's always somebody, there's always going to be someone that sort of slips through the cracks so to speak and there were a number of people that never should have been in Officer Candidate School for physical reasons — either they were overweight or just couldn't hack it physically or anything like that. I wondered about some of the people that were there, how they ever even made it through basic training and that sort of thing. There were some prior enlisted that had a number of years of enlisted service before they got accepted into Officer Candidate School but generally speaking we were a very highly motivated group. We had, most of us had learned the whole concept of team work by the time we got there and it only took one or two instances of individuals kind of going off, being a maverick, doing things on their own and either they were gone or they came under the influence of the rest of the people within the platoon or company and they fell right into place. It didn't take us but a couple of weeks and we were working as a team.

Mark: So then you got into military intelligence. You went to Fort Devens then which is basically where you spent most of your active duty.

Holesovsky: Correct.

Mark: Why don't you describe for me what you did at Fort Devens, what was involved with the military intelligence. At Fort Devens, it isn't, it's not Vietnam necessarily--

Holesovsky: Correct.

Mark: --but you're obviously doing something. Why don't you just describe what went on there and what your duties were.

Holesovsky: Well, it was interesting at Fort Devens. I think, basically, I could say that I was sort of a super babysitter. You could term my time there as that to a large extent.

Mark: For whom?

Holesovsky: For me. I was babysitting a lot of troops.

Mark: You were babysitting troops.

Holesovsky: Right. Okay, I actually started out, when I was going through the ASA officer basic course up there I had actually had orders to go down to Fort Hood to be in a support battalion, the military intelligence support battalion down there. There were 26 of us in our class and I think 18 of us had orders to go to Fort Hood and two weeks before our class ended the commandant of the school came by and said there were 18 of us scheduled to go down there and they don't need all 18 of us, and they did have two slots open at Fort Devens so that if anybody in our class wanted to stay at Fort Devens they should, in essence, let them know. I was one of five individuals that put in to stay at Fort Devens and I was one of the two that were, in fact, chosen. I happened to be class leader, I happened to be the security officer of our class, and that sort of thing. All those different leadership roles that I played within our class, I'm sure influenced. And I found out later that, how I was, I and this other person were chosen to stay. They had just gone to all the people that instructed us in those 100 days of TDY there and they said, you know, of these five, who would you most want to serve with here? And I and another individual were chosen. So all the different things that I had done as class leader, etc., etc., obviously had a positive influence on the instructors that we had during that time. I was able to get my orders changed, I stayed there at Fort Devens. For the first three months I was an admin supply officer of Department 5 of the school that was teaching the officer basic course so I got a lot of administrative and supply training. I mean it was my duty to make sure that all the different courses that were being taught by that particular department had everything that they needed and that all the support people had their typewriters and their pens and their pencils, etc., etc., etc. I was a property book officer, I signed for I don't know how many millions of dollars worth of equipment — typewriters and everything like that. Actually, a very good experience from an administrative standpoint 'cause I can tell you right now, to this day, that I was signed for five Selectric typewriters — I remember this very vividly that at the time they were like \$750-\$800 apiece and when I moved from the Department 5 down to the school brigade to become an executive officer there, I had to, of course, transfer the property book to the incoming person in that position and one of the things you learn in the military is when you're signing for something, you'd better physically see it, you don't take anybody's word for it, you make yourself count it and you know exactly what you're signing for. Well, he didn't feel that way, my successor, and he said, "How many typewriters have you got? And I said, "Five." And he just went down and signed, never even looked at what he was signing and there was a typographical mistake made in the transfer and he signed for 15 typewriters and all of a sudden a couple of months later when he was ready to leave and his successor came in, all of a sudden they were looking for ten typewriters that never did exist. It was just a typographical error but there was a whole report of survey and everything done, a lot of time and effort

put into the fact to determine ultimately that it was a typo. But he never counted, he never looked at it, he just signed willy-nilly and it cost him a lot of heartache and the government some big bucks in a report of survey like that, which aren't cheap.

Mark: So supply officer and then you were ...

Holesovsky: Okay, admin supply officer in Department 5, then I went down to the school brigade. And that, again, was a good experience. It was really kind of getting down where the nuts and bolts, where the rubber meets the road, so to speak. Working with troops as an advisor, I said earlier a babysitter, and to a certain extent that was true. We had a company of around 200 or so, 205, depended sort of day-to-day, but they all were coming into Fort Devens for AIT, Advanced Individual Training, and many of my, in my company were there to learn Morse code. And that was a good experience 'cause these guys had come from basic training and they didn't have any pay records and they had taken advances in pay 'cause they didn't know any better and all of a sudden they get their next check and there's hardly any money there and they come crying to me. There was also incidences where, and that's where like the advice from my father, you know, do not throw anything away. I was able to, hopefully, instill that in every troop that came through my company because I would, in fact, pay them, one way or another. I would either hand them a check or — they hadn't instituted the check to the bank at that, at the beginning of my stay there, they did subsequent to that, but I would pay them either in cash or in a check and I would hand them their pay voucher and I would tell them when I handed them their pay voucher that they were not to lose this, that they were, if nothing else take an envelope, put it in there and then throw the envelope in your footlocker and lock it up. Don't let this out of your sight, do not let it go, never lose these things, and any other piece of paperwork that transpires with you and your military career, keep it all, and keep it together and never throw anything out, even if it seems insignificant, it may not be so insignificant a couple of years down the road. So I was able to influence that. I learned more about the military finance and pay system — I probably should have been a finance officer — I learned more about that from guys that had screwed up their pay almost beyond fixing it but learned an awful lot about dealing with individuals. We had, we actually were instrumental in incorporating a change in the recruiting system within the Army Security Agency. They had recruiters out there that were painting the Army Security Agency as this cloak and dagger organization and super spooks and everything like that and these guys would come in to my company and they'd say, you know, "Well, when do we get our 45 issued?" And I'd say, "Your what?" And they say, "Our 45. The recruiter said we'd all get 45s." I said, "I think you've been misinformed. You're here to learn Morse code. You put these headphones on and you listen to those half a day. There's nothing to do with 45s. This is not a cloak and dagger organization as you

may have been misled.” And here were a number of, I don’t know, at least a half a dozen times that I had to sit down and counsel individual’s wives, you know, “I’m going to divorce my husband ‘cause he can’t come home and tell me anything what’s going on ‘cause he’s in this super spook organization.” I say, “Wait a second, ma’am. The guy’s learning Morse code. He can tell you everything about Morse code that you want to know. He is not in this highly intelligence situation. He might be some day, but he’s certainly not there right now and there’s no reason to, you’ve got to be there to support him. He’s having a tough enough time getting through school and you’ve got to ...” so I’ve, hopefully, saved a couple of marriages throughout my time as an executive officer or company commander.

Mark: Now this brings up a topic that I wanted to raise anyway and that involves some of the moral issues in the military at the time. This is a period that is not known for having particularly high moral. This is the Vietnam build-down and it’s often looked upon as the low point of our military experience. Certainly in this century anyway.

Holesovsky: Right.

Mark: People associate that period with drugs and alcohol and that sort of thing. I’m interested, as a young officer--

Holesovsky: Yeah.

Mark: --who’s fairly, dare I say “gung ho” but enthusiastic, I’m interested in your perspective on all that.

Holesovsky: I think in that sense I was very fortunate because I was in the Army Security Agency and just to get into the Army Security Agency you have to have a top-secret clearance. So we did not have what I call the “ash and trash” off of the streets in the Army Security Agency. The composition of my student company there was very, very different from what I had been a part of in basic training as a basic trainee. Most of the students I had, at a minimum, had a high school degree, many of them were college graduates or some college anyway, and you just don’t get a top-secret clearance by having a record a mile long and that sort of thing. You don’t get the street people, you get a much higher quality individual within the Army Security Agency. That’s not to say that everybody was like that.

Mark: Well, that’s what I was going to say. I mean, having a record means you got caught.

Holesovsky: Right.

Mark: It doesn’t mean you’re not necessarily doing something that’s not socially acceptable.

Holesovsky: Precisely, precisely. I mean we, I participated in a couple of inspections during ...

Mark: Of the men?

Holesovsky: Of the men. These were, there was one that was done properly and there was one that I participated in that was done improperly. Let me explain. The one that was done properly, the battalion commander, apparently a company commander had come to him and said, "I suspect that there's lots of contraband in my company and I want it out of there." And that inspection was done properly. Those individuals that were to participate in this were called, spoken to one-on-one, told what time, where to be there, not over the phone, in person, in private, and the word did not get out to the troops and when we went into that place at 1:00 in the morning and woke everybody up and had them standing tall next to their wall locker and foot locker, we found a cachet of stuff like you wouldn't believe. Everywhere from a loaded 38 pistol to marijuana to booze to knives to everything that you could possibly think of and it was a very successful mission, so to speak. I also participated in one where the battalion commander called, would call you over the phone and say, you know, "Well, we're going to have an inspection tonight, lieutenant. Show up at the company at whatever time, etc., etc." Well, as soon as you start doing things over the phone, other people in the office hear, then they'd tell somebody else down in the company, and we went into that inspection and there was nothing, absolute zilch. I mean everybody was as clean as a whistle and you just, you know that the word got out. I mean when you don't find anything, nothing, zero, zilch, you know the word was out and they knew well in advance and stashed it in other places and any kind of contraband like that. So I, you know, that was a good experience in that sense. You learn how to do it right and you learn from your mistakes. Fortunately, I had, I guess it wouldn't make any difference which one went first, but--

Mark: Well, boys will be boys but how extensive was the problem? Do you think?

Holesovsky: I wasn't, it really wasn't that extensive. Like I say, there's always going to be one or two that are going to slip through. As far as booze and stuff like that, that's not that big a deal. They shouldn't have had it, at least they shouldn't have had it where they had it stored where it was but there certainly wasn't anything illegal so to speak about it. When you're talking about carrying, having a 38 pistol or something like that, that gets to be a bit more serious. Marijuana, again, is, for the Army Security Agency, was a serious offense. I had an individual in my company who, one day I was sitting in my office as the company commander and a guy come in and says, "Oh, there's a guy out in the mess hall and I saw a joint fall out of his pocket when he threw his jacket up on the Coke machine." He was a reliable

source so I had reasonable doubt. I had reasonable grounds to go out and see what was going on and, in fact, I called the guy into my office, I had him bring in, he brought in his jacket and everything like that ...

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Holesovsky: --that we prosecuted. It was unfortunate, it was one joint, he was a pretty decent guy as I recall but we were left with no recourse other than to boot him out of the Army Security Agency, certainly not out of the Army. But when we went to the prosecution to a summary court, the penalty, the lawyers, they have to look at everybody equally so one little joint to us was a serious offense in ASA where that same type of thing in an engineering unit on post, they wouldn't even think about even prosecuting for a joint. I mean they had to have a kilo or more before they'd even think about trying to nail somebody in an engineering unit. It was really a difference there in the kind of units. This was serious stuff for us in ASA; it was no big deal for other kind of units on post.

Mark: I suspect today they get booted out for just one. I don't know, it's been ten years since I've been in.

Holesovsky: I would suspect that the standards within the Army Security Agency haven't changed. If anything--

Mark: But I'm talking generally.

Holesovsky: Yeah, correct.

Mark: Now you were at Fort Devens for quite, for two or three years.

Holesovsky: Two years.

Mark: I would imagine your family came with you.

Holesovsky: Correct.

Mark: I'm interested in what it was like to raise an "Army brat" I suppose and sort of social accommodations you had to make during your military career.

Holesovsky: Todd was pretty young at that time; he was born in 1971, in June, so most of the time he was a just a toddler. My wife came. While I was going to school we lived off post and then when I got my orders to stay there at Fort Devens then we moved onto post into post housing. Post housing at Fort Devens was very, very nice. All duplexes, hardwood floors, etc., etc., very nice accommodations. Socially, neither my wife or I are very socially oriented and it was one of the things that we disliked so much about active

duty was the social protocols and this, that and the next thing. Things that you were expected to go to.

Mark: Which are important for a young officer.

Holesovsky: Which are important for a young officer. In fact, you know, when I came off of, out of OCS, I stayed at Fort Benning, Georgia for like a couple of weeks before I was assigned up to Fort Devens and the very first thing that, when I reported for casual duty at Benning, well they said, "Are you a member of the officer's club yet?" This was an expected bit of protocol that, you know, you're an officer, you automatically join the officer's club. So when I went up to Fort Devens, one of the first things I did was join the officer's club. And the officer's club at Fort Devens was very different than the officer's club at Fort Benning.

Mark: In what way?

Holesovsky: It was much more lower key. They didn't have anywhere near the services or anything like that and it was a nice place to maybe go eat dinner but it wasn't run very well and the dinners weren't all that great and there just weren't many social activities or anything like that. I mean, I was spending money to become a member of this thing and I wasn't taking advantage of it because there was nothing really to take advantage of. Finally after awhile I said, you know, this is stupid, I'm throwing money away. Is there any command emphasis to join the officer's club on this post? And my company commander said no, and I immediately went over to the officer's club and withdrew my membership. But there were other, you know, battalion parties and things like that and my wife and I just are not socially oriented like that. It was one aspect why you're expected to go to this and you're expected to go to that. We just really had no desire to do that sort of thing. We were much more comfortable being active in a church and those kinds of activities as opposed to working and being part of a social scene on the military post there. That certainly was an influence in our deciding not to make the military a career.

Mark: Yeah, well, this is my next area of questioning anyway so we might as well just go with it. You finished up your, what was it, three year commission?

Holesovsky: Two year commitment as a 2nd Lieutenant, right.

Mark: And then it came time to either re-up I suppose, or go reserves or get out. I'm interested in what factors went into the decision that you ultimately made to go into the reserves.

Holesovsky: Okay. I was going to get out in April of 1974. I had been commissioned in April of '72 with a two year commitment. My initial commitment to the

military was on the 2-2-2 basis; 2 years of active duty, 2 years of active reserves, and 2 years of inactive reserves, so I had a 6 year commitment. I spent almost three years on active duty and when I came off of active duty they, the extra time on active duty was applied towards my two years of active reserve duty on the 2-2-2 program. But anyway, to step back a minute, when I knew that my two years was up, and I was ready, we really had decided that the military was not something that we wanted to make a career of, there would have been unaccompanied tours and things like that that I just had no desire to participate in so we had decided to get out. So at Christmas, December of 1973 when we were home back here in Wisconsin for vacation, I sent out resumes and everything like that. I had worked as a land surveyor throughout college and high school and I was close to being able to take the state land surveyor's test, become licensed, etc., etc. It was something I enjoyed doing very much and so that was the career area that I pursued. We went along and I didn't hear anything from any of the resumes that I had sent out. I was probably, it would have been the beginning of March, late February, early March and I said, "Well, boy, in another month I'm out of here and I don't have a job or even a lead yet. I better think about at least extending for a year." which meant that I had to go voluntary indefinite and asked for that status. So I actually did that just as a safety valve. Put in my request to go "vol indef" and of course that went up through the chain of command and everybody in the chain would call me, "Oh, I'm glad to see that you're staying in the Army. You're a great officer and we need more people like you." tda-tda, tda-tda, tda-tda, tda-tda. And one, about three weeks before I was ready, it was longer than that, it was maybe five or six weeks before I was ready to actually get out, on a Friday I went home and there were two letters from two of the resumes that I had sent out — both here in Wisconsin; one up in Sheboygan, one here in Madison — and they both wanted to interview me. So I got on the phone right away and arranged for my dad, who was living, my mom and dad were in Milwaukee, arranged for them to pick me up at the airport. I arranged one interview for Monday morning in Sheboygan, drove to Madison in the afternoon, had my interview here, and was back on past at Fort Devens on Tuesday afternoon so it was sort of whirlwind tour like that but it worked out extremely well. The one position that I liked more than the other was the one here in Madison and they said that they would let me know within a couple of weeks. Well, a couple of weeks went by and I hadn't heard and, again, it was on Friday and I got a call from the personnel officer — in fact, for whatever reason, I remember her name, Mrs. Buckley — and of course now she says, "Ah, Lieutenant Holesovsky, I've got your vol indef papers back. Why don't you stop in and sign them." I said, "Well, how about if I stop in Monday?" She says, "Okay, no problem." So I went home that Friday and I thought, boy, now I'm in a dilemma. I haven't heard from either one of these places. The one, obviously, that I liked the best, as I mentioned, was the one here in Madison and I said, well, the boss here, Greg Halb (sp??), had said that occasionally he was in on Saturdays and I said if he's there, maybe he'll have some information for me. If he's not, at least I won't be out the long-distance phone call. So I called and he said, "Oh, yes. In fact, we

want to hire you and I have the letter here on my desk.” I said, “How about reading me the terms of that letter.” And he did, and I said, “I accept.” So then I called Mrs. Buckley on Monday morning and I said, “I’m sorry, but thanks but no thanks.” And she said, “Now, you know, you’ll have to withdraw your application for voluntary indefinite status.” So I had to go through the paperwork and it had to go up through the chain of command again and then I got a call from every one of the commanders saying, “Oh, you know, I’m sorry to hear you’re not staying in.” tda-tda, tda-tda, tda-tda, tda-tda. So anyway, that was how that all transpired and it was, again, an interesting situation but it was a decision that we had made, that the military was not something for us as a family career-wise so we ended up landing the job here in Madison. As soon as I knew that I had the position then I went to the people that aided the different members of the fort there as they were getting out and the warrant officer that I talked to knew one of the warrant officers in the 84th Division, here in Wisconsin. Knew him personally. And he said, “You know, that would be a great unit to join.” And I said, “Well, as long as I’ve got the commitment, I may as well have everything right in line rather than screwing around and trying to find a home once I got out, it would be better just to have a home when I got there and know that that was all taken care of. So I was assigned to the 84th Division even before I left Fort Devens and I knew that I was assigned to this unit here in Madison and that was a done deal before I even came off of active duty.

Mark: So your reserve career has gone on from 1974 ...

Holesovsky: To the present.

Mark: ... to this very day. That’s a long time to try to cover and I’m not quite sure what to start with.

Holesovsky: I can sum that up really pretty quickly. Joined the 84th Division right out of active duty. At the time the 84th Division was basic combat training. We taught basic training. We would go on annual training to, usually, Fort Leonard Wood, would be satellited out on a company teaching BCT and we would jump in for two weeks and take over for those active duty, give them a little time off and do our job and two weeks later go home. That was in ’74, I had a two year commitment of active reserve duty. As I mentioned before, part of my active duty time was applied to that active reserve time. And when my two years of active reserve duty was done I had had enough of the military at that point in time. I wanted to leave my options open so I went into control group as opposed to getting out entirely, knowing that someday if I wanted to get back in I could just with a phone call to an HR person and get my records retrieved like that. And for that decision I’m very glad because it was in May of ’74 that, let’s see, ’74, ’75, yeah, May of ’75 that I completed my active reserve commitment and went into control group. By November, December of that same year, ’75, we were adopting a

child and I was looking for some more income. Additionally, I missed the military. I had been away from it long enough and I missed the camaraderie, I missed some of the discipline, I just missed the military. It had become really a part of me so I started looking around for a unit and in essence joined back up with the same unit that I had left earlier that year so as of January 1 of 1976 I was back with the 2nd Battalion of 339th Regiment, 1st Brigade, 84th Division and was with them for the next 13 or so years.

Mark: Over this period of time, in your observations, how did the military change? It went through some significant changes.

Holesovsky: Oh, yeah, there were very much some real significant changes. Again, when I joined back up, one of the things that I had, was disenchanted about with the reserves was the fact that here I was an officer and in this BCT unit I really didn't have anything to do. And we were drilling on weekends or week nights and stuff like that and I'd go and I'd take my civilian occupation work and I'd do that at night, at reserves, and this just didn't sit well with me. I just, they didn't have a real good position for me. So one of the things when I came back with the unit, I said, "I will come back with this unit if you would have me, and obviously you want me, but I'm only going to do it if you give me something to do, if you really give me something to do." So they put me in charge of the drill sergeant school. I ran that training academy for the next year and a half or so. That was excellent, excellent experience 'cause we taught people how to become drill sergeants. We had excellent drill sergeants running and working that school and we produced drill sergeants that I still feel were better than the active duty drill sergeants. We'd go to annual training and after about half a day with, when we walked on the post, they'd say, "Oh, no, here come the reserves again." and after a half a day with us, they'd say, "Man, these guys are great. We're out of here for the next two weeks. You guys just take over." which was not true of all reserve units, so we really had an excellent reputation and we did our job and we did it very well. Then, let's see, that was in, I started in '76 and from 1978, we went through a couple years yet of basic combat training as a division and then they came through with a reorganization. In fact, in 1977 when we went to annual training that was, the reorganization was in the wind and they didn't know whether our brigade would become an armor, one-station unit training brigade or whether it would become field artillery. And not knowing, we ended up at Fort Sill, field artillery, and we were satellited out onto a field artillery unit that was teaching this one station unit training. Subsequently, the decision was made and we became an armor brigade so we had two weeks of learning a little bit about the artillery but we were still teaching basic training skills and not artillery skills per se. But once we knew that we were going to become an armor training brigade, then we had to go through a retraining of ourselves so we spent the next five years of annual training up at Fort McCoy learning all about the armor, learning all about the M-60 A1,

A2, A3 tanks, and learning how to become a qualified armor crewman for the enlisted person, how to become a qualified armor officer myself. I had gone through, obviously, through basic training and then officer candidate school through my officer basic course. When I started my advanced course, I had started it in infantry then when there was all this hullabaloo, we're going to switch and maybe become armor and maybe become field artillery, I dropped the advanced course for a time being and then once I knew that we were going to become armor I said, okay, I'll finish my advanced course but I'll do it in armor and, therefore, become a qualified armor officer. So that's how I got my qualification as an armor officer, by completing the advanced course in armor. So we spent from '78 to '83 up at Fort McCoy doing annual training, learning all about the armor and then the subsequent years went down to Fort Hood, Texas and were satellited on to _____ battalions and functioned as such.

Mark: From your perspective, how did things change after Reagan entered the office? Defense spending started to increase. Was there any noticeable difference?

Holesovsky: Oh, there was very noticeable difference, especially from my standpoint as an officer. Up until that time we were doing an awful lot of things for gratis. We put in extra drills and go to this conference and do this and that and the next thing and it was all free as far as the government. We didn't get paid for any of that stuff, it was just because of our loyalty to the unit and we needed to do this sort of thing. But then all of a sudden there was money and when there was extra stuff to do, we got paid for it. And, wow, that was absolutely wonderful, you know. We could actually do some of this extra stuff and get paid for it. As a consequence of that, you, I think, I know I personally, volunteered even for more things knowing not only that this would enhance my career and everything like that but, gosh, it's a few extra dollars I can put in my pocket besides. So that influenced the amount of time and stuff that I would devote to my reserve duty, significantly, for me anyway.

Mark: Over this period of time, how did the troops change if at all that you noticed?

Holesovsky: It's difficult, from an active duty standpoint, it's difficult to assess when you're only there for, on an active duty post for two weeks in the summer, especially if you'd get into, you're assigned to a unit that's in say their fourth or fifth week. I mean, they've gelled as a unit and that sort of thing and you don't have the kind of experiences where it's like in the first or second week and they're still trying to get their feet on the ground. They have a lot of questions and you do a lot more personal kind of counseling with the troops. I think kind of overall, my general impression is that throughout this whole period of time the active duty enlisted personnel is

coming with more education, overall they're a more highly educated group of individuals.

Mark: In terms of discipline problems?

Holesovsky: I guess I'd have to say that I probably didn't see a great deal of difference there. I think it's been pretty much the same. There's always some that need it and, which is probably one of the, you know, one of the reasons if ever I know of anybody that's having discipline problems in their life I really encourage them to get some military experience because it teaches you an awful lot from the discipline standpoint. It teaches you an awful lot. It helps you mature as an individual, how to work with other people, etc., etc. It's a wonderful experience. The bottom line is with this country made a huge mistake, from my standpoint, when they did away with the draft and everything like that. I think this country'd be a lot better off if there was some sort of mandatory military experience required of people. It would make a big difference in today's society I think.

Mark: Would you say your life was better off?

Holesovsky: Oh, absolutely, absolutely. Because I was drafted, so to speak, under the lottery system. The fact that I've had to spend as much time, and obviously chosen to spend as much time in the military, yeah, it's made a big difference in my life. I doubt, you know, just because of my dad and the way he had always talked of the military. Had I not been forced into a military situation, I really can't say whether I would have volunteered or not. I think had the opportunity presented itself, to serve my country in a military capacity, I probably would have.

Mark: If my calculations are correct, you're son's about 22?

Holesovsky: My son is almost 25. Yeah, he is '71, '96, he's 24, he'll be 25 this year.

Mark: Has he signed up?

Holesovsky: No, he has never had any desire for the military. As much as I've talked about it, as much as I've loved it, as much as I have encouraged, he just has never had any desire to do that as well. It's one of the things that baffles me about him. I really don't know why.

Mark: I've just got a couple more questions which may apply to you in varying degrees. About this point I usually ask veterans about some of their post-war adjustments to civilian life but you spent so much time in the reserves that some of those things might not be so appropriate. You did mention that you missed the military. I guess you really did describe why that was.

Holesovsky: Yeah, I missed the camaraderie. There's something about putting on the camouflage uniform that sets you apart. I like wearing my class As, I like wearing my dress blues. I don't have many opportunities to wear the dress blues anymore; a couple of social occasions a year which I go to more out of obligation than anything else. I feel very proud wearing the uniform, especially within the reserves. There are so many advantages other than just the military, the pay, the patriotism that's involved. In the reserves you rub shoulders with people from every walk of life. If I need a lawyer, I know somebody in my reserve unit to ask. If I need a plumber, I know who to ask. If I need electrician, I know who to ask. All the different trades, all the different professions are somehow represented in the reserves. Throughout the many years, I mean, I have more contacts for stuff like that than you can shake a stick at. It's wonderful.

Mark: I suppose that in itself is not a bad reason for joining.

Holesovsky: That's right.

Mark: And in terms of veterans' organizations and that sort of thing. Have you joined any in the past? Are you a member of any, the big groups like the American Legion or some of the smaller Vietnam Veterans of America type of thing?

Holesovsky: Yeah. No I have never joined any of those at all.

Mark: Was it a conscience decision or just one of those things?

Holesovsky: I guess when you have a wife and four kids at one time — one's gone now finally — and that sort of thing, I guess it was probably not so much that as it is just a matter of time. I mean, there's only so many hours in the day and that sort of thing and between work and the reserves and church activities and other things like that, I just don't have the time to put another activity into my life. Now, as my kids are growing up and moving out, you know, a couple of years down the road, I may very well join one of those organizations.

Mark: You've exhausted my line of questioning. Is there anything you'd like to add? Anything we've glossed over a little bit?

Holesovsky: I really, I can't think of any, other than the fact that, you know, the position I'm in right now I think it's got to be the greatest position that the military has to offer and that's teaching command and general staff college in the reserves. It's a wonderful thing, you know, you have to, just in every other position within the military that I've had there's always the, what I call the garbage. There's the inspections of this, and there's the this of that and all this junk and seems sort of wasted and everything like that, you know,

always having to answer to this person or that person and there's a bunch of politics involved with it etc., etc. As an instructor I just love being out there 'cause I get my class and I get my materials and I get my materials to the students and it's my class and I can conduct it the way I want to and as long as I cover the material and, I'm not shy of the fact that I'll tell you I'm a good instructor. I've always gotten excellent ratings from all of my students and I just really, really enjoy teaching. I enjoy teaching and sharing my experiences and drawing out of my students their experiences which is very much the way command general staff college is taught; in a small group discussion mode. I act more as a facilitator as opposed to a lecturer type or instructor in the traditional sense and it's very satisfying to work with majors and a couple of lieutenant colonels, a senior captain now and then, and draw the lessons to be learned, that they need to know and be familiar with as senior field grade officers within the military to draw those things out of them and in essence let them teach themselves and teach each other and facilitate that kind of instruction. It's the best.

Mark: Well, thanks for coming in.

Holesovsky: I appreciate it. I thank you for taking the time.

Mark: No problem.