

OH 3541

Narrator: Nelson, Clarence (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Robert Miller
Title: “An Oral History with Clarence Nelson”
Date: April 27, 2007
Language: English
Location: Oceanside, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s.

An oral history with Clarence Nelson, resident of Oceanside, California, retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of former member of the USMC Women’s Reserve, Vera Nelson (OH 3547). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Nelson’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in Idaho during the Depression; discusses different jobs he held before World War II, including a position with the Civilian Conservation Corps; discusses Pearl Harbor and his decision to join the USMC; describes training in San Diego and his eventual assignment to special services; details his work developing recreational activities; recalls deployment to Guadalcanal; remembers being hospitalized for malaria; discusses housing and transportation difficulties at El Toro MCAS; reflects on the Japanese American internment and the fear of Japanese bombing at San Diego; discusses the debate to terminate the USMC; details the changing of the ranking designations in the USMC during the 1950s, and his reinstatement for the Korean War; describes the restoration of the Lighter-than-Air (LTA) base for helicopter storage; recounts his son’s contraction of the polio and involvement in a March of Dimes fundraiser during a 1953 Polio epidemic; comments on El Toro’s closure.

OH 3542

Narrator: Bartosh, Walter (b. 1920-2012)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Walter Bartosh"
Date: April 24, 2007
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans: 1920-2008. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s.

An oral history with Walter Bartosh, resident of Santa Ana, California, longtime resident of Orange County, California, and former pilot in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Bartosh's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Wisconsin, recalling his time in foster care; talks about his decision to join the USMC as a pilot in 1941; remembers basic and advanced training in Miami and Jacksonville, Florida; recalls experiences at MCAS Miramar and El Toro, California, and Cherry Point, North Carolina; describes tour at Guadalcanal including kamikaze attacks and bombings; discusses his experiences with Filariasis (a parasitic and tropical disease) and its impact on his USMC career; recalls training pilots at El Toro, speaking about the infrequency of accidents at the base; compares propeller and jet airplanes; reflects on his decision to remain in California after retiring from the USMC in 1954; discusses his work as a Claims Officer for the Veterans Service; recalls his disappointment at El Toro's closure.

OH 3543

Narrator: Boillot, Bennie (b. ca. 1930)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Bennie Boillot”
Date: April 27, 2007
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1920s-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1980s.

An oral history with Helen “Bennie” Boillot, retired secretary in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Boillot’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in Illinois, speaking about her parents, who were Italian immigrants; talks about employment before World War II, later joining the Women’s Army Corps; shares memories of the agricultural landscape of Orange County, California, speaking about the variety of crops; details her position as assistant to the general, discussing specific duties and responsibilities; talks about El Toro’s position as Command Marine Corps West (COMCABWEST); reflects upon the personal effects of her position at El Toro.

OH 3544

Narrator: Greenhouse, William (b. 1915)
Interviewer: Maria Carrillo
Title: "An Oral History with William Greenhouse"
Date: April 24, 2007
Language: English
Location: California State University, Fullerton, Irvine Campus
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 25 pages

This oral history spans: 1915-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with William Greenhouse, resident of Fallbrook, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Greenhouse's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in Texas during the Depression; recalls his decision to join the USMC in 1940; shares memories of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor; speaks about serving in the Pacific Theater of World War II, explaining he was stationed at New Hebrides; discusses his transfer to El Toro in 1943, including his expectations for a new base; describes an average day as a member of the MP (Military Police), as well as entertainment and activities at El Toro; speaks about the process of base construction; talks about transferring to Eniwetok Atoll in January of 1944; discusses the roles of women in the USMC; speaks about being discharged from the USMC in September of 1945; comments on the changes in Southern California over the twentieth century; relates feelings about the closure of El Toro and how it should be remembered.

OH 3545.1

Narrator: Campbell, Helen Hannah (b. 1915-2013)
Interviewer: Sarah Davison
Title: "An Oral History with Helen Hannah Campbell"
Date: May 6, 2007
Language: English
Location: Fountain Valley, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 48 pages

This oral history spans 1915-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1975.

An oral history with Helen Hannah Campbell, resident of Fountain Valley, California, longtime resident of Southern California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Campbell's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up as the daughter of a professional baseball player, living on a ranch in California, and attending Whittier High School in Whittier, California; speaks about working for the Wrigley family of chewing gum fame, as well as managing a women's baseball team during World War II; talks about enlisting in the USMC; discusses athletic opportunities for women at El Toro; recalls her involvement with USMC recruitment; shares memories of rationing during World War II; details women's baseball games in Muskegon and Milwaukee, Wisconsin; details the importance of downtown Los Angeles to Marines at El Toro; describes local transportation in Southern California; illuminates the hierarchy of rank structure and dating fellow Marines; talks about potential base cemetery; involvement with a women's Marine officer recruiting effort called WOSO [Woman Officer Service Officers]; talks about her life after retirement, and her current involvement with the USMC.

OH 3545.2

Narrator: Campbell, Helen Hannah

Interviewer: Sarah Davison

Title: "A Second Oral History with Helen Campbell"

Date: August 4, 2007

Language: English

Location: Fountain Valley, California

Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 20 pages

This oral history spans 1943-2009. Bulk dates: 1943-1975.

A second oral history with Helen Campbell, resident of Fountain Valley, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Campbell's experiences at and around El Toro, beginning after World War II. This interview includes discussion about spending another year in the USMC after the end of World War II, recalling her return home to Whittier, California; comments on wartime shortages of gas, hosiery, butter, etc; speaks about taking a job as a chaperone for the All-American Girls League based in Muskegon, Michigan; recalls a trip to Havana, Cuba, with the Girls League; comments on the antics of the teenage girls she chaperoned and how the USMC prepared her for this position; speaks about returning to California in 1951 and being called back to duty at the start of the Korean War; discusses working as a WOSO (Woman Officer Service Officer); speaks about reaction to female Marines; remembers the social life of Women Reserves, including visits to bars in Laguna Beach; expresses regret at El Toro's closure and remembers the staff club fondly; explains the nicknames she gained in the USMC; discusses her retirement from the USMC in 1975.

OH 3546

Narrator: Scully, Thomas (b.1924)
Interviewer: Sarah Davison
Title: "An Oral History with Thomas Scully"
Date: April 24, 2007
Language: English
Location: California State University, Fullerton, Irvine Campus
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 25 pages

This oral history spans 1924-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960.

An oral history with Thomas F. Scully, resident of Los Angeles, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted for the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Scully's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about joining the USMC at a young age and attending boot camp in Parris Island, North Carolina; describes life at El Toro, including living in the barracks, entertainment and recreation, duties at the base, and the surrounding community; comments on camaraderie in the USMC; discusses the impact of gas rationing during World War II; comments on the transformation and development of Orange County, California.

OH 3547

Narrator: Nelson, Vera (b. 1919)
Interviewer: Brenda Arreola
Title: “An Oral History with Vera Nelson”
Date: April 27, 2007
Language: English
Location: Oceanside, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 18 pages

This oral history spans 1919-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Vera Nelson, resident of Oceanside, California, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women’s Reserve, and wife of former member of the USMC, Clarence Nelson (OH 3541). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Nelson’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Lancaster, Texas; talks about her experiences as an administrative assistant before joining the USMC; remembers recruitment posters and her decision to join the USMC; comments on how the elite reputation of Marines drew her to the USMC, speaking about how this became an a part of her own identity; describes experiences at boot camp in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and her interim position at Cherry Point, North Carolina, where she suffered from fever and homesickness; speaks about transferring to Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego, California, and then to El Toro in June of 1945; details her life and work at El Toro, remembering muster roll, her position in payroll, and the camaraderie in the USMC; compares the treatment of the Military by civilians during World War II with that of the Iraq War; discusses the economic benefits of serving in the USMC, including healthcare and wages; recounts her a story about her first husband, Ray Gilpin, and Charles Lindberg; reflects on her initial and current impressions of El Toro, including her anticipation of the opening of the Orange County Great Park.

OH 3548

Narrator: Shumway, Faye (b. 1918)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Faye Shumway"
Date: May 11, 2007
Language: English
Location: California State University, Fullerton
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans 1918-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Faye Shumway, resident of Tustin, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women's Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Shumway's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in North Carolina, speaking about the Depression; recalls the effect of advertising on her decision to join the USMC; remembers boot camp training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, speaking about an emotional graduation day; talks about being stationed at El Toro, recalling the troop train to California, as well as her first impressions of the base; tells about her assignment in the canopy shop, recalling rules for Women Reserves; relays the story of her engagement; speaks about serving food in the men's mess hall at El Toro; discusses interactions with civilians in Orange County, California; shares feelings about Pearl Harbor, as well as losing her boyfriend when he was shot down over Saipan; describes an average day at El Toro; comments on women in the USMC; discusses dress codes for Women Reserves, speaking about the beauty parlors at El Toro, and wearing Elizabeth Arden makeup; recalls liberty in Southern California, speaking about USO (United Service Organization) Clubs, the Brown Derby, the Roosevelt Hotel, and the Ambassador Hotel; talks about dating at El Toro; recalls marrying her husband in the chapel at El Toro; shares her feelings of being discharged from of the USMC in 1946, and her transition to civilian life; discusses the changes and development of Orange County through the years; comments on El Toro's impact on Orange County.

OH 3549

Narrator: Forrest, Shelby (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Maria Carrillo
Title: "An Oral History with Shelby Forrest"
Date: May 19, 2007
Language: English
Location: Upland, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 31 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s.

An oral history with Shelby Forrest, resident of Upland, California, retired colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Gloria Forrest (OH 3586). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Forrest's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Arkansas during the Depression; speaks about joining CPT (Civilian Pilot Training) while in college, and his decision to join the United States Navy, becoming a Marine after initial training; recalls basic training in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Glenview, Illinois, and Corpus Christi, Texas; speaks about being stationed at El Toro and in Ewa, Hawaii; describes wartime experiences, including the Pacific Theater of World War II, and at Wonsan during the Korean War; talks about staying in the USMC Reserves after World War II and being called to serve in the Korean War; details the benefits of the GI Bill, and speaks about his career as an educator; describes the beginnings of El Toro, remembering that the Hotel Laguna was the Bachelor Officers' Quarters; speaks about gender, racial, and community relations at El Toro.

OH 3550

Narrator: Jensen, Harvey (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Robert Miller
Title: "An Oral History with Harvey Jensen"
Date: May 24, 2007
Language: English
Location: Home of Harvey Jensen in Dana Point, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans 1921-2007. Bulk dates: 1943-1974.

An oral history with Harvey L. Jensen, longtime resident of Orange County, California, retired colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Joyce Jensen (OH 3570). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Jensen's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in Iowa during the Depression; speaks about joining the Naval Flight Program after Pearl Harbor, detailing his training; describes first impression of El Toro and the surrounding community; reflects on the expansion and development of El Toro and Orange County; comments on the relationship between the Marines at El Toro and the civilian community; recounts training and missions in various aircraft during World War II and the Korean War; speaks about tenure in the RAF [Royal Air Force] exchange program; reflects on the camaraderie in the USMC, and closure of El Toro.

OH 3551

Narrator: Hughes, Robert (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Robert Hughes"
Date: May 24, 2007
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 24 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2007. Bulk dates: 1955-1979.

An oral history with Robert Hughes, resident of Santa Ana, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Hughes' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Jersey City, New Jersey, during the Depression; speaks about joining the USMC at nineteen, looking forward to the challenge of boot camp; lists leisure activities available to Marines at El Toro; describes physical fitness as the religion of the USMC; shares his view of gender roles in the USMC; talks about the determination of the Korean citizens during the Korean War; compares the Vietnam War to the Iraq War; speaks about the period between the Korean and Vietnam wars, and his decision to remain in California due to the climate and lifestyle; reviews changes in USMC training and views on education, speaking about his use of the GI Bill; reflects on the closure of El Toro and its transformation into the Orange County Great Park.

OH 3552

Narrator: Petersen, Loretta (b. 1922)
Interviewer: Maria Hernandez-Figueroa
Title: “An Oral History with Loretta Petersen”
Date: May 26, 2007
Language: English
Location: Costa Mesa, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 27 pages

This oral history spans 1922-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Loretta Petersen, resident of Costa Mesa, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Petersen’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Evansville, Indiana, during the Depression; comments on the importance of education and determination in her life; reflects on patriotism during World War II, comparing attitudes to today; details her decision to join the USMC, and describes discrimination while at boot camp; talks about her decision to permanently reside in California; recalls her disgust for the food on base; discusses liberty at El Toro, speaking about trips to Laguna Beach and Los Angeles, California; recalls the lack of housing for married couples both on and off base, as well as her discharge from the USMC after getting pregnant; recalls the air shows at El Toro and her reaction to the closure of the base.

OH 3553

Narrator: DeBolt, Arthur (b.1923-2009)
Interviewer: Maria Carrillo
Title: "An Oral History with Arthur DeBolt"
Date: June 2, 2007
Language: English
Location: Los Alamitos, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 40 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2007. Bulk dates: 1942-1976.

An oral history with Arthur DeBolt, resident of Los Alamitos, California, and former pilot in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding DeBolt's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in East St. Louis, Missouri, during the Depression, speaking about his desire to become a pilot; recounts his training in the USMC, as well as his tour in the South Pacific during World War II; tells about his rise through the ranks, speaking about becoming a master tech sergeant; discusses his flight duties while serving in the Korean War and the transition to the USMC from the USMC Reserves; describes his tenure at El Toro (1950-1952) and other bases; discusses resupply missions during the Vietnam War, flying in and out of El Toro during the late 1960s and early 1970s; describes changes at El Toro and the surrounding area over the twentieth century; talks about his retirement from the USMC in 1976.

OH 3554

Narrator: Duncan, William (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with William Duncan”
Date: June 6, 2007
Language: English
Location: Dana Point, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 17 pages

This oral history spans 1921-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1970s.

An oral history with William Duncan, resident of Dana Point, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Duncan’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about working as a Landing Signal Officer (LSO) at El Toro and other bases, remembering near crashes and close calls; recalls his training on various aircraft, including Grumman Wildcats, Corsairs, and helicopters; comments on USMC marriage policies, speaking about the lack of married housing on base; describes his marriage ceremony at Camp Pendleton; recalls his involvement in sports and recreational activities at El Toro through his role as coach to the track and field team; discusses the impact of the USMC on his life over his twenty years of service; reflects on the economic benefits and prestige that El Toro brought to Orange County, California; describes El Toro as the main base and hub for USMC bases in Southern California; details the transformation of Orange County over the twentieth century.

OH 3555

Narrator: Clark, George William “Bill” (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Brenda Arreola
Title: “An Oral History with George William ‘Bill’ Clark”
Date: June 5, 2007
Language: English
Location: Tustin, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 14 pages

This oral history spans 1918-2007. Bulk dates: 1947-1950s.

An oral history with George William “Bill” Clark, lifelong resident of Southern California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and the Marine Corps Band. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Clark’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Los Angeles, California, speaking about musical and military family traditions; recalls the impact of Pearl Harbor on Southern California; remembers boot camp, speaking about joining the USMC band and receiving further musical training; comments on women in the USMC; describes recreational activities and housing accommodations at El Toro; recounts various events and experiences related to his involvement with the USMC band; reflects on changes in Southern California over the twentieth century.

OH 3556

Narrator: McGuire, Robert (b. 1920-2011)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: “An Oral History with Robert McGuire”
Date: June 6, 2007
Language: English
Location: Orange, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 16 pages

This oral history spans 1920-2007. Bulk dates: 1943-1959.

An oral history with Robert McGuire, resident of Orange, California, former pilot in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and father of Randall Miller (OH 3613). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding McGuire’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Iowa and Missouri during the Depression; shares memories of Pearl Harbor and global politics in the 1940s; speaks about joining the USMC in 1943, attending boot camp in Pensacola, Florida, and operational training in Jacksonville, Florida; remembers life at El Toro, recalling dive-bomber training; talks about serving in the South Pacific during World War II, speaking about his duties at Bikini Island during nuclear bomb testing at the site; shares about life after leaving the USMC.

OH 3557.1

Narrator: Buford, Ernest “Pat” (b. 1923-2013)
Interviewer: Maria Carrillo
Title: “An Oral History with Ernest ‘Pat’ Buford”
Date: June 9, 2007
Language: English
Location: Laguna Woods, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 33 pages

This oral history spans: 1923-2007. Bulk dates: 1941-1948.

An oral history with Ernest “Pat” Buford, resident of Laguna Woods, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Buford’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in rural Mississippi during the Depression, speaking about schooling, employment, and dreams of flying; shares memories about Pearl Harbor while attending the University of Mississippi; tells about enrolling in the Aviation Cadet Program, and speaks in detail about flight training; talks about being selected for the USMC, and reminiscing about the trip to Cherry Point, North Carolina; describes living at Cherry Point, speaking about the base, housing, and duties; tells about different aircraft he flew during his career, recounting their capabilities and firepower; talks about waiting for orders to fly to England, but being sent to MCAS Mojave, California, to prepare for fighting in the Pacific Theater; shares about practicing carrier takeoffs and landings in Santa Barbara, California; comments on his first impressions of California; talks about the differences between Mojave and Santa Barbara, speaking about size, housing, and entertainment; remembers taking the U.S.S. *Cape Gloucester* to Ewa, Hawaii, in April of 1945; recalls being in Okinawa when World War II ended; talks about weathering a typhoon in Okinawa, having to stake down planes with gun barrels; recounts training in Cherry Point, South America, and Africa after World War II; shares about experiences in the Persian Gulf in 1948; briefly mentions receiving orders for El Toro in 1949.

OH 3557.2

Narrator: Buford, Ernest “Pat” (b. 1923-2013)
Interviewer: Maria Carrillo
Title: “A Second Oral History with Ernest ‘Pat’ Buford”
Date: June 16, 2007
Language: English
Location: Laguna Woods, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 37 pages

This oral history spans: 1923-2007. Bulk dates: 1948-1963.

A second oral history with Ernest “Pat” Buford, resident of Laguna Woods, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Buford’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about coming to El Toro in 1949 and becoming an aide to General Field Harris, as well as living in Laguna Beach, California; recalls the beginnings of the Korean War and anticipation for an early resolution; shares about the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, remembering conditions and tactics; talks about different aircraft he flew during the Korean War, including jets; speaks about returning to El Toro in the 1950s, comparing it to other bases; shares about meeting his wife at El Toro, marrying a week later at the chapel on base; discusses leaving El Toro for weather school in Corpus Christi, Texas, and then Miami; recalls training instructors how to teach while in Quantico, Virginia; comments on the growth of Orange County, California, and its effect on El Toro; speaks about returning to El Toro in 1957 as the executive officer, commanding officer, and head of the Special Weapons Training Unit; talks about returning to school in 1960 to finish his degree in social science at California State University, Long Beach; remembers accepting orders in 1961 to the staff of Commander Naval Air Forces Pacific Fleet [COMNAVAIRPAC], in San Diego, California; discusses attending night school, then taking jobs with the City of Los Angeles and the City of Santa Ana; shares opinions on the closure of El Toro and the development of the Orange County Great Park.

OH 3558

Narrator: Porter, Charles (b. 1924)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Charles Porter"
Date: June 11, 2007
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 14 pages

This oral history spans the 1930s-1990. Bulk dates: 1942-1950s.

An oral history with Charles Porter, longtime resident of Orange County, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Porter's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Akron, Ohio, during the Depression, speaking about a lifelong love of airplanes; recalls Pearl Harbor and its effect on patriotism; remembers his inability to join the Army Air Force and subsequent enlistment in the USMC; speaks about his formal and practical training in civil engineering and mechanics; talks about El Toro's role in his education and maturation; comments on housing and recreational opportunities at El Toro; discusses El Toro's economic influence on the surrounding area, speaking about the development of Orange County; describes his business ventures, saying he was one of the first Laundromat owners in Southern California.

OH 3559

Narrator: Herlihy, George (b. 1920)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with George Herlihy"
Date: June 12, 2007
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 17 pages

This oral history spans 1920-2009. Bulk dates: 1941-1962.

An oral history with George Herlihy, resident of Santa Ana, California, retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Roberta Herlihy (OH 3699). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Herlihy's experiences at and around El Toro. The interview includes discussion about growing up in rural Tucson, Arizona, during the Depression; briefly speaks about his employment in the United States Cavalry before joining the United States Navy in 1941; details his two decades of military service as a USMC pilot; reviews overseas flight missions in Okinawa, Japan, Engibi Island, three tours in Guadalcanal, and the Korean War, discussing radar pickup patrols against suicide bombers at Okinawa, and nighttime intruder missions; shares memory of being shot down over Munda in the South Pacific, hiding with natives and escaping by canoe while under fire; discusses changes at El Toro over the course of his assignments there; describes an average workday at El Toro; speaks about living accommodations at El Toro, saying that he lived in a Quonset Hut and then bought a home off base in Orange, California, in 1948; reviews recreational activities at El Toro, remembering gambling; lists various decorations, including medals, citations, and the Purple Heart; discusses his inclusion in historical publications; mentions his careers after the USMC, including working with Rockwell International, and owning a small business.

OH 3560

Narrator: Hall, Billy (b.1926)
Interviewer: Juan Silva
Title: "An Oral History with Billy Hall"
Date: June 14, 2007
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 15 pages

This oral history spans 1926-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1970s.

An oral history with Billy Hall, resident of Santa Ana, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Hall's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in rural Texas during the Depression; speaks about joining the USMC in 1941 at the age of fifteen; talks about joining aviation after boot camp, going to radio school and becoming a radioman; recalls flight training at North Island in San Diego, California, and Jacksonville, Florida; talks about instructing Canadian pilots in radio code at Jacksonville; discusses joining Marine Air Group-11, preparing for combat; recalls experiences in the Pacific Theater of World War II, including a beach landing at Guadalcanal under enemy fire, night raids on Vella Lavella Island, and perilous flight operations and raids; recalls flying in aircraft such as the Douglas SBD Dauntless and the Grumman TBF Avenger, describing each plane; comments on time spent in Australia for R&R (rest and recuperation); discusses being transferred to El Toro in the summer of 1944; speaks about living at El Toro, describing the base and surrounding community; talks about becoming a second lieutenant in the United States Army, working as a communications officer; comments on his retirement in Orange County, California, after the Vietnam War; shares about his involvement in organizations such as the Aero Club, as well as becoming president of the Retired Officers' Association; reflects on El Toro's impact on Orange County.

OH 3561

Narrator: Titterud, Stan (1920-2009)
Interviewer: Juan Silva
Title: "An Oral History with Stan Titterud"
Date: June 15, 2007
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 20 pages

This oral history spans 1920-2009. Bulk dates: 1940-1970.

An oral history with Stan Titterud, resident of Santa Ana, California, and retired colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Titterud's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Fillmore County, Minnesota, during the Depression; speaks about briefly moving to Southern California to attend Chaffee Community College, transferring to the University of Minnesota's School of Business, and having to reevaluate his career path; discusses participating in Naval flight training at Wold-Chamberlain Airport in Minnesota in order to avoid being drafted during World War II; recalls joining the USMC in July of 1940; describes duty stations, including Cherry Point, North Carolina, Santa Barbara, California, and El Toro; shares memories of his time in the South Pacific, including his stay on the islands of Malawi and Bougainville; describes the "shellback ritual," and being stationed in Espiritu Santo and Solomon Islands as the Executive Officer; recalls returning home in 1945, marrying and being transferred to Quantico, Virginia; talks about several flights over the San Jacinto Mountains and up and down the west coast; remembers celebrations in Santa Ana at the end of World War II; and finally, recalls his last posting at El Toro, and his retirement from the USMC in 1970.

OH 3562

Narrator: Vance, Johnnie (1921-2009)
Interviewer: Robert Miller
Title: "An Oral History with Johnnie Vance"
Date: June 6, 2007
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1921-2007. Bulk dates: 1941-1973.

An oral history with Johnnie Vance, resident of Mission Viejo, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Vance's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Cotter, Arkansas, during the Depression; speaks about his involvement in CPT (Civilian Pilot Training), and joining the USMC after Pearl Harbor in 1941; remembers his first duty station in St. Louis, Missouri, transferring to El Toro in 1943; shares his first impressions of El Toro and Southern California, remembering the ocean, orange groves, and bean fields; talks about his tours in the South Pacific during World War II; explains that he became a flight instructor after World War II; discusses his experiences during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, including participating in the Tet Offensive; shares work experience at Marine Corps Headquarters; comments on the growth and development of Southern California over the twentieth century; tells about travelling across the country and relocating to Southern California after his retirement from the USMC.

OH 3563

Narrator: Buzan, Pauline (b. 1920-2012)
Interviewer: Maria Hernandez-Figueroa
Title: “An Oral History with Pauline Buzan”
Date: June 18, 2007
Language: English
Location: Laguna Woods, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 59 pages

This oral history spans 1920-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Pauline Buzan, resident of Laguna Woods, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women’s Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Buzan’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about her parents’ emigration from Slovenia; speaks about growing up in New York City during the Depression; recalls her involvement with the Slovenian Catholic community through the Brooklyn Tamburitza Orchestra, choirs, and theater; comments on her political awareness before Pearl Harbor, remembering Nazi propaganda in a German community; tells about her involvement in Civilian Defense and working for the Office of Censorship; details her work experience after secretary school; talks about her motivations for joining the USMC in 1942; remembers positions she held in the USMC, including working in the paymaster’s department in Washington, D.C., as a cook at El Toro, and as a typist working on the flying manual; describes life at El Toro, recalling social activities, relationships with her superiors, the USO (United Service Organization) in Laguna Beach, California, and the emotional and physical strain of missions on pilots; speaks about staying in Orange County, California, with her husband after being discharged from the USMC; recalls her various volunteer activities, speaking about working in the United States Peace Corps.

OH 3564

Narrator: Lewis, Jesse (b. 1922)
Interviewer: Sarah Davison
Title: "An Oral History with Jesse Lewis"
Date: June 23, 2007
Language: English
Location: Coto de Caza, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 30 pages

This oral history spans 1922-2007. Bulk dates: 1945-1955.

An oral history with Jesse Lewis, longtime resident of Southern California, and former lieutenant colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Lewis' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Marion, Illinois, during the Depression, and enlisting in the Naval Aviation Cadet Program; describes aviation facilities in Evanston, Illinois, Corpus Christi, Texas, and MCAS Cherry Point in detail; talks about life at El Toro, speaking about flying Corsairs and FJ-3 airplanes, as well as living in Wherry housing in the 1940s and 1950s; comments on the involvement of the USMC in the Korean War, describing battlefield conditions; speaks about the Officers' Club at El Toro, as well as Orange County, California, during the 1950s; discusses his career as a pilot for American Airlines, as well as rejoining the Marine Air Reserve program; speaks about the early jet aviation program in the USMC, including the introduction of FJ-3s as an fighter jet; briefly comments on the effect El Toro's closure had on retired aviators in Southern California, speaking about the loss of amenities.

OH 3565

Narrator: Griffiths, Susan (b. ca. 1920)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Susan Griffiths"
Date: June 20, 2007
Language: English
Location: Escondido, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 24 pages

This oral history spans 1920s-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s.

An oral history with Susan Griffiths, resident of Escondido, California, divorced spouse of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and mother of Lilian Cooper (OH 3617). This interview was conducted as part of the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Griffiths' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a dairy in Southern California; recounts meeting her husband, a Marine, at the beach, before he was sent to the Pacific Theater of World War II; talks about military family life, recalling her time at El Toro, Parris Island, South Carolina, and in Massachusetts; details base housing at El Toro, speaking about living in a Quonset Hut, including decorating round walls, monthly rent, and laundry service; discusses amenities at El Toro, including swimming pools, a movie theater, PX, commissary, medical care, and schools; comments on the USMC's lack of provision for family housing overseas; discusses her ex-husband's gift for recruitment; reflects on marital problems in military homes, detailing her divorce; discusses the effect of a military life on children; reviews impact of El Toro on the Orange County, California community.

OH 3566

Narrator: Rawlings, Arthur (b. 1922)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Arthur Rawlings”
Date: June 21, 2007
Language: English
Location: California State University, Fullerton, Irvine Campus
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 30 pages

This oral history spans 1922-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s.

An oral history with Arthur Rawlings, resident of Lakewood, California, and former pilot in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Rawlings’ experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in South Bend, Indiana, and Detroit, Michigan; speaks about joining the United States Navy after high school, beginning aviator training in 1942 in Cleveland, Ohio, and Corpus Christi, Texas; describes training methods and equipment used during World War II combat flight training; talks about El Toro in the 1940s, speaking about flight operations and living conditions on and off base, including hotel accommodations; discusses liberty at El Toro, including visiting the Olympic Hotel in downtown Los Angeles, California; describes the early USMC helicopter program which used Piasecki “flying banana” aircraft, as well as the importance of Lighter-Than-Air hangars to the program; discusses early helicopter operations in the Korean War, explaining how the USMC helicopter program transformed battlefield experiences and improved morale; details training and operations for aircraft such as the F4F Wildcat, F4U Corsair, early Sikorsky helicopters, and Stearman training aircraft.

OH 3567

Narrator: Law, James (1920-2008)
Interviewer: Maria Carrillo
Title: "An Oral History with James Law"
Date: June 26, 2007
Language: English
Location: California State University, Irvine Campus
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 31 pages

This oral history spans 1920-2007. Bulk dates: 1937-1962.

An oral history with James Law, resident of Laguna Beach, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Law's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Brooklyn, New York, during the Depression; speaks about joining the USMC Reserves in 1937, training in Brooklyn, Quantico, Virginia, and Peekskill, New York; comments on the entry of the United States into World War II; talks about starting as an airplane mechanic in the USMC and later becoming a pilot; recalls his first impressions of California, remembering orange groves during a brief stay at Camp Kearny; speaks about his time in the South Pacific during World War II, describing islands, and the censorship of mail; tells about attending flight school in locations such as Pensacola, Florida; reflects upon the decision to drop the Atomic Bomb on Japan; talks about transferring from Cherry Point, North Carolina, to El Toro as a senior mechanic assigned to Night Fighter Squadron 542; discusses his experiences in the Korean War, including capturing Kimpo Airfield and evacuating wounded from the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir; tells about his time as sergeant major in Iwakuni, Japan; comments on the development of Orange County, California; discusses life at El Toro, remembering work, recreation, and community interaction; details his promotion to Base Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Bases Western Area; speaks about his post-USMC career as a training instructor with North American Aviation in Downey, California, as well as other business ventures.

OH 3568

Narrator: Smith, Pauline Jones (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Maria Carrillo
Title: “An Oral History with Pauline Jones Smith”
Date: July 1, 2007
Language: English
Location: Sherman Oaks, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 57 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2007. Bulk dates: 1944-1946.

An oral history with Pauline Jones Smith, resident of Sherman Oaks, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women’s Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Smith’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Ohio during the Depression, maintaining familial relationships; speaks about joining the USMC in 1943, remembering boot camp at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, which included weapons, physical training, and tear gas drills; describes life at El Toro for women Marines during World War II, including the dress code, mess hall, kitchen patrol, training, discipline, living quarters, dating, and social activities; talks about Santa Ana and Laguna Beach, California, speaking about their relationship to El Toro during World War II; remembers transportation at El Toro, including base transportation, as well as taking the Red Car to downtown Los Angeles; details about her assignment to the Post Office at El Toro; comments on her return to California in 1952 after six years in Ohio, taking a job at Marquardt Aircraft; speaks about her brief marriage to Joseph Smith in 1962; talks about working at United California Bank (later First Interstate Bank) from the 1970s to the 1990s; reflects on the advantages of having served in the USMC, including prestige.

OH 3569

Narrator: Gaylord, David (b.1926)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with David Gaylord"
Date: June 18, 2007
Language: English
Location: Bolivar, Missouri
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 25 pages

This oral history spans 1926-2007. Bulk dates: 1942-1964.

An oral history with David Gaylord, resident of Bolivar, Missouri, retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and father of Julie Galkin (OH 4619). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Gaylord's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up with relatives in St. Louis, Missouri; speaks about joining the USMC in 1942 at the age of sixteen, attending boot camp in San Diego, California; talks about his educational experiences, taking the GED (General Educational Development) test while in the USMC; recalls transferring to North Island in San Diego to train as an aircraft mechanic; describes his experiences in the Pacific Theater of World War II, remembering his stay at Guadalcanal and New Hebrides, as well as working as a courier in Iwakuni, Japan; shares experiences during the Battle of Guadalcanal; briefly mentions painting Varga girls on the cowlings of aircraft during World War II; speaks about transferring to El Toro in 1944, working part-time in an orange juice factory; explains that he worked with a crew of twenty-five women Marines on Corsairs and F6F airplanes at El Toro; talks about marrying in 1946, living in Wherry housing at El Toro, sometimes witnessing airplane accidents with his family; recounts experiences flying with a nuclear weapon from El Toro to San Francisco, California, to Hawaii; talks about working as a recruitment officer for the USMC in Salina, Kansas, and Joplin, Missouri; speaks about retiring from the USMC in 1964, selling insurance in California, and returning to Missouri in 1976.

OH 3570

Narrator: Jensen, Joyce (b. 1924)
Interviewer: Robert Miller
Title: "An Oral History with Joyce Jensen"
Date: July 2, 2007
Language: English
Location: Dana Point, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 20 pages

This oral history spans 1910s-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1970s.

An oral history with Joyce Jensen, resident of Dana Point, California, and wife of retired colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Harvey Jensen (OH 3550). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Jensen's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Sioux City, Iowa, during the Depression; speaks about meeting her husband at a Lutheran Bible Camp in 1939; discusses Pearl Harbor and its effect on Harvey's decision to join the USMC as a pilot, receiving training on Corsair airplanes; details Harvey's thirty-year career with the USMC, speaking about three wars and multiple deployments; talks about moving to El Toro in 1945, briefly working as a secretary in the hiring office; comments on the stress of being separated from her husband while he was overseas; shares about life at El Toro, speaking about recreation, the Officers' Club, shopping, medical care, and living in NAMAR housing off base; recalls the community of Orange County, California, remembering orange groves and a lack of freeways; briefly speaks about moving around the United States and overseas, mentioning Cherry Point, North Carolina, the War College in Montgomery, Alabama, Senior School in Quantico, Virginia, and England; briefly discusses the close-knit community of USMC wives and families at El Toro; briefly mentions watching air shows at El Toro, remembering the Blue Angels stunt team; speaks about her involvement in the community, talking about her participation with Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Dana Point.

OH 3571.1

Narrator: Austin, Marshall (b. 1924-2010)
Interviewer: Brenda Arreola
Title: “An Oral History with Marshall Austin”
Date: July 6, 2007
Language: English
Location: Laguna Woods, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 21 pages

This oral history spans 1924-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s.

An oral history with Marshall Austin, resident of Laguna Woods, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Austin’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Chicago, Illinois, and Long Beach, California; shares memories of Pearl Harbor, and joining the Merchant Marines after graduating from high school; speaks about joining the United States Navy as an aviation cadet in 1942; discusses flight training school, learning to fly Stearman and Corsair aircraft in Prescott, Arizona, San Francisco, California, and Jacksonville, Florida; speaks about transferring to the USMC as a second lieutenant; shares experiences in the Pacific Theater of World War II, remembering being sent to Okinawa, Japan, to face kamikaze fighters; recalls flying over Nagasaki, Japan, observing the destruction caused by the atom bomb; talks about transferring to Quantico, Virginia, to attend Amphibious Warfare School; shares about meeting his wife in Torrance, California, corresponding for a year and marrying; comments on the separation of families during deployments, explaining that he missed the birth of his son; speaks about life at El Toro, including entertainment at the Officers’ Club and living in Wherry housing and in Santa Ana, California; briefly mentions attending legal school in Newport, Rhode Island; comments on the interaction between El Toro and the surrounding community; shares experiences while stationed in Guam, saying that he lived with his wife in a Quonset Hut on base.

OH 3571.2

Narrator: Austin, Marshall (b. 1924-2010)
Interviewer: Brenda Arreola
Title: "A Second Oral History with Marshall Austin"
Date: July 9, 2007
Language: English
Location: Laguna Woods, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1940s-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1970s.

A second oral history with Marshall Austin, resident of Laguna Woods, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Austin's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about living at El Toro, speaking about transportation, schooling, and entertainment; speaks about transferring to Cherry Point, North Carolina, as a flight instructor, and to Newport, Rhode Island, for Naval Justice School; shares experiences during the Korean War, detailing bombing missions, living quarters, cooperation with international troops, picking up American prisoners of war, and receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross; talks about becoming the provost marshal at El Toro after returning from the Korean War, explaining his duties; mentions that he was promoted to a major and placed in charge of all the manpower for El Toro, Camp Pendleton, Twentynine Palms, California, and Yuma, Arizona; remembers his time as Marine Corps Aide to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Aviation; briefly speaks about receiving his degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, then being transferred to Iwakuni, Japan, and then returning to Corpus Christi, Texas, as the commanding officer of the Marine Aviation Detachment there; recalls retiring from the USMC in 1969, receiving his master's degree from California State University, Long Beach, and teaching at Saddleback High School in Santa Ana, California.

OH 3572

Narrator: Jensen, Marilyn (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Marilyn Jensen"
Date: July 9, 2007
Language: English
Location: Orange, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 25 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s.

An oral history with Marilyn Jensen, resident of Orange, California, and daughter of a former manager for the Irvine Ranch. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Jensen's experiences at and around El Toro and the Irvine Ranch. This interview includes discussion about growing up on the Irvine Ranch, speaking about her parents' emigration from Texas during the Depression; speaks about hearing air traffic from El Toro in her classrooms at the Irvine School; remembers several fatal accidents at El Toro, finding bodies and wreckage on Irvine land; comments on family housing at El Toro; remembers visiting El Toro as a civilian, staying with friends on base and watching movies in the movie theater; shares about experiences during World War II, remembering rationing, air raid drills, blackout curtains, Victory gardens, news coverage, and that her father was the warden in charge of the packinghouse; talks about agricultural employment in midcentury Orange County, California, speaking about working in the Irvine Valencia Packinghouse; briefly discusses interactions with the Irvine family; speaks about farming on the Irvine Ranch, including oranges and strawberries, as well as frost and smudge pots; talks about losing friends who moved away from El Toro with their military families; comments on interactions with minorities on the Irvine Ranch and in school; discusses postwar growth in Orange County, talking about real estate and the aerospace industry; tells about her position as the Orange City Clerk for thirty years.

OH 3573.1

Narrator: Kerr, Jeannette (b. 1919-2010)
Interviewer: Maria Carrillo
Title: "An Oral History with Jeanette Kerr"
Date: July 5, 2007
Language: English
Location: Costa Mesa, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 32 pages

This oral history spans 1919-2007. Bulk dates: 1930s-1960s.

An oral history with Jeannette Kerr of Costa Mesa, resident of Costa Mesa, California, and former librarian at El Toro. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Kerr's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in California during the Depression, speaking about poverty and her mother's battle with tuberculosis; talks about her first job at a Kress department store in Pasadena, California, where she met her future husband, John; remembers living in a small apartment in Los Angeles, California, in the late 1930s; shares her memories of Pearl Harbor, remembering public sentiment; discusses World War II, speaking about blackout curtains, and communicating with her husband while he was overseas with Lockheed Martin Corporation then the United States Army; tells about returning to Southern California in 1958 and attending Orange Coast College, and then the University of California, Los Angeles for a master's degree.

OH 3573.2

Narrator: Kerr, Jeannette (b. 1919)
Interviewer: Maria Carrillo
Title: "A Second Oral History with Jeanette Kerr"
Date: July 12, 2007
Language: English
Location: Costa Mesa, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 27 pages

This oral history spans 1919-2007. Bulk dates: 1971-1982.

A second oral history with Jeannette Kerr, resident of Costa Mesa, California, and former librarian at El Toro. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Kerr's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about attending Orange Coast College, California State University, Long Beach, and University of California, Los Angeles, speaking about the financial and personal difficulties in achieving her master's degree in library science; recalls Costa Mesa in the 1950s, talking about the lack of available housing; speaks about her employment history, working at Orange Coast College, Chapman University, and even typing at night, while her husband worked as a psych technician at the Fairview State Hospital; recalls meeting Marines from El Toro who came to Chapman to work on their master's theses; shares her first impressions of El Toro, speaking about its isolation; describes acquiring a position as the librarian at El Toro, remembering C.B. Wright, the head of Special Services, and a long application process; describes an average day working at the El Toro library, speaking about the disorganization and the challenge; discusses the wide range of Special Services at El Toro, including the golf course, movie theater, and childcare; briefly mentions Vietnamese refugees at El Toro during the 1970s; recalls a 1985 air show at El Toro where a plane hit the chapel and missed the library; shares her fondness of El Toro and the base library.

OH 3574

Narrator: Salera, Maria Teresa (b. 1939)
Interviewer: Maria Hernandez-Figueroa
Title: “An Oral History with Maria Teresa Salera”
Date: July 7, 2007
Language: Spanish
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 33 pages

This oral history spans 1939-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s.

An oral history with Maria Teresa Salera, resident of Santa Ana, California, and wife of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Salera’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Tepic City, Mexico, recalling her father’s death, babysitting in Nayarit and Hermosillo, as well as working as a waitress in a restaurant called Tepatlitan in Cacho, Tijuana; speaks about immigrating to the United States, travelling on a seventy-two hour visa and deciding to stay; tells about marrying her husband, a Philippine-born Marine, who fought in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War; talks about Vitaliano’s assignment cleaning and assembling weapons; discusses living at various USMC bases with her husband, including some near San Francisco and Oceanside, California, as well as El Toro; speaks about the living on base at El Toro, remembering strict rules of cleanliness, monthly home inspections, dinner parties, neighbors from around the world, and available services; remembers the Navy Relief Program, speaking of how it helped her family; discusses buying a home in Santa Ana during the 1960s; talks about her husband’s work as a janitor for the *Santa Ana Register* after leaving the USMC, as well as her own employment in a factory; comments on her integration into American society through life on USMC bases, including learning how to drive and speak English.

OH 3574

Narradora: Salera, Maria Teresa (b. 1939)

Intrevistada Por: Maria Hernandez-Figueroa

Portada: “An Oral History with Maria Teresa Salera”

Fecha: July 7, 2007

Lenguaje: Spanish

Lugar: Santa Ana, California

Tema: Proyecto de Historia Oral de la Base Marina de El Toro

Estatus: edited/completed; 42 pages

This oral history spans 1939-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s.

Una historia oral de Maria Teresa Salera, viuda de Vitaliano Salera de Santa Ana, California. Esta entrevista fue conducida para el Proyecto de Historia Oral de la Base Marina de El Toro, Universidad Estatal de California, Fullerton. El propósito de esta entrevista fue para obtener información personal de su experiencia viviendo y criando su familia como esposa de un marino en la base de El Toro después de la segunda guerra mundial. Específicamente, esta entrevista recuenta la vida de Maria en su tierra natal, Tepic, Nayarit, Méjico, su inmigración a los Estados Unidos, y su integración a la sociedad americana por parte de su vida en la base marina; su padre murió cuando ella tenía doce años de edad y fue criada por su abuela paterna; su mama vivía con su segundo esposo y Maria decidió trabajar y sobrevivir por sí misma; ella trabajo cuidando niños en Nayarit y Hermosillo, Méjico y eventualmente se movió a una colonia en Tijuana del nombre Cacho; allí trabajo como mesera en un restaurante llamado Tepatlitan; Maria eventualmente viajo a Los Ángeles con una visa de setenta y dos horas y decidió quedarse; se caso con Vitaliano Salera un marino estadounidense originalmente de las Filipinas; el Sr. Salera peleó en la primera guerra mundial, la segunda guerra mundial, la guerra con Korea, y la guerra de Vietnam; él limpiaba y armaba las armas; juntos vivieron en varias bases marinas incluyendo unas junto a o dentro de San Francisco, Oceanside, y El Toro; en El Toro, ellos vivieron en casas para marinos; ella habla de las reglas estrictas de limpieza, inspecciones de hogar mensuales, fiestas, vecinos de todas partes del mundo, y servicios que El Toro ofrecía; ella recuerda el programa de *Navy Relief* y como ayudo a su familia cuando necesitaban ayuda; compraron una casa en Santa Ana durante los años de 1960; ella aprendió ingles y cómo manejar; después de acabar su término de servicio, el señor Salera trabajo como agente de limpieza para el *Register* y Maria trabajo en una fábrica.

OH 3575

Narrator: Sanders, Roger (1921-2010)
Interviewer: Robert Miller
Title: "An Oral History with Roger Sanders"
Date: August 6, 2007
Language: English
Location: Newport Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 42 pages

This oral history spans 1921-2007. Bulk dates: 1941-1964.

An oral history with Roger Sanders, resident of Newport Beach, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Sanders' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in a rural community in La Jara, Colorado, during the Depression; shares memories of Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbor; details his pilot training at various bases, including the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Corpus Christi, Texas, and Jacksonville, Florida; talks about meeting his future wife while in Hutchinson, Kansas, for flight training; describes aircraft he flew for the USMC, including the first all-American jets at Patuxent River, Maryland; discusses his wartime experiences during World War II, flying long missions off the coast of Japan, losing friends, and flying over the devastation in Nagasaki, Japan; tells about his duties in Paris, France, as aide to the Commander-in-Chief Europe during the 1950s; shares first impressions of Southern California; speaks about living at El Toro, remembering the social life, living in Wherry housing, and the Post Exchange (PX); tells about living in Quonset Huts at Cherry Point, North Carolina; comments on the relationship between El Toro and Orange County, California, speaking about the treatment of former Marines; remembers his retirement from the USMC in 1964, settling in Santa Ana, California; talks about working for Douglas Aircraft Company's flight department as an engineering pilot in Long Beach, California, after retiring from the USMC; comments on the strategic importance of El Toro.

OH 3576

Narrator: Edwards, Leonard (b. 1928)
Interviewer: Robert Miller
Title: "An Oral History with Leonard Edwards"
Date: July 13, 2007
Language: English
Location: Balboa Island, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 20 pages

This oral history spans 1928-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s.

An oral history with Leonard Edwards, resident of Balboa Island, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Edwards' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Southern California during the Depression; shares memories of Pearl Harbor, speaking about public opinion; tells about experiences on the homefront during World War II, remembering rationing; speaks about his decision to join the USMC in 1946, talking about financial and educational opportunities; talks about his boot camp experiences at Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California; speaks about transferring to MCAS Miramar and joining Ground Control Intercept Squadron Air Corps Division (MGCIS), training in ground control and radar; shares about playing football at Miramar, then being transferred to El Toro with the rest of the team; comments on the importance of sports to the USMC and El Toro; details life at El Toro, including the "chow hall," the barracks, the Post Exchange (PX), medical facilities, and visiting beer halls in Santa Ana, California; shares memories of the Lighter-Than-Air (LTA) Base in Tustin, California, recalling playing football near the hangars; discusses radar training and aircraft carrier landings near Saddleback Mountain while at El Toro; speaks about leaving the USMC after eighteen months as part of the postwar demilitarization, attending El Camino Junior College in Gardena, California, and transferring to the University of Arizona on a football scholarship; tells about marrying in 1949 and using the G.I. Bill to purchase his first home; talks about the effect of the USMC on his civilian career, speaking about joining the Los Angeles City Fire Department in 1955.

OH 3577

Narrator: Marr, Leland (b. 1919)
Interviewer: Maria Carrillo
Title: "An Oral History with Leland Marr"
Date: July 17, 2007
Language: English
Location: Seal Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1919-2009. Bulk Dates: 1943-1945.

An oral history with Leland Marr, resident of Seal Beach, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Marr's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Southern California, enjoying the atmosphere at Venice Beach; shares memories of the Depression, speaking about witnessing poverty; speaks about working at Douglas Aircraft Company during World War II, then being inducted into the USMC in 1943; talks about Pearl Harbor, remembering its effect on Southern California and his position at Douglas Aircraft Company; discusses boot camp experiences at Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California; speaks about training as an aviation mechanic at Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island in San Diego, recalling an average workday; recalls that all personnel at North Island were transferred to El Toro in 1945; shares his first impressions of El Toro, remembering an agricultural area; describes his experiences at El Toro, discussing the barracks and the Post Exchange (PX); talks about the difficulty of seeing his family while stationed at North Island and El Toro; tells about being discharged from the USMC after World War II, and staying at El Toro as a civilian employee; speaks about the development of Orange County, California, over the twentieth century; discusses working as an insurance adjuster for several years before beginning his own construction company, Leland Pacific.

OH 3578

Narrator: Raymond, Edmundine “Eddy” (b. ca. 1934)
Interviewer: Maria Hernandez-Figueroa
Title: “An Oral History with Edmundine ‘Eddy’ Raymond”
Date: July 21, 2007
Language: English
Location: Chino Hills, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 24 pages

This oral history spans 1930s-2007. Bulk dates: 1950s-1960s.

An oral history with Edmundine “Eddy” Raymond, resident of Chino Hills, California, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and mother of Cindy Davis (OH 3717). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Raymond’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Poland and being evacuated to slave labor camps in Russia, speaking about the brutal conditions and hard work, as well as losing most of her family to illness and starvation; talks about receiving amnesty from Joseph Stalin and traveling to the United States with other orphans; talks about being sent to a Polish Catholic Orphanage in Buffalo, New York, in 1946, remaining there until she graduated from high school in 1953; discusses moving to Cleveland, Ohio, before joining the USMC in 1953; shares boot camp experiences in Parris Island, South Carolina, transferring to El Toro as a stenographer and court reporter; shares first impressions of El Toro; comments on attitudes toward women Marines in the USMC and broader community, as well as race relations at El Toro; speaks about living at El Toro, describing the barracks, NAMAR, and Wherry housing; tells about her first husband, Robert, a Marine who served in the Korean War and the Vietnam War; describes different duty stations in Quantico, Virginia, and Fort Smith, Hawaii; talks about her children’s experiences going to school and growing up on USMC bases; recounts receiving her American citizenship in 1954; tells about her remarriage and return to California; reflects on the importance of El Toro and military tradition to herself and the United States.

OH 3579

Narrator: Brewer, Margaret (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Margaret Brewer"
Date: July 18, 2007
Language: English
Location: Springfield, Virginia
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 17 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2008. Bulk dates: 1952-1980.

An oral history with Margaret Brewer, resident of Springfield, Virginia, and the first female brigadier general in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Brewer's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Michigan; speaks about joining the USMC, recalling that she met Marines who were involved in the flag raising ceremony at Iwo Jima, Japan, during World War II, as well as her mother's reaction; describes her basic training at Quantico, Virginia, and her educational background; speaks about being transferred to El Toro in 1952 as a Communications Watch Officer, describing her duties; recalls a lack of housing for women officers at El Toro, moving to Laguna Beach, California, with friends; discusses the role of women in the USMC, saying she did not face any obstacles or discrimination as a woman Marine; briefly speaks about the relationship between El Toro and the surrounding community, remembering she was the leader of a Girl Scout troop in Laguna Beach; talks about travelling to NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) conferences with the Inspector General to discuss the role of women in the Military; speaks about her positions as an inspector general, deputy director, Director of Women Marines, and Director of Public Affairs for the USMC; comments on the integration of female units into the USMC; speaks about her promotion to brigadier general in 1978, talking about being the first female in this position; tells about retiring from the USMC in 1980, speaking about her work with the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation; shares her views on El Toro's closure, as well as advice for women considering a career in the USMC.

OH 3580

Narrator: Petersen, Frank (b. 1932)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Frank Petersen"
Date: July 19, 2007
Language: English
Location: Stevensville, Maryland
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 22 pages

This oral history spans 1932-2007. Bulk dates: 1952-1969.

An oral history with Frank Petersen, resident of Stevensville, Maryland, and the first African American general in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Petersen's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Topeka, Kansas, remembering segregation and the effects of the 1954 Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education*; speaks about joining the United States Navy in 1950, attending boot camp in San Diego, California, and transferring to Treasure Island in the San Francisco Bay; talks about training to become the first black pilot in the USMC, calling Navy pilot Jesse Brown his inspiration; recalls arriving at El Toro in 1952, sharing his first impressions of the base; speaks about race relations in the USMC, talking about being arrested on base, as well as serving as race counselor after the Vietnam War; describes airplane crashes at El Toro; shares experiences in the Korean War, including an air attack at Sinuiju, North Korea, and being stationed at Kimchaek, remembering interactions with locals; talks about earning the Distinguished Flying Cross; recalls the different planes he flew during his career; details housing at El Toro, speaking about the differences due to rank and marital status; talks about changes to El Toro upon his return from Korea; shares the story of how he received a Purple Heart during the Korean War; discusses retiring from the USMC in 1988, working for the DuPont Corporation flight department and speaking about the differences between the military and corporate America; comments on the difference in wartime experiences for members of the USMC.

OH 3581

Narrator: Wehry, Maxine (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Maxine Wehry"
Date: July 22, 2007
Language: English
Location: Gulfport, Florida
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 38 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2007. Bulk dates: 1943-1946.

An oral history with Maxine Wehry, resident of Gulfport, Florida, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women's Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Wehry's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Indiana during the Depression, speaking about economic hardship; speaks about attending beauty school before World War II; talks about her family's military service, beginning in World War II; shares her memories about Pearl Harbor, and joining the USMC in 1943; talks about the homefront during World War II, speaking about blackout curtains and communicating with soldiers; tells about her boot camp experiences in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; remembers transferring to El Toro in 1944 to work in the beauty shop on base, recalling the train ride; details living at El Toro, speaking about daily duties and recreation, as well as meeting Bing Crosby; talks about women in the USMC, describing dress regulations, dating practices, and discrimination; remembers that soldiers who had gone AWOL (Absence without Leave) helped clean the beauty shop at El Toro; talks about changes at El Toro during her time there; speaks about transitioning to civilian life after World War II, remembering difficulty finding work, using her weekly government pension, and meeting her husband, Al; shares her volunteer work with a VA (Veterans Administration) Hospital; explains that her old home in Vincennes, Indiana, is now a museum honoring Red Skelton, who was also raised there; shares how she feels El Toro should be remembered.

OH 3582

Narrator: Gibson, Rosina (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: “An Oral History with Rosina Gibson”
Date: July 22, 2007
Language: English
Location: Gulfport, Florida
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 15 pages

This oral history spans 1921-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Rosina Louella Gibson, resident of Gulfport, Florida, and former sergeant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women’s Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Gibson’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in a family of Italian immigrants in Buffalo, New York; shares memories of Pearl Harbor and her position at the Curtis Air Plant in Buffalo; speaks about joining the USMC in 1943 to “take the place” of her brother, who was classified as 4-F; tells about experiences at boot camp in Cherry Point, North Carolina; shares first impressions of El Toro; speaks about working in the engine overhaul department at El Toro, discussing being one of the first women there, earning her nickname “Speedy” for her cautious work, and meeting her future husband; talks about women in the USMC, speaking about duties, separate mess halls, and interactions with male Marines; tells about life at El Toro, speaking about living in barracks, recreation, and camaraderie; discusses difficulty in finding housing in Orange County, California; shares about her husband’s position in the Canadian Air Force, transferring to the USMC during World War II; talks about marrying in 1944, leaving the USMC in 1945; discusses her involvement with USMC groups, explaining she belongs to Air Base Group-2; speaks about El Toro and its interaction with the surrounding community; briefly mentions a trip to Tijuana, Mexico, while on liberty; shares about her love of the USMC.

OH 3583

Narrator: Warner, Nita Bob (1916-2008)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Nita Bob Warner"
Date: July 23, 2007
Language: English
Location: Seminole, Florida
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 20 pages

This oral history spans 1916-2007. Bulk dates: 1944-1950s.

An oral history with Lieutenant Colonel Nita Bob Warner, resident of Seminole, Florida, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Warner's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about her childhood and family life in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, remaining close to her mother; details her education, speaking about attending Hendrix College, receiving her master's degree from George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tennessee, and furthering her graduate work at Louisiana State University; speaks about being recruited by the USMC in 1943, training at Mount Holyoke College's motor transport school in Massachusetts, and Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; shares her first impressions of Santa Barbara, California, and El Toro; speaks about living at El Toro, discussing coaching softball and basketball; talks about women in the USMC; explains responsibilities as an assistant motor transport officer, as well as serving on one of the first female USMC Reserve platoons; talks about working with an American general for Allied Forces Southern Europe, detailing her duties and travel experiences; speaks about life after World War II, living in Laguna Beach, California, and working at El Toro, living in Santa Barbara and working as a department store credit manager, and working on her sister's fishing boats in Florida.

OH 3584

Narrator: Rinkenbach, William (1925-2008)
Interviewer: Brenda Arreola
Title: "An Oral History with William Rinkenbach"
Date: July 25, 2007
Language: English
Location: Newport Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 34 pages

This oral history spans 1925-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Sergeant William Rinkenbach, resident of Newport Beach, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Rinkenbach's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, speaking about his family's values, as well as its participation in community politics; remembers difficulty joining the USMC, finally enlisting in May of 1943; details boot camp experiences at Cherry Point, North Carolina, and further training for ordnance duties at Marine Air Detachment Naval Air Gunnery School; discusses international assignments, including the Caribbean, the Bahamas, and Cuba, flying in a PBY (Patrol Bombers, Consolidated Aircraft) and targeting Nazi submarines; shares first impressions of arriving at El Toro in 1943; speaks about life at El Toro, talking about recreation and liberty, as well as the mess hall and medical clinics; details his flight missions and infantry assignments in Japan and China, speaking about the treatment of captured American soldiers; discusses being stationed in Guam, surviving a plane crash and requiring multiple surgeries; talks about working at the Lighter-than-Air (LTA) Base in Tustin, California; comments on the emotional repercussions of combat; describes the postwar development of El Toro and Southern California; speaks about his life after leaving the USMC, including living in Mexico while working for ITT Corporation; comments on Mexican politics, as well as illegal Mexican immigrants in the United States; shares his thoughts on how El Toro should be remembered, speaking about its contributions to war efforts.

OH 3585

Narrator: Nannes, Goldie (b. 1919)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Goldie Nannes”
Date: July 31, 2007
Language: English
Location: Tustin, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 38 pages

This oral history spans 1919-2007. Bulk dates: 1943-1945.

An oral history with Goldie Nannes, resident of Tustin, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Nannes’ experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in St. Louis, Missouri, speaking about her parents’ divorce; shares experiences on the homefront during World War II, detailing her work in an ordnance plant; talks about joining the USMC in 1943, saying the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) investigated her application; shares boot camp experiences at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, remembering training, guard duty, and rooting out potential lesbians; remembers being sent to the School of Aircraft Instruments in Chicago, Illinois; shares first impressions of El Toro in 1944, remembering orange groves and temperate weather; recounts life at El Toro, including working in the mess hall, living in the barracks, washing clothes, and interacting with other Marines; speaks about liberty at El Toro, visiting Los Angeles, California; remembers meeting and marrying her husband in 1945; tells about life after being discharged from the USMC, moving to Hollywood, California, and opening a restaurant with her uncle; briefly talks about her husband’s work as an investment broker, as well as an employee of Proctor & Gamble.

OH 3586

Narrator: Forrest, Gloria (b. 1926)
Interviewer: Maria Carrillo
Title: "An Oral History with Gloria Forrest"
Date: June 21, 2007
Language: English
Location: Upland, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 60 pages

This oral history spans 1900s-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s.

An oral history with Gloria Forrest, resident of Upland, California, and wife of retired colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Shelby Forrest (OH 3549). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Forrest's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on her grandfather's estate in New Jersey, sharing family history, including her father's invention of the snow cone machine; shares memories of the Depression and Pearl Harbor; speaks about attending Rutgers University and taking nursing classes, talking about working as a public health nurse in Newark, New Jersey, after graduating in 1947; remembers moving to Los Angeles, California, working as a flight attendant and a flight nurse for Seaboard and Western; speaks about Seaboard and Western's Military contract, recalling transporting wounded soldiers during the Korean War, and flying to Germany during the Berlin Airlift; describes her experiences as a flight nurse, including her impressions of different bases, and accompanying the Japanese representatives from Japan to Washington, D.C., after World War II; recalls moving to Laguna Beach, California, and meeting her future husband, Shelby, a Marine, speaking about a short courtship and marriage in 1952; tells about her son, Kevin, his birth at Herman Hospital in Houston, Texas, his career as a pilot, and medical history; details life after Shelby's retirement from the USMC, speaking about moving to Upland, where Shelby taught elementary school and junior high school; reflects on the importance of El Toro to Orange County, California.

OH 3587

Narrator: Steinken, William (1928-2011)
Interviewer: Brenda Arreola
Title: "An Oral History with William Steinken"
Date: July 28, 2007
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 15 pages

This oral history spans 1928-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1970s.

An oral history with William Steinken, resident of Santa Ana, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Steinken's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Chicago, Illinois, joining the Merchant Marines at fifteen years old; talks about joining the United States Navy as a Seabee in 1945; remembers joining the United States Army in 1947, occupying Japan for two-and-a-half years; tells about joining the USMC in 1950 after the start of the Korean War; speaks about military experiences, recounting boot camp and training; discusses working as a radio operator stationed out of El Toro; talks about liberty at El Toro, spending time in Santa Ana and Los Angeles, California; recalls being discharged from the USMC in 1952, briefly joining the National Guard and returning to the USMC; remembers returning to El Toro in 1955 and being sent to Iwakuni, Japan; shares experiences during the Vietnam War, discussing combat, duties, and losing comrades; talks about retiring in 1971; briefly speaks about his marriage to a Japanese national, describing the difficulty of the application process; comments on midcentury and contemporary politics, explaining treatment of servicemen and women; talks about belonging to several military organizations.

OH 3588

Narrator: Graves, Ernestine (b. 1927)
Interviewer: Sarah Davison
Title: “An Oral History with Ernestine Graves”
Date: July 6, 2007
Language: English
Location: Carlsbad, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 31 pages

This oral history spans 1927-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s.

An oral history with Ernestine Graves, resident of Carlsbad, California, and wife of a retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Graves’ experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Oklahoma during the Depression, sharing her family’s military history; reflects on her memories of Pearl Harbor; talks about marrying a Marine in 1943, meeting him on a train; tells about living with her parents in Hayward, California, while her husband was stationed in the South Pacific during World War II; speaks about forming lasting friendships with USMC families; talks about living at El Toro, discussing housing, shopping, raising children on base, and entertainment; comments on what it means to be a Marine wife; shares about difficulty in finding housing at El Toro; discusses family dynamics in the USMC, remembering her husband’s lengthy absences; shares feelings about the Military community and Southern California.

OH 3589

Narrator: Southwell, Donald (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Brenda Arreola
Title: "An Oral History with Donald Southwell"
Date: July 28, 2007
Language: English
Location: Anaheim, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 16 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2007. Bulk dates: 1950s.

An oral history with Donald Southwell, resident of Anaheim, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Southwell's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Michigan during the Depression; speaks about joining the USMC in 1952; shares boot camp experiences in San Diego, California, remembering training and discipline; speaks about living at El Toro, talking about housing, liberty, and everyday duties as a tech sergeant; describes experiences in Korea, remembering cold weather and poverty; talks about meeting his wife at a music store in Santa Ana in 1955; tells about working in the aerospace industry after leaving the USMC; briefly comments on changes in midcentury Orange County.

OH 3590

Narrator: Chamblin, Loyd (b. 1924)
Interviewer: Brenda Arreola
Title: "An Oral History with Loyd Chamblin"
Date: August 2, 2007
Language: English
Location: Seminole, Florida
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 15 pages

This oral history spans 1924-2007. Bulk dates: 1943-1946.

An oral history with Loyd Chamblin, resident of Seminole, Florida, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Chamblin's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Mississippi, joining the Naval Aviation Cadet Program at eighteen; remembers being stationed in Memphis, Tennessee, learning to fly Stearman training aircraft; talks about flying different aircraft, including the F4U Corsair and the F4F Wildcat, learning to use manual landing gear; remembers being stationed at El Toro in 1943, meeting his future wife at choir practice; talks about life at El Toro, speaking about housing on base and at the Hotel Laguna in Laguna Beach, California; shares about training in a bomber unit, relating target practice experiences; tells about leaving the USMC in 1946 and joining the USMC Reserves; recalls attending the University of Southern California, graduating in 1948 with a degree in commercial aviation; comments on the growth of Orange County, California, over the twentieth century; shares about briefly working for United Airlines, and joining several flying clubs.

OH 3597

Narrator: Webster, Ann (b. 1925)
Interviewer: Sarah Davison
Title: "An Oral History with Ann Webster"
Date: August 6, 2007
Language: English
Location: Cedar Creek Inn in Laguna Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 16 pages

This oral history spans 1900s-1975. Bulk dates: 1950-1975.

An oral history with Ann Webster, resident of Laguna Beach, California, and wife of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Webster's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Pennsylvania during the Depression, sharing about family history and her father's medical practice; remembers studying occupational therapy at the University of Pennsylvania, speaking about her love of art and her interest in medicine; shares memories of World War II, remembering Pearl Harbor; tells about meeting her future husband in college, communicating through letters while he was stationed in the Pacific Theater of World War II; remembers her wedding and honeymoon in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania; talks about her husband's transfers to Pensacola, Florida, and Cherry Point, North Carolina; speaks about living at El Toro at the beginning of the Korean War, when her husband trained on new helicopters; discusses life as a Marine wife, speaking about support from other wives, watching movies her husband sent home from overseas, social activities on and off the base, including dances, squadron parties and picnics, as well as excursions to Hollywood and Laguna Beach, California; tells about her husband's overseas deployments during the Korean War and the Vietnam War, explaining that he participated in the helicopter evacuation of Saigon; describes El Toro in 1950, speaking about changes over time; talks about the role of the USMC in her life, expressing sadness at El Toro's closure.

OH 3598

Narrator: Wilker, Katie (b. 1925)
Interviewer: Maria Hernandez-Figueroa
Title: “An Oral History with Katie Wilker”
Date: August 4, 2007
Language: English
Location: Irvine, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 40 pages

This oral history spans 1925-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1970s.

An oral history with Katie Wilker, resident of Irvine, California, and wife of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Wilker’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Northern California; speaks about meeting her husband while he was stationed in El Centro, California, marrying after he returned from the Pacific Theater of World War II; shares memories of World War II, including working for the Stephen Bechtel Construction Company, rationing, blackout curtains, and preparing for bombings; talks about coming to El Toro in 1947; describes difficulty finding housing at El Toro, remembering living in Wherry housing, Quonset Huts, and off base on Balboa Island; recalls moving often while her husband was in the USMC, remembering moving twelve times in twelve years, and having to uproot her children from school each year; discusses her children’s schooling; comments on the Santa Ana winds and a fire affecting El Toro in 1948; explains that her husband, Dean Wilker, was a member of the Death Rattlers Squadron; shares her experiences during the Cuban Missile Crisis, remembering deployments; describes the development of El Toro and Orange County, California.

OH 3599

Narrator: Watson, Richard (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Sarah Davison
Title: "An Oral History with Richard Watson"
Date: August 6, 2007
Language: English
Location: Yorba Linda, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 36 pages.

This oral history spans 1923-2007. Bulk dates: 1943-1972.

An oral history with Richard Watson, resident of Yorba Linda, California, and retired colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Watson's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Vancouver, Washington, speaking about his athleticism and love of aviation; shares memories of Pearl Harbor, deferring his education at the University of Washington to join the Civilian Pilot Training Program in 1943; details his desire to fly an F4U Corsair; shares experiences flying missions in Corsairs and torpedo bombers in the Marshall Islands and Okinawa, Japan, surviving a kamikaze attack; remembers experiences during the Korean War, flying ground support; recalls Naval flight school; describes life at El Toro, speaking about amenities and housing, bombing practice in Trabuco Canyon, and the impact of the base on Orange County, California; discusses finishing college with the GI Bill, then taking a position with Boeing Company in Seattle, Washington; expresses his opinions about the Vietnam War; talks about retiring from the USMC in 1972.

OH 3600

Narrator: Kulisich, John (b. 1921-2009)
Interviewer: Sarah Davison
Title: "An Oral History with John Kulisich"
Date: August 10, 2007
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 14 pages

This oral history spans 1921-2007. Bulk dates: 1930s-1950s.

An oral history with John Kulisich, resident of Santa Ana, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Kulisich's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a ranch in South Dakota during the Depression; remembers Pearl Harbor and World War II; tells about joining the USMC in 1943; speaks about attending boot camp in San Diego, California, radio school at Texas A&M [Agricultural and Technical College of Texas], as well as flight school in Jacksonville, Florida, and at Cherry Point in North Carolina; talks about being sent to El Toro reenlisting, as well as meeting his wife, Fern, through a friend at El Toro; remembers the physical features of El Toro, including the airstrips and the barracks, but especially the chapel; explains that he came back to El Toro in 1952 after photo flight school in Jacksonville, when he bought a home in Santa Ana, California; discusses his service during the Korean War and the difficulties of having to leave his family behind for a year, but also gaining a religious inclination; talks about letting Christian Marines live at his home and ministering to military personnel; expresses disappointment at El Toro's closure.

OH 3601

Narrator: Brown, William (b. 1922)
Interviewer: Robert Miller
Title: "An Oral History with William Brown"
Date: August 8, 2007
Language: English
Location: Laguna Niguel, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 23 pages

This oral history spans 1922-2007. Bulk dates: 1941-1950s.

An oral history with William Brown, resident of Laguna Niguel, California, and former major in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Brown's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about his youth in Braintree, Massachusetts, moving to Los Angeles, California, and remembering the Great Depression; recalls driving to Knott's Berry Farm as he heard that Japan had bombed Pearl Harbor, and his decision to join the Navy Wings of Gold; speaks about working at an aircraft company in high school, and attending flight school in the United States Navy; talks about different airplanes he flew, including the Corsair; remembers driving to El Toro from Cherry Point in North Carolina in 1949, the homes being built in Orange County, California, and living temporarily in a Quonset Hut; discusses missions in the Pacific Theater during World War II; speaks about marrying his wife, Norma, in Las Vegas, Nevada, in 1945, and living in Costa Mesa, California; comments on being a communications officer at El Toro and attending the Officer's Club there, as well as other social events on base; recalls the Post Exchange at El Toro and visiting the base for air shows; expresses regret that El Toro closed and remembers midcentury Orange County.

OH 3602

Narrator: Stites, Harry (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Robert Miller
Title: "An Oral History with Harry Stites"
Date: August 8, 2007
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 32 pages

This interview spans 1929-2007. Bulk dates: 1950s-1980s.

An oral history with Harry Stites, resident of Santa Ana, California, retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Patricia Stites (OH 4056). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Stites' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up during the Depression, moving around nine states for his father's job; talks about his education at Iowa State University; recalls Pearl Harbor; speaks about joining the USMC in Iowa and attending basic training in San Diego, California, sharing his first impressions of Southern California; comments on his visit to the USS *Arizona* in Oahu, Hawaii; discusses the time he spent in Guam for Military Occupational Specialty Training, speaking about playing baseball with members of the United States Army and Navy; details his duties as an engineer during the Korean War, recalling his experiences during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir; speaks about his two tours during the Vietnam War as a Regimental Motor Transport Officer and PX (Post Exchange) Officer; compares the Korean War to the Vietnam War, speaking about politics and tactics; describes El Toro in the 1950s, recalling daily responsibilities, social gatherings on base, and the agricultural character of the area; recalls the treatment of Marines in Orange County, California; comments on his life in Orange County after leaving the USMC; expresses disappointment at the closure of El Toro, citing its impact on Orange County; speaks about his current efforts with the Wounded Warrior Program.

OH 3603

Narrator: Durant, James (b. 1921-2010)
Interviewer: Brenda Arreola
Project: “An Oral History with James Durant”
Date: June 26, 2007
Language: English
Location: Miramar, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 23 pages.

This interview spans 1943-2008. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s.

An oral history with Major James Durant, resident of San Diego, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for the Center for Oral and Public History, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Durant’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about early motivations for becoming a pilot; remembers enlisting in the USMC before World War II and becoming one of the first enlisted pilots in the war; discusses his experiences boot camp in Parris Island, North Carolina, as well as flight school; recalls flying torpedo bombers and Corsairs in the Pacific Theater of World War II, explaining that he had an encounter with a *kamikaze*; comments on the atomic bombing of Japan and the end of World War II; recounts meeting his future wife while serving as a flight instructor in Georgia; discusses his service at air stations in Santa Barbara, San Diego, as well as El Toro; recalls serving in a New York reserve squadron during the Korean War; shares deployment experiences in Korea during the Korean War; speaks about leaving the USMC to become a civilian pilot for Pan American World Airways; expresses disappointment at El Toro’s closure, as well as for the loss of old comrades.

OH 3604

Narrator: Anderson, Elmer (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Robert Miller
Title: “An Oral History with Elmer Anderson”
Date: August 15, 2007
Language: English
Location: Newport Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 25 pages

This oral history spans 1921-2007. Bulk dates: 1943-1963.

An oral history with Elmer Anderson, resident of Newport Beach, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Anderson’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in North Dakota during the Depression; speaks about joining the ROTC (Reserve Officers’ Training Corps) at North Dakota Agricultural College; shares memories of Pearl Harbor and joining the USMC in 1943; discusses joining an air warning/control squadron after boot camp; explains duties maintaining radar systems while serving in the Pacific Theater of World War II; remembers staying in Japan as part of the occupational force for several months after the end of World War II; talks about becoming a pilot after World War II, training with the F4U Corsair; tells about serving in Kangung, Korea, with the VMF 312 from 1951 to 1952, recalling losing friends in the Korean War; speaks about receiving one month of instrument training courses in Beechcraft aircraft at El Toro prior to being sent to Korea; shares first impressions of El Toro and the surrounding community, remembering the smell of orange groves; describes life at El Toro, talking about buildings and facilities, such as the BOQ (Bachelor Officers’ Quarters), and liberty at beaches and in Los Angeles, California; speaks about retiring from the USMC in 1963, detailing his work as a project engineer for Douglas Aircraft Company; reflects on changes in Orange County, California, over the twentieth century; speaks about working at the Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum at El Toro, restoring airplanes; shares memories of the decommissioning ceremony at El Toro in 1999.

OH 3605

Narrator: Clark, Wally (b. 1920)
Interviewer: Sarah Davison
Title: "An Oral History with Wally Clark"
Date: August 13, 2007
Language: English
Location: Hemet, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans 1920-2007. Bulk dates: 1943-1982.

An oral history with Wally Clark, resident of Hemet, California, longtime resident of Southern California, and retired member of the United States Army. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Clark's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Los Angeles, California, recalling family train trips across the United States, and describing the effects of the Depression in Southern California; speaks about graduating from Chapman College in 1942; recalls Orange County, California, during his youth, remembering travelling on the electric car to and from Los Angeles; shares memories of Pearl Harbor, being drafted after getting married in 1943; speaks about attending Officer Candidate School in Virginia and becoming a radar officer; talks about being stationed in the Philippine Islands for nine months during World War II; discusses remaining in the Army Reserves after World War II, being recalled to active duty in 1950; comments on changes in Southern California over the twentieth century; shares first impressions of El Toro; talks about becoming a social worker at El Toro in 1952, describing his duties, and the assistance the Navy Relief Society gave to Marines; discusses the differences between the USMC and Army, speaking about the lack of respect Marines showed him; tells about retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1982; describes the role of civilians at El Toro.

OH 3606

Narrator: Kemper, Phyllis (b. 1918)
Interviewer: Brenda Arreola
Title: "An Oral History with Phyllis Kemper"
Date: August 11, 2007
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 20 pages

This interview spans 1918-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s.

An oral history with Phyllis Kemper, resident of Mission Viejo, California, and wife of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Kemper's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Chicago, Illinois, and attending Mundelein College; shares memories of the Depression and World War II, speaking about food coupons, becoming a nurse's aide, and attending dinners and dances with servicemen from Fort Sheridan; talks about working in Chicago until she married Frank Kemper, a Missouri Marine stationed in Great Lakes, Illinois; speaks about the different locations in which her husband was stationed, including Glenview Naval Air Station, Illinois, and Cherry Point, North Carolina; comments on the emotional stress of having a husband overseas; explains that veterans with active duty overseas rarely spoke about their experiences; recalls her first impressions of El Toro, sharing her excitement about living in California; talks about living in Laguna Beach, California, and on base while her husband was stationed at El Toro, making lasting friends in each location; recalls that her husband retired after more than twenty-two years in the USMC; expresses sadness at the closure of El Toro, as well as the passing of her friends and family.

OH 3607

Narrator: Yarde, Mary (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Maria Hernandez-Figueroa
Title: "An Oral History with Mary Yarde"
Date: August 6, 2007
Language: English
Location: Yorba Linda, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 43 pages.

This interview spans 1923-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s.

An oral history with Mary Yarde, resident of Yorba Linda, California, former childcare provider at El Toro, and wife of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Yarde's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Attleborough, Massachusetts during the Depression; speaks about marrying her first husband, a Marine, in 1946, and moving to Quonset Point Naval Air Station, Rhode Island; discusses her life as a mother and homemaker; recalls driving to California in 1955, and living in a Quonset Hut while at El Toro; discusses the beginning of her career in childcare while at El Toro; speaks about divorcing her first husband and meeting her second; recounts her experiences working in childcare, including wages, Quonset Huts as childcare centers, luncheon feeding programs, and dealing with the death of parents; expresses her love for volunteer work.

OH 3608

Narrator: Carmichael, Edward W. (b. 1918)
Interviewer: Natalie Fousekis
Title: "An Oral History with Edward Carmichael"
Date: August 6, 2007
Language: English
Location: Fairfield, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 32 pages.

This interview spans 1880s-2007. Bulk dates: 1937-1980s.

An oral history with Edward Carmichael, resident of Fairfield, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Carmichael's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in and around Los Angeles, California; remembers a barnstorming group called the "Three Musketeers;" speaks about going to Pensacola, Florida, to become a Naval Aircraft Pilot; recalls preparing for the Battle of Guadalcanal when his appendix ruptured; tells story about being the first to land at El Toro, disrupting tradition; remembers patrolling the Southern California coast during World War II; talks about his parents' backgrounds and careers in Los Angeles; talks about joining the USMC with a friend after working at Schroeder Mine in Eureka, California; remembers boot camp at North Island in San Diego, California; talks about going to China in 1938; recalls becoming an instructor with the Royal New Zealand Air Force during World War II; tells about different aircraft he has flown; shares about his family; discusses becoming the crash investigation officer for the Southeastern United States for the United States Navy and USMC; shares memories of the Korean War; comments on life at El Toro, describing housing; shares about his career after retiring from the USMC, running the environmental lab for Fairchild Aviation Corporation beginning in 1960; talks about his many innovations; comments on El Toro's impact on Southern California; tells about sailing around the world and meeting his second wife.

OH 3609

Narrator: Coffey, Junamay Leatherby (1920-2007)
Title: “An Oral History with Junamay Leatherby Coffey”
Interviewer: Natalie M. Fousekis
Date: August 9, 2007
Language: English
Location: Foster City, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 21 pages

This interview spans 1920-2008. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s.

An oral history with Junamay Leatherby Coffey, resident of Foster City, California, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women’s Reserve, and mother of Constance Madden (OH 4076). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Coffey’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Coffey’s experiences at El Toro as a USMCWR during World War II, and later as a Marine officer’s wife; briefly recounts early family life in Illinois, prior to moving to California and enlisting in the USMC; shares memories of boot camp, radio operator’s school, and El Toro; speaks about working for future senator Joseph McCarthy; discusses meeting her husband and raising her two daughters on Military bases, speaking about parenting while her husband was away on assignments; recalls learning of Pearl Harbor and visiting the memorial years later; expresses disappointment at El Toro’s closure.

OH 3610

Narrator: Paris, Arthur (b. 1921)
Title: "An Oral History with Arthur Paris"
Interviewer: Maria Carrillo
Date: August 30, 2007
Language: English
Location: The Home of Arthur Paris in Anaheim, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 47 pages.

This interview spans 1921-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s.

An oral history with Arthur Paris, resident of Anaheim, California, and former master gunnery sergeant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information Paris' experiences at and around at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about hardships during the Depression; speaks about his Apache father's law enforcement career, as well as encountering prejudice; recalls joining the USMC and boot camp experiences; speaks extensively about his experiences in the Pacific Theater of World War II, explaining that he engaged in hand-to-hand combat in the Battle of Guadalcanal, as well as brutal conditions on Kwajalein, Saipan, Okinawa, and Iwo Jima; describes his experiences as an explosives expert during one of his four tours in the Korean War, as well as the death of his son in combat; remembers life at El Toro, describing the base and its relations with the surrounding community; discusses the difficulties he encountered while courting his future wife, as well as their marriage at El Toro; laments the closure of El Toro and its conversion to civilian use.

OH 3611

Narrator: Brems, William (b. 1930-2012)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with William Brems"
Date: September 4, 2007
Language: English
Location: California State University, Fullerton, Irvine Campus
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 24 pages

This interview spans 1930-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1970s.

An oral history with William Brems, resident of Cincinnati, Ohio, and former pilot in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Brems' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Jefferson City, Missouri, remembering his family and his father's position at a shoe factory; shares memories of World War II; speaks about joining the USMC, recalling boot camp experiences; comments on his service in the Korean War, beginning in 1953; speaks about his first impressions of El Toro, and daily life on and off base, explaining he coached the women's softball team; talks about being stationed at Quantico in Virginia; recalls how he met his wife; compares the USMC with the Navy; reflects on his transition to civilian life and his career after the USMC.

OH 3612

Narrator: Smiley, Jack (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Maria Carrillo
Title: “An Oral History with Jack Smiley”
Date: September 13, 2007
Language: English
Location: Costa Mesa, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 29 pages.

This interview spans 1921-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s.

An oral history with Jack Smiley, resident of Huntington Beach, California, and former pilot in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Smiley’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about the Naval flight training programs in Olathe, Kansas, Kingsville, Texas, and Jacksonville, Florida, during World War II, speaking about carrier landing operations; talks in depth about the early living quarters at El Toro; speaks extensively about the flight operation of the Corsair, SMJ, F4F, and F6F aircrafts, especially at El Toro; discusses World War II Naval flight operations in El Centro, Goleta, and Miramar, California; comments on the cities of Orange County, California, that supported El Toro, speaking about Santa Ana and Newport Beach; speaks about Naval flight operations during the Korean War that originated in Los Alamitos, California, explaining that some of these aviators were killed or captured in combat.

OH 3613

Narrator: Miller, Randall “Randi” (b. 1946)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Randall ‘Randi’ Miller”
Date: September 21, 2007
Language: English
Location: Yorba Linda, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This interview spans: 1946-2007. Bulk dates: 1950s.

An oral history with Randall “Randi” Miller, resident of Yorba Linda, California, and daughter of former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Robert McGuire (OH 3556). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Miller’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in the Wherry Park housing on base at El Toro; speaks about early officers’ living quarters at El Toro, discussing her own experiences there; recalls attending the El Toro Marine School and Irvine School while living at El Toro; discusses the City of Santa Ana, California, in the 1950s, describing the downtown shopping district and recreational activities; speaks about LTA (Lighter-than-Air) Base operations in Santa Ana; comments on issues of class and gender at El Toro during the 1950s; talks about the family and school life of young children at El Toro in the 1950s.

OH 3614

Narrator: Wickham, Earl (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Earl Wickham"
Date: September 14, 2007
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 20 pages

This interview spans 1930-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s.

An oral history with Earl Wickham, resident of Santa Ana, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Wickham's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Stockton, California, speaking about his family; briefly shares memories of World War II, remembering Pearl Harbor and the internment of his Japanese American classmates; briefly speaks about attending boot camp in San Diego, California; tells about life at El Toro, speaking about liberty and recreation, working on aircraft weapons ordnance operations, accidents; details the weapons systems of F-4 and F6F USMC fighter aircraft; speaks about changes at El Toro over twenty years; discusses experiences during the Korean War and the Vietnam War, speaking about weather, accidents, and civilian interaction; comments on developments in midcentury Santa Ana, California.

OH 3615

Narrator: Proulx, Marie (b. 1917)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Marie Proulx”
Date: September 29, 2007
Language: English
Location: Oceanside, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 33 pages

This oral history spans 1917-2007. Bulk dates: 1943-1954.

An oral history with Marie Proulx, resident of Oceanside, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women’s Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Proulx’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Wisconsin and Minnesota, speaking about receiving a degree in Business Administration; explains why and how she joined the USMC; describes boot camp, including specific training in Storekeeper School; speaks about transferring to El Toro; recollects friends she met while in the USMC, as well as experiences with the United Service Organization and Mother’s Service Organization; comments on her reaction to being discharged from the USMC in 1945; describes reenlisting for active duty with the USMC in 1949, including becoming a First Sergeant in 1952; speaks about having to retire from the USMC in 1954 due to a hip replacement; discusses her involvement with the Women Marine Corps Association; shares her thoughts on El Toro and its impact on Orange County.

OH 3616

Narrator: Snyder, Bill (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Bill Snyder"
Date: October 12, 2007
Language: English
Location: Belmont Village, San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 25 pages

This interview spans 1929-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-2007.

An oral history with Colonel Bill Snyder, resident of San Diego, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Snyder's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in St. Paul, Minnesota, during the Depression; comments on Pearl Harbor; shares his reasons for joining the United States Navy and then the USMC; discusses serving as a pilot in the Pacific Theater of World War II, speaking about transporting injured servicemen from New Caledonia to Sydney, Australia, and stopping off in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea; comments on meeting his wife in Australia; speaks about being stationed at Sasebo Naval Base in Japan at the end of World War II; comments on the atomic bombing of Japan; talks about being stationed at Miramar and North Island Naval Air Station in San Diego, California, as well as El Toro; explains that he commanded a squadron at El Toro with 350 female Marines; speaks about his decision to stay in the Marine Reserves, and his experiences with this group; comments on what he feels to be the poor location of the El Toro runway; remembers the agriculture surrounding the base at El Toro; discusses his reasons for staying in Southern California after being discharged from the USMC; speaks about his work as a civilian pilot for Trans World Airlines; discusses his involvement with the Orange County, California, debate over the future of El Toro land after its closure; talks about the impact of El Toro on Orange County.

OH 3617

Narrator: Cooper, Lilian (b. 1944)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Lilian Cooper”
Date: October 12, 2007
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 31 pages

This oral history spans 1930s-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1970s.

An oral history with Lilian Cooper, resident of San Diego, California, and daughter of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and Susan Griffiths (OH 3565). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Cooper’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about her father, Samuel Griffiths, his career in the USMC, and how he met her mother; recalls life at El Toro, remembering playmates, playing on swings, and watching Saturday matinees; discusses housing on USMC bases, including Quonset Huts and officers’ quarters; talks about living at the USMC base in Parris Island, South Carolina, attending movies at drive-in theaters, as well as DDT [Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane] trucks spraying for mosquitoes in the swamp areas; shares the effects of her father’s USMC career on her life, including a strict upbringing, reinventing personalities with each move, and learning tolerance; comments on her father’s failure to rise in the ranks; recalls taking road trips across the country; comments on her dream to attend college, discussing scholarships and having to work her way through; speaks about Orange County, California, in the 1960s and 1970s; comments on segregation and poverty in the South; shares opinion on how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 3618

Narrator: Kaneubbe, Doris (b. 1922)
Interviewer: Maria Hernandez-Figueroa
Title: “An Oral History with Doris Kaneubbe”
Date: September 15, 2007
Language: English
Location: Costa Mesa, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited/completed; 4 pages

This interview spans 1922-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Doris Kaneubbe, longtime resident of Southern California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women’s Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Kaneubbe’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes brief discussion about joining the USMC in 1944; briefly speaks about her experiences at El Toro during its early years, recalling the women’s barracks and flight maintenance operations of the F4U and SBD flight trainer airplanes; briefly remembers Santa Ana, California, in World War II as supporting the Marines at El Toro; briefly talks about using the Red Car as transportation from Orange County to Los Angeles, California, as well as the recreational opportunities available; briefly comments on meeting her husband, a former Marine, at El Toro, as well as his career in the Military; briefly discusses changes in Orange County and Southern California since her arrival in the 1940s.

OH 3619

Narrator: Benton, Billie (b. 1927)
Interviewer: Maria Hernandez-Figueroa
Title: “An Oral History with Billie Benton”
Date: October 16, 2007
Language: English
Location: Tustin, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans 1927-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1980s.

An oral history with Billie Benton, resident of Tustin, California, and wife of longtime employee of the Irvine Company, Lowell Benton (OH 3621). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Benton’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in Texas during the Depression; remembers Pearl Harbor, as well as military mobilization during World War II, explaining that she was able to obtain a position as a telegrapher for the Santa Fe Railroad Company; speaks about leaving Texas for Salinas, California, so her husband could work on a local ranch, moving into converted barracks on the Salinas Army Air Base; discusses volunteering and working for the school system in Salinas; recalls relocating to Orange County, California, in 1969 when her husband took a position with the Irvine Company, speaking about the mechanization of farming on the Irvine Ranch; shares her first impression of Southern California; explains that Irvine in the 1970s was still very rural, saying that her son had orange fights on Irvine land; discusses her interactions with Marines from El Toro, remembering a friend, General Don Eugene Miller, as well as attending parties on the base; recalls eating in mess halls at El Toro, Camp Pendleton, and Camp Roberts; speaks about the Irvine Company’s charitable giving, remembering a Boy Scout Jamboree held on the Irvine Ranch; comments on the development of the Irvine Ranch and the loss of farmland; tells a story about Joan Irvine’s wedding in the chapel at El Toro; comments on the ethnic makeup of Orange County; talks about her interest in politics and her work for the Registrar of Voters; expresses her concern over the closure of El Toro and recalls its importance in Cold War defense strategies.

OH 3620

Narrator: Kuras, Paul (b. 1928)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Paul Kuras"
Date: October 10, 2007
Language: English
Location: California State University, Fullerton, Irvine Campus
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 29 pages

This interview spans: 1911-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s.

An oral history with Paul Kuras, resident of Green Valley, Arizona, and former gunnery sergeant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Kuras' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Chicago, Illinois, as a child of Galician immigrants; speaks about joining the USMC in 1946, as well as attending boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina, and aviation school in Quantico, Virginia; recalls transferring to El Toro, remembering the barracks were still under construction; talks about his experiences in the Korean War, including travelling from El Toro to Pyongyang, Korea, F4U Corsair attacks on North Korean dams, and South Korean poverty; discusses recreation for Marines at El Toro, including trips to Hollywood, California; comments on race relations at El Toro and in the USMC; speaks about living in Anaheim and Tustin, California, while stationed at El Toro, remembering real estate values; recalls being assigned to conduct electronic counterintelligence on North Korea and China from the base in Iwakuni, Japan; speaks about different operations in which he participated, including field-carrier landing practice in Cubi Point, Philippines, and accompanying Air Force and Navy strikes in North Vietnam; shares experiences during the Vietnam War; tells about working at McDonnell Douglas Aircraft in Long Beach, California, after leaving the USMC; discusses the influence of El Toro on Orange County, speaking about the financial impact and population growth; comments on his involvement in Marine, veteran, and other military organizations.

OH 3621

Narrator: Benton, Lowell (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Lowell Benton"
Date: October 16, 2007
Language: English
Location: Tustin, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 27 pages.

This interview spans 1900s-2007. Bulk dates: 1941-1986.

An oral history with Lowell Benton, resident of Tustin, California, retired supervisor for the Irvine Company, and husband of Billie Benton (OH 3619). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Benton's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on cattle ranches in Texas, talking about family and home life; speaks about moving to Salinas, California, in 1941 to work in the W&S Packing Company; shares memories of Pearl Harbor; tells about joining the United States Army during World War II; discusses meeting and marrying his wife, Billie; speaks about life in Salinas, including housing and work hours; details being recruited by Wayne Walters of the Irvine Company in 1969; remembers overseeing farming at El Toro and LTA [Lighter-than-Air] Base in Tustin, California; tells a story about harvesting cauliflower on the Irvine Ranch and transporting it to packing sheds in Garden Grove, California; shares about relationship with generals and other staff at El Toro; comments on the relationship between El Toro and the Irvine Ranch, speaking about fertilizing, working at night, as well as land use and development; comments on the population in South Orange County in the 1970s, recalling Billie's involvement with county voting; talks about living on the Irvine Ranch, speaking about housing and schooling; tells about retiring in 1986 when the Irvine Company shifted focus from farming to building; comments on the growth of Orange County, California; talks about the Irvine Company's employment of his wife and children; speaks about the closure of El Toro.

OH 3645

Narrator: Larson, Norman (b. 1924)
Interviewer: Maria Hernandez-Figueroa
Title: "An Oral History with Norman Larson"
Date: November 3, 2007
Language: English
Location: Chino, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans 1924-1963. Bulk dates: 1936-1952.

An oral history with Norman Larson, resident of Chino, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Larson's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Scandinavian neighborhoods in St. Paul, Minnesota, during the Depression; comments on his awareness of war since the Spanish Civil War in 1936, recalling the political atmosphere in the United States; describes his attempts to enlist in the USMC; speaks about boot camp experiences in San Diego, California, as well as attending aviation electrician school and participating in the Navy V-5 aviation cadet program; describes his time in Guadalcanal, Philippines, speaking about fears of bombings and his relief upon returning to the States and El Toro; recalls the dedication of El Toro, specifically a plane crash; speaks about receiving his wings and commission as a pilot in 1945; discusses life at El Toro, especially social interaction and entertainment, pilot training, and cooperation with other branches of the Military; comments on changes at El Toro between 1943 and 1945, including the development of more buildings and hangars, as well as new roles for women; describes V-J [Victory over Japan] Day at El Toro, speaking about lengthy celebrations on the base; talks about his time as a Reservist in Minnesota; comments on his first impressions of California; speaks about meeting his wife, marrying only days after receiving his commission as a pilot; discusses the difficulty of finding housing near El Toro; speaks about resigning from the USMC in 1955; reflects on how the USMC shaped his character and life, as well as expresses sadness at the closure of El Toro.

OH 3646

Narrator: Farrell, Joanne (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Joanne Farrell"
Date: November 9, 2007
Language: English
Location: Costa Mesa, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 41 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-50s

An oral history with Joanne Farrell, resident of Costa Mesa, California, and wife of a retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Farrell's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes brief discussion about growing up in Montana; recalls Pearl Harbor; discusses postwar unemployment issues; reviews her husband's USMC career and overseas duties in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War; contrasts barracks life, Wherry housing, and off base living at El Toro with that of other bases; describes the perks of having a husband in the USMC, including aid with building a house, buying a car, and free flights for servicemen in uniform; comments on healthcare in the USMC; recalls her husband's work at the commissary; describes the uncertainty of USMC life, recalling reading her husband's upcoming orders in the *Navy Times*; describes posttraumatic stress after the Vietnam War, and the detrimental effects of Agent Orange that led to her husband's death; recalls recreation at El Toro, remembering entertainment, activities, shopping, and attending balls; discusses a USMC income, speaking about low beginning salaries and extra financial perks for disabled veterans; remarks on treatment of injured veterans; relates stories of interracial relations; expresses sadness at the closure of El Toro.

OH 3647

Narrator: Steele, Harry (b. 1922-2010)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Harry Steele"
Date: November 14, 2007
Language: English
Location: California State University, Fullerton, Irvine Campus
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1922-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Harry Steele, resident of Costa Mesa, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Steele's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about attending Syracuse University and studying Forestry when he enlisted in the USMC during World War II; speaks about being stationed at El Toro in 1943; recalls training for bombing missions at El Toro, especially torpedo combat aircraft operations, remembering mock targets in remote areas of California; describes a USMC installation in Santa Barbara, California, and the pilot training facilities in Hutchinson, Kansas, and Corpus Christi, Texas; speaks in detail about the operations of the SB2C Helldiver bomber aircraft; discusses USMC bombing missions in World War II, specifically the importance of radar technology for night runs over Iwo Jima, Japan, and Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; remembers opportunities for socialization and entertainment at El Toro in the 1940s, speaking about the sports teams on the base; talks about Laguna Beach, California, as being very small in the 1940s, remembering that Marines often stayed at the Laguna Hotel instead of living on base; recalls the downtown district of Santa Ana, California, in the 1940s, speaking about several bars and restaurants.

OH 3648

Narrator: Purdy, Irvine A. (b. 1928)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Irvine Purdy"
Date: November 29, 2007
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 16 pages

This oral history spans 1930s-1980s. Bulk dates: 1930s-1950s.

An oral history with Irvine Purdy, resident of Mission Viejo, California, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and retired member of the United States Air Force. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Purdy's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Butte, Montana, sharing about his parents' work with the Anaconda Mining Company; talks about his time in the USMC, and his twenty-eight-year service with the Air Force; shares memories of World War II and war efforts on the homefront; speaks about the process of getting into the V-5 flying program, as well as joining the USMC; shares his first impressions of El Toro in 1946, describing agriculture; speaks about liberty at El Toro, talking about visiting Santa Ana and the Pike and USO in Long Beach, California; comments on being a part of the Remington Raiders and acquiring clerical training at El Toro; talks about teaching English and Woodshop in Los Angeles for twelve years; comments on El Toro's impact on Orange County, California, including an increase in population.

OH 3649

Narrator: **Rodriguez, Sotero, Jr.** (1924-2008)
Interviewer: Brenda Arreola
Title: “An Oral History with Sotero Rodriguez, Jr.”
Date: December 3, 2007
Language: English
Location: City of Industry, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 44 pages

This oral history spans 1924-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s.

An oral history with Sotero Rodriguez, Jr., lifelong resident of Southern California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Rodriguez’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Los Angeles, California, and enlisting in the USMC in November of 1942; speaks about the initial construction of El Toro, beginning in the spring of 1943; talks about the Red Line transportation system between Santa Ana, California, and downtown Los Angeles in the 1940s, allowing Marines at El Toro to leave the base and explore the area; describes living conditions at El Toro, discussing the early layout of the base and barracks; recalls USMC locations at Camp Pendleton and the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Florida; comments on midcentury Southern California, speaking about the developments in Highway 39; remembers the Pacific Theater campaigns of World War II, recalling the Gilbert Islands, Marshall Islands, and Mariana Islands; discusses World War II Navy ships, specifically the USS *Tanqueray* and the USS *Tangere*; speaks in detail about the Battle of Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War, talking about the exploits of his USMC division; discusses the political and logistical problems of the USMC during the Korean War; talks extensively about mortar weapon developments in World War II and the Korean War; comments on leaving the USMC in 1957.

OH 3650

Narrator: Wada, Henry (b. 1928)
Interviewer: Brenda Arreola
Title: “An Oral History with Henry Wada”
Date: December 1, 2007
Language: English
Location: Chula Vista, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 16 pages

This oral history spans 1928-2007. Bulk dates: 1945-1975.

An oral history with Henry Wada, resident of Chula Vista, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Wada’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about being interned at Preston, Arizona, during World War II due to his Japanese ancestry; speaks about the interactions between Marines of Japanese descent and Korean civilians during the Korean War, remembering tension between the two groups; comments on issues of race and class at midcentury El Toro, saying that the USMC did not allow Japanese American recruits until 1946; discusses racial tensions between USMC recruits at Parris Island South Carolina; describes El Toro in the 1940s, remembering the surrounding area as an agricultural region with very little support services or entertainment; speaks about the aircraft and maintenance operations at midcentury El Toro.

OH 3651

Narrator: Boyland, James (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Brenda Arreola
Title: "An Oral History with James Boyland"
Date: November 14, 2007
Language: English
Location: Irvine, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 33 pages

This oral history spans 1921-2007. Bulk dates: 1942-1962.

An oral history with James Boyland, resident of Laguna Woods, California, and former pilot in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Boyland's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about his decision to join the USMC in 1942; speaks about growing up in New Jersey, discussing his family and educational background; discusses his training as a fighter pilot in Pensacola, Florida; explains the process of field carrier landing practice for the USMC; recalls his time serving at MCAS Ewa, Hawaii; talks about his time serving in the Pacific Theater of World War II, giving extensive information on the planes involved in conflict; discusses becoming a flight instructor in 1945; comments on being transferred to El Toro during the Korean War; speaks about his retirement from the USMC in 1962, commenting on his subsequent teaching career.

OH 3652

Narrator: Bachstein, Roy (b. 1919-2010)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Roy Bachstein"
Date: December 11, 2007
Language: English
Location: Tustin, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 23 pages

This oral history spans 1919-2007. Bulk dates: 1942-1962.

An oral history with Roy Bachstein, resident of Tustin, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Bachstein's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Ontario, California, expressing discontent at Southern California's growth since his youth; provides a description of his mother's work grading olives at Graber's Olives in Ontario; discusses his father's employment as a plumber; speaks about his cousins' Service during World War II, including exploits in the Pacific and European Theaters; comments on his decision to join the USMC, speaking about Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor; discusses training to become a USMC pilot; talks about married life off base while he was stationed at El Toro, speaking about how the housing office at El Toro helped him and others find homes in Orange County, California; describes his duty during the Korean War, including flying transports; speaks about his position as a flight instructor and engineer officer at El Toro during peacetime; comments on retiring from the USMC, speaking about his civilian career in automotive retail and finance; shares opinions on how the USMC teaches young people "togetherness" and "responsibility;" speaks about El Toro's closure, discussing his "soft spot" for the base.

OH 3653

Narrator: Taylor, Donald (b. 1932)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Donald Taylor"
Date: December 28, 2007
Language: English
Location: Tempe, Arizona
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 20 pages

This interview spans 1932-2007. Bulk dates: 1952-1955.

An oral history with Donald Taylor, resident of Tempe, Arizona, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), retired businessman, and an active member of the veteran community. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Taylor's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in Illinois and later moving to Chicago, Illinois; recalls Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor; comments on his motivations for joining the USMC, including not procuring gainful employment as a civilian; speaks about being assigned to the air wing of the USMC; remembers boot camp in San Diego, California, speaking about getting into shape and learning discipline; talks about enjoying El Toro, especially due to its proximity to Los Angeles, California; describes a typical day at El Toro; explains what Marines at El Toro did on liberty, speaking about places they ate and activities they enjoyed; recalls sneaking off base to propose to his girlfriend just days before his deployment overseas during the Korean War; shares his wartime experiences while in Korea, including interaction with international troops; speaks about feeling "strange" when he returned home, referring to physical and emotional distance from his family and fiancé; discusses the lasting camaraderie among retired Marines; speaks about his career and activities after being discharged from the USMC in 1955.

OH 3654

Narrator: Lyle, Gerald (b. 1925)
Interviewer: Robert Miller
Title: "An Oral History with Gerald Lyle"
Date: January 3, 2007
Language: English
Location: Orange, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 21 pages

This interview spans 1925-2007. Bulk dates: 1942-1964.

An oral history with Gerald Lyle, resident of Orange, California, former master sergeant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and retired electrician. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Lyle's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about moving often due to his father's employment; recalls Pearl Harbor, remembering guards around his Tennessee high school; speaks about enrolling in the USMC at seventeen; discusses preparation for the planned invasion of Japan, including basic training and deployment; describes his reaction to the detonation of atomic bombs over Japan; talks about his training with radar and electrical engineering at bases in Cherry Point, North Carolina, and Memphis, Tennessee; speaks about his Service in China and North Korea; expresses his opinion of the Korean War and General Douglas MacArthur; comments on his experiences flying missions in the Korean War; compares El Toro to other bases at which he was stationed; describes how Marines spent their leisure time at El Toro; talks about his correspondence with other USMC veterans after retirement; expresses his views regarding civilian treatment of military personnel before and after World War II; recalls being badly injured in a plane crash in 1958; talks about his career as an electrician after his retirement from the USMC, speaking about working at Autonetics, Inc.; discusses starting and operating Lyle Industries for twelve years; expresses his opinion about the status afforded to military bases, how they serve Military families, and how they should be remembered in the future.

OH 3655

Narrator: Parrent, Foster (1925-2009)
Interviewer: Robert Miller
Title: "An Oral History with Foster Parrent"
Date: December 7, 2007
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 31 pages

This interview spans 1925-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s.

An oral history with Foster Parrent, resident of San Diego, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Parrent's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in rural Michigan, including his early exposure to machinery, guns, fighting, and athleticism; speaks about enlisting in the USMC after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, recalling his family and community's reaction to the attack, as well as his enlistment; talks about taking a troop train to boot camp in San Diego, California; comments on his experiences in basic training, and then instructor training in Quantico, Virginia; discusses his various assignments while in the USMC, including kick-fighting trainer, training pilots for carrier duty, being the G-4 Officer in Command of Army Supply Logistics, and working as a mechanic; describes his time spent on an airplane carrier, remembering the different airplanes; speaks about his interactions with famous Military figures, including Pappy Boyington and Chesty Puller; discusses Marine leisure activities on and off the base at El Toro, speaking about swimming and boxing with the USMC, fighting George Foreman and Archie Moore; recalls being able to hunt at El Toro; describes his regret at El Toro's closure.

OH 3656

Narrator: Glass, Steven (b. 1917-2012)
Interviewer: Robert Miller
Title: "An Oral History with Steven Glass"
Date: December 9, 2007
Language: English
Location: Laguna Hills, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 22 pages

This interview spans 1917-2007. Bulk dates: 1943-1952.

An oral history with Steven Glass, resident of Laguna Hills, California, former officer in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Catherine Glass (OH 3727). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Glass' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in a Pennsylvania coalmining town as the son of Czech immigrants, speaking about language barriers in his ethnic neighborhood; talks about caring for his family after his father died in the coal mines, speaking about the financial burden and his struggles to finish school; talks about facing discrimination as a Catholic; describes recruitment for the USMC and boot camp, including training techniques; discusses marrying during World War II; speaks about travelling to MCAS Miramar in San Diego, California, and then to El Toro after boot camp; comments on troop activity he observed in relation to the Zoot Suit Riots in San Diego and Los Angeles, California; describes El Toro's officers' quarters and off base house in Santa Ana, California, as well as commuting to the base through the bus or hitchhiking; talks about boarding the USS *Essex* in 1943, sailing to Hawaii for training; describes life on Midway Atoll during World War II, speaking about the boredom of daily life, having to use code in order to communicate with his wife, and coping with the deaths of fellow Marines; recalls being called back to the USMC in 1950 and being released in 1952; talks about life after leaving the USMC, studying contract law and becoming a corporate training director for Defense Contracts Administration; reflects on the impact of military training and experience in his life; compares El Toro in 1943 with what it became in the 1960s.

OH 3657

Narrator: Ploszaj, Norman (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Robert Miller
Title: "An Oral History with Norman Ploszaj"
Date: December 19, 2007
Language: English
Location: Thousand Oaks, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 29 pages

This interview spans 1933-2007. Bulk dates: 1950s.

An oral history with Norman Ploszaj, resident of Thousand Oaks, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Ploszaj's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Erie, Pennsylvania, as the son of an uneducated Polish immigrant who was often unemployed; speaks about quitting high school in order to help support his family; talks about joining the USMC in 1952, wanting to improve his circumstances through education and training; describes attending boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina, speaking about his emotional and physical response to training; recalls his first impression of El Toro and the surrounding community, discussing daily life and living in the barracks; talks about being assigned to VMF(N)-542 [Night Fighter Squadron] as a radio technician; discusses social activities at El Toro, including the Enlisted Club, receiving visits from famous personalities, and taking trips to Long Beach and Santa Monica, California; describes the emotional atmosphere on the base during the Korean War, including changes in church attendance; recalls being deployed to Korea in 1954, speaking about dealing with locals, death, cold, and fear; discusses resisting reenlistment, marrying, and returning to California; compares El Toro in the 1970s with his experiences there in the 1950s; expresses disappointment at El Toro's closure.

OH 3658

Narrator: Buhrmann, Donald Z. (b. 1920-2012)
Interviewer: Brenda Arreola
Title: "An Oral History with Donald Z. Buhrmann"
Date: December 9, 2007
Language: English
Location: Pasadena, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 40 pages

This interview spans 1920-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Donald Buhrmann, resident of Pasadena, California, former aviation radio operator in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of June Buhrmann (OH 4001). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Buhrmann's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about joining the USMC in May of 1942, and receiving Morse Code and radio operations training at Texas A&M University; describes the early operations of El Toro; remembers the nearby towns of Santa Ana and Tustin, California, speaking about World War II era shopping districts and places Military men went for leisure; details the USMC combat operations in Guadalcanal during World War II, remembering lacking sufficient clothing, food, and equipment, as well as burying bodies; talks about World War II Military radio system used to transmit orders to troops in the field; describes El Toro's practice bombing ranges located in San Clemente Island and Salton Sea, California; recalls several fatal crashes at El Toro in the 1940s; explains that he was discharged from the USMC after World War II, saying he only visited El Toro once after his departure.

OH 3659

Narrator: Holmberg, Eugene S. (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Brenda Arreola
Title: “An Oral History with Eugene S. Holmberg”
Date: December 15, 2007
Language: English
Location: Oceanside, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 33 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2007. Bulk dates: 1951-1973.

An oral history with Eugene S. Holmberg, longtime resident of Southern California, and former fighter jet pilot in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Holmberg’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about his interaction with former El Toro Marine Lee Harvey Oswald; talks about the flight operations at El Toro from the 1950s to the 1970s, speaking specifically about the F2D-2 Douglas Skyknights and F-94 Starfire aircrafts; talks about being stationed at other USMC bases in Cherry Point, North Carolina, Iwakuni, Japan, and Miramar in San Diego, California, in the 1950s and 1960s; describes his experiences with the USMC in Japan, including 1950s flight operations; recalls the 1950s Military towns of Santa Ana and Tustin, California; expresses his opinion on the closure of El Toro; details his departure from the USMC in 1973.

OH 3660

Narrator: Davis, John K. (b. 1927)
Interviewer: Brenda Arreola
Title: "An Oral History with John K. Davis"
Date: November 9, 2007
Language: English
Location: San Clemente, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 24 pages

This oral history spans 1927-2007. Bulk dates: 1940s-1980s.

An oral history with John K. Davis, resident of San Clemente, California, and retired general in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Davis' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about his USMC career, including being Base Commander of MCAS El Toro during the early 1970s, Commander of Fleet Marine Force Pacific from 1981 to 1983, and Assistant Commandant of the USMC until retiring in 1986; speaks about joining the USMC in 1945, attending the University of Mexico, and reenlisting after graduation in 1950; describes operations and training at USMC bases in the 1940s and 1950s, including Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point, North Carolina, Pensacola, Florida, and Quantico, Virginia; recalls life at El Toro during the 1950s, speaking about fighter aircraft operations and housing conditions on base; discusses the Naval Air Facility in Atsugi, Japan, remembering the conditions of dependent housing; speaks about the Vietnam War, saying that he and USMC advisors were in Vietnam prior to 1965; talks in detail about being an executive officer of the MAG 11 unit flying over Laos during the Vietnam War, recalling combat air operations; discusses the closure of El Toro, speaking about noise complaints and industrial developments encroaching on the runways; recalls the golf course at El Toro, as well as plans to keep it open; discusses the role of Assistant Commandant of the USMC in detail, as well as his dealings with the Reagan Administration in the 1980s.

OH 3661

Narrator: Harris, Donald (b. 1923-2010)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Donald Harris"
Date: April 1, 2008
Language: English
Location: Bakersfield, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 27 pages

This interview spans 1923-2008. Bulk dates: 1940s-1970s.

An oral history with Donald Harris, resident of Bakersfield, California, and former fighter pilot in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Harris' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about graduating from the Naval Flight Cadet program in 1944, owing his placement in the USMC as a result of scoring in the top 2 percent of the program; speaks about the early aviation activities at El Toro, as well as on base expansion efforts in the 1950s; details the Naval carrier flight operations of combat airplanes during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War; describes an amphibious USMC landing during the Korean War in detail; speaks about the photoreconnaissance program at El Toro during the 1950s, as well as battlefield descriptions of the USMC's involvement in the Korean and Vietnam Wars; discusses changes in landscape from midcentury Orange County, California, to the present.

OH 3662

Narrator: Smith, Wendall (b. 1915-2011)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Wendall Smith"
Date: April 3, 2008
Language: English
Location: Aguanga, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 11 pages

This oral history spans 1930s-1980s. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s.

An oral history with Wendall Smith, resident of Aguanga, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), with commentary by his wife and former member of the USMC Women's Reserve, Eleanor Smith (OH 3663). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Smith's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Greenville, South Carolina; shares about leaving the National Guard of the United States for the USMC in 1939; talks about enjoying his thirty-two-year career in the USMC; describes duties as a meteorologist at El Toro; speaks about serving at many bases, including Kaneohe, Hawaii, and Santa Barbara, California; tells about retiring from the USMC in 1971; Eleanor describes living at Camp Pendleton, California; Eleanor comments on El Toro's impact on Orange County, California, and its contributions as a training facility.

OH 3663

Narrator: Smith, Eleanor Smyton (b.1924)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Eleanor Smith"
Date: April 3, 2008
Language: English
Location: Aguanga, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 16 pages

This oral history spans 1930s-2009. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s.

An oral history with Eleanor Smith, resident of Aguanga, California, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women's Reserve, and wife of retired member of the USMC, Wendall Smith (OH 3662). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Smith's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Buffalo, New York, talking about her parents' emigration from Ireland; tells about working as an inspector for Bell Aircraft at the beginning of World War II; talks about her friendship with another Woman Reserve, Junamay Leatherby Coffey (OH 3609), and their involvement in the Women Marines Association; shares about joining the USMC, remembering boot camp in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and traveling to El Toro by train; comments on her first impressions of El Toro and Orange County, California, saying it was remote but beautiful; remembers life at El Toro, including attending dances and movies, as well as working in the flight clearance office; tells about meeting her husband at El Toro; describes transitioning from being a Marine to a wife and mother; discusses base housing at El Toro; comments on living near Temecula, California, and observing its expansion; reflects on El Toro's closure.

OH 3664

Narrator: Grignon, Phillip (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: "An Oral History with Phillip Grignon"
Date: April 2, 2008
Language: English
Location: Imperial Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 31 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2007. Bulk dates: 1950s.

An oral history with Phillip Grignon, longtime resident of Southern California, former Superintendent of Schools for the City of Carlsbad, and former noncommissioned officer in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Grignon's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Brooklyn, New York; talks about enlisting in the USMC in January of 1948 and leaving in 1956; speaks about serving in Korea and Japan as a gunnery sergeant and ordnance technician during the 1950s; recalls the USMC base at Cherry Point, North Carolina, discussing the Marine living quarters there in detail; discusses the rural character of El Toro in the 1950s, speaking about the importance of Santa Ana and Tustin, California, to the base; describes Orange Coast College in the late 1950s, speaking about its role in educating Marines from El Toro; talks about the 1950s operations of the Orange County Sewage Plant; comments on the difference in experience between being an enlisted Marine and an officer at El Toro.

OH 3665

Narrator: Holland, Floyd (b. 1919)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: "An Oral History with Floyd Holland"
Date: April 3, 2008
Language: English
Location: Tustin, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 38 pages

This oral history spans 1880s-2008. Bulk dates: 1940s-1980s.

An oral history with Floyd Holland, resident of Tustin, California, and former employee of the Irvine Ranch Company. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Holland's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in Oklahoma; shares memories of Pearl Harbor, remembering that he was in Santa Ana, California, working in construction and farm work before being drafted into the United States Army; speaks about his first impressions of Southern California; discusses training for mountain fighting in Colorado; details deployments to the Aleutian Islands and France during World War II, remembering maneuvers and weapons, injuries, working with displaced people, and communicating with family; comments on race relations in the U.S. Army and in Southern California; shares about meeting his wife, Maxine, in Tustin; speaks about working for the Irvine Ranch for forty-five years, talking about James Irvine II, Irvine Ranch land, as well as employment benefits and housing; tells about meeting his second wife, Jo; comments on the effects of growth on Orange County, California; shares about interactions with Marines at El Toro, including attending events at the Officers' Club; speaks about veteran's benefits, relating his struggles with lung cancer.

OH 3666

Narrator: Merk, Roy (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Anna Acker
Title: “An Oral History with Roy Merk”
Date: April 3, 2008
Language: English
Location: Anaheim, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 35 pages

This oral history spans 1921-2008. Bulk dates: 1940s-1970s.

An oral history with Roy Merk, resident of Anaheim, California, retired teacher, and former member of the United States Navy. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Merk’s experiences at and around El Toro and the Lighter-than-Air (LTA) Base in Tustin, California. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a dairy in the State of Washington, playing football at Washington State College, and attending Ellensburg Normal School; shares memories of Pearl Harbor and joining the Navy; tells about attending boot camp in San Diego, California, and his assignment at LTA as an athletic specialist leading calisthenics and as a runner tying down helium blimps; speaks about life at LTA, including living at the YMCA in Santa Ana, California, and eating at Mother’s Kitchen; describes interactions with the surrounding community, remembering dances, dating, hitchhiking, and invitations to Thanksgiving dinner; describes the blimp hangars at LTA, as well as blimp maneuvers; speaks about playing on the Navy football team at St. Mary’s Preflight for three years during World War II, living in Berkeley, California; comments on his first impressions of Southern California, remembering the weather and bean fields; shares memories of the end of World War II, including celebrations in San Francisco, California, and a scarcity of jobs in Orange County, California; comments on the growth and ethnic composition of Orange County; talks about the benefits of the GI Bill, speaking about his education; details his teaching career at Western High School in Anaheim, California; compares the treatment of veterans from World War II, the Vietnam War, and the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

OH 3667

Narrator: Young, Patricia (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Ryan Ghoslin
Title: "An Oral History with Patricia Young"
Date: April 21, 2008
Language: English
Location: Laguna Hills, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 18 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2008. Bulk dates: 1944-1946.

An oral history with Patricia Young, resident of Laguna Hills, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women's Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Young's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Whittier, California, during the Depression, remembering rural Southern California; briefly speaks about attending Whittier High School with Pat Ryan Nixon; talks about her decision to join the USMC during World War II, citing her uncle's service in the United States Navy as inspiration; tells about attending boot camp in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and training to be a typist; shares memories of Pearl Harbor; comments on camaraderie in the USMC, relating a story about her Model-A Ford, Leapin' Leana; recalls life at El Toro, speaking about the barracks, mess hall, and working in the sergeant major's office as a clerk-typist; comments on being a woman in the USMC, talking about liberty and discrimination; details her participation in an all-Marine musical, All Fouled Up, which opened at El Toro and toured the South Pacific, including Midway Island, speaking about traveling, interactions with male Marines, and performances; shares feelings about El Toro's closure; briefly speaks about working at the YMCA for thirteen years; comments on changes and growth in Southern California; recalls witnessing a plane crash at El Toro; shares opinions about war, and her pride in the Marine Corps.

OH 3668

Narrator: Langdon, Howard (b. 1924)
Interviewer: John Elliott
Title: "An Oral History with Howard Langdon"
Date: April 10, 2008
Language: English
Location: Tustin, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 23 pages

This interview spans 1924-2008. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Howard Langdon, resident of Tustin, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Langdon's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about joining the USMC after Pearl Harbor; speaks about studying Aerology (Meteorology) at Weather Observer's School in Lakehurst, New Jersey, and later taking a position in the weather office at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego, California; discusses his family's history of military service, speaking about a sister who joined the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services) and a son who also became a Marine; comments on liberty in Laguna Beach, California, recalling going to movies, USO dances, and hitchhiking around the area; discusses interracial interaction at El Toro; talks about community interaction with the Marines and their families at El Toro, speaking about his children attending school off base and conflicts over dating practices; recalls attending church on base at El Toro; discusses starting a club for teenagers with his wife while he was stationed at Cherry Point, North Carolina; describes his time in the Pacific Theater of World War II, remembering communication and news, as well as stealing an Army jeep in New Guinea; speaks about sponsoring an orphanage and clothing donations while stationed in Iwakuni, Japan; talks about World War II planes used by the USMC; explains that after he was discharged from the USMC, he continued to work as a business manager for La Verne College's on-base educational programs; comments on changes in Tustin, California, from El Toro's opening to its closure; expresses his disappointment about the closure of El Toro.

OH 3669

Narrator: Reed, Roy (b. 1929)
Interviewer: John Elliott
Title: "An Oral History with Roy Reed"
Date: April 9, 2008
Language: English
Location: California State University, Fullerton, Irvine Campus
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 20 pages

This interview spans 1929-2008. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s.

An oral history with Roy Reed, resident of Tustin, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Reed's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Sterling, Kansas, and Denver, Colorado; speaks about joining the USMC in 1948, mainly due to familial pressure; explains how he made the journey from boot camp in San Diego, California, to El Toro, eventually working in the operations office of the control tower; comments on his first impressions of El Toro and Orange County, describing the barracks on base; recalls the high volume of Marines coming to and going from El Toro during the Korean War; speaks about social activities at El Toro, including sports; talks about his wife's patronage of the "E" (Enlisted) Club at El Toro; recalls his transition to civilian life, speaking about utilizing the GI Bill; comments on the employment of women Marines at El Toro; discusses his favorite experiences and memories of El Toro; talks about his involvement in the community of Santa Ana, California, speaking about his membership in the Presbyterian Church; talks about running the Meat Department in the Safeway Grocery Store once located on South Main Street in Santa Ana; comments on how serving in the USMC affected his life, as well as how the surrounding community was affected by the prominence of El Toro; discusses his experiences hitchhiking around Orange County while serving at El Toro; recalls when construction began on the 22 Freeway, speaking about community reaction; shares his thoughts on the closure of El Toro, and its future as the Orange County Great Park.

OH 3670

Narrator: Marvin, Howard (b. ca. 1918-2008)
Interviewer: Anna Acker
Title: "An Oral History with Howard Marvin"
Date: April 24, 2008
Language: English
Location: Palm Desert, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 13 pages

This oral history spans 1918-2008. Bulk dates: 1941-1945.

An oral history with Howard Marvin, resident of Palm Desert, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Marvin's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Washington and Florida; speaks about operating a chicken farm, learning to fly in order to transport his chickens; briefly talks about joining the USMC in 1941, speaking about basic flight training; recounts tour at Guadalcanal, talking about attack strategy and specific missions; tells about transferring to El Toro as the operations officer, remembering air traffic and accidents; discusses daily life at El Toro, including flight assignments and off base housing; discusses being discharged from the USMC in 1945, staying in Southern California and starting a family.

OH 3671

Narrator: **Lugris, Philip** (b. 1918)
Interviewer: Robert Miller
Title: "An Oral History with Philip Lugris"
Date: May 7, 2008
Language: English
Location: Aliso Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 23 pages

This oral history spans 1918-2008. Bulk dates: 1940s-1980s.

An oral history with Philip Lugris, resident of Aliso Viejo, California, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Priscilla Lugris (OH 3673). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Lugris' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Greenwich Village, New York, recalling the Depression and the Spanish Flu Pandemic; comments on his reaction to Pearl Harbor; speaks about being drafted into the United States Army during World War II; recounts his experiences serving as a reconnaissance sergeant for the 258th Ordnance Evacuation Company during World War II; recalls being sent to Camp Polk in Louisiana after returning to the United States, receiving more reconnaissance training; speaks about being discharged from the Military in 1946 and returning to New York City; discusses working for Longchamp's and Toot Shor's restaurants; recounts moving to Mission Viejo and coming to work at El Toro, speaking about becoming an assistant manager at the clubs on El Toro; speaks about working for and serving Marines on base, speaking about how the club system worked, functions and entertainment, hours of operation, and Marine activities in the clubs; talks about becoming the manager of the Staff Club at El Toro, remembering the connections he made with the Marines; recalls visiting the base even after 1985, when he no longer worked there; shares his thoughts on the closure of El Toro, commenting on how El Toro influenced his life.

OH 3672

Narrator: Patrick, Richard (b.1917-2009)
Interviewer: Robert Miller
Title: "An Oral History with Richard Patrick"
Date: May 12, 2008
Language: English
Location: Oceanside, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project

Status: completed; 18 pages.

This interview spans 1917-2008. Bulk dates: 1944-1946.

An oral history with Richard Patrick, resident of Oceanside, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Patrick's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in poverty in Iowa; shares memories of Pearl Harbor, recalling that he joined the USMC shortly afterwards; speaks about his service at El Toro as an airplane mechanic, remembering daily work schedules at the base, as well as extra jobs he worked off base, and impressions of the surrounding community; comments on the arrival of women Marines at El Toro, speaking about duties and interactions; briefly mentions increased housing prices in Southern California; expresses his strong distaste for military life.

OH 3673

Narrator: Lugris, Priscilla (b. 1951)
Interviewer: Robert Miller
Title: "An Oral History with Priscilla Lugris"
Date: May 20, 2008
Language: English
Location: Aliso Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 41 pages

This interview spans 1951-2008. Bulk dates: 1960s-1990s.

An oral history with Priscilla Lugris, resident of Aliso Viejo, California, civilian employee at El Toro, and wife of former member of the USMC, Phillip Lugris (OH 3671). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Lugris' experiences at and El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Brooklyn, New York, speaking about her family, attending Catholic schools, as well as commenting on the differences between generations; discusses the diversity of nationalities she encountered while living in New York; recalls that her father worked at Toot Shor's and Long Sean's restaurants in New York; talks about her move to Southern California and accepting a position with Canteen Corporation; comments on her first impressions on Southern California, including the differences between Southern California and New York; recounts her emotional involvement with the Vietnam War; provides stories of working as a bartender and manager at the Officers' Club at El Toro, including witnessing prejudice and racism, and the different people who frequented the clubs at El Toro; speaks about getting married and having her reception at the base; recalls the Post Exchange at El Toro with fondness; relates her sadness over El Toro's closure, and her hopes that it will be remembered as an important piece of American history.

OH 3674

Narrator: McCallon, Lynn (b.1925)

Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt

Title: “An Oral History with Lynn McCallon”

Date: April 19, 2008

Language: English

Location: Van Nuys, California

Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project

Status: completed; 14 pages

This interview spans 1925-2008. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Sergeant Lynn McCallon, resident of Van Nuys, California, and former member of the United States Army Air Force (USAAF). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding McCallon’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Texas, New Mexico, and Southern California, speaking about El Toro in its early days; shares memories of working as a civilian surveyor at El Toro before World War II; recalls learning about Pearl Harbor, and tells of his subsequent entry into the USAAF; talks about flight training and specific missions he flew during World War II, including flying twenty-seven bombing missions over Germany and experiences with German jet aircraft; comments on women serving in the Military; expresses fond memories of his short time at El Toro.

OH 3675

Narrator: Frankovic, B.J. (1921-2009)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: "An Oral History with B.J. Frankovic"
Date: June 9, 2008
Language: English
Location: Laguna Hills, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 16 pages

This interview spans 1921-2008. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with B.J. Frankovic, resident of Laguna Woods, California, and former colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Frankovic's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Cleveland, Ohio, as the son of Slovenian immigrants; speaks about enlisting in the USMC, as well as his experiences during boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, and flight training; recalls his service with the USMC during World War II and the Korean War, remembering serving as a fighter pilot in the Pacific Theater of World War II under Pappy Boyington; discusses serving as a flight instructor at El Toro, as well as typical duties for air groups at the base; comments on life at El Toro, speaking about facilities and services, as well as living off base with his family; abruptly aborts the interview.

OH 3676

Narrator: Kenyon, Ralph F. “Steve” (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Patricia Campbell
Title: “An Oral History with Ralph F. ‘Steve’ Kenyon”
Date: June 14, 2008
Language: English
Location: Stallion Springs, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 53 pages

This interview spans 1929-2008. Bulk dates: 1948-1970.

An oral history with Ralph F. “Steve” Kenyon, resident of Tehachapi, California, and former lieutenant colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Kenyon’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up during the Depression in Newton, Iowa; speaks about enlisting in the USMC in 1948, his boot camp experiences, and winning a rare spot as a Naval Aviation Cadet, including recuperating in a Naval hospital after severe injuries in a traffic accident; shares his memories of on- and off-duty escapades with fellow Marines; tells a story of rescuing baseball great Ted Williams during a flight operation; speaks about his tour of duty in the Korean War, especially flying propeller and jet engines; expresses intense loyalty for the USMC, but also discusses the impact of the USMC on his personal life; speaks about his retirement from the USMC in 1970; supports transforming El Toro into a civilian airport, and laments the loss of his USMC comrades.

OH 3677

Narrator: Hockensmith, Steve (b. 1947)
Interviewer: Patricia Campbell
Title: "An Oral History with Steve Hockensmith"
Date: June 15, 2008
Language: English
Location: Stallion Springs, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 38 pages

This oral history spans 1947-2008. Bulk dates: 1966-1990.

An oral history with Steve Hockensmith, resident of Stallion Springs, California, and retired member of the United State Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Hockensmith's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in Jeffersonville, Indiana, as well as living with his grandparents after his parents' divorce; speaks about joining the USMC in 1966; comments on basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina, discussing the drill instructors' hands-on policy; tells about his MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) as Crash Air Rescue, caring for structural fire trucks; shares his first impressions of California, enjoying the beaches and weather; recalls training for the Vietnam War, but being sent to Iwakuni, Japan, to work in Special Services, helping Marines coming for rest and relaxation; talks about marrying while in Iwakuni in 1968; details his rise in the ranks; speaks about transferring to Kaneohe, Hawaii, for four years; shares about his time as a warrant officer; talks about transferring to Quantico, Virginia, remembering the emotional job of working in burial assistance; reflects on counseling his troops; comments on the changes in Southern California over the twentieth century; tells about leaving the Marines and working for Georgetown University as Director of Postal Affairs, retiring in 2003.

OH 3678

Narrator: Walters, Charles (b. 1946)
Interviewer: Patricia Campbell
Title: "An Oral History with Charles Walters"
Date: June 15, 2008
Language: English
Location: Stallion Springs, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 38 pages

This oral history spans 1946-2008. Bulk dates: 1966-1990.

An oral history with Charles Walters, resident of Stallion Springs, California, and former lieutenant colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Walters' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Tennessee, speaking about his educational background and his family's tradition of USMC involvement; describes how and why he joined the USMC; talks about his training as a Naval aviator; speaks about serving behind the lines in Danang, Vietnam, during the Vietnam War; comments on attending the University of Tennessee after the Vietnam War, and then going to Pensacola, Florida, for training as a Naval flight officer; speaks about being transferred to El Toro in 1974, recalling the base and surrounding areas; describes conducting photograph reconnaissance while stationed at El Toro and Cherry Point, North Carolina; shares flight stories from when he was on the USS *Midway* and flew a VMFP-3; describes an August 1976 combat mission into North Korea; recalls serving as a pistol range officer for the Third Marine Aircraft Wing at MCAS Tustin, California; speaks about being transferred to Iwakuni, Japan, for a year as a Naval supply officer; talks about being selected to attend the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California, where he received a Masters degree in Operations Research; shares his feelings about the closure of El Toro and Tustin.

OH 3679

Narrator: Henley, Paul (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: “An Oral History with Paul Henley”
Date: June 16, 2008
Language: English
Location: San Clemente, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans 1921-2008. Bulk dates: 1940-1972.

An oral history with Paul Henley, resident of San Clemente, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Henley’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up during the Depression in North Carolina, speaking about his education; shares his love of sports and aviation; speaks about USMC recruitment and enlistment, as well as fighter pilot training in Florida and Washington, D.C.; recalls being stationed at Camp Pendleton and MCAS Mojave in California; comments on his experiences in the South Pacific during World War II; discusses the Korean and Vietnam Wars, speaking about flying missions and a lack of interaction with civilians; talks about being stationed at El Toro in 1958; believes midcentury El Toro did not have any problems with race; describes pioneering the first nonstop flights from El Toro to Cherry Point, North Carolina; discusses moving his family across the country, speaking about their educational opportunities; briefly mentions an airplane crash at El Toro; contrasts the reception for returning soldiers during World War II and the Vietnam War; speaks about leaving the USMC as a colonel; comments on the GI Bill; shares his feelings about El Toro’s closure, as well as the positive effects of a Military lifestyle.

OH 3680

Narrator: Davis, Irving (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: "An Oral History with Irving Davis"
Date: July 7, 2008
Language: English
Location: Irvine, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 29 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2007. Bulk dates: 1952-1982.

An oral history with Irving Davis, resident of Irvine, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Davis' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Stamford, Connecticut, explaining that his parents fled segregation in South Carolina; speaks about his love of music and his aspiration to be a drummer; recalls graduating high school and working for Condé Nast Publications selling newspapers, leaving to join the USMC in hopes of becoming a musician; recalls looking up to servicemen while growing up during World War II, speaking about a cousin who was in the segregated USMC; discusses segregation and prejudice across the United States, but especially during boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina, remembering he still faced difficulties after the USMC had been integrated; recalls coming to MCAS Tustin in 1953 before he was sent to Japan; comments on getting married and having a daughter while stationed in Japan, saying his family could not return with him and their Military privileges were revoked until he could return, which he did with the help of Senator Prescott Bush; discusses joining the USMC band as a drummer, becoming the drum major; speaks about serving in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, speaking about being a cook, playing with the band, doing security detail, and carrying the remains of fallen comrades, commenting on handling personal belongings of the deceased; shares his desire to work hard to prove himself to fellow Marines and the public; discusses difficulties finding off-base housing for his family, especially in Orange County, California, due to color lines; speaks about retiring from the USMC, teaching school, and continuing to give drum lessons.

OH 3681

Narrator: Nagler, Florence (b. 1922)
Interviewer: Anna Acker
Title: “An Oral History with Florence Nagler”
Date: June 8, 2008
Language: English
Location: La Jolla, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 22 pages

This oral history spans 1922-2008. Bulk dates 1943-1945.

An oral history with Florence Nagler, resident of La Jolla, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women’s Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Nagler’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in New York during the Depression, speaking about financial hardships; comments on her love of art, discussing working as a beginning jewelry designer in a big jewelry house and later learning to be a draftsman; recalls Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor, which encouraged her to join the USMC; recalls attending boot camp in New Bern, North Carolina, by male officers and drill instructors, commenting on how USMC training has helped her throughout her life; speaks about traveling by troop train to North Island in San Diego, California, staying in WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) barracks for several months until El Toro’s barracks were complete; shares her memories of staying in the Naval Hospital in San Diego while recuperating from a broken ankle; speaks about being transferred to ABG-2 to work as a draftsman, recalling that some men did not accept her, but that she proved herself while taking over for the head designer; talks about becoming the NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer) in charge of Division 14; discusses liberty towns in Los Angeles, Laguna Beach, and Doheny Park in California; speaks about being discharged from the USMC in 1945; recalls meeting her husband a few months after returning home to New York, speaking about sharing an occupation and life with him.

OH 3682

Narrator: Holmes, Ralph (b. 1922)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: "An Oral History with Ralph Holmes"
Date: July 24, 2008
Language: English
Location: Sacramento, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages

This interview spans 1922-2008. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Ralph Holmes, resident of Sacramento, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Davis' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Northern California during the Depression; speaks about joining the National Guard, working in a metalworking shop, and then joining the USMC as a private; discusses boot camp training in San Diego, California, and being transferred to El Toro in 1944; believes there were no problems with race relations at El Toro; shares experiences about entertainment at El Toro, including watching performances by stars like Red Skelton; speaks about working with sheet metal equipment at El Toro, saying it was very up-to-date; comments on working and living conditions at El Toro; talks about working for SMUD (Sacramento Municipal Electric Company), sharing his work experiences there; recalls working in a sheet metal shop on Mather Air Force Base, California.

OH 3683

Narrator: Reed, Frank, Jr. (b. 1924)
Interviewer: John Elliott
Title: "An Oral History with Frank Reed, Jr."
Date: July 25, 2008
Language: English
Location: Stockton, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 16 pages

This oral history spans 1924-2008. Bulk dates: 1942-1946.

An oral history with Frank Reed, Jr., resident of Stockton, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Reed's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Kansas and Colorado, saying that his father and three brothers were all members of the USMC; speaks about joining the USMC in late 1942 in order to avoid being drafted by the United States Army, leaving high school before he received his diploma; talks about attending boot camp in San Diego, California, beginning in January of 1943; remembers being transferred to El Toro in the fall of 1943; speaks about his growth spurt while in the USMC, saying he trained as a radio gunner but outgrew the cockpit; recalls staying in the Corona Naval Hospital for three months while he recovered from pleurisy; describes the wartime Zoot Suit Riots in Southern California; shares stories about altercations he had with a first sergeant; discusses being stationed at Congaree Fields, South Carolina, and Cherry Point, North Carolina; explains that he converted to Catholicism in order to marry his wife; reminisces about living in Quonset Huts in Oceanside, California; discusses not reenlisting in the USMC because he failed to advance in rank; believes he had an easy transition to civilian life; discusses his brother's experiences in the USMC, speaking about their encounters with Walter Archinbald, another Marine.

OH 3684

Narrator: Silan, Michael (b. 1924)
Interviewer: John Elliott
Title: "An Oral History with Michael Silan"
Date: July 25, 2008
Language: English
Location: Woodland, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 45 pages

This interview spans 1910s-2008. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Michael Silan, resident of Woodland, California, and former pilot in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for the California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Silan's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about joining the USMC in 1943, after both his brothers joined the United States Army; shares stories about attending boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina, as well as being stationed at Cherry Point, North Carolina, and Miramar in San Diego, California; speaks about being stationed in the Pacific Theater of World War II, talking about working as a mechanic and then a pilot with the VMSB241 Dive Bomber Squadron; discusses witnessing invasions in Luzon and Mindanao, Philippines, recalling the fear of being attacked; recalls the fun he had while serving in the Pacific Theater of World War II, speaking about stealing Army jeeps and caring for a pet monkey; reminisces about entertainment in Los Angeles and Hollywood, California, speaking about hitchhiking from El Toro; describes the agricultural character of El Toro and Orange County, California, during World War II; details the barracks at El Toro; speaks about the unusual circumstances of his discharge from the USMC, as well as his civilian work experience as a teacher; discusses his wife and family; remembers his time in the USMC with fondness.

OH 3685

Narrator: Arnold, H.L. “Hap” (b.1934)
Arnold, Coralee (b. 1938)
Interviewer: John Elliott
Title: “An Oral History with H.L. ‘Hap’ and Coralee Arnold”
Date: July 26, 2008
Language: English
Location: Cool, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 39 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2008. Bulk dates: 1952-1972.

An oral history with H.L. “Hap” and Coralee Arnold, residents of Cool, California, and retired United States Marine Corps (USMC) family. This interview was conducted for the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the Arnolds’ experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Hap’s birth in Copley, Ohio, and Coralee’s birth in South Gate, California, speaking about their families; both talk about their fifty-two-year marriage, saying they met one another through a mutual friend after Hap returned from fifteen months in Korea; Hap speaks about joining the USMC in 1952, discussing boot camp experiences at Parris Island, North Carolina, deployment to Korea during the Korean War, and transferring to El Toro in July of 1953; Hap and Coralee share their first impressions of El Toro, remembering the size of the base, services and amenities, and housing; Hap recalls experiences in Airman’s Prep School in Jacksonville, Florida; Coralee comments on Hap’s deployments, talking about raising children alone, feelings of loneliness, and USMC families as “unsung heroes;” Hap talks about working as a crew check leader in MAG-15 and MAG-13, remembering deployments to Atsugi, Japan, and DaNang, Vietnam; Hap shares experiences during the Vietnam War, fighting the Vietcong, communicating with his family through tapes, and coming home; both express dissatisfaction with medical care in the USMC; Hap details desegregation in the USMC, remembering work interaction; Hap speaks about working for Smith International and Rachel Electronics after retiring from the USMC; both comment on the growth of Orange County, California, and its relationship to El Toro.

OH 3686

Narrator: Giegerich, Albert (b. 1924)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Albert Giegerich"
Date: August 14, 2008
Language: English
Location: Dubuque, Iowa
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 23 pages

This interview spans 1924-2008. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s.

An oral history with Albert Giegerich, resident of Dubuque, Iowa, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Giegerich's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Dubuque, Iowa, during the Depression; recalls working as a welder for Kaiser Shipyards in Richmond, California, at the beginning of World War II; speaks about his decision to join the USMC after learning his cousin was leaving for boot camp, serving for three years during World War II; remembers his time at boot camp in San Diego, California; discusses serving in Guam for one year as a welder; talks about civilian life after World War II, as well as spending some time in the USMC Reserves; talks about being transferred to El Toro, beginning in 1951, to train men at the shooting range during the Korean War; comments on his impressions of El Toro and Orange County, recalling plenty of citrus groves; talks about bomber pilots conducting bombing practice on various targets while at El Toro; shares his feelings about the Vietnam War; speaks about being discharged from the USMC in 1952, and returning to Dubuque and his paint and wallpaper business; reflects on how the USMC influenced his life, as well as El Toro's legacy.

OH 3687

Narrator: Metcalfe, Russell (b. 1931)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Russell Metcalfe"
Date: August 15, 2008
Language: English
Location: Cassville, Wisconsin
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 44 pages

This oral history spans: 1931-2008. Bulk dates: 1950s.

An oral history with Russell Metcalfe, resident of Cassville, Wisconsin, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Metcalfe's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Wisconsin during the Depression; speaks about Pearl Harbor and his memories of World War II; comments on being drafted in November 1951, deciding to volunteer for the USMC after only a few months of marriage; talks about attending boot camp in San Diego, California, speaking about the difficulties of drill instruction; recalls learning to be a radio operator using Morse Code, discussing challenges in learning and utilizing the system; speaks about enjoying his job as a radio operator, remembering flying on pilot training flights; shares experiences of living off base at El Toro in the Siesta Motel, speaking about the rural setting in Orange County, California; explains that USMC pay was not always adequate to cover housing and cost of living, remembering he earned extra money working on cars while stationed at El Toro; recalls he was sent to Itami, Japan, for eighteen days as a radio operator; speaks about raising a family, including the death of his firstborn son; explains that he was discharged from the USMC after sixteen months, moving back to Cassville, Wisconsin; speaks about his friendship with Marines in Cassville; comments on his time in the Military, explaining he enjoyed the experiences; expresses disappointment at the closure of El Toro.

OH 3688

Narrator: Stark, Iva (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Iva Stark"
Date: August 16, 2008
Language: English
Location: Oshkosh, Wisconsin
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 37 pages

This oral history spans 1921-1970. Bulk dates: 1921-1946.

An oral history with Iva Christensen Stark, resident of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women's Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Stark's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a Wisconsin farm during the Depression; shares memories of Pearl Harbor, speaking about a brother who was stationed on the USS *California* in 1941; talks about boot camp experiences in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, remembering travelling on a troop train, fellow recruits, and the shock of USMC life; speaks about being assigned to mechanic's school; talks about her siblings' wartime experiences; describes the Naval Air Technical Training Center and physical struggle while training in mechanics; speaks about becoming a Private First Class; speaks about visiting different USO (United Service Organization) locations, remembering bunks, meals, and entertainment; comments on the treatment of women in the USMC; discusses leisure at El Toro, including going to beaches and taking trips to Los Angeles, California; describes life at El Toro, including the women's barracks, daily routine in the propeller shop, and dating; speaks about marrying her boyfriend who was in the United States Air Force, which helped her to get discharged from the USMC; briefly talks about her husband's service as an engineer gunner in England during World War II; comments on postwar celebration at El Toro; discusses El Toro's impact on Southern California.

OH 3689

Narrator: Brunet, Royden (b. 1924-2013)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Royden Brunet"
Date: August 18, 2008
Language: English
Location: Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 16 pages

This oral history spans 1910s-2008. Bulk dates: 1942-1972.

An oral history with Royden Brunet, resident of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and former member of the United States Marines Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Brunet's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Fond du Lac during the Depression, recalling a happy childhood; speaks about his father, a major in the United States Calvary during World War I; talks about his first marriage that ended when his wife died, as well as remarrying and raising a family; remembers Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, explaining he joined the USMC when he turned eighteen; speaks about boot camp in San Diego, California, Naval Air Technical Training in Jacksonville, Florida, and being transferred to El Toro, training to be a crewman; comments on his impressions of El Toro, calling it big and the agricultural surroundings beautiful; recalls liberty, dances, and entertainment at El Toro, saying he once danced with Shirley Temple; comments on aviation accidents, including crashes at Johnston Island, remembering his fallen comrades; recalls a normal working day at El Toro; speaks about the camaraderie in the USMC, saying the brotherhood is unique to that branch; discusses his time with the United States Army Reserves; talks about his time in the Pacific Theater of World War II, sharing his combat experiences in Manila, Philippines; recalls being discharged from the USMC in 1945 after the end of World War II; speaks about receiving his pilot's license after leaving the USMC and returning to Fond du Lac.

OH 3690

Narrator: Berens, Todd (b. 1931)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Todd Berens"
Date: August 18, 2008
Language: English
Location: Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 24 pages

This interview spans: 1900s-2008. Bulk dates: 1948-1963.

An oral history with Todd Berens, resident of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Berens' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, during the Depression, speaking about dropping out of high school to join the USMC in 1948; remembers Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor; speaks about boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, and earning his GED (General Equivalency Diploma) through correspondence courses; discusses his experiences in Korea during the Korean War, remembering staying for over a year, as well as his participation in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir; talks about completing Navy Construction School in Port Hueneme, California; recalls meeting his wife at the University of Wisconsin, marrying her in November 1955; speaks about being transferred to Hawaii in February 1956, and then to Okinawa, Japan, for eighteen months; remembers being transferred to El Toro in February of 1962, staying until 1963; speaks about graduating from California State University, Fullerton in 1964, staying to work on his Master's Degree; explains that he was sent to Cuba for ninety days during the Cuban Missile Crisis, remembering the international tension; recalls his involvement in an annual rodeo at El Toro; speaks about teaching school in Anaheim Union High School District in Anaheim, California, after leaving the USMC.

OH 3691

Narrator: Sippel, Ernest (b.1936)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Ernest Sippel"
Date: August 18, 2008
Language: English
Location: Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 22 pages

This oral history spans 1936-2008. Bulk dates: 1954-1957.

An oral history with Ernest Sippel, resident of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Sippel's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a Wisconsin farm, having to quit school to help his family; remembers Pearl Harbor, fueling his desire to join the USMC; recalls a holding area for German Americans in Fond du Lac during World War II; remembers boot camp experiences, flying to San Diego, California, and remembering that the physical training was not a challenge for him; speaks about training for combat at Camp Pendleton, California, and then attending radio operator's school in San Diego; discusses religious services at El Toro, speaking about his own background; shares experiences at El Toro, loving the weather and the small town feeling; recalls enjoying liberty in Laguna Beach, Los Angeles, Pasadena, and Santa Ana, California, while at El Toro; explains that he worked in the communications office at El Toro, saying it was a busy job with great hours and perks; believes communities in Orange County, California, welcomed Marines from El Toro; comments on working with women Marines, saying "they added a little class to the place;" speaks about witnessing airplane crashes on base, commenting on how they affected morale; talks about deciding to leave the USMC in 1957 so as to avoid being sent to Vietnam as a Military advisor; discusses returning to Wisconsin after leaving the USMC, finding a job in a local lumberyard; speaks about joining and being active in the Marine Corps League.

OH 3692

Narrator: Growt, John (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with John Growt"
Date: August 19, 2008
Language: English
Location: De Pere, Wisconsin
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 22 pages

This interview spans 1930-2008. Bulk dates: 1950s.

An oral history with John Growt, resident of De Pere, Wisconsin, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Growt's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Wisconsin during the Depression and World War II, remembering Pearl Harbor, and sharing his family history; explains that he was drafted to serve in the Korean War and sent to San Diego, California, for boot camp and communication school; comments on his impressions of El Toro, remembering recreation and entertainment; speaks about the differences between USMC volunteers and those who had been drafted; discusses going on maneuvers and radioing different bases in California, practicing different radio codes; talks about his relationship with his wife, as well as civilian life after leaving the USMC; comments on how the USMC influenced his life, explaining the importance of the discipline he learned.

OH 3693

Narrator: Mertz, Robert (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Robert Mertz"
Date: August 13, 2008
Language: English
Location: Lancaster, Wisconsin
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 24 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2009. Bulk dates: 1951-1953.

An oral history with Robert Mertz, resident of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Mertz's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up as an only child on his family farm in Wisconsin; explains that he married in April 1951 and was drafted into the USMC in December of the same year; remembers traveling to San Diego, California, for boot camp, recalling an unpleasant ride on the troop train; discusses housing for married couples at El Toro, explaining that he and his wife shared a home in Costa Mesa, California, with another couple; speaks about working on the ground maintenance crew at El Toro; talks about being transferred to the Lighter-than-Air Base in Tustin, California, continuing to maintain the grounds; explains how to load disabled helicopters on a rig; comments on Marine salaries, saying it was difficult to survive financially even with thirty dollars for commuted rations a month and his wife's job at a laundry; speaks about enjoying his time at El Toro, talking about the area and the civil service employees; explains that he was discharged from the USMC in 1953, returning to Wisconsin to buy a farm and raise a family; speaks about staying in contact with some of his fellow Marines.

OH 3694

Narrator: Maloney, Emmons (b. 1922)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: “An Oral History with Emmons Maloney”
Date: August 20 2008
Language: English
Location: Fallbrook, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 16 pages

This oral history spans 1922-2008. Bulk dates: 1942-1972.

An oral history with Emmons Maloney, resident of Fallbrook, California, and former pilot in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Maloney's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Green Bay, Wisconsin, during the Depression, speaking about his Catholic, working-class family; speaks about joining the USMC as a pilot in order to avoid being drafted; shares memories of Southern California, speaking about orange groves, eucalyptus trees, and traveling to Hollywood, California; describes being sent to Mojave Marine Air Base, joining tactical squadron 452; talks about being sent to Japan with Carrier Air Group 5 (CAG-5), serving off of the USS *Franklin* as part of the 58th Task Force; comments on how USMC training prepared him for the challenges of war, discussing flying during World War II and the Korean War; recalls continuing his education after World War II, then serving two tours of duty during the Korean War; recounts responsibilities as a flight trainer; explains what Marines at El Toro did for entertainment while on liberty; describes the Staff NCO[Non-Commissioned Officers'] Club; details meeting his wife and raising six children, relocating often for work; speaks about retiring from the USMC in 1972, becoming a manager for Tuscan Electric Power in Arizona until retiring in 1985; describes the USMC's impact on his outlook and his life.

OH 3695

Narrator: Ley, James (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with James Ley"
Date: August 13, 2008
Language: English
Location: Lancaster, Wisconsin
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 17 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2008. Bulk dates: 1951-1953.

An oral history with James Ley, resident of Lancaster, Wisconsin, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Ley's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in Cassville, Wisconsin, during the Depression; recalls World War II; talks about graduating high school in 1948, marrying in September 1951, and being drafted into the Marines in December of 1951; recalls receiving deferment from the Service to work on the family farm; relates induction experience in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, later traveling to San Diego, California, via troop train; shares stories about boot camp at North Island in San Diego, calling it "an education;" relates his worry over being sent to Korea during the Korean War, speaking about a crew chief who transferred him to Jacksonville, Florida, for aerodynamics school instead; discusses being transferred to the Lighter-Than-Air Base in Orange County, California; describes the daily schedule at El Toro, including difficulties in maintaining airplanes; expresses guilt over having a light duty compared to those in combat; explains that Marines sometimes stole tools from El Toro; relates driving to Wisconsin from California in December of 1953, one month before his wife gave birth to twins; speaks about his involvement in the Marine Corps League in Dubuque, Iowa, appreciating the opportunity to stay in touch with friends from the USMC.

OH 3696

Narrator: Hildebrand, Donald (b. 1940)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Donald Hildebrand"
Date: August 14 2008
Language: English
Location: Dubuque, Iowa
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans 1940-2008. Bulk dates: 1958-1964.

An oral history with Donald Hildebrand, longtime resident of Dubuque, Iowa, former engineer in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and retired toolmaker for John Deere. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Hildebrand's experiences at and around the Lighter-than-Air (LTA) Base in Tustin, California. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Dubuque, Iowa, speaking about his working-class upbringing, as well as attending parochial and public schools; shares his love of history, reflecting on Pearl Harbor; discusses his reasons for joining the USMC, including recruiters and John Wayne films; speaks about his boot camp experiences in San Diego, California; talks about USMC camaraderie; describes his work in the USMC, including with the Seventh Engineers and the Fifth Marines; recounts his experiences serving in Iwakuni, Japan, remembering living conditions and cultural differences, as well as volunteering at an orphanage in Hiroshima; recalls his first impressions of LTA, and very little interaction with Marines at El Toro; describes an average day as an engineer at LTA; comments on food and dietary requirements in the USMC; discusses the midcentury Red Scare in the USMC; comments on race relations in Dubuque and the USMC; explains how he took liberty to visit Disneyland on the weekends; describes the relationship between civilians of Santa Ana, California, and servicemen from El Toro and LTA; speaks about transitioning to civilian life, taking a position with John Deere.

OH 3697

Narrator: Burger, Gerald (b. 1936)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Gerald Burger"
Date: August 14, 2008
Language: English
Location: Dubuque, Iowa
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 27 pages

This oral history spans 1936-1980s. Bulk dates: 1955-1958.

An oral history with Gerald Burger, resident of Dubuque, Iowa, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Burger's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Iowa, speaking about attending electronics school; shares memories of celebrations for V-E (Victory over Europe) Day during World War II; speaks about his reasons for joining the USMC, explaining that he needed to serve time in the Military to get a job, and the Marines had two-year enlistments; details attending boot camp in San Diego, California, individual combat training in Camp Pendleton, California, aviation technical training in Jacksonville, Florida, aviation training aide unit school in Memphis, Tennessee, and then becoming a Link Trainer instructor at El Toro; describes El Toro, its buildings and barracks; discusses taking a part-time job as a fry cook in a Laguna Beach, California, restaurant, speaking about earning extra money; talks about recreational activities at El Toro, remembering barbecues, birthdays, and excursions to the beach and Dodgers' games; speaks about the context of his Military service, saying it was a "peacetime job;" discusses airplane crashes on USMC bases, recalling several at MCAS Mojave; talks about being discharged from the USMC and taking a position with John Deere; speaks about his involvement in the Marine Corps League; describes changes at El Toro since the 1950s, as well as its impact on Orange County, California; comments on the legacy of El Toro Marines.

OH 3698

Narrator: Lajcak, Elsie (b. 1916)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Elsie Lajcak"
Date: August 17, 2008
Language: English
Location: Oshkosh, Wisconsin.
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 22 pages

This oral history spans: 1890s-2008. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s.

An oral history with Elsie Lajcak, longtime resident of Wisconsin, and former transportation specialist in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women's Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Lajcak's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in a family of six children, speaking about living like her parents did "in the old country;" talks about joining the USMC in early 1943 and experiencing basic training at Hunter College in New York City, New York, then attending boot camp in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, describing her naiveté; recalls being stationed at Cherry Point, North Carolina, and MCAS Ewa, Hawaii, until 1945, and then El Toro until being discharged from the USMC; discusses life at El Toro for women Marines, speaking about housing, ground transport, hitchhiking, as well as recreation and entertainment; remembers uniform regulations for women Marines, including makeup and footwear; explains the importance of correspondence in the Military, speaking about writing to her husband who was stationed in the South Pacific during World War II; discusses the El Toro beauty parlor, as well as her involvement in the women's baseball team; briefly mentions a going away party for women Marines in Hollywood.

OH 3699

Narrator: Herlihy, Roberta (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Roberta Herlihy"
Date: September 3, 2008
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 24 pages

This oral history spans: 1921-2008. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s.

An oral history with Roberta Herlihy, longtime resident of Southern California, and wife of former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), George Herlihy (OH 3559). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Herlihy's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Mexico and Long Beach, California; speaks about courting her husband during World War II, corresponding while he was overseas; explains that she worked as a hairdresser for Universal Studios and ran an industrial tool business with her husband, Jug, after he left the USMC; speaks about USMC life, talking about the lasting friendships; tells about entertainment on USMC bases, including the parties at the El Toro Officers' Club; speaks about her husband's two deployments during the Korean War, remembering raising children alone; discusses housing in Quantico, Virginia, Washington, Cherry Point, North Carolina, and Kaneohe, Hawaii; speaks about the commissaries and PX [Post Exchange] stores on USMC bases; discusses the support among USMC wives, recalling teas and bridge clubs; remembers agriculture around 1950s El Toro, including avocado and orange groves, as well as strawberry patches and eucalyptus trees on the Irvine Ranch; speaks briefly about her sons' experiences in the Military, explaining that one was stationed at El Toro; talks about noise complaints at El Toro; recalls a snowstorm in 1949 that covered the base.

OH 3700

Narrator: Murray, Rosemary (b. 1924-2011)
Interviewer: Patricia Campbell
Title: "An Oral History with Rosemary Murray"
Date: September 11, 2008
Language: English
Location: California State University, Fullerton
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 70 pages

This oral history spans 1924-2008. Bulk dates: 1944-1945.

An oral history with Rosemary Murray, resident of Long Beach, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women's Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Murray's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Los Angeles, California, and attending parochial schools; speaks about her desire to join the USMC, mentioning a family tradition of military service; talks about joining the USMC at the age of twenty in 1944; recalls experiences in boot camp, speaking about training for ten weeks at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and then attending the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Norman, Oklahoma; remembers meeting her husband, Jack Murray, when he was a musician in a Navy swing band in Oklahoma; explains there was not much work to do as a machinist while World War II was winding down, discussing liberty and entertainment in Southern California; discusses mess hall duty, remembering supplementing her family's wartime rations; recalls agriculture in midcentury Orange County, California, speaking about the smell of orange groves; remembers V-E [Victory in Europe] Day, speaking about getting married and being discharged from the USMC; discusses moving to Washington, D.C., remembering when Jack was transferred to music school; talks about using two G.I. Bills to buy a home in Long Beach, in 1951; briefly speaks about discrimination against women in the USMC; talks about Japanese American internment during World War II; shares experiences of working at Douglas Aircraft assembling planes until 1975, and later becoming a nurse; recounts her experiences with lung cancer in 2004.

OH 3701

Narrator: Johnson, Thomas (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Thomas Johnson"
Date: September 22, 2008
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages

This oral history spans 1922-2008. Bulk dates: 1952-1979.

An oral history with Thomas Johnson, resident of Sequim, Washington, retired colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Betty Johnson (OH 3702). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Johnson's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Fresno, California, during the Depression; shares memories of Pearl Harbor; talks about joining the USMC in 1952 to avoid being drafted into the United States Army during the Korean War; discusses boot camp experiences, remembering drill instructor school, and officer training; speaks about becoming a pilot, discussing flight training schools in Pensacola, Florida, and Kingsville, Texas; recalls different planes he flew during his career; talks about locations in which he served, including Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, Beeville, Texas, and Camp Schwab in Okinawa, Japan; recalls flying a record of 503 missions in the A-4 during eleven months in Vietnam; shares memories of serving in the Vietnam War; discusses his duties as a Safety Officer in Vietnam, then being sent to Ordnance Weapons School back in the States; gives a brief account of taking classes at the Naval War College in Rhode Island, serving in the National Military Command Center (NMCC), and retiring in 1979 from the Development Center in Quantico, Virginia; comments on how the illnesses and subsequent deaths of two children led to his wife's suicide; speaks about life after retiring from the USMC, talking about continuing to fly; discusses staying in touch with the USMC community, helping to organize reunions for his former squadron, VMA-223; shares memories of El Toro and Southern California; expresses his continued passion for the USMC and his fondness for El Toro.

OH 3702

Narrator: Johnson, Betty (b. 1920s)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Betty Johnson”
Date: September 22, 2008
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans 1920s-2008. Bulk dates: 1944-1981.

An oral history with Betty Johnson, resident of Sequim, Washington, former President of the Marine Wives' Association at El Toro, and wife of two former members of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), including Thomas Johnson (OH 3701). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Johnson's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Fairview, New Jersey, recalling Pearl Harbor and volunteering with the Aircraft Warning Service; speaks in depth about moving to San Diego, California, with her sister in 1944, working as a secretary with the Red Cross and volunteering with the USO, speaking about meeting her first husband, a Marine; describes living in a Quonset Hut at MCAS Miramar in San Diego; discusses living in Wherry housing at El Toro for nine years; speaks about her children's education on and off USMC bases; recalls midcentury El Toro, speaking about the Irvine Store, the El Toro Store, the El Toro Cemetery, and regional development; describes the support network for Marine wives; discusses “Operation Send Off” at El Toro, which supported 1,000 flights to Vietnam during the Vietnam War; shares memories of political and social tensions in Orange County, California, during the Vietnam War, as well as Vietnamese refugees who settled in the area; tells about supporting the USMC in its legal regarding noise pollution at El Toro; briefly comments on meeting President Richard Nixon; recalls meeting her second husband, Retired USMC Colonel Thomas Johnson, at the new PX (Post Exchange) at El Toro; expresses disappointment at the closure of El Toro.

OH 3703

Narrator: James Menzmer (b. 1929)
Interviewer: John Elliott
Title: "An Oral History with James Menzmer"
Date: September 12, 2008
Language: English
Location: Ukiah, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 25 pages

This oral history spans 1929-2008. Bulk dates: 1948-1960s.

An oral history with James Menzmer, resident of Ukiah, California, retired officer with the California Highway Patrol (CHP), and former corporal in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Menzmer's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about joining the USMC in 1948 at the age of eighteen; shares boot camp experiences in San Diego, California; describes training as an aviation electronic technician in Memphis, Tennessee, being promoted to corporal, and then joining Marine Tactical Air Control Squadron 2; comments on transferring to El Toro as an electronic technician; describes a typical workday at El Toro, speaking about how those experiences prepared him for duties in the Korean War; talks about living at El Toro, recalling the barracks, food, and liberty; speaks about recreational activities at El Toro, including riding motorcycles with Marines and civilians; comments on Disneyland and its effect on Orange County, California; details his service in the Korean War, remembering the bitter cold during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir; discusses racial integration in the USMC, saying he does not believe this caused any problems in his unit; briefly talks about communicating with his family while in the USMC, especially while overseas; briefly speaks about readjusting to life at El Toro after returning from Korea, explaining that he did not reenlist in the USMC in order to avoid returning to combat; discusses using the G.I. Bill to attend college at Fresno State University; recalls joining the CHP in 1956; speaks about the effect of freeways and growth on Orange County; comments on El Toro's closure and plans for its future.

OH 3704

Narrator: Nimmons, Robert (b. 1931)
Interviewer: John Elliott
Title: "An Oral History with Robert Nimmons"
Date: September 12, 2008
Language: English
Location: Boonville, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 23 pages

This oral history spans 1931-2008. Bulk dates: 1948-1952.

An oral history with Robert Nimmons, resident of Boonville, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Nimmons' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about being raised by a single mother in Montana and California; speaks about joining the USMC to avoid being drafted during the Korean War; recalls being sent to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, California, discussing boot camp experiences; remembers working in an amphibious unit, explaining differences between Mae West and Kapok life vests; talks about transferring to Kobe, Japan, and immediately being sent to Inchon, Korea, during the Korean War; recounts experiences in Korea; speaks about being transferred to El Toro, explaining his position as a prison chaser; relates his experiences as a fireman at El Toro, speaking about plane crash procedures; remembers being bitter after leaving Korea, saying he wanted to transfer to Treasure Island in San Francisco, California, and live closer to home; comments on entertainment at the Enlisted Club, speaking about women being bused in for dances at El Toro; recalls Mexican nationals joining the USMC in order to become citizens; talks about being discharged from the USMC, using the G.I. Bill to attend college and buy a home; shares his love of flying, discussing receiving his pilot's license after leaving the USMC; remembers El Toro as having a positive impact on the surrounding community.

OH 3705

Narrator: Mitchell, Angelo (b. 1924)
Interviewer: John Elliott
Title: “An Oral History with Angelo Mitchell”
Date: September 15, 2008
Language: English
Location: Stockton, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 17 pages

This oral history spans 1906-2008. Bulk dates: 1942-1946.

An oral history with Angelo Mitchell, resident of Stockton, California, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of former member of the USMC Women’s Reserve, Ina Mitchell (OH 3706). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Mitchell’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes brief discussion of his Greek heritage; recalls enlisting in the USMC and coping with homesickness; describes boot camp training in San Diego, California, his two-year service at North Island, as well as meeting his future wife on the base; details an average workday during his two years at E Toro; talks about food at El Toro, saying it was better than that of the United States Navy; discusses transportation on and off base at El Toro, including carpooling or taking a train to Los Angeles or Mexico; remembers agriculture, entertainment, and social networking at El Toro; describes converting two B-17 airplanes into offices, as well as trucking shavings away from the base; recalls sports programs at El Toro, as well as dancing and drinking; talks about the Greek community in Orange County, California, describing the camaraderie; discusses working as a mill man and draftsman after leaving the USMC; expresses his opinion about the closure of El Toro, saying, “we had some good times” there.

OH 3706

Narrator: Mitchell, Ina (b. 1922)
Interviewer: John Elliott
Title: “An Oral History with Ina Mitchell”
Date: September 15, 2008
Language: English
Location: Stockton, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 20 pages,

This oral history spans 1928-1960. Bulk dates: 1942-1954.

An oral history with Ina Mitchell, resident of Stockton, California, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women’s Reserve, and wife of former member of the USMC, Angelo Mitchell (OH 3705). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Mitchell’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about her childhood in South Dakota and Placerville, California; speaks about joining the USMC when she was twenty-one, remembering her mother’s reaction; discusses the train ride to Camp Lejeune for boot camp, and the training exercises; talks about transferring to El Toro, remembering first impressions of the base and Orange County, California; recalls being in charge of the tool crib at El Toro and North Island, California; shares about dating practices in the USMC, speaking about meeting her husband at North Island; remembers the barracks and Post Exchange at El Toro, as well as recreation on and off the base; comments on facing difficulties due to her husband’s Greek heritage, saying they almost did not marry; discusses civilian life after leaving the USMC, speaking about marriage and employment; expresses her opinion about the closure of El Toro.

OH 3707

Narrator: Engle, Alice (b. 1920)
Interviewer: John Elliott
Title: “An Oral History with Alice Engle”
Date: August 21, 2008
Language: English
Location: Walnut Creek, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 18 pages

This oral history spans 1920-2008. Bulk dates: 1944-1945.

An oral history with Alice Engle, resident of Walnut Creek, California, and former motor transportation specialist in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women’s Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Engle’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in West Long Branch, New Jersey; speaks about joining the USMCWR in May of 1944, remembering training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and transferring to El Toro; talks about serving at El Toro and North Island Naval Base in San Diego, California, working in the motor transportation department and driving transport vehicles; discusses the division of labor at El Toro; talks about Southern California cities during World War II, remembering San Diego, Laguna Beach, and Santa Ana; comments on racial diversity at El Toro during World War II; discusses interactions with the community around El Toro, speaking about civilian contractors and local hospitality; talks about transportation at El Toro, speaking about hitchhiking and taking the Red Car to Los Angeles; discusses dating practices for female Marines; talks about being discharged from the USMC two weeks after marrying in 1945; speaks about being an active member of the Women Marines Association, discussing reunions and conventions.

OH 3708

Narrator: Baldwin, Paul (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Maria Hernandez-Figueroa
Title: "An Oral History with Paul Baldwin"
Date: October 30, 2008
Language: English
Location: Riverside, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 21 pages

This oral history spans 1929-2008. Bulk dates: 1948-1955.

An oral history with Paul Baldwin, resident of Riverside, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), with commentary by his wife, Ruth Baldwin. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Baldwin's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing in Indiana, where his family worked for the circus; talks about his parents' divorce, and moving to California in 1942, attending school, working in San Francisco, and traveling on his motorcycle; speaks about joining the USMC in 1948 at a friend's encouragement; shares memories of the civilian defense of San Francisco, recalling guns on hotel roofs; tells about attending boot camp in San Diego, California, returning to San Francisco for vacation, and then reporting to El Toro; talks about life at El Toro, remembering the barracks, an average work day maintaining Corsairs and jet airplanes, as well as liberty and recreation, including the Marine Corps Stag Party; shares experiences during the Korean War, talking about traveling by ship, accommodations, being stationed in Pusan, South Korea, maintaining jets, injuries and accidents, learning about his son's birth over the HAM radio, and taking liberty in Japan; talks about interactions with the surrounding community, including an encounter with a Tustin policeman; briefly speaks about fighting a fire at El Toro; tells about various jobs he held after leaving the USMC; reflects on the closure of El Toro; Ruth briefly discusses living on her own and giving birth while Paul was in Korea.

OH 3709

Narrator: Arnold, Edwin (b. 1939)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Edwin Arnold"
Date: November 10, 2008
Language: English
Location: Huntington Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 37 pages

This oral history spans 1939-2008. Bulk dates: 1950s-1960s.

An oral history with Edwin Arnold, resident of Orange County, California, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and news anchor and reporter. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Arnold's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Texas and Arkansas; speaks about his parents' divorce; recalls beginning a career in entertainment while working for a disc jockey in the fifties; talks about joining the USMC in 1958; shares memories of El Toro, recalling orange groves and no smog; briefly recalls discrimination in the South, saying that boot camp was his first experience with desegregation; remembers the bases at which he was stationed, including Camp Pendleton, California, and Jacksonville, Florida; talks about life at El Toro, speaking about the barracks, duties on base, playing on the traveling football team, liberty in Santa Ana and Hollywood, California, as well as an average work day; discusses meeting his wife at Santa Ana College, then continuing to California State University, Long Beach for broadcasting; remembers those stationed at El Toro, including civilians and minorities; comments on the relationship between Marines and residents of Orange County; discusses his career in sports broadcasting after leaving the USMC; speaks about the growth of Orange County, talking about El Toro and Disneyland; expresses disappointment at El Toro's closure.

OH 3710.1

Narrator: Wertman, Jeanne (b. 1918)
Interviewer: Patricia Campbell
Title: “An Oral History with Jeanne Wertman”
Date: November 18, 2008
Language: English
Location: Laguna Hills, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 9 pages

This oral history spans 1918-2008. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with Jeanne Wertman, resident of Laguna Hills, California, and wife of a retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Wertman’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Ohio and attending Oberlin College; briefly speaks about her father’s service in World War I; talks about meeting her husband, Colonel Howard “Buck” Wertman, in high school, and marrying in 1944; shares her memories of Pearl Harbor and World War II, speaking about teaching at William and Mary College, and communicating with Buck while he was in the Pacific Theater; tells about being a newlywed, living at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and in Hawaii while Buck returned overseas.

OH 3710.2

Narrator: Wertman, Jeanne (b. 1918)
Interviewer: Patricia Campbell
Title: "A Second Oral History with Jeanne Wertman"
Date: November 22, 2008
Language: English
Location: Laguna Hills, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 34 pages

This oral history spans 1940-2008. Bulk dates: 1950s

A second oral history with Jeanne Wertman, resident of Laguna Hills, California, and wife of a retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Wertman's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes brief discussion about receiving her pilot's license during World War II, and interviewing with Jacqueline Cochran for Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP); comments on housing at and around USMC bases, including Quantico, Virginia, and San Francisco, California; comments on the camaraderie between USMC families, speaking about the Officers' Wives Club, socializing, and learning to golf; tells about life at El Toro, talking about Quonset Huts, Navy Relief, the Blue Angels, the Officers' Club, and substitute teaching at Santa Ana, California, schools; comments on midcentury Southern California, remembering agriculture, local businesses, Disneyland, and freeways; shares about her son's health problems; reflects on the strain of USMC life, speaking about relocations and deployments; compares civilian and military life during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War; speaks about her husband's retirement in 1967, and settling in Orange County, California; shares about her husband's battle with Alzheimer's Disease.

OH 3711

Narrator: Cole, Cindy (b. 1947)
Interviewer: Patricia Campbell
Title: "An Oral History with Cindy Cole"
Date: February 26, 2009
Language: English
Location: Irvine, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 47 pages

This oral history spans 1940-2009. Bulk dates: 1940-1950, 1960-1970.

An oral history with Cindy Cole, resident of Irvine, California, and daughter of a retired colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Cole's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about her father's career in the USMC; speaks about life on and off military bases such as El Toro; comments on being separated from her father while he served overseas during the Korean War; describes her mother's duties as a Marine wife; examines the support among Marine families, and describing esprit de corps; relates the distinction of an officer's family; recalls the aviation tradition of naming a "silent copilot" to care for one's family, speaking about General Harvey's assistance after her father's death; talks about USMC children, recalling challenges in her own life; discusses the agricultural development of Irvine, California; speaks about amenities for Marines at El Toro, including the golf course on the base; recalls that her father arranged for actors Jayne Mansfield and Mickey Hargitay to promote the El Toro rodeo; shares how she would like El Toro to be remembered..

OH 3712.1

Narrator: Rea, Thurman Wilbur (b. 1935)
Interviewer: Patricia Campbell
Title: “An Oral History with Thurman Wilbur Rea”
Date: February 11, 2009
Language: English
Location: California State University, Fullerton, Pollak Library
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 42 pages

This oral history spans 1804-2009. Bulk dates: 1954-2009.

An oral history with Thurman Wilbur Rea, resident of Yorba Linda, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Rea’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in West Virginia with seven siblings; details an ancestor’s journey from Ireland and settlement in the United States; speaks about the mining industry in West Virginia, sharing stories of labor disputes; recalls an uncle’s experiences as a Seabee in the South Pacific during World War II; shares stories about his school days, including graduating from high school; talks about attending boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina, remembering abusive drill instructors and harsh conditions; comments extensively on marches and training exercises; speaks about the camaraderie in the USMC; discusses USMC housing, remembering Quonset Huts; recalls segregation in Military towns during the 1950s; briefly mentions being transferred to El Toro in 1955 after attending sheet metal school in Jacksonville, Florida.

OH 3712.2

Narrator: Rea, Thurman Wilbur (b. 1935)
Interviewer: Patricia Campbell
Title: "A Second Oral History with Thurman Wilbur Rea"
Date: February 18, 2009
Language: English
Location: California State University, Fullerton, Pollak Library
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 60 pages

This oral history spans 1950s-2009. Bulk dates: 1950s-1960s.

A second oral history with Thurman Wilbur Rea, resident of Yorba Linda, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Rea's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about his first impressions of El Toro and the surrounding community, commenting on the thick fog in midcentury Orange County, California, and the remoteness of the base; describes buildings and hangars at El Toro; remembers aircraft repairs at El Toro and the Lighter-than-Air Base, recalling having to make parts; details mishaps and crashes from interference by birds at Military bases across the country; recalls crashes at El Toro, speaking about part malfunctions; comments on entertainment at El Toro, speaking about attending movies for ten cents, as well as a viewing a performance by Louis Armstrong; talks about his training in Aviation Electronics; discusses Military housing and pay grades, including widow's pension; speaks about his experiences in ABC [Atomic Biological and Chemical Defense] School, remembering buildings defenses and training with mustard gas; shares his opinion that the infantry divisions of the USMC fostered more camaraderie than in the air wing; discusses aircraft such as the Douglas F3D Skyknight and the Fairchild C-119 Flying Boxcar.

OH 3713

Narrator: Carney, Ray (b. 1916-2010)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Ray Carney"
Date: February 26, 2009
Language: English
Location: Indio, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1916-2009. Bulk dates: 1942-1945.

An oral history with Ray Carney, resident of Indio, California, and former member of the United States Navy. This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Carney's experiences at and around El Toro and the Lighter-than-Air (LTA) Base in Tustin, California. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Tustin, California, working in his father's orange groves; speaks about his work for the Water Company in Orange County, California; talks about joining the United States Navy in Los Angeles in 1942, recalling that he received no boot camp training, and then was sent to LTA; comments on watching the construction of the large hangars at LTA; discusses driving a utility bus at LTA, as well as his primary position with a maintenance crew; speaks about submarine school in San Diego, California, saying that World War II was over before he received orders to ship out; discusses the blimps and hangars at LTA, talking about tying down the blimps; comments on the barracks at LTA, saying he was one of the first to inhabit the space; details his experiences with Orange County and the facilities on the base; recalls being discharged in 1945 and then going to work for the Richfield Oil Refinery in Carson, California, retiring after thirty years; talks about meeting his wife in Tustin, marrying in 1950, and honeymooning in Havana, Cuba.

OH 3714

Narrators: Oseguera, Alfonso (b. 1930)
Oseguera, Marie (b. c. 1930s)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Alfonso and Marie Oseguera"
Date: March 17, 2009
Language: English
Location: Grande, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 57 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2009. Bulk dates 1947-1980.

An oral history with Alfonso and Marie Oseguera, residents of Arroyo Grande, California, and former members of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the Osegueras' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Alfonso's youth and education, speaking about growing up during World War II; Alfonso talks about joining the United States Naval Reserves in 1947, remembering boot camp experiences, the flight training program, and transferring to the USMC; Alfonso comments on his flying experiences, combat tours during the Vietnam War, stations and missions during deployments, and the responsibilities of an executive officer; both speak about USMC stations around the United States, including Cherry Point, North Carolina, and El Toro; Alfonso discusses meeting his wife at El Toro, talking about dating in the USMC; Marie shares her experiences in the USMC, explaining the challenges of running the Post Exchange (PX), the dress code for women Marines, and the role of women in the USMC; Marie comments on the relation between Marines from El Toro and the surrounding community; both reflect on their time in the USMC and at El Toro.

OH 3715

Narrator: Baber, John (b. 1931)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with John Baber"
Date: March 18, 2009
Language: English
Location: Cambria, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 36 pages

This oral history spans 1931-2009. Bulk dates 1951-1953.

An oral history with John Baber, resident of Cambria, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Baber's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Wabash, Indiana, during the Depression; talks about his family's auto dealership and auto parts stores in Indiana, saying that he worked there most of his life; speaks about being drafted into the USMC in 1951, attending boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California; remembers the bombing of Pearl Harbor, sharing his memories of World War II; details his boot camp experiences in San Diego; discusses his political awareness during and after his service in the USMC, speaking specifically about the Vietnam War; remembers life at El Toro, including duties, sports, liberty, and living in the barracks, recalling joining the basketball team at El Toro; comments on California's reception of Military men and women; speaks about travelling in Southern California, remembering visits to beach towns, Los Angeles, and Hollywood; expresses remorse for not having served overseas; remembers friendships formed while in the USMC; talks about being discharged in 1953, retiring and returning to Southern California in 1999; shares his hope that El Toro will serve as a memorial for the personnel who served and died at the base.

OH 3716

Narrator: Chapman, John (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Daniel Hilger
Title: "An Oral History with John Chapman"
Date: March 19, 2009
Language: English
Location: California State University, Fullerton
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 35 pages

This oral history spans 1929-2009. Bulk dates: 1947-1973.

An oral history with John Chapman, resident of Orange, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Chapman's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Wisconsin during the Depression; shares memories of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and World War II; speaks about joining the USMC in 1947, discussing boot camp in San Diego, and weapons training in Camp Pendleton, California; talks about bases at which he was stationed, including Camp Pendleton and El Toro; relates various job responsibilities at El Toro and the LTA (Lighter-than-Air) Base in Tustin; briefly speaks about segregation in the USMC; talks about working part-time jobs in order to supplement his USMC paycheck; discusses his tours in China, Japan, and Vietnam; recalls living on the base until his marriage in 1952; discusses difficulties in reentering civilian life.

OH 3717

Narrator: Davis, Cindy (b. 1960)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Cindy Davis"
Date: March 24, 2009
Language: English
Location: Rancho Bernardo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 47 pages

This oral history spans 1960-2009. Bulk dates: 1960-2009.

An oral history with Cindy Davis, resident of Rancho Bernardo, California, and daughter of former members of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), including Edmundine Raymond (OH 3578). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Davis' experiences at and around El Toro, as well as her parents' military careers. This interview includes discussion about growing up with two parents in the USMC; details her father's abusive upbringing and his early induction into the USMC; talks about her father's work on an oxygen system for NASA; discusses her parents' marriage and family life, including Military and medical facilities, as well as gender roles; speaks about learning of her mother's upbringing, including her internment in a Russian labor camp in World War II; talks about her relatives' reactions to WWII; shares stories of her childhood and her father's return from Vietnam; recalls her father's death and its effect on her family; relates her feelings on being an officer's daughter and how this translates to other relationships in her life; remembers working at El Toro in the daycare center, as well as a bartender in the Enlisted Club; reflects on how the USMC shaped her life.

OH 3718

Narrator: Freeman, Harry K. (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Samuel J. Price
Title: "An Oral History with Harry K. Freeman"
Date: March 25, 2009
Language: English
Location: Anaheim Hills, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 14 pages

This oral history spans 1921-2009. Bulk dates: 1941-1951.

An oral history with Harry K. Freeman, resident of Anaheim Hills, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Freeman's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Michigan during the Depression; remembers Pearl Harbor and the outbreak of World War II, recalling that he attempted to join the Army Air Corps; speaks about driving to Cleveland, Ohio, to join the USMC, then reporting to San Diego, California, for training; recalls being transferred to Memphis, Tennessee, for Ordnance School; comments on his first impressions of El Toro when he arrived in 1943, remembering orange groves; speaks about riding the Red Car around Southern California; comments on liberty at El Toro, visiting Hollywood, the Rose Bowl, and the 501 Club in Santa Ana, California; recalls active duty in the Pacific Theater, including his stay on the USS *Long Island*, and patrolling Wake Island; speaks about attending Fire Control School and learning to drop bombs; remembers being in Detroit with his future wife on V-J Day [Victory over Japan Day]; tells about moving to Anaheim, California, in 1951 after his father and brother came to the area, taking a job with McFarland Electric, while his wife worked at Knott's Berry Farm; talks about his old friend, Cal Kerr, becoming a bodyguard to Michigan Governor G. Mennen Williams; expresses dissatisfaction with El Toro's future as the Orange County Great Park.

OH 3719

Narrator: Garrison, Marvin (b. 1931)
Interviewer: Daniel Hilger
Title: "An Oral History with Marvin Garrison"
Date: April 7, 2009
Language: English
Location: Irvine, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 23 pages

This oral history spans 1931-2009. Bulk dates: 1950-1981.

An oral history with Marvin Garrison, resident of Irvine, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Garrison's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in South Carolina, recalling that his father worked for Greyhound Bus Lines; speaks about completing his Associate's degree at Anderson Junior College in South Carolina; talks about joining the USMC in 1950, attending flight training school in Pensacola, Florida; shares memories of his two tours in Korea, speaking about different aircraft, and reconnaissance flights; tells about working as a flight instructor at El Toro, beginning in 1957; discusses being sent to the University of Nebraska Bootstrap Program in 1962, studying Military Science and being commissioned as a second lieutenant; recalls his second tour at El Toro as a standardization officer; describes flight and instrument training; speaks about having to sign an affidavit to remain single while in the Naval Cadet Program, then graduating and raising a family; discusses his two tours of duty in Vietnam, sharing about using communicating with his family, combat experiences, and returning home; tells about flight emergencies; talks about life at El Toro, including interacting with women on the base, and liberty; recalls becoming staff assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, D.C., and then working as assistant to Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger; discusses retiring from the USMC in 1981, working for Ford Aerospace in Newport Beach, California; speaks about changes in Orange County, California.

OH 3720

Narrator: Ramos, Robert (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Samuel J. Price
Title: "An Oral History with Robert Ramos"
Date: April 14, 2009
Language: English
Location: Laguna Woods, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages

This oral history spans 1921-2009. Bulk dates: 1941-1946.

An oral history with Robert Ramos, resident of Laguna Woods, California, and former sergeant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Ramos' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about his parents' life in Mexico, and his childhood in Los Angeles, California; talks about enlisting in the USMC; comments on his Catholic upbringing and its effect on his decisions while in the USMC; recalls loading practice bombs on airplanes at El Toro; discusses living in barracks on base and on ship, as well as on various islands in the Pacific Theater; remembers a friend who was killed in action during World War II; contrasts positive race relations and prejudice in the USMC; gives a negative opinion of the Zoot Suit Riots; mentions that volunteering for PX [Post Exchange] duty cost him a promotion; reflects on island life while serving in the Pacific Theater, including tropical fruits, cultural behaviors of natives, and oversized crabs and spiders; discusses poor nutrition for Marines overseas; describes being under attack at Bougainville while seasick, and contrasts old-style combat to current war tactics; discusses developing his love for the tropics during the service and later returning while travelling with his wife; speaks about his postwar upholstery trade.

OH 3721

Narrator: Sullivan, Jane (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Jane Sullivan"
Date: April 29, 2009
Language: English
Location: Palm Desert, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages

This oral history spans 1906-2009. Bulk dates: 1941-1950s.

An oral history with Jane Sullivan, resident of Palm Desert, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Sullivan's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up among orange groves in Pasadena, California, attending UCLA until Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941, and taking a job inspecting gun lenses; recalls joining the USMC, and her duties and experiences as a female in the Service; briefly talks about different training camps across the United States and how they differ from El Toro; discusses her marriage to a Marine, adjusting to civilian life, and briefly living in Tsingtao, China; explains in detail her position packing parachutes at El Toro; speaks about spending her leisure time as a Marine in Santa Ana, California, and shopping at the Post Exchange; discusses changes in the landscape and character of Orange County, including housing and economic development; briefly comments on the future of El Toro as the Orange County Great Park, calling the decision to close the Base "a terrible thing."

OH 3722

Narrator: Darche, Joseph (b.1924)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Joseph Darche"
Date: April 29, 2009
Language: English
Location: Palm Desert, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 34 pages

This oral history spans 1917-2009. Bulk dates: 1941-1961.

An oral history with Joseph Darche, resident of Palm Desert, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Darche's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about being born in Anna, Illinois, and moving frequently until he ended up in Chicago, Illinois; speaks about his father's career as a medical doctor and psychiatrist; talks about his family's history of military service; remembers Pearl Harbor and anticipating the United States' entry into World War II; recalls boot camp training at North Island in San Diego, California, and Aviation Metal Smith Training School in Chicago, Illinois; talks about working on the Elevated ["L"] Road Repair Gang in Chicago during summers; recalls caring for General Ray Stanley Geiger's plane at North Island; speaks about Marine airplanes, such as J2R's, Corsairs, and "Flying Coffins;" discusses his stay in the South Pacific, especially in Bikini Atoll, where he recalls American nuclear testing, and the sighting of an Unidentified Flying Object; recalls his first impressions of El Toro, including the weather and landscape; talks about "seagoing" on the USS *Cape Gloucester* and the USS *Saidor* during World War II; briefly discusses Walt Disney's design for the insignia of the First Hell Divers at El Toro; comments on V-J Day [Victory Over Japan Day], and the United States' bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; speaks about transitioning to civilian life by making sails and working in the aerospace industry in Southern California, including Convair and Hughes Aircraft Corporation; discusses El Toro's influence in Orange County, California.

OH 3723

Narrator: Roder, Henry (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Samuel J. Price
Title: "An Oral History with Henry Roder"
Date: May 4, 2009
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 20 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2009. Bulk dates: 1952-2008.

An oral history with Henry Roder, resident of Santa Ana, California, retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Mary Lou Roder (OH 3724). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Roder's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on an Oklahoma farm; details his enlistment in the USMC and officer training in Quantico, Virginia; reviews his flight training in Corpus Christi, Texas, and Pensacola, Florida; describes an incident during training where his plane was damaged and he had to bail out; recalls being assigned to a fighter squadron at El Toro, discussing the number of officers on base, and an average workday; reflects on El Toro and the surrounding community; discusses midcentury agricultural laborers, speaking about the *Bracero* Program; details flight missions in Japan, Korea, the Mediterranean, Vietnam, and Okinawa; revisits various aircraft he has flown, and his position as a forward air controller with ANGLICO; describes flights carrying deceased Marines and supplies while in Danang, Vietnam; details aero-refueling and night flare drops in Vietnam; describes work at Headquarters Marine Corps, Navy Annex, in Washington, D.C.; covers logistics of airway use and FAA coordination; describes training Saudi Arabian pilots for Lockheed; covers post military career with a shuttle service and Guardsmark private security; concludes with his opinion of El Toro's impact on Orange County, California, including population and economic growth.

OH 3724

Narrator: Roder, Mary Lou (b. 1932)
Interviewer: Samuel J. Price
Title: "An Oral History with Mary Lou Roder"
Date: May 4, 2009
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1932-2009. Bulk dates: 1958-2009.

An oral history with Mary Lou Roder, resident of Santa Ana, California, and wife of former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Henry Roder (OH 3723). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Roder's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discusses about growing up in Republic County, Kansas, during the Depression; speaks about graduating high school in 1950 and moving to Southern California, working for S.H. Kress and Company as a supervisor, Robert's Studio, and a doctor's office in Anaheim; comments on Tustin and the area surrounding El Toro, speaking about orange groves; recalls dating Marines and frequenting local nightclubs; speaks about getting married in 1958 at El Toro's chapel, then immediately moving to Beaufort, South Carolina; remembers that her husband was transferred back to El Toro in 1962; shares her work experience with Navy Relief, speaking about having to take her son to the childcare center at El Toro; recalls her involvement with the Officers' Wives Club, explaining she still keeps in touch with some of the members; discusses buying homes in different duty locations rather than living on base; comments on her husband's two-year contract with Lockheed Aircraft in Saudi Arabia, choosing to stay home during this time; speaks about life as a USMC wife, saying that she did not receive civilian help; expresses her fondness for El Toro and disappointment at its closure.

OH 3725

Narrator: Miller, Lorelie (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Samuel J. Price
Title: "An Oral History with Lorelie Miller"
Date: May 27, 2009
Language: English
Location: Newport Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 9 pages

This oral history spans 1920s-2009. Bulk dates: 1942-1965.

An oral history with Lorelie Miller, resident of Newport Beach, California, and wife of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Miller's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about her parents' divorce, growing up in Long Beach, California, and reconnecting with her half-siblings; speaks about her husband, Bob, his service in WWII, as well as his deployment during the Korean War; recalls her involvement in the Officers' Wives Club; speaks about real estate in Southern California, and her postwar impressions of El Toro; remembers moving around the United States to USMC locations in Hawaii, San Diego, Arizona, and Kansas; comments on raising her children; talks about her husband's teaching position at Citrus College in Glendora, California; discusses recreation in Southern California.

OH 3726

Narrator: **Buono, Helen** (b. 1928)
Interviewer: Samuel J. Price
Title: "An Oral History with Helen Buono"
Date: May 20, 2009
Language: English
Location: Laguna Hills, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 15 pages

This oral history spans 1928-2009. Bulk dates: 1941-1990s.

An oral history with Helen Buono, resident of Laguna Hills, California, wife of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and civilian employee at El Toro from 1979-1980. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Buono's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes a brief discussion of her childhood on sugarcane plantations in Oahu and Molokai during the Depression; describes hiding in a bomb shelter during the bombing of Bellows Field as part of the attack on Pearl Harbor; speaks about her cross-country travels; relates experiences in a USMC family; describes her involvement in the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association]; details her husband's five deployments; recalls moves to Camp Pendleton, Twentynine Palms, and Barstow, California, as well as Hawthorne, Nevada, and Texas; reflects on living in Morocco; discusses her civilian employment at El Toro as a clerk stenographer for the Naval Investigative Service, as well as volunteering for the Navy Relief Society; briefly describes her husband's post-retirement career in the hotel industry, as well as government positions; speaks about her own career after El Toro, working for various government agencies.

OH 3727

Narrator: Glass, Catherine (b.1920)
Interviewer: Samuel J. Price
Title: "An Oral History with Catherine Glass"
Date: May 21, 2009
Language: English
Location: Laguna Hills, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 30 pages

This oral history spans 1920-2009. Bulk dates: 1943-2001.

An oral history with Catherine Glass, resident of Laguna Hills, California, and wife of former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Steven Glass (OH 3656). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Glass' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in a Mennonite family in Pennsylvania, speaking about working on the farm; talks about her educational background, including graduating from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and becoming a teacher; speaks about getting married in 1943 and moving to San Diego a year later to live with her husband; discusses the challenges of adjusting to life outside of the Mennonite community; remembers communicating with her husband while he was stationed at Midway in the Pacific Theater of World War II; recalls moving multiple times while her husband was still in the Marine Reserves; speaks about returning to Orange County, California, in the 1960s; details her employment history, including teaching and working at a bank; comments on El Toro's impact on Orange County.

OH 3728

Narrator: Brewster, Suzanne (b. 1941)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Suzanne Brewster"
Date: June 9, 2009
Language: English
Location: California State University, Fullerton, Pollak Library
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 31 pages

This oral history spans 1941-2009. Bulk dates: 1962-2009.

An oral history with Suzanne Brewster, resident of Frisco, Texas, and wife of retired brigadier general in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Albert Brewster (OH 3729). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Brewster's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Huntington Park, California, describing her father's construction business; speaks about Disneyland, recalling her employment there and commenting on changes in Anaheim, California; talks about marrying in 1962, divorcing, and remarrying General Al Brewster in 1972; recalls introduction to military life and constant moving; remembers life at El Toro, living in base housing, as well as shopping at the commissary and PX (Post Exchange); tells about USMC balls, remembering the formal atmosphere; comments on making lifelong friends through the USMC; speaks about moving to Washington, D.C., before General Brewster's retirement from the USMC; shares thoughts on General Brewster as a stepfather, speaking about discipline and family relationships; discusses life after General Brewster's retirement, talking about selling her home, sailing around the world for two years, and moving around the United States; shares about her involvement with the Snowball Express Organization.

OH 3729

Narrator: Brewster, Albert (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Albert Brewster"
Date: June 9, 2009
Language: English
Location: California State University Fullerton, Pollak Library
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 51 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2009. Bulk dates: 1952-1980.

An oral history with Albert Brewster, resident of Frisco, Texas, retired brigadier general in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Suzanne Brewster (OH 3728). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Brewster's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Arkansas and winning a scholarship to the University of New Mexico through NROTC [Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps], graduating from basic school and earning a degree in business in 1952; talks about spending thirteen months in Korea during the Korean War; comments on his first marriage; discusses graduating from communications school in 1958 and then attending Aviation Safety School; shares his experiences of taking off and landing on aircraft carriers; details his rise through the ranks in the USMC, discussing many transfers; explains that he attended a briefing in the White House Situation Room during the Vietnam War, meeting with the Secretary of the Navy; remembers that he flew 108 missions in Vietnam; speaks about marrying Suzanne, his second wife, in 1974; discusses completing a tour of duty in Japan, becoming assistant wing commander; recalls the Cuban Missile Crisis and the preparation for war within the USMC; explains that he retired as a brigadier general in 1980, working for Northrop Grumman Corporation for ten years, and then sailing around the world; describes his involvement in the Snowball Express Organization.

OH 3730

Narrator: Perez, Diana (b. 1947)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Diana Perez"
Date: June 10, 2009
Language: English
Location: Orange, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 65 pages

This oral history spans 1947-2009. Bulk dates: 1950-1975.

An oral history with Diana Perez, resident of Orange, California, and daughter of a retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Perez's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in a military family in Orange County, California; discusses her father's military and civilian careers, detailing his work as a supply sergeant at El Toro; relates visits to the mess hall and her father's office; comments on the camaraderie among servicemen; describes the layout of several buildings on base and their functions; delves into generational attitudes on the Depression, marriage, and various wars; describes Catholic school and some religious disparity between her parents; talks about the pomp and circumstance of military dress, ceremonies, and parades; discusses military recruiting and enlistment; describes her mother's experience on a television show called *Queen for a Day*; relates overseas communication with her father during deployments; describes the development and decline of agriculture in Southern California; compares being raised in an active military family to her siblings' civilian upbringing; remembers base security and the entrance to El Toro; describes going to the PX [Post Exchange], the medical clinic, and base events; discusses women Marines at El Toro; expresses disappointment over complaints about El Toro; describes how her father coached her in a marching band and prepared her for the Police Academy; revisits her experiences on the homefront during the Vietnam War.

OH 3731

Narrator: Smith, Norman (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Daniel Hilger
Title: "An Oral History with Norman Smith"
Date: June 18, 2009
Language: English
Location: San Juan Capistrano, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 22 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2009. Bulk dates: 1954-1977.

An oral history with Norman Smith, resident of San Juan Capistrano, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Smith's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Southern California during the Depression; speaks about the homefront during World War II, including blackout curtains; talks about joining the USMC as a Marine Corp Aviation Cadet after attending junior college; speaks about marrying his wife while he was a cadet, which went against the rules; talks about attending school in Pensacola, Florida, and then transferring to Kaneohe, Hawaii, joining the helicopter program; comments on the challenges of switching from fixed wing planes to helicopters; speaks about being sent to the Lighter-than-Air base in Tustin, California, in 1957, discussing daily duties; talks about rejoining the USMC in 1960; remembers being sent to Okinawa, Japan, in 1963, transferring to Meridian, Mississippi, Kingsville, Texas, and Cherry Point, North Carolina; describes living off base while stationed at El Toro, discussing the surrounding community; comments on his tour in Vietnam in 1963, returning in 1967 as a Phantom pilot, and transferring to Thailand in 1973; shares details of his time in Vietnam, giving his impressions of locales and people; speaks about tensions on the homefront during the Vietnam War, explaining that his family kept his Military service a secret; discusses retiring from the USMC in 1977, transitioning to civilian life by working at WR Grace Company creating housing developments; speaks changes and developments in Orange County, California.

OH 3732

Narrator: Windle, A.P. (b. 1937)
Interviewer: Daniel Hilger
Title: "An Oral History with A.P. Windle"
Date: July 3, 2009
Language: English
Location: Redlands, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 20 pages

This oral history spans 1937-2009. Bulk dates: 1950-1960.

An oral history with A.P. Windle, resident of Redlands, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Windle's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Illinois, remembering German prisoners of war during World War II; speaks about joining the USMC in order to capitalize on the GI Bill; recalls attending aviation training in Florida; comments on racism, segregation, and homophobia in the USMC and military towns; details life at El Toro, speaking about barracks, airplane maintenance, training, flight assignments, and daily tasks; compares USMC aviation to infantry, discussing his coworkers and a relaxed hierarchy; recalls eating World War II rations in the mess halls at El Toro; speaks about the physical effects of his time in the USMC, describing ringing in his ears due to a lack of ear protection around jet engines; details entertainment experiences at El Toro; discusses his Hollywood celebrity connections, remembering a girlfriend who was a model; speaks about his marriage, working for Lockheed Missile Systems Division in Van Nuys, California, after leaving the USMC, and joining the Marine Corps Reserves; remembers a fatal airplane crash at El Toro in which his friend was killed; discusses rifle training at Camp Matthews, California, speaking specifically about weaponry; talks about women in the Marines, speaking about their positions and capabilities; comments on the growth of Orange County and Southern California; shares his views of war.

OH 4001

Narrator: Buhrmann, June (b. 1922)
Interviewer: Daniel Hilger
Title: “An Oral History with June Buhrmann”
Date: July 20, 2009
Language: English
Location: Pasadena, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 14 pages

This oral history spans 1922-2009. Bulk dates: 1944-1946.

An oral history with June Buhrmann, resident of Pasadena, California, and wife of former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Donald Buhrmann (OH 3658). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Buhrmann’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Aurora, Illinois, during the Depression; talks about meeting her future husband at a high school dance, waiting to marry until he returned from World War II; discusses attending Cornell College, and being employed as a social worker in the Department of Welfare in Orange County, California; talks about learning to drive in California, remembering some very rural areas when she arrived in 1944; remembers Pearl Harbor and the homefront during World War II, speaking about corresponding with her future husband, and other interactions with soldiers; discusses her husband’s postwar transfer to El Toro, recalling the difficulty of finding housing in Orange County; details El Toro and the surrounding areas; comments on the hierarchy within the USMC; shares other memories of World War II, including the death of President Franklin Roosevelt and the end of the war; speaks about raising a family and moving back to California in 1973; comments on her feelings about war, as well as the closure of El Toro.

OH 4002

Narrator: Spry, Thomas (b. 1926)
Interviewer: John Elliott
Title: “An Oral History with Thomas Spry”
Date: June 25, 2009
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 23 pages

This oral history spans 1926-2009. Bulk dates: 1940-1969.

An oral history with Thomas Spry, resident of Mission Viejo, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Spry’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in a coalmining town in West Virginia; remembers Pearl Harbor, as well as attending boot camp and sniper school; recalls going to the Pacific Theater of World War II in 1943; speaks about different bases across the United States; comments on preparations to invade mainland Japan and learning about atomic bombs; discusses being sent to China to repatriate Japanese soldiers to guard against Malou, or communists from Manchuria; speaks about the changes in Tianjin, China, over sixty years; details the cold conditions during the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir in the Korean War; speaks about marrying in 1961, and moving to Hawaii; recalls coming to El Toro in 1965 as part of the weigh-in inspection team, fighting in the Vietnam War, returning to El Toro in 1968, and retiring in 1969; talks about moving to Laguna Hills, California, in the 1960s, discussing the agricultural and real estate development of South Orange County; discusses working in the insurance business after retiring from the USMC; comments on roads in midcentury Southern California, including “Slaughter Alley” from San Clemente to Oceanside, and Basilone Road near Camp Pendleton; remembers the desegregation of the military, and the addition of women Marines; speaks about his involvement in competitive shooting; expresses disappointment in El Toro’s closure.

OH 4003

Narrator: Cheeka, Cecil (b. 1944)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Cecil Cheeka"
Date: July 16, 2009
Language: English
Location: Lacey, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 58 pages

This oral history spans 1890s-2009. Bulk dates: 1965-1969.

An oral history with Cecil Cheeka, resident of Lacey, Washington, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Cheeka's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on the Makah Indian Reservation in Neah Bay, Washington, speaking about his heritage and his parents' educational experiences; recalls attending boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California; speaks about discrimination, remembering civilian and USMC experiences; comments on his first impressions of El Toro and Orange County, California; shares memories of friends in the USMC; talks about life at El Toro, remembering training, working on the flight line, the barracks, liberty, alcohol usage, and interacting with the community; details experiences in Vietnam, including duties, maneuvers and attacks, public sentiment, transportation, communication, and returning home; tells about working as a guard in the brig at Camp Pendleton, California, recalling prisoner classifications and a riot; speaks about being discharged from the USMC in 1969 and attending San Francisco City College; tells about his involvement with the Native American occupation of Alcatraz Island in 1969; talks about returning to Washington State after marrying and finishing college, working in hotels and as journeyman.

OH 4004

Narrator: Hefty, Milt (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Milt Hefty"
Date: July 16, 2009
Language: English
Location: Steilacoom, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 31 pages

This oral history spans 1900-2009. Bulk dates: 1948-1971.

An oral history with Milt Hefty, resident of Steilacoom, Washington, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Hefty's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in North Dakota during the Depression, and Portland, Oregon, during World War II; speaks about joining the Marine Corps Reserves in 1948 to pay for his education at Pacific Lutheran College in Tacoma, Washington; talks about becoming an executive officer [XO] of a rifle company in 1953, developing a desire to become a pilot; discusses different airplanes he flew during his career, including the Grumman F9F-5 Panther; speaks about segregation in the USMC and in the community surrounding Cherry Point, North Carolina; comments on being stationed at El Toro; discusses changes at El Toro and in Southern California, talking about the smog and population boom; remembers living in Orange, California, for six years while he was stationed at El Toro; recalls practicing dive bombing, nuclear bomb delivery, and formation flying while stationed at El Toro; speaks about his two tours of duty during the Vietnam War, including inept commanders and politicians, as well as heavy anti-aircraft fire, and the Hanoi Hilton; remembers flying missions in the 1960s from Cherry Point to Puerto Rico, carrying ammunition and supplies; discusses his retirement in 1971, including employment as a substitute teacher, and staying involved with local Marines; expresses disappointment with the closure of El Toro.

OH 4005

Narrator: Herber, Jack (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Jack Herber"
Date: July 15, 2009
Language: English
Location: Gig Harbor, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 63 pages

This oral history spans 1930s-2009. Bulk dates: 1950s-1960s.

An oral history with Jack Herber, resident of Gig Harbor, Washington, retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Pat Herber (OH 4006). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Herber's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a Michigan farm during the Depression, detailing his father's abusive behavior; talks about the homefront during World War II, having to stop speaking German at home; speaks about joining the USMC; remembers attending flight school in Pensacola, Florida, in 1952, learning to box; comments on race relations in the USMC and in the South; discusses transitioning to the jet program in 1954, as well as photoreconnaissance training in Miami, Florida; talks about meeting his future wife, Pat, before transferring to Atsugi, Japan, in 1955; recalls flights while stationed in Japan, speaking about poor weather and flying over China; comments on the USMC and his alcoholism; shares his first impressions of El Toro and the surrounding community; discusses life at El Toro, speaking about daily duties and training pilots, activities and entertainment for officers and families; talks about the development of Orange County, California; shares experiences flying helicopters; recalls serving at the Naval Aviation Safety Center in Norfolk, Virginia, studying ejection seat effectiveness; comments on being deployed to Vietnam, sharing his opinions of the Vietnam War; details his time in Vietnam, speaking about flight missions, the Tet Offensive, dropping napalm on Viet Cong soldiers, and having to eject on a mission; explains about becoming the director of aviation training for USMC schools; comments on his retirement from the USMC; describes his involvement in USMC charity groups, including the Richard C. Mangrum Squadron; shares the impact of El Toro on Orange County and his own life.

OH 4006

Narrator: Herber, Patricia (b. 1931)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Patricia Herber"
Date: July 15, 2009
Language: English
Location: Gig Harbor, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 67 pages

This oral history spans 1930s-2009. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s.

An oral history with Patricia Herber, resident of Gig Harbor, Washington, former United States Marine Corps (USMC) dependent, and wife of retired member of the USMC, Jack Herber (OH 4005). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Herber's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in a USMC family during the Depression; recalls experiences on the homefront during World War II, speaking about Pearl Harbor and Japanese American internment; tells about her father's transfer to El Toro in 1947, describing the surrounding community; discusses life at Cherry Point, North Carolina, speaking about Quonset Huts, school facilities, and segregation; recalls interactions with Marines while living on bases; speaks about living in Hawthorne, Nevada, saying that it was remote and lacked activities; discusses discipline and expectations for Marine families; shares her experiences with the Stars and Bars program in Miami, Florida, during the Korean War; talks about marrying in 1956 after Jack returned from Korea, living at Camp Pendleton, California, for a year, and then El Toro for two years; discusses family activities on USMC bases; comments on flight accidents at El Toro; talks about Jack's time overseas, speaking about raising children on her own, and relying on religion; speaks about the support network among Marine wives; talks about Jack's transfer to Naples, Italy, in the 1970s, speaking about Italian culture and travelling around Europe; discusses the desegregation of the USMC, as well as the role of women Marines; comments on life after Jack's retirement from the USMC in 1977, moving to Bellevue, Washington, and readjusting to civilian life; speaks about the significance of the USMC and El Toro to her life.

OH 4007

Narrator: Lorenz, Frederick (b. 1946)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Frederick Lorenz"
Date: July 12, 2009
Language: English
Location: Tacoma, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 50 pages

This oral history spans 1850s-2009. Bulk dates: 1980s.

An oral history with Frederick Lorenz, resident of Tacoma, Washington, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Lorenz's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on Long Island, New York; talks about attending Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, joining the Naval ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) Program; tells about joining the USMC in 1968, attending law school during the Vietnam War; details his work as a JAG (judiciary advocate general) and SJA (staff judge advocate) in the USMC, discussing types of cases and defendants; comments on morale in the USMC after Vietnam, remembering many people did not reenlist, as well as an East Coast and West Coast divide between Marines; discusses shifting from law to an infantry company commander at Camp Pendleton, California; talks about earning an advanced law degree from George Washington University in 1982, specializing in land use; details his time at El Toro, discussing legal challenges concerning noise and rezoning, including litigation with Ross Cortese and Leisure World; comments on the closure of El Toro; shares about his family life, speaking about the difficulty of moving, his wife's volunteer efforts, and his children's career paths; speaks extensively about his positions abroad with the USMC, including deployments in Japan, Somalia, and Sarajevo; tells about teaching at the National Defense University, the University of Washington, Seattle, as well as continuing to advise the State Department.

OH 4008

Narrator: Loring, Anne (b. 1936)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: “An Oral History with Anne Loring”
Date: July 13, 2009
Language: English
Location: Fall City, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: service copy; 39 pages
completed; 27 pages

This oral history spans 1930s-2009. Bulk dates: 1947-1970s.

An oral history with Anne Loring, resident of Fall City, Washington, former United States Marine Corps (USMC) dependent, former teacher, and wife of retired member of the USMC, Art Loring (OH 4009). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Loring’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about her father’s service in the USMC Reserves; shares memories of Pearl Harbor, explaining that her home was hit by machinegun fire, and her father became a prisoner of war; shares about life at El Toro, speaking about local agriculture, housing on base, entertainment and activities, school at the Irvine Ranch and Tustin Union High School, community interaction, flirting with Marines, and changes over time; speaks about the effect of land development around El Toro, remembering Rossmoor Leisure World; tells about life as a “Marine junior,” moving frequently; details her father’s USMC career, including his role as Commanding Officer at the Lighter-than-Air Base in Santa Ana, California, and in Beaufort, South Carolina; comments on Southern culture, speaking about segregation, discrimination, and poverty; shares about meeting her husband and marrying in 1964; talks about life as a USMC wife, moving often, sending her husband to war, and being a single parent; reflects on the strain of war on USMC families, speaking about finances, relationships, and careers; comments on the treatment of returning Marines from Vietnam; talks about her family’s sponsorship of two Korean nationals, helping them enter the country and receive education; recalls experiences living in Italy, speaking about the people, language barriers, and underground police; talks about the difficulty of transitioning to civilian life, learning to accumulate credit, pay bills, and buy a house.

OH 4009

Narrator: Loring, Art (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Art Loring"
Date: July 13, 2009
Language: English
Location: Fall City, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 53 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2009. Bulk dates: 1954-1978.

An oral history with Art Loring, resident of Fall City, Washington, retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Anne Loring (OH 4008). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Loring's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in San Diego, California; talks about developing a love of airplanes as a child; speaks about homefront experiences during World War II, remembering blackout curtains; tells about joining the ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) Holloway Program, and then joining the USMC in college; speaks about flight training in Pensacola, Florida, staying with the program in Beeville, Texas, from 1958-1960; recalls training for the Vietnam War before it began; explains that he was handpicked to join Squadron 211 at El Toro; discusses segregation and prejudice in the South; talks about Orange County, California, and liberty at El Toro; recalls being sent to Iwakuni, Japan, sharing cultural and flight experiences; discusses returning to El Toro and becoming a recruiter, remembering recruiting experiences and flight challenges; tells about meeting his wife at University of California, Berkeley, marrying in 1964, and having three children; recalls transferring to Cherry Point, North Carolina, and then being deployed to Vietnam, flying 135 combat missions in two tours; remembers attending the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Defense College in Rome, Italy, then living in Naples for three years while working with NATO; discusses retiring from the USMC, speaking about working for Eldec and Honeywell's Marine Systems Division; shares continued love of flying.

OH 4010

Narrator: Mann, Arleta (b.1932)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Arleta Mann"
Date: July 14, 2009
Language: English
Location: Port Angeles, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 29 pages

This oral history spans 1924-2009. Bulk dates: 1941-1979.

An oral history with Arleta Mann, resident of Port Angeles, Washington, and wife of retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Marv Mann (OH 4011). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Mann's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up with her husband in Goshen, Indiana; remembers Pearl Harbor, D-Day, and young men who fought in World War II; speaks about Marv's decision to join the USMC during the Korean War; talks at length about moving around the country and being the main caretaker for her eight children during Marv's deployments, remembering feeling isolated; recalls moving to Orange, California, when Marv was stationed at El Toro; speaks in depth about developing close relationships with other Marine wives over the years; briefly talks about her first trip to Disneyland; comments on the four years when Marv left the USMC; remembers the blockade of Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962; comments on how the USMC affected her children; recalls the shock of midcentury Orange County, California, growth; speaks about living in Wherry housing and Mission Viejo, California, during Marv's second tour at El Toro; comments on losing a dear friend in a helicopter crash while at El Toro; very briefly mentions knowing a woman Marine at El Toro; discusses the loosening up of USMC protocol, including interaction among wives and attire in base stores; describes the strain on her marriage due to her husband's career; recalls attending classes and working at Saddleback Community College in Mission Viejo during the seventies; discusses Marv's various jobs after retiring from the USMC, including flying commercial planes in Napa Valley, California.

OH 4011

Narrator: Mann, Marv (b.1932)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Marv Mann"
Date: July 14, 2009
Language: English
Location: Port Angeles, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 42 pages

This oral history spans 1932-2009. Bulk dates: 1953-1976.

An oral history with Marv Mann, resident of Port Angeles, Washington, retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Arleta Mann (OH 4010). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Mann's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Goshen, Indiana, attending Ball State University; shares about marrying in 1952 and joining the USMC in 1953, attending boot camp and basic training in Quantico, Virginia; recalls being sent to Pensacola, Florida, for flight training, discussing the different planes he flew; talks about his first assignment at El Toro, working with photoreconnaissance and electronic countermeasures; speaks about the growth of Orange County, California; remembers living in different locations while stationed at El Toro, including Tustin, Orange, Mission Viejo, and on base in Wherry housing; discusses his many tours, including flying General Krulak and General Buse; talks about attending Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia; details working closely with Naval Inshore Amphibious Group Eastern Pacific Spec War Group for four years; comments on the deaths of friends on base and in war; talks about his service during the Vietnam War, speaking about combat missions; recalls being the commanding officer of BMGR352 while at El Toro; shares the effects of his career on his wife and children; speaks about life after retiring from the USMC, including working for Trans American Airlines.

OH 4012

Narrator: Schooling, David (b. 1947)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with David Schooling"
Date: July 17, 2009
Language: English
Location: Toutle, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages

*Recording interrupted due to static interference from 00:07:46 until 00:22:00, and from 00:42:00 until 01:00:00.

This oral history spans 1947-2009. Bulk dates: 1950s-1980s.

An oral history with David Schooling, resident of Toutle, Washington, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Schooling's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about moving frequently due to his father's employment as a construction worker, settling in Santa Ana, California; talks about his father's inventions, including improving a World War II rope ladder; explains that his father was a civilian employee at El Toro during World War II; describes different Military abutments in South Orange County; talks about racing cars at El Toro while still in high school; tells about working for AT&T/Western Electric installing telephone equipment; describes a motor accident which caused him to lose his leg and leave the USMC Reserves in 1959; comments on having difficulty reentering the USMC during the Vietnam War due to his previous injury; shares about changes at El Toro, attending annual air shows; talks about working for North American Aviation, Autonetics, Hughes Aircraft, and Douglas Aircraft Company, describing classified aviation work in Orange County during the Cold War; speaks about leaving Orange County for good in 1982; comments on his involvement in the Marine Corps League, the American Legion, and the USMC Honor Guard; speaks about the effect of El Toro and the aerospace industry on his life.

OH 4013

Narrator: Swinford, David (b.1923)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with David Swinford"
Date: July 14, 2009
Language: English
Location: Sequim, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 33 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2009. Bulk dates: 1941-1974.

An oral history with David Swinford, resident of Sequim, Washington, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of former member of the USMC, Arlene Swinford (OH 4014). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Swinford's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Oklahoma during the Depression, remembering the Dust Bowl exodus; talks about Pearl Harbor, explaining he enlisted in the Civilian Pilot Training Program when the war was "looming on the horizon;" recalls joining the USMC in 1941, flying P-boats and B-25 bombers in the Pacific Theater of WWII; mentions the training he received in the USMC, including instruction in flight, navigation, nuclear weapons, and law; discusses the locations at which he was stationed, including Cherry Point, North Carolina, as well as El Centro, Mojave, and El Toro in California; remembers joining the Black Sheep Squadron of fighter pilots at El Toro after WWII; talks about training on the Channel Islands while stationed at El Toro; remembers flying planes from North Carolina to El Toro in preparation for deployment in the Korean War; speaks about his two tours in the Vietnam War, finding solace as a civic action officer for a leper colony; discusses postwar population growth in Orange County, California; shares the effects of a USMC career for families; comments on desegregation in the Military, and about women in the USMC; details his rise through the ranks, retiring in 1974 as a G3 operations officer; expresses regret at El Toro's closure.

OH 4014

Narrator: Swinford, Arlene (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Arlene Swinford"
Date: July 14, 2009
Language: English
Location: Sequim, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 34 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2009. Bulk dates: 1956-1974.

An oral history with Arlene Swinford, resident of Sequim, Washington, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and wife of retired member of the USMC, David Swinford (OH 4013). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Swinford's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Alameda, California, during the Depression, sharing her family history; speaks about World War II, including rationing, blackouts, and wearing an Identification card; discusses race relations in midcentury California; talks about attending San Jose State University and majoring in Art Education, teaching for one year in Mojave, California; remembers enlisting in the USMC in 1956, being sent directly to Quantico, Virginia, for officer training; talks about transferring to El Toro, sharing a home in Laguna Beach, California, with three friends; relates experiences working with women at El Toro, discussing homosexuality in the USMC; talks about meeting David while he was her commanding officer at El Toro, explaining that she was discharged from the USMC when she married him; speaks about raising a family while David was deployed during the Vietnam War; talks about David's retirement from the USMC in 1974, and moving to a farm in Sequim; comments on her involvement with the Women Marines' Association, and her time as commissioner for her local Parks and Recreation Board.

OH 4015

Narrator: Thompson, Larry (b. 1935)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Larry Thompson"
Date: July 15, 2009
Language: English
Location: Port Townsend, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans 1935-2009. Bulk dates: 1954-1961.

An oral history with Larry Thompson, resident of Port Townsend, Washington, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of former member of the USMC Reserves, Peggy Thompson (OH 4016). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Thompson's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Aberdeen, Washington, during the Depression and World War II, where his father was a tugboat operator and his mother a homemaker; remembers joining the United States Army Reserves in 1954 while attending Grace Harbor Community College; speaks about his decision to join the Navy Cadet program in 1957, receiving flight training in Pensacola, Florida, and then transferring to Alabama and Kingsville, Texas; shares exposure to segregation in the South and in the Military; comments on receiving his commission in the USMC in 1958; speaks about being sent to El Toro and living in Laguna Beach, California; tells about meeting his wife, Peggy, at El Toro, marrying in 1959; discusses the development of Southern California; recalls his time as an ordnance officer, learning to assemble and disassemble nuclear weapons; shares stories about dive bombing techniques and experiences; recalls being discharged from active duty in 1961 and starting a family; talks about attending California State University, Fullerton, receiving a degree in Accounting in 1963; speaks about working with the United States Treasury and Whitaker Corporation.

OH 4016

Narrator: Thompson, Peggy (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Peggy Thompson"
Date: July 15, 2009
Language: English
Location: Port Townsend, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 39 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2009. Bulk dates: 1952-1980s.

An oral history with Peggy Thompson, resident of Port Townsend, Washington, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Reserves, and wife of former member of the USMC, Larry Thompson (OH 4015). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Thompson's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Virginia, speaking about poverty, segregation, and an alcoholic father; speaks about her involvement in a work-study program during college, later working as a teacher; discusses the influence of the women's dean at her college in Youngstown, Ohio, explaining that she recommended her for Officer Candidate School; relates her experiences and training in Quantico, Virginia; reflects upon differences in opportunities for men and women in the USMC and the workplace; describes living in Laguna Beach, California, while stationed at El Toro, remembering social events; briefly touches on her administrative role with the Headquarters squadron at El Toro; describes the decision she and her husband made to leave the USMC after their marriage in 1959; discusses her career after leaving the USMC, speaking about teaching experiences, as well as earning her Master's degree in Business; describes her involvement with organizations such as the League of Women Voters, the March of Dimes, a reading tutorial program, Mother's March, Health Systems Agency, Legal Service Corporation, and a domestic violence program.

OH 4017

Narrator: Young, Josephine Harmolink (b.1931)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: “An Oral History with Josephine Young”
Date: July 12, 2009
Language: English
Location: Lynden, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 18 pages

This oral history spans 1910s-2009. Bulk dates: 1941-1960s.

An oral history with Josephine Young, resident of Lynden, Washington, and wife of former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Jack Young (OH 4018). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Young’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about being the twenty-first child born into her family, growing up in Rock Valley, Iowa, during the Depression; recalls Pearl Harbor; talks about her brothers’ experiences in World War II, reading a letter that one sent her from the Admiralty Islands in the South Pacific; speaks about moving to the State of Washington in the postwar years, putting herself through business college and meeting her husband, Jack; remembers that Jack was drafted during the Korean War and sent to Southern California, where they married; comments on her desire to move to California, remembering the weather, agriculture, and traffic; discusses her one-bedroom apartment in Costa Mesa, California, explaining she enjoyed the time they spent there; recalls her oldest son’s premature birth at the Corona Naval Hospital in Corona, California, including the long drive and the affordable treatment; explains that a luxury while living at El Toro was eating a seventy-five-cent meal at a local café every payday; discusses the long tradition of military service in her family.

OH 4018

Narrator: Young, Jack (b. 1931)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Jack Young"
Date: July 12, 2009
Language: English
Location: Lynden, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 22 pages

This oral history spans 1931-2009. Bulk dates: 1951-1953.

An oral history with Jack Young, resident of Lynden, Washington, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Josephine Harmolink Young (OH 4017). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Young's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Lynden, remembering that his father worked in a logging camp and for Union Oil Company; shares memories of the Depression and World War II; shares his love of automobiles and mechanics, working at a local Ford dealership before the Korean War; talks about marrying in 1950 and being drafted into the USMC in 1951; describes boot camp experiences in San Diego, California, transferring to Memphis, Tennessee, for schooling; comments on cultural differences between the South and West Coast, speaking about segregation, and the treatment of servicemen and women; remembers living near El Toro in Costa Mesa, California; details fixing mechanical equipment at El Toro, and working at a local gas station on off hours; recalls being discharged from the USMC in 1953, raising a family in Lynden; speaks fondly about the USMC.

OH 4019

Narrator: Holbert, Marilyn (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Daniel Hilger
Title: “An Oral History with Marilyn Holbert”
Date: July 29, 2009
Language: English
Location: Glendale, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 10 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2009. Bulk dates: 1943-1946.

An oral history with Marilyn Holbert, resident of Glendale, California, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women’s Reserve, and wife of former member of the USMC, Donald Holbert (OH 4020), with commentary and prompting by her husband and daughter, Jocelyn Paris. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Holbert’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes very brief discussion about growing in Rochester, Michigan, during the Depression, where her mother was a nurse and her father worked for the Michigan Central Railroad Company; briefly speaks about joining the USMCWR in 1943, serving as a mechanic during World War II; briefly talks about life at El Toro, remembering she lived in barracks and did not leave the base often; briefly reflects on attending boot camp at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, transferring to North Island in San Diego, California, and then continuing to El Toro; briefly tells about being discharged from the USMC and raising children; briefly shares opinion on how El Toro should be remembered.

*Marilyn Holbert suffered a stroke some time before this interview.

OH 4020

Narrator: Holbert, Donald E. (b. 1915)
Interviewer: Daniel Hilger
Title: "An Oral History with Donald Holbert"
Date: July 29, 2009
Language: English
Location: Glendale, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 24 pages

This oral history spans 1915-2009. Bulk dates: 1933-1950s.

An oral history with Donald Holbert, resident of Glendale, California, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Marilyn Holbert (OH 4019), with commentary by his wife and his daughter, Jocelyn Paris. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Holbert's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in Georgia during the Depression; speaks about joining the USMC in 1933, attending boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, and then San Diego, California, remembering training and mosquitoes; talks about being stationed aboard a ship near Havana and Panama as a bugler, recalling difficulty returning to North Island in San Diego; shares about reenlisting in the USMC in 1943, talking about leaving his job at Lockheed Martin; tells about El Toro's role in World War II, remembering bullet-ridden Corsair airplanes which returned from the Pacific Theater, losing friends, and rehabilitating pilots; speaks about life at El Toro, talking about meeting his future wife, housing, as well as sports and recreation; comments on working with female mechanics in the USMC; briefly recalls the Zoot Suit Riots in Los Angeles, California; shares about a lack of job security at Lockheed Martin after World War II, leaving for embalming school; comments on El Toro's closure, and its future as the Orange County Great Park.

OH 4021.1

Narrator: Wentte, Gale (b. 1928-2009)
Interviewer: Gregory Garcia
Title: "An Oral History with Gale Wentte"
Date: July 31, 2009
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: verbatim/completed; 53 pages

This oral history spans 1928-2009. Bulk dates: 1948-1960s.

An oral history with Gale Wentte, resident of Santa Ana, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Wentte's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about working at El Toro as part of the crash crew, witnessing accidents; shares about working for the Los Alamitos Fire Department at El Toro and at Marine Corps Air Facility Tustin, remembering emergencies and deaths, fire department training and procedures, big events, interacting with pilots, entertainment, changes at the bases, and housing; briefly speaks about the Korean War, serving in Hawaii; briefly talks about his wife, Margaret, who was a secretary at El Toro; briefly tells about attending boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina; reflects on changes in Orange County, California, speaking about agriculture and population growth.

OH 4021.2

Narrator: Wente, Gale (b. 1928-2009)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "A Second Oral History with Gale Wente"
Date: September 9, 2009
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 39 pages

This oral history spans 1928-2009. Bulk dates: 1947-1970s.

A second oral history with Gale Wente, resident of Santa Ana, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Wente's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Missouri during the Depression, speaking about his father's World War I disabilities; shares memories of World War II, remembering Pearl Harbor; tells about joining the USMC, recalling boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina; speaks about working for the fire department and crash crew in Ewa, Hawaii, briefly remembering crashes; shares about meeting his wife, Margaret, at El Toro, saying she was a civilian secretary on the base; tells about life at El Toro, detailing accidents and fires, housing, airplanes, including the Corsair and the Panther jet, recreation and entertainment, duties, amenities like the mess hall and medical facilities, parades, and local schools; comments on change and growth in Orange County, California; speaks about camaraderie in the USMC; tells about working as a civilian assistant fire chief at the Lighter-than-Air (LTA) Base in Tustin, California, speaking about accidents, the blimps, and the hangars.

OH 4022

Narrator: Wilbur, Roy (b. 1941)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: “An Oral History with Roy Wilbur”
Date: July 16, 2009
Language: English
Location: Olympia, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 32 pages

This oral history spans 1941-2009. Bulk dates: 1958-1970s.

An oral history with Roy Wilbur, resident of Olympia, Washington, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Wilbur’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Spokane, Washington, during World War II, speaking about his mother’s Salish-Kootenai Indian heritage; talks about leaving high school and joining the USMC in order to escape an abusive father; details boot camp experiences, remembering punishments; briefly speaks about working as a longshoreman while home on leave; recalls being sent to El Toro, recounting traveling experiences; discusses the living quarters at El Toro, speaking about a lack of privacy in the barracks; comments on race relations in the USMC, saying the workplace and barracks were integrated; speaks about training to be an electrician; recalls being sent to Okinawa in 1959, reflecting on liberty, Japanese culture, and typhoons; comments on homosexuality in the USMC, relating a story about a friend at El Toro; speaks about liberty at El Toro, attending dances and eating in local restaurants; remembers his first USMC Birthday Ball at El Toro, when he was honored as the youngest Marine; tells about being discharged from the USMC and using the G.I. Bill to gain an Iron Workers apprenticeship; speaks about his two marriages, his sons, and an early retirement due to a work related injury; expresses fondness for the USMC and the camaraderie among Marines.

OH 4023

Narrator: Bloomer, William “Art” (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: “An Oral History with William ‘Art’ Bloomer”
Date: August 5, 2009
Language: English
Location: California State University, Fullerton, Pollak Library
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 51 pages

This oral history spans 1858-2009. Bulk dates: 1953-1986.

An oral history with William “Art” Bloomer, resident of Wichita, Kansas, retired general in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Sue Bloomer (OH 4070). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Bloomer’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in Kansas during the Depression, speaking about his childhood and family history, as well as attending Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas, on an athletic scholarship; shares memories of Pearl Harbor and World War II; talks about joining the USMC Reserves in college; discusses meeting his wife, Sue Bloomer, in college; shares about being stationed at El Toro and MCAS Tustin, as well as living in Orange County, California, speaking about agriculture, pollution, housing, recreation, interactions with the community, and duties; comments on being a test pilot at Patuxent River, Maryland, remembering the airplanes he flew; speaks about crashes at El Toro, including a fatality in 1985 which destroyed the chapel; talks about the Vietnam War, speaking about his awards, missions, the fall of Saigon, communication, politics and public sentiment; tells about attending the Naval War College, then becoming a special assistant and Marine Corps aide to the Secretary of the Navy; comments on homosexuals and women in the USMC; speaks about his time as base commander at El Toro, remembering his secretary, Bennie Boillot, and working with the City of Irvine, California; comments on El Toro’s closure, speaking about land development; tells about retiring from El Toro and readjusting to civilian life; recalls the theft of an A-4 airplane from El Toro in 1986.

OH 4024

Narrator: Brockman, Clare (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Claire Brockman"
Date: August 3, 2009
Language: English
Location: Home of Claire Brockman in Ephrata, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 43 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2009. Bulk dates: 1947-1952.

An oral history with Clare Brockman, resident of Ephrata, Washington, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of former member of the USMC, Barbara Brockman (OH 4025). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Brockman's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about the effects of the Depression, saying he was adopted by the Brockman family in 1931 and grew up in Ballard, Washington; talks about receiving his high school diploma while in the USMC; shares his memories of World War II, remembering President Franklin Roosevelt; speaks about his youth, talking about radio programs and movies; comments on boot camp experiences at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California, discussing drill instructors; shares his dislike of Southern California and love of El Toro; recounts his time at El Toro, speaking about working as an airplane mechanic and his desire to be a pilot, the barracks, and his friends; talks about camaraderie among Marines, augmented by drinking together; tells about meeting his wife, a Marine, at El Toro, and starting a family early so she could be discharged in 1952; talks about moving back to Washington after leaving California, working many jobs and raising six children; comments on his love of the USMC.

OH 4025

Narrator: Brockman, Barbara (b. 1931)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: “An Oral History with Barbara Brockman”
Date: August 3, 2009
Language: English
Location: Ephrata, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 30 pages

This oral history spans 1880s-2009. Bulk dates: 1950-1952.

An oral history with Barbara Brockman, resident of Ephrata, Washington, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and wife of former member of the USMC, Claire Brockman (OH 4024). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Brockman’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as one of ten children in a Catholic family, remembering relying upon welfare during the Depression; speaks about the importance of religion in her life, attending church at El Toro and influencing Claire’s conversion to Catholicism; remembers joining the USMC in 1950, being sent to Parris Island, South Carolina, for boot camp; speaks about gaining independence in the USMC; discusses sexual harassment and job limitations for women Marines; shares her first impressions of El Toro, including losing her luggage and being kissed onstage during a performance by Joey Bishop; speaks about the “lavender scare” of lesbianism in the USMC, remembering an investigation, fears that the barracks were bugged, psychiatric evaluations, and dating practices; talks about entertainment on and off base at El Toro, including the Enlisted Club; briefly discusses segregation in the USMC, recalling racial tensions at a bar off base; comments on her career in the USMC, expressing sorrow about leaving a job she enjoyed; remembers El Toro and Orange County, California, fondly.

OH 4026

Narrator: Fogg, Marion (b. 1926-2013)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Marion Fogg"
Date: August 3, 2009
Language: English
Location: Spokane, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited/completed; 47 pages

This oral history spans 1917-2009. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s.

An oral history with Marion Fogg, resident of Spokane, Washington, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Fogg's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in New Hampshire during the Depression, recalling her father's shellshock after World War I, and the death of both parents; tells about her first marriage, leaving her husband and working several poorly paid jobs; speaks about her decision to join the USMC; shares experiences from boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina; speaks about life at El Toro, working for the base commander and interacting with other Marines; speaks about being sexually assaulted at El Toro in 1952, talking about ensuing health problems, transferring to Camp Pendleton, California, and being discharged from the USMC; tells about working as a model for Harris Furs in Long Beach, California; discusses remarrying in 1959, speaking about a difficult family life, as well as continuing health problems.

OH 4027

Narrator: Hickey, X. Raymond (b. 1919)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with X. Raymond Hickey"
Date: August 4, 2009
Language: English
Location: Colville, Washington
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 39 pages

This oral history spans 1919-2009. Bulk dates: 1941-1960s.

An oral history with X. Raymond Hickey, resident of Colville, Washington, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Hickey's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in upstate New York and moving to a farm during the Depression; shares memories of Pearl Harbor and joining the USMC; remembers attending boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina, speaking about cultural differences between North and South; tells about being deployed to the South Pacific during World War II, remembering native people, souvenirs, air raids, the challenges of repairing airplane equipment, and contracting malaria; talks about life at El Toro, including housing, accidents and equipment failure, interacting with pilots and Women Reserves, liberty, and entertainers such as Bing Crosby; reflects on relationships with the surrounding community, speaking about hitchhiking, fights, and dances in Anaheim, California; tells about repairing equipment and teaching a television program at Cerritos College, as well as returning to school and graduating with a master's degree in 1969; details joining the Free and Accepted Masons in 1946, enjoying the responsibilities and brotherhood; shares pride at his service in the USMC; comments on the changes in and growth of Southern California, including traffic, population, and pollution.

OH 4028

Narrator: Rhoads, Earl (b. 1918)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Earl Rhoads"
Date: August 7, 2009
Language: English
Location: Anaheim, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 36 pages

This oral history spans 1918-2009. Bulk dates: 1940s-1970s.

An oral history with Earl Rhoads, resident of Anaheim, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Rhoads' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a Kansas farm, briefly mentioning difficulties during the Dust Bowl and Depression; speaks about joining the USMC in January of 1942; recalls being promoted to corporal directly out of boot camp, attending ordnance school in Jacksonville, Florida; talks about his experiences in the Pacific Theater of World War II, working on aircraft armament during the Battle of Guadalcanal; remembers transferring to El Toro in January of 1943 while the base was still under construction, recalling both the day it was commissioned and the day of its closure; discusses meeting his wife in a dancehall in Santa Ana, California, and moving back to Orange County after his 1974 retirement from the USMC; speaks about his experiences in the Korean War, including breaking his neck; talks about working with the Laguna Beach Shore Patrol while at El Toro, mentioning that his partner was grounded for flying an F4U Corsair onto Pacific Coast Highway in Long Beach, California; discusses his motivations for beginning a career with the USMC; comments on the entry of women and minorities into the USMC; speaks about his connections to famous people through the USMC, mentioning Charles Lindberg and William Durkin, a friend who saved Howard Hughes; comments on the effects of Disneyland on Anaheim, California, saying it killed the downtown area; discusses encounters with civilian leadership during the Vietnam War, including Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara; recalls attending a dance at the Lighter-Than-Air Base.

OH 4029

Narrator: Meznarich, Sofia (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Sofia Meznarich”
Date: August 10, 2009
Language: English
Location: Santa Barbara, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans 1919-2009. Bulk dates: 1930s-1960s.

An oral history with Sofia Meznarich, resident of Santa Barbara, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women’s Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Meznarich’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in a Polish family in Chicago, Illinois, speaking about the Depression in an ethnically diverse neighborhood; recalls Polish relatives that suffered under German occupation during World War II, and their involvement in the Polish Underground Resistance Movement; speaks about her motivations for joining the USMC in 1944, expressing concerns about “freeing a man to fight;” talks about attending boot camp in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, receiving further training in Cherry Point, North Carolina, and Chicago, and then being transferred to Santa Barbara, California; details working on the flight line, handing out materials, tools, and parachutes at both Santa Barbara and El Toro; recalls celebrating Victory in Europe [V-E] Day on the beach in Santa Barbara; speaks about washing dishes in downtown Santa Barbara for extra money and a good meal; reflects on the bombing of Pearl Harbor and Japanese American internment during World War II; recalls entertainment for Marines, including dances and sporting events; speaks about Women Reserves, discussing uniforms and interaction with male Marines; describes El Toro and Orange County, California, remembering the size of the base and the community; shares her experiences with USMC airplanes; discusses marrying her childhood neighbor after she left the Marines in 1946, moving to California’s San Fernando Valley with her family around 1966, later retiring in Santa Barbara; briefly speaks about the impact of El Toro on Orange County and the United States as a whole.

OH 4030

Narrator: Dudley, Robert H. (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Adam Kelly
Title: “An Oral History with Robert H. Dudley”
Date: August 5, 2009
Language: English
Location: Ventura, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 25 pages

This oral history spans 1849-2009. Bulk dates: 1950-1970.

An oral history with Robert H. Dudley, resident of Ventura, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Dudley’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in Ventura during the Depression; shares memories of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and his family’s military history; speaks about being drafted into the USMC in 1952; talks about boot camp, describing inspections, discipline, and the mess hall; comments on turning down officer candidate training and planning to leave the USMC after two years; describes interactions between officers and enlisted men; details duties as a typist clerk at El Toro; talks about Marines going AWOL [Absence Without Leave]; reflects upon the camaraderie in the USMC; describes a performance on base by John Philip Sousa, and seeing Dwight Eisenhower while on liberty; remembers torrential rains and an earthquake while he lived in the barracks at El Toro; discusses religion, race relations, and women in the USMC; talks about liberty in Southern California while he was stationed at El Toro; describes his wedding and family life; discusses the future of El Toro as the Orange County Great Park.

OH 4031

Narrator: Fox, Betty (b. 1919)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Betty Fox"
Date: August 8, 2009
Language: English
Location: Las Vegas, Nevada
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 16 pages

This oral history spans 1919-1956. Bulk dates: 1943-1944.

An oral history with Betty Fox, resident of Las Vegas, Nevada, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women's Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Fox's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes brief discussion about growing up in Los Angeles, California; speaks about joining the USMC, telling about her future husband's service in World War II; recalls being one of the first women to arrive at El Toro, remembering that the men were dirty and unshaven; briefly discusses boot camp experiences at Cherry Point, North Carolina; details life at El Toro, speaking about her duties issuing flight gear, living in the barracks, and entertainment; briefly comments on the challenges of being married to a member of another branch of the Military, including separation; speaks about the uniform and dress code for Women Reserves; recalls being stationed at El Toro when she discovered she was pregnant, attempting to miscarry in order to avoid being discharged from the USMC.

OH 4032

Narrator: Deem, George (b. 1935)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: “An Oral History with George Deem”
Date: August 8, 2009
Language: English
Location: Las Vegas, Nevada
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 37 pages

This oral history spans 1935-2009. Bulk dates: 1953-1964.

An oral history with George Deem, resident of Las Vegas, Nevada, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and retired member of the United States Army Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Deem’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Indiana and leaving home at seventeen to join the USMC; recalls the shock of boot camp; speaks about several locations where he was stationed during his military career, including Japan, Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, Barstow in California, and Camp Smithton in Honolulu, Hawaii; talks about his time as an embassy guard in Cairo, Egypt; discusses returning to the United States and working at Headquarters Marine Corps; comments on his first impression of El Toro; talks about living in Wherry housing at El Toro, housing compensation, as well as buying his first house in Santa Ana, California; speaks about his involvement in the El Toro Car Club; comments on the Cuban Missile Crisis; recalls a rodeo and the occasional western entertainer at El Toro, shopping at the PX (Post Exchange) and commissary, as well as military healthcare; discusses his training as an electromechanical data processor and supply analyst with the USMC and IBM; briefly mentions women Marines and integration at El Toro; speaks about having to supplement his military income with civilian work; discusses his experiences in the Army Reserves after he left the USMC; describes the changes in Orange County, California; remembers the building of Rossmoor Corporation’s Leisure World, as well as John Wayne Airport.

OH 4033

Narrator: Apodaca, Orlando (b. 1940)
Interviewer: Gregory Garcia
Title: “An Oral History with Orlando Apodaca”
Date: August 7, 2009
Language: English
Location: Oceanside, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1940-2008. Bulk dates: 1958-1961.

An oral history with Orlando Apodaca, resident of Oceanside, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Apodaca’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Denver, Colorado, as an adopted member of the Apodaca family; speaks about his motivations for joining the USMC, including his siblings’ service; recalls his boot camp experiences in San Diego, California, remembering being labeled the platoon wise-off and having to complete extra duties; remembers a visit from General Victor Krulak and his inspiration to the Marines; comments on the camaraderie in the USMC; recalls being assigned to the casual processing section in the Third Marine Air Wing; recounts living at El Toro, remembering liberty, the gymnasium, and the Enlisted Men’s Club; speaks about meeting his wife in 1961 at an American Legion dance, later marrying and living in Santa Ana, California; tells about having to work an extra job while at El Toro; remembers El Toro’s “Red Alert” status at one point during the Cold War; shares about being transferred to MCAS Tustin, speaking about a good friend; talks about being discharged from the USMC in 1961.

OH 4034.1

Narrator: Kogerman, William (b. 1938)
Interviewer: Brenda Arreola
Title: “An Oral History with William Kogerman”
Date: September 7, 2009
Language: English
Location: Laguna Hills, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 47 pages

This oral history spans 1920s-2009. Bulk dates: 1950s-1970s.

An oral history with William Kogerman, resident of Laguna Hills, California, and retired lieutenant colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Kogerman’s experiences at and around El Toro and MCAS Tustin. This interview includes discussion about growing up in New York City, the son of Estonian and Irish immigrants; shares memories of World War II, taking on adult responsibilities; tells about briefly serving with the Florida National Guard; shares about training in the MARCAD (Marine Cadet) program in Pensacola, Florida; tells about his first impressions of Southern California and El Toro; talks about life at El Toro, remembering training, challenging General Hal Vincent to an air battle, interacting with other Marines, housing and schools, the surrounding community, recreation and entertainment, accidents, as well as an average day; discusses transferring to Iwakuni, Japan, in 1962 to train photoreconnaissance pilots, remembering flying inside the lip of Mount Fuji; shares about meeting and marrying his first wife; comments on Civil Rights and race relations in America and the USMC; briefly mentions meeting Senator John McCain in the USMC; tells about earning his degree at Chapman University in Orange, California; shares about commanding a training outfit on San Clemente Island, California; reflects on his experiences during the Vietnam War, speaking about communication, missions, aircraft and technology, the Tet Offensive, casualties, returning home, as well as politics and public sentiment; shares about living in Key West, Florida, in the late sixties; discusses transferring to MCAS Tustin, learning to fly helicopters; speaks about running combat training exercises.

OH 4034.2

Narrator: Kogerman, William (b. 1938)
Interviewer: Brenda Arreola
Title: "A Second Oral History with William Kogerman"
Date: September 9, 2009
Language: English
Location: Laguna Hills, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 17 pages

This oral history spans 1970s-2009. Bulk dates: 2000s.

A second oral history with William Kogerman, resident of Laguna Hills, California, and retired lieutenant colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Kogerman's experiences at and around El Toro and MCAS Tustin. This interview includes discussion about the relationship between El Toro and Orange County, California, speaking about development and land prices; speaks about the effects of his career on his family; tells about retiring from the USMC in 1980, commenting on transitioning to civilian life; speaks in depth about the politics surrounding El Toro's closure, and his role with the Orange County Great Park; shares about becoming a caretaker for his first wife, Deanne, losing her to cancer; recalls meeting and marrying his second wife, Barbara; discusses the influence of the USMC on his life.

OH 4035.1

Narrator: Musselman, Daniel (b. 1938)
Interviewer: John Elliott
Title: “An Oral History with Daniel Musselman”
Date: September 10, 2009
Language: English
Location: California State University, Fullerton
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 18 pages

This oral history spans: 1938-2009. Bulk dates: 1940s-1970s.

An oral history with Daniel Musselman, former United States Marine Corps (USMC) dependent, and former member of the United States Navy. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Musselman’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up as a USMC dependent, speaking about his father’s military career; shares about life at El Toro, telling about housing, recreation and employment on the base, schools, and interacting with the community; discusses his father’s deployments during the Korean War, sharing about housing and bartering; comments on rank and privilege in USMC, speaking about officers and wives; reflects on race and gender in the USMC; shares about relations with civilian children; recalls World War II, speaking about rationing and postwar celebration; tells about joining the Navy Reserve program in high school, training at the Lighter-than-Air (LTA) Base in Tustin, California; shares about the camaraderie in the USMC, hosting Marines from El Toro over holidays; speaks about the closure of El Toro and its future as the Orange County Great Park.

OH 4035.2

Narrator: Musselman, Daniel (b. 1938)
Interviewer: John Elliott
Title: "A Second Oral History with Daniel Musselman"
Date: October 19, 2009
Language: English
Location: California State University, Fullerton
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans: 1938-2009. Bulk dates: 1950s-1980s.

A second oral history with Daniel Musselman, former United States Marine Corps (USMC) dependent, and former member of the United States Navy. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Musselman's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about his father's service with the USMC in the Pacific Theater of World War II; reflects on his mother's independence during his father's deployments; comments on his interactions with civilian and military children; talks about relations between officers' children; speaks about his father's deployment to Korea as part of a transport squadron; shares his educational background, including attending Saint Anne and Mater Dei Catholic Schools in Santa Ana, California; recalls working at El Toro in the bowling alley and the stables while in high school; discusses activities for families and children and El Toro; talks about his experiences in Boy Scouts, remembering his troop was led by Marines; discusses his involvement in Orange County, California, politics; speaks about his career in real estate and Right of Way in Orange County; reflects on his children's experiences in politics and the Military; shares his thoughts on United States' involvement in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Iraq War; comments on his mother's civil duties and political views.

OH 4036

Narrator: Reeve, Anne (b. ca. 1915)
Interviewer: Adam Kelly
Title: “An Oral History with Anne Reeve”
Date: September 19, 2009
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 31 pages

This oral history spans 1910s-2009. Bulk dates: 1930s-1960s.

An oral history with Anne Reeve, resident of San Diego, California, former member of the Navy Nurse Corps, and wife of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Reeve’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in North Carolina, speaking about farming and race relations; tells about attending nursing school in Springfield, Massachusetts; recalls joining the Navy Nurse Corps in 1937, remembering patients and duties; tells about transferring to a Naval hospital in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to be close to her future husband, Colonel Lowell S. Reeve, who was a Marine; shares memories of Pearl Harbor; recalls spending World War II in San Diego, working as a civilian nurse; speaks about El Toro in its planning stages, remembering the Laguna Hotel; discusses life at MCAS Futenma in Okinawa, Japan, speaking about traveling around Asia, and her husband’s work commissioning the base; tells about being a Marine wife, speaking about the Officers’ Wives Club, being involved with her daughter’s schooling, and playing golf; comments on the development of El Toro and Orange County, California, speaking about housing on and off base; shares her opinions about war and military service; compares the Korean and Vietnam Wars to the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; shares opinion about the closure of El Toro.

OH 4037

Narrator: Britt, Ron (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Ron Britt"
Date: September 28, 2009
Language: English
Location: Cerritos, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 43 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2009. Bulk dates: 1930s-1960s.

An oral history with Ron Britt, current resident of Monument, Colorado, and former longtime resident of Southern California. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Britt's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Orange County and Los Angeles County, California, remembering downtown Santa Ana in the 1930s; comments on Pearl Harbor and California's fear of attack; recalls Southern California anti-aircraft installations; comments on the defense industry and military presence in Southern California during World War II; remembers the construction of El Toro and the Lighter-than-Air Base in the 1940s; speaks about changes on the homefront during World War II; discusses being drafted during the Korean War and then released due to injury; speaks about segregation in Orange County and the Military; recalls differences between pre-war Southern California and the region today, including the loss of agriculture; discusses his career with Southern California Edison; talks about his move to Colorado and continued interest in El Toro; describes flood of 1938, speaking about destruction in Southern California.

OH 4038

Narrator: Riley, Glenn (b. 1920)
Interviewer: Adam Kelly
Title: "An Oral History with Glenn Riley"
Date: October 3, 2009
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 20 pages

This oral history spans 1920-2009. Bulk dates 1943-1962.

An oral history with Glenn Riley, resident of Santa Ana, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Riley's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Los Angeles, California, where his father owned a dump truck business; speaks about his education, graduating from high school in 1938; talks about meeting his wife in high school and marrying in 1943; recalls joining the Navy Cadet Program while in junior college; discusses serving in the Pacific Theater of World War II, returning to El Toro in 1945; describes an average day testing jets at El Toro; comments on remaining in the USMC Reserves after World War II, getting called back to El Toro during the Korean War in 1950; talks about getting his contractor's license in 1948 and building homes in Southern California; speaks about flying Corsairs at the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, dropping napalm and flying in cold weather; recalls being sent to Whiting Field, Florida, for jet pilot training during the Korean War; tells how he became the commanding officer of a flight squadron, and then transferred to Kaneohe, Hawaii, for a year of gunnery training; speaks about working for the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) from 1966-1975, flying missions that were dangerous and secretive; talks about his time at the Los Alamitos Naval Reserve Air Base in Los Alamitos, California; comments on the camaraderie in the USMC, staying in touch with his friends.

OH 4039

Narrator: Brown, Anna T. (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Radiance Santifer
Title: "An Oral History with Anna T. Brown"
Date: October 2, 2009
Language: English
Location: Santa Monica, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2009. Bulk dates 1944-1946.

An oral history with Anna T. Brown, resident of Santa Monica, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women's Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Brown's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up as the oldest of eleven children, moving around the country to places like Pennsylvania, California, and Kansas; speaks about moving back to California and working at a Veteran's Administration doing laundry, and spending time with servicemen at Southern California beaches; remembers Pearl Harbor, recalling resulting blackouts, rationing, fear, and Japanese American internment; talks about joining the USMC in November of 1943; tells about her boot camp experiences at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, including a week long train ride there; speaks about being transferred to El Toro, arriving on Easter Sunday, 1944; discusses working in the PX (Post Exchange) at El Toro; describes life at El Toro, speaking about the layout of the barracks, mess hall duty, entertainment and activities at the base, as well as liberty; comments on receiving war news from newsreels or the radio; recalls being discharged from the USMC in January of 1946, and then working for a Beverly Hills orthodontist for thirty-one years; comments on the growth in Southern California during the postwar years.

OH 4040

Narrator: Gawenda, E.L. (b. 1922)
Interviewer: Adam Kelly
Title: "An Oral History with E.L. Gawenda"
Date: October 24, 2009
Language: English
Location: Palos Verdes Estates, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1922-2009. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with E.L. Gawenda, resident of Palos Verdes Estates, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Gawenda's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Joliet, Illinois, during the Depression, struggling financially after his father's death; speaks about joining the USMC in January of 1942; comments on being stationed around the world, including MCAS Ewa in Hawaii, Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego, California, Guadalcanal, and New Zealand; remembers beginning his USMC career as a gunner, detailing his move up through the ranks; discusses the equipment he learned to operate and repair in the USMC; recalls being transferred to El Toro in February of 1944, having to sleep in tents until the barracks were completed; comments on his reasons for staying in Southern California, including weather and a position with United Airlines; speaks about Pearl Harbor and his views on war; talks about liberty and entertainment at El Toro, including the NCO (Non-commissioned Officers') Club; comments on interacting with civilians in Orange County, California; talks about women in the USMC; reflects on El Toro's importance to Orange County, California; discusses meeting his wife through his job with United Airlines; shares philosophy about work and happiness.

OH 4041

Narrator: Smith, John F. (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Radiance Santifer
Title: "An Oral History with John F. Smith"
Date: November 15, 2009
Language: English
Location: Placentia, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 15 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2009. Bulk dates: 1943-1968.

An oral history with John F. Smith, resident of Placentia, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Smith's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Nashville, Tennessee, where his father was a cab driver and his mother worked for Lucky Strike Cigarettes; speaks about graduating from Central Colored High School in Louisville, Kentucky, enlisting in the USMC in December of 1942 to escape segregation and discrimination; talks about boot camp and experiences as a drill instructor; recalls the integration of the USMC in October of 1949; talks about being a legal chief at El Toro; shares combat experiences during World War II; discusses segregation in the USMC and at different bases, explaining that his ethnicity prevented him from becoming a pilot; tells about liberty at El Toro, playing sports and attending church; shares about deploying overseas seventeen times, retiring from the USMC in 1968; speaks about housing segregation in Orange County, California, explaining that he moved to Placentia, California, in 1960; comments on becoming the first African American police officer in Orange County, remembering some hardships; discusses his membership in veterans' organizations, including the American Legion.

OH 4042

Narrator: Broudy, Carolyn (b. 1944)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Carolyn Broudy"
Date: November 18, 2009
Language: English
Location: Orange, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 34 pages

This oral history spans 1940s-2009. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s.

An oral history with Carolyn Broudy, resident of Orange, California, and daughter of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Broudy's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about her childhood, sharing about her biological parents' divorce and her mother's remarriage to Chuck Broudy; talks about her nursing career; discusses experiences as a USMC dependent; remembers living in Santa Ana, California, while her father served in the Korean War; provides memories of El Toro, reminiscing about agriculture, retail services, and the pool; remembers her father's socialization at the Officers' Clubs; speaks about the camaraderie among USMC families; talks about the challenges of living in Quonset Huts at Camp Pendleton, California; explains that her father did not speak about his wartime experiences; recalls her life in Iwakuni, Japan; shares her father's demotion and exit from the USMC; speaks about changes at El Toro, including facility improvements; comments on the changes and demographic shifts in Orange County, California; discusses healthcare for military dependents, speaking about her bout with scoliosis; describes her father's education and his multiple careers after leaving the USMC, including attending CSU Fullerton and working in the aerospace industry; comments on El Toro's impact on Orange County, expressing her disappointment at its closure.

OH 4043

Narrator: May, Edwin (b. 1932)
Interviewer: Adam Kelly
Title: "An Oral History with Edwin May"
Date: November 11, 2009
Language: English
Location: San Clemente, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 12 pages

This oral history spans 1932-2009. Bulk dates: 1955-1956.

An oral history with Edwin May, resident of San Clemente, California, and former member of the United States Navy. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding May's experiences at and around El Toro and the Lighter-than-Air (LTA) Base in Tustin, California. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Santa Ana, California, remembering Orange County agriculture; shares memories of Pearl Harbor; tells about joining the Navy Reserves in 1951 while attending BIOLA University; remembers being called to active duty in 1955 and being sent LTA; talks about life at LTA, practicing maneuvers in the Pacific Ocean, living off base in Tustin, California, with his family, and operating Link Trainers; speaks about interactions with Marines, remembering he drove trucks of laundry and food supplies from El Toro to LTA; comments on women in the Military; shares about his career after leaving the Navy, working for General Tire and Rubber Company as a store manager, and then leaving to become a tire distributor; reflects on the influence of El Toro and LTA in his life; comments on the closure of the bases, speaking about the influence of local politics.

OH 4044.1

Narrator: Quilter, Charles (b. 1942)
Interviewer: John Elliott
Title: "An Oral History with Charles Quilter"
Date: November 9, 2009
Language: English
Location: Laguna Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 34 pages

This oral history spans 1942-2009. Bulk dates: 1960-2003.

An oral history with Charles Quilter, resident of Laguna Beach, California, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Ann Quilter (OH 4053). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Quilter's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up as a USMC dependent, recounting experiences of relocating and forging new friendships; talks about his father's career in the USMC, speaking about his deployments during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War; comments on his first impressions of El Toro, remembering the agricultural surroundings and the aircraft on base; talks about his educational background, attending Catholic schools like Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana, California; speaks about the role of USMC wives during their husbands' deployments; comments on twentieth-century wars, as well as Vietnam War veterans; shares about personal experiences during the Vietnam War, including losing friends; discusses rank in the USMC, talking about housing for enlisted families; describes his career in the USMC, speaking about being stationed at El Toro, working in aviation, and commanding USMC field historians; speaks about his wife and family life, buying a home in Laguna Beach, California; shares about the camaraderie among Marines, speaking about happy hour at the Officers' Club, and the El Toro golf course; tells about retiring in 1994 and being called back to active duty in 2003 during Operation Iraqi Freedom; discusses his work on the Noise and Land Use Compatibility Commission at El Toro; speaks about the preservation of aircraft history at MCAS Miramar.

OH 4044.2

Narrator: Quilter, Charles (b. 1942)

Interviewer: John Elliott

Title: "A Second Oral History with Charles Quilter"

Date: February 17, 2010

Language: English

Location: Laguna Beach, California

Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 35 pages

This oral history spans 1942-2009. Bulk dates: 1960s-2000s.

A second oral history with Charles Quilter, resident of Laguna Beach, California, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Ann Quilter (OH 4053). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Quilter's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes brief discussion about his childhood as a USMC dependent, and his early career in the USMC; shares about his experiences during the Vietnam War, speaking about SERE [Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape] training, alcohol usage and camaraderie, the climate, battles and tactics, weapons and technology, and losing friends; speaks about his time at El Toro, remembering training, and living in Laguna Beach, California; tells about becoming a reservist in the USMC and transitioning to civilian life; compares his Irish Catholic upbringing to the rigor of the USMC; shares his knowledge of different aircraft; talks about his career as a USMC field historian in Operation Desert Storm and in Bosnia, speaking about oral histories and cultural differences; reflects on the influence of the USMC in his life.

OH 4045

Narrator: Brashears, Elizabeth (b. 1927)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: “An Oral History with Elizabeth Brashears”
Date: December 7, 2009
Language: English
Location: Glendale, Arizona
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 35 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2009. Bulk dates: 1950-1990.

An oral history with Elizabeth Brashears, resident of Glendale, Arizona, and wife of retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Claude Brashears (OH 4046). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Brashears’ experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Nebraska and Arizona during the Depression; briefly talks about graduating from Arizona State University and receiving a Master’s degree in Elementary Education; speaks about career opportunities for women, and her lifelong involvement in education; talks about Claude, speaking about her family’s reaction to her marriage; describes living off base while Claude was stationed at El Toro; briefly mentions her family’s military history; shares about Claude’s USMC career, recalling moving frequently, communication during deployments, and military healthcare; describes traveling abroad with her son; briefly comments on military experiences in the postwar era and in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; briefly speaks about changes in Orange County, California, since the 1950s.

OH 4046

Narrator: Brashears, Claude (b. 1925)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Claude Brashears"
Date: December 7, 2009
Language: English
Location: Glendale, Arizona
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 36 pages

This oral history spans 1910s-2009. Bulk dates: 1940s-1966.

An oral history with Claude Brashears, resident of Glendale, Arizona, retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Elizabeth Brashears (OH 4045). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Brashears' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Arizona and Utah, talking about his father's job as a civil engineer with the Public Roads Administration during the Depression; speaks about different educational opportunities he experienced through the USMC, including career appraisal school in Bainbridge, Maryland; remembers Pearl Harbor, speaking about joining the USMC in 1942; comments on his experiences in boot camp in San Diego, California; details his positions in the USMC, including a parachute rigger, an instructor, and a recruiter; speaks about his time in the Pacific Theater of World War II; discusses reenlisting in the USMC after World War II, speaking about his difficulty in readjusting to civilian life and finding a job; comments on his deployment during the Korean War, speaking about the weather and communicating with his family; recalls his first impressions of El Toro, remembering the barracks and winter fog; speaks about women and minorities in the USMC; talks about his experiences during the Vietnam War, serving as the NCOIC [non-commissioned officer in charge] of fighter equipment; comments on development and population growth in Southern California.

OH 4047

Narrator: Dempsey, J. June (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with J. June Dempsey"
Date: December 8, 2009
Language: English
Location: Apache Junction, Arizona
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 36 pages

This oral history spans 1910s-2009. Bulk dates: 1949-1958.

An oral history with J. June Dempsey, resident of Apache Junction, Arizona, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), with commentary by her friend, Lorayne Christensen (OH 4048). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Dempsey's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in St. Louis, Missouri, talking about her family, as well as her involvement in softball and basketball; tells about attending Harris Teacher's College in St. Louis, joining the USMC Reserves in 1949; speaks about attending boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina, telling about training; shares memories of World War II, including Pearl Harbor and V-J [Victory Over Japan] Day; speaks in depth about Lt. Col. Nita Bob Warner; talks about being assigned to Special Services at El Toro, coaching and managing athletic teams; discusses life at El Toro, speaking about sports, housing and other amenities, interactions with male Marines, an average workday, as well as entertainment and liberty; talks about El Toro women Marines, remembering parade awards, as well as an FBI investigation into homosexuality; remembers seeing a plane from a John Wayne film at El Toro; tells about transferring to Camp Pendleton, California, working in supply, and chasing an escaped prisoner on horseback; discusses receiving a Master's degree in Parks and Recreation Administration from the University of Missouri in Columbia; comments on El Toro's impact on Orange County, California.

OH 4048

Narrator: Christensen, Lorayne (b. 1920-2011)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Lorayne Christensen"
Date: December 8, 2009
Language: English
Location: Apache Junction, Arizona
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 24 pages

This oral history spans 1920-2009. Bulk dates: 1943-1945.

An oral history with Lorayne Christensen, resident of Apache Junction, Arizona, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women's Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Christensen's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes brief discussion about growing up in Minnesota during the Depression; briefly speaks about her motivations to join the USMCWR; briefly talks about attending boot training at Hunter College in Brooklyn, remembering the mess hall and training; comments on her first impressions of El Toro and Southern California; remembers life at El Toro, speaking about working as a photographer, interacting with male Marines, an average day at the base, recreation and liberty, the beauty parlor, as well as the mess hall and barracks; briefly recalls meeting Senator Joseph McCarthy while he was stationed at El Toro; briefly tells about attending the Northwestern College of Chiropractic; briefly comments on El Toro's impact on Orange County, California.

OH 4049

Narrator: Peterson, Marion (b. 1919)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Marion Peterson"
Date: December 9, 2009
Language: English
Location: Scottsdale, Arizona
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 45 pages

This oral history spans 1919-2009. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s.

An oral history with Marion Peterson, resident of Scottsdale, Arizona, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women's Reserve, and wife of a former member of the USMC. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Peterson's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Massachusetts during the Depression; shares memories of Pearl Harbor; speaks about joining the USMCWR, telling about boot camp experiences; talks about being stationed at Cherry Point, North Carolina, telling about housing, working in recruit assignment, as well as recreation and liberty; shares about meeting and marrying her husband, Captain Bernard Peterson, at Cherry Point; talks about being discharged from the USMCWR, speaking about being pregnant; comments on Bernard's correspondence during deployments; details Bernard's time as a pilot in the USMC, as well as his career with Curtin-Wright Aeronautical Institute in Burbank, California; recalls 1950s El Toro, talking about housing and the surrounding area; shares about her time at home during Bernard's deployment in the Korean War; reflects on Bernard's character and his athleticism.

OH 4050

Narrator: York, Gene (b. 1935)
Interviewer: Adam Kelly
Title: “An Oral History with Gene York”
Date: February 6, 2010
Language: English
Location: Newport Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 23 pages

This oral history spans 1930s-2010. Bulk dates: 1956-1967.

An oral history with Gene York, resident of Newport Beach, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding York’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Santa Ana, California, speaking about his father’s business; remembers World War II, commenting on the homefront; shares childhood memories of El Toro and the Lighter-than-Air (LTA) Base; tells about becoming a Naval Aviation Cadet, speaking about boot camp and flight training experiences; details his time as an in-flight instructor; shares about meeting and dating his future wife; recalls participating in photoreconnaissance missions; describes the different airplanes which he has flown; talks about his deployment to Japan; comments on his career with TWA (Trans World Airlines), remembering in-flight problems and an accident investigation; shares opinion about the closure of El Toro.

OH 4051

Narrator: McFarlane, Richard (b. 1938)
Interviewer: Gregory Garcia
Title: "An Oral History with Richard McFarlane"
Date: January 20, 2010
Language: English
Location: Orange, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: service copy; 27 pages
completed; 26 pages

This oral history spans 1938-2010. Bulk dates: 1958-1967.

An oral history with Richard McFarlane, resident of Orange, California, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Kathleen McFarlane (OH 4083). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding McFarlane's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about his childhood and family history, living in Utah and the State of Washington; recalls working for the Boeing Company after one semester of college; discusses joining the USMC in 1958; shares about boot camp in San Diego, California; recalls experiences at different USMC schools; explains how he ended up at El Toro, remembering he did not have orders after graduation; speaks about arriving at El Toro, travelling to the base and being assigned to a squadron; discusses working an evening job at Disneyland while stationed at El Toro; tells about the Navy Enlisted Scientific Program; speaks about attending the University of Utah, meeting his wife during his time there; shares memories of recreation at El Toro, speaking about church dances off base; comments on a fatal accident at El Toro; shares knowledge acquired during pilot training; tells about working on navigational electronic equipment; reflects on El Toro's impact on Orange County, California.

OH 4052

Narrator: McKahan, James (b. 1943)
Interviewer: Gregory Garcia
Title: "An Oral History with James McKahan"
Date: January 22, 2010
Language: English
Location: Tustin, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages

This oral history spans 1943-2010. Bulk dates: 1961-1966.

An oral history with James McKahan, resident of Tustin, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding McKahan's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Ohio and Florida, speaking about his parents and grandparents; tells about joining the USMC in 1961 after graduating from high school; shares about boot camp and schooling experiences in Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Parris Island, South Carolina, Jacksonville, Florida, and Memphis, Tennessee; relates story about the Bay of Pigs Invasion; comments on his first impressions of California and El Toro; shares about life at El Toro, speaking about working in the Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron, different aircraft, housing and the mess hall, an average workday, recreation, liberty at bars and Knott's Berry Farm, as well as near accidents; talks about camaraderie among Marines and superior officers; comments on the relationship between El Toro Marines and the surrounding community; speaks about leaving the USMC and moving to Long Beach, California; tells about marrying his wife and beginning to work at Taylor Dunn, an electric car manufacturer, in Anaheim, California; reflects on El Toro's closure and its future as the Orange County Great Park; speaks about midcentury Orange County, California, mentioning fog and freeway traffic.

OH 4053

Narrator: Quilter, Ann (b. 1946)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Ann Quilter”
Date: February 17, 2010
Language: English
Location: Laguna Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 27 pages

This oral history spans 1946-2010. Bulk dates: 1950s-1970s, 1990s-2000s.

An oral history with Ann Quilter, resident of Laguna Beach, California, former United States Marine Corps (USMC) dependent, and wife of former member of the USMC, Charles Quilter (OH 4044.1 and OH 4044.2). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Quilter’s experiences at and around El Toro, as well as in a USMC family. This interview includes discussion about growing up as a USMC dependent, speaking about housing, moving often, amenities like healthcare, and support from USMC families; tells about her father, Brigadier General Homer Gray Hutchinson, Jr., his career, and his influence on Marine aviation; discusses the life of a USMC wife, talking about self-sufficiency and socialization; explains close relationships with USMC families, talking about General Victor Krulak and Black Mac Magruder; shares her memories of the Vietnam War; speaks about attending Florida State University; talks about her husband, Charles Quilter, and his career as a Western Airlines pilot, and a USMC Reservist and historian; compares the deployments of her father and husband, talking about communication, the stress on her children, and living in a civilian community rather than on a base; shares about her connection to the Laguna Beach community, including the Laguna Beach and Susi Q Community Center; reflects on changes in Laguna Beach, including increased traffic and population; comments on President John F. Kennedy, the Civil Rights Movement, and their effect on her generation; speaks about El Toro’s impact on Orange County, California.

OH 4054.1

Narrator: Blankman, Robert (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Robert Blankman"
Date: March 10, 2010
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 34 pages

This oral history spans 1890s-2009. Bulk dates: 1930s-1940s.

An oral history with Robert Blankman, resident of Orange, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Blankman's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Niagara Falls, New York, during the Depression, enjoying Boy Scouts and the outdoors; talks about learning of Pearl Harbor while on a road trip to California, joining the USMC in Wyoming; recalls boot camp in San Diego, California, comparing the experience to Boy Scouts; speaks about receiving ordnance training in North Island in San Diego, California, and then at MCAS Ewa, Hawaii; explains how ordnance men aided in gunnery training for pilots, discussing target practice on the runways; shares his experiences in the Battle of Guadalcanal, remembering the landscape and conditions, the bombings and strafings, as well as losing the campsite to an incendiary attack; speaks in depth about ordnance weaponry and procedures; recalls taking a civilian Kaiser Liberty ship from Guadalcanal to San Francisco, California, acting as a cook for thirty-two days; remembers being one of the first fifty Marines to arrive at El Toro in January of 1943, recalling cleaning barracks and setting up offices, as well as the opening ceremonies; comments on his first impressions of El Toro and Southern California, enjoying the location and the liberty in places like Hollywood and Newport Beach; speaks about meeting his wife at a USO [United Service Organization] dance in Santa Ana, California, marrying in 1945; describes an average day at El Toro, including setting targets and maintaining weapons; talks about his involvement with the Boy Scout and Girl Scout organizations, including trips to the Trabuco Plain, where El Toro pilots practiced bombing runs; comments on lasting friendships with other Marines.

OH 4054.2

Narrator: Blankman, Robert (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "A Second Oral History with Robert Blankman"
Date: March 17, 2010
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 24 pages

This oral history spans 1945-2010. Bulk dates: 1945-1946.

A second oral history with Robert Blankman, resident of Orange, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Blankman's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about marrying in 1945, travelling to Niagara Falls, New York, for his honeymoon, then reporting to El Centro, California, for duty; speaks about El Centro, remembering housing on and off base; talks about demilitarization after World War II, recalling that the USMC burned much of the unclaimed, leftover gear; speaks about Orange County, California, and its connection to El Toro, commenting on liberty and interaction with civilians; describes an average workday at El Toro; talks about life at El Toro, the landscape, the mess hall, and entertainment; briefly speaks about women Marines at El Toro; tells about being discharged from the USMC in 1946; recalls his wife's various jobs and volunteer activities, including her position at First American Corporation in Santa Ana, California; discusses his work with Boy Scouts, speaking about leadership roles and camping; reflects on culture and changes in Southern California.

OH 4055.1

Narrator: Romero, Samuel (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Samuel Romero"
Date: March 10, 2010
Language: English
Location: Saint Teresa's Catholic Gift Shop, Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 41 pages

This oral history spans 1916-2009. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s.

An oral history with Samuel Romero, lifelong resident of the Logan neighborhood in Santa Ana, California, community activist, and former sergeant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Romero's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Logan, speaking about his family, poverty, community interactions, as well as agricultural employment; comments on segregation and discrimination in Orange County, California, talking about housing and education; talks about the effect of World War II on Orange County, discussing job opportunities and military bases; remembers a 1949 snowstorm and a 1938 flood in Orange County; shares reasons for joining the USMC, and recalls boot camp experiences in San Diego, California; discusses being stationed overseas in Atsugi, Japan, and the Philippines, speaking about interacting with locals, and cultural differences; talks about some of his positions in the USMC, including maintenance, managing the armory, and acquiring parts and fuel for airplanes; comments on camaraderie and competition in the USMC; remembers his marriage and promotion to sergeant; shares experiences as a young sergeant the USMC; speaks about his time at El Toro, including housing and recreation; tells about his work as a community activist, interacting with the City of Santa Ana to improve the Logan neighborhood.

OH 4055.2

Narrator: Romero, Samuel (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "A Second Oral History with Samuel Romero"
Date: March 17, 2010
Language: English
Location: Saint Teresa's Catholic Gift Shop, Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 47 pages

This oral history spans 1935-2010. Bulk dates: 1943-2010.

A second oral history with Samuel Romero, lifelong resident of the Logan neighborhood in Santa Ana, California, community activist, and former sergeant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather further information regarding Romero's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in the Logan neighborhood during the Depression and World War II, working at a young age and interacting with military personnel; comments on discrimination and adversity in the USMC and the Logan neighborhood; speaks about war and public sentiment; details his activism on behalf of the Logan neighborhood and low-income families, interacting with local politicians, as well as serving as president of the Logan neighborhood; tells about his daughter, speaking about her activism in public schools, her death, and the dedication of a school in her name.

OH 4055.3

Narrator: Romero, Samuel (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: “A Third Oral History with Samuel Romero”
Date: July 15, 2010
Language: English
Location: Saint Teresa’s Catholic Gift Shop, Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 37 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2010. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s, 1980s-2010.

A third oral history with Samuel Romero, lifelong resident of the Logan neighborhood in Santa Ana, California, community activist, and former sergeant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Romero’s experiences at and around El Toro, as well as the Logan neighborhood of Santa Ana, California. This interview includes discussion about the Logan neighborhood and its Mexican American population, speaking about jobs, houses, agriculture, cultural unity, and political activism; shares about struggles to preserve the Logan neighborhood, detailing a rezoning process in the 1980s, street closures, and fights for affordable housing; talks about discriminatory practices in housing, law enforcement, and education, mentioning the 1946 *Mendez et al vs. Westminster et al* school desegregation case; briefly mentions Mrs. Josefina “Chepa” Andrade, a community activist and organizer in Logan; discusses joining the USMC and taking training courses; talks about interactions with people of other ethnicities; comments on discriminatory outlooks and practices in current events; remembers his time at Naval Air Technical Training School in Jacksonville, Florida, speaking about discrimination and segregation in the South; discusses his involvement with low-income housing projects, including Orange County Community Housing, and a planned project in the Orange County Great Park; briefly shares about various jobs he worked as a child and teenager, including picking oranges near El Toro.

OH 4056

Narrator: Stites, Patricia (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Adam Kelly
Title: "An Oral History with Patricia Stites"
Date: March 13, 2010
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 16 pages

This oral history spans 1929-2010. Bulk dates: 1940-2010.

An oral history with Patricia Stites, resident of Santa Ana, California, and wife of former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Harry Stites (OH 3602). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Stites' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Iowa during the Depression; recalls meeting Harry in the seventh grade; shares memories of Pearl Harbor and World War II, briefly talking about the homefront; tells about experiences at Iowa State University; speaks about marrying in 1951; shares about moving to bases in Illinois, Hawaii, North Carolina, as well as Camp Pendleton and Barstow, California, speaking about the weather and differences; talks about life at El Toro, speaking about housing, the surrounding community, and recreation; comments on Harry's overseas and wartime deployments, speaking about the separation, as well as the psychological impact; briefly speaks about women in the USMC; comments on growth and changes in Southern California; shares opinions of war and military service.

OH 4057

Narrator: Hobbs, Victor (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Gregory Garcia
Title: “An Oral History with Victor Hobbs”
Date: April 7, 2010
Language: English
Location: Irvine, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 39 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2010. Bulk dates: 1957-1977.

An oral history with Victor Hobbs, resident of Irvine, California, attorney, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), the United States Navy, and the United States Air Force, as well as husband of Cora Lee Hobbs (OH 4059). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Hobbs’ experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Missouri, speaking about his education and family’s history of military service; talks about experiences in the Military, including enlisting in the USMC, serving in the Navy, and receiving schooling through the Air Force; shares memories of training as an aviator, describing flight school, flying different airplanes, interacting with other aviators, and sharing wartime experiences; recalls life at El Toro, speaking about housing, interactions with the community, and recreation at the Officers’ Club; discusses flying with John McCain and F. Lee Bailey; comments on some of his past and present law cases involving Marines and El Toro; remembers learning to fly helicopters in the USMC.

OH 4058

Narrator: Matoian, George (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: “An Oral History with George Matoian”
Date: April 27, 2010
Language: English
Location: Tustin, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 42 pages

This oral history spans 1929-2010. Bulk dates: 1950s-1970s.

An oral history with George Matoian, resident of Tustin, California, retired major in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Emile Matoian (OH 4065.1 and OH 4065.2). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Matoian’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in an Armenian immigrant family in Whittier, California; shares memories of World War II; speaks about attending Pasadena City College, and receiving a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in Psychology from Pepperdine University; talks about joining the United States Navy Reserves during the Korean War, attending boot camp in San Diego, California; tells about transferring to USMC aviation and receiving flight training in Corpus Christi and Kingsville, Texas, as well as Pensacola, Florida; recalls working as a flight instructor in Pensacola, telling about crashes and his students, including John McCain; shares about his experiences during the Vietnam War, describing missions and night flying, training and preparation, as well as public sentiment; tells about the different planes he has flown over his career; comments on the changing public support of veterans; discusses racial tension at El Toro and in Southern California, remembering base housing, as well as the Zoot Suit, Pachuco, and Watt’s Riots; describes life at El Toro, speaking about housing and other amenities, the Officers’ and Enlisted Clubs, schools for his children, training operations, and meeting his wife in Laguna Beach, California; shares about his multiple deployments, including communication, rest and relaxation, as well as readjusting to home life; reflects on the camaraderie among Marines; shares about what El Toro meant to him and his family; comments on changes and growth in Orange County, California.

OH 4059

Narrator: Hobbs, Cora Lee (b. 1938)
Interviewer: Gregory Garcia
Title: "An Oral History with Cora Lee Hobbs"
Date: April 30, 2010
Language: English
Location: Lake Forest, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 51 pages

This oral history spans 1938-2010. Bulk dates: 1950s-1970s.

An oral history with Cora Lee Hobbs, resident of Lake Forest, California, and wife of retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Victor Hobbs (OH 4057). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Hobbs' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about military tradition in her family, speaking about her parents and grandfather; tells about living in Long Beach, California, as a child, remembering the Pike and the waterfront, as well as Lion Country Safari in Orange County, California; shares memories of World War II, speaking about living with her grandparents; tells about meeting Victor at an Officers' Club in Corpus Christi, Texas; speaks about life at El Toro, remembering the surrounding area, housing and neighbors, raising children on the base, medical facilities, the chapel, schools, recreation, and President Richard Nixon; talks about being a military wife, sharing about relocations and deployments, the camaraderie and support among Marine wives, social events, as well as rules and regulations; reflects on development in Southern California, speaking about agriculture and freeways; discusses Victor's deployment during the Vietnam War, speaking about communication, and the effects of war on servicemen and women; tells about Victor's career as a lawyer after leaving the USMC, staying in Orange County.

OH 4060

Narrator: Ihli, Geraldine “Gerry” (b. 1925)

Interviewer: Michelle Gardner

Title: “An Oral History with Geraldine ‘Gerry’ Ihli”

Date: April 13, 2010

Language: English

Location: Mission Viejo, California

Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 31 pages

This oral history spans 1925-2010. Bulk dates: 1947-1973.

An oral history with Geraldine “Gerry” Ihli, resident of Mission Viejo, California, and wife of two former members of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Ihli’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Riverside, California, marrying a USMC pilot; shares about her first husband’s death in a plane crash on the East Coast during the Korean War; tells about moving back to Newport Beach, California, where she met her second husband, who was also a Marine aviator; shares memories of World War II, remembering Pearl Harbor and news coverage; speaks about life at different bases around the world, including Japan, describing housing, schooling, and community interactions; talks about living at El Toro, remembering housing on and off the base, a fire around the base, recreation, the chapel, community interaction, as well as services and amenities; comments at length on race relations in the USMC and around the United States, remembering the effects of the Civil Rights Movement in the South; speaks about life as a USMC wife, talking about deployments, women’s groups, military aid and privileges, careers and volunteer work, attending the Marine Corps Birthday Ball, making lifelong friends, and moving frequently; comments on changes and growth in Orange County, California, talking about conflicts between El Toro and housing developments.

OH 4061

Narrator: Martinson, Jane (b. 1925-2011)
Interviewer: Radiance Santifer
Title: "An Oral History with Jane Martinson"
Date: May 2, 2010
Language: English
Location: Laguna Woods, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 30 pages

This oral history spans 1925-2010. Bulk dates: 1940s-1970s.

An oral history with Jane Martinson, resident of Laguna Woods, California, and longtime resident of Southern California. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Martinson's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Omaha, Nebraska; shares memories about World War II, remembering rationing and civilian war efforts; talks about her career as a draftsman, including training, companies, and working as a woman in the field; recalls living in Niagara Falls, New York, living off the land and raising her children; comments on her first impressions of California; tells about life in midcentury Orange County, California, speaking about finding housing; speaks in depth about remarrying, recalling meeting her husband and building a relationship with his family; details working as a charter bus driver, traveling all over Southern California, interacting with officers from the Japanese Army, as well as picking up children from El Toro, the Irvine Ranch, and the Lighter-than-Air (LTA) Base in Tustin, California; comments on changes and developments in Orange County, speaking about traffic, orange groves, and packinghouses; recalls sharecroppers on the Irvine Ranch, talking about their ethnic breakdown; shares about moving to Leisure World in Laguna Woods.

OH 4062

Narrator: Moran, Frances (b. 1937)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: “An Oral History with Frances Moran”
Date: May 11, 2010
Language: English
Location: Newport Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 30 pages

This oral history spans 1937-2010. Bulk dates: 1937-1957.

An oral history with Frances Moran, resident of Newport Beach, California, and daughter of a former member of the United States Navy. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Moran’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up during World War II; shares about her father’s career as a Navy flight surgeon in World War II and the Korean War, recalling his long absences during deployments; tells about her father’s practice as a doctor in Dana Point, California, after leaving the Navy; remembers living at El Toro from 1948 to 1953, as well as travelling across the country; talks about living in Orange County, California, discussing weather, terrain, and attractions; speaks about life at El Toro, remembering horse stables and air shows; talks about her first husband and children; vividly recalls the assassination of President John F. Kennedy; shares love of the Military.

OH 4063

Narrator: Garcia, Gloria (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Adam Kelly
Title: "An Oral History with Gloria Garcia"
Date: May 26, 2010
Language: English
Location: Banning, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 15 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2010. Bulk dates: 1950s-1960s.

An oral history with Gloria Garcia, resident of Banning, California, and wife of former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Ramon Garcia (OH 4064). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Garcia's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up as the oldest of seven children in a religious family in Texas; relates traveling to California as a child, working in the fields during the summer; speaks about the difficulties of being raised as a Mexican American Christian; shares about meeting her husband, Ramon, and establishing a relationship with him; reflects on Ramon's USMC experiences, including being stationed at El Toro, Camp Pendleton, and San Francisco, California, as well as Hawaii; shares about raising children in a USMC family; discusses family activities at El Toro; describes the area surrounding El Toro; comments on El Toro's closure.

OH 4064

Narrator: Garcia, Ramon (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Adam Kelly
Title: "An Oral History with Ramon Garcia"
Date: May 26, 2010
Language: English
Location: Banning, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 23 pages

This oral history spans 1929-2010. Bulk dates: 1946-1966.

An oral history with Ramon Garcia, resident of Banning, California, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Gloria Garcia (OH 4063). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Garcia's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Texas, talking about speaking Spanish at home; details joining the USMC at seventeen, recalling boot camp experiences; remembers attending clerical school while in the USMC; shares memories of VMF-214, the Black Sheep Squadron; recalls deployment during the Korean War, talking about the Battle at Pusan; reflects on Orange County, California, and its community; fondly recalls traveling to Texas after his time in Korea in order to marry his wife; discusses hazardous conditions aboard carrier ships, including the loss of pilots; talks about different bases at which he was stationed, including Kaneohe, Hawaii, as well as San Francisco, and Camp Pendleton, California; shares memories of his commanding officer in Korea; recalls being discharged from the USMC, sharing about his career as a credit manager at Sears.

OH 4065.1

Narrator: Matoian, Emile (b. 1924)
Interviewer: Michelle Gardner
Title: "An Oral History with Emile Matoian"
Date: June 2, 2010
Language: English
Location: Tustin, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 15 pages

This oral history spans 1924-2010. Bulk dates: 1924-2010.

An oral history with Emile Matoian, resident of Tustin, California, and wife of retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), George Matoian (OH 4058). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Matoian's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Venezuela and moving to Long Beach, California, to attend high school; shares about her father's death during Pearl Harbor; tells about living in Southern California, attending Mount St. Mary's College; recalls the death of her first husband, Vincent, during World War II, and her 1959 marriage to George, a Marine, at the chapel at El Toro; comments on being a Marine wife, speaking about the camaraderie, and caring for her children during George's deployment to Vietnam; tells about living in Florida while George was stationed at Pensacola.

[Interview ends abruptly due to equipment failure]

OH 4065.2

Narrator: Matoian, Emile (b. 1924)
Interviewer: Michelle Gardner
Title: "A Second Oral History with Emile Matoian"
Date: June 4, 2010
Language: English
Location: Tustin, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 9 pages

This oral history spans 1924-2010. Bulk dates: 1924-2010.

A second oral history with Emile Matoian, resident of Tustin, California, and wife of retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), George Matoian (OH 4058). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Matoian's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about life as a Marine wife, including social activities and the camaraderie between wives; describes the area around El Toro; talks about raising her children in a Marine family; shares about her husband, George Matoian, and his retirement from the USMC in 1974; expresses disappointment at the closure of El Toro; shares her love of the USMC.

OH 4066

Narrator: Dailey, John (b. 1934)

Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry

Title: “An Oral History with John Dailey”

Date: June 3, 2010

Language: English

Location: Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C.

Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 21 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2010. Bulk dates: 1930-2010.

An oral history with John R. Dailey, Director of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D. C., and retired general in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Dailey’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in a USMC family, speaking about his father’s career, moving every two years, living on different bases, and meeting different friends; recalls love of flying at a young age; talks about the environment around El Toro; shares memories of childhood activities at El Toro; discusses El Toro’s effect on Orange County, California, speaking about the financial impact, community encroachment, and airplane noise; shares about joining the USMC; details the different airplanes he flew during his career in the USMC; talks about housing at El Toro, discussing cost of living, living in Corona Del Mar, California, and on the base; tells about life at El Toro, interacting with farmers on and around the base, and local recreation; expresses love of Orange County.

OH 4067

Narrator: O'Brien, Jerry (b. 1931-2012)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Jerry O'Brien"
Date: June 4, 2010
Language: English
Location: Arlington, Virginia
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 37 pages

This oral history spans 1931-2010. Bulk dates: 1947-1972.

An oral history with Jerry O'Brien, resident of Surprise, Arizona, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), which took place during the Marine Corps Aviation Reconnaissance Reunion in Arlington, Virginia. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding O'Brien's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Chicago, Illinois, and running away to join the USMC at fifteen; shares about life at El Toro, remembering flight patterns, runway configurations, land development, aircraft, relations with the local community, living in Anaheim, California, and schools; tells about different careers, including accident investigation and a train conductor at Disneyland; discusses camaraderie and death in the USMC; shares experiences during the Korean War; talks about the Vietnam War, speaking about tactics and politics; details books he has written; tells about family life in the USMC, discussing separations and family dynamics; speaks about homosexuality and gender in the USMC.

OH 4068

Narrator: Tritsare, John (b. 1939)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with John Tritsare"
Date: June 6, 2010
Language: English
Location: Arlington, Virginia
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 31 pages

This oral history spans 1939-2010. Bulk dates: 1957-1965.

An oral history with John Tritsare, resident of New York City, New York, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), which took place during the Marine Corps Aviation Reconnaissance Reunion in Arlington, Virginia. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Tritsare's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in New York City, sharing about his father and mother's emigration from Greece and Russia, respectively, as well as his educational experiences; recalls joining the USMC in 1957, sharing memories of boot camp; comments on segregation in the South; speaks about Aviation Preparatory School, becoming an aviation mechanic; talks about the area surrounding El Toro; speaks about bachelor liberty experiences; discusses differences between USMC bases; comments on deployment to Japan; shares memories of being discharged from the USMC, and then rejoining soon after; recalls the Cuban Missile Crisis; talks about living in Puerto Rico, as well as his business experiences.

OH 4069

Narrator: Smith, James (b. 1931)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with James Smith"
Date: June 3, 2010
Language: English
Location: Arlington, Virginia
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 45 pages

This oral history spans 1931-2010. Bulk dates: 1948-1974.

An oral history with James Smith, resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), which took place at the Marine Corps Aviation Reconnaissance Association Reunion in Arlington, Virginia. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Smith's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, sharing about his father's experiences during World War II; talks about joining the Naval Reserves in 1948, remembering Naval cruises; speaks about traveling to a duty station in Oxnard, California; recalls attending Villanova University with a scholarship from the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps; shares about his decision to join the USMC; tells about transferring to El Toro in 1956; talks about learning to fly, sharing about memorable flights, having to deploy the ejection seat, and different airplanes; speaks about living in Laguna Beach, California, and on base while at El Toro; talks about being deployed to Japan and meeting his future wife; comments on his deployment to Vietnam, speaking about the differences between his two tours; talks about meeting entertainers while in the USMC; tells his about involvement with USMC organizations after retiring in 1974.

OH 4070

Narrator: Bloomer, Sue (b. 1935)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Sue Bloomer"
Date: June 3, 2010
Language: English
Location: Arlington, Virginia
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 39 pages

This oral history spans 1935-2010. Bulk dates: 1950s.

An oral history with Sue Bloomer, resident of Wichita, Kansas, and wife of retired general in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), William "Art" Bloomer (OH 4023), which took place at the Marine Corps Aviation Reconnaissance Association Reunion in Arlington, Virginia. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Bloomer's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up during the Depression, speaking about her childhood and family history; shares memories of Pearl Harbor; remembers meeting Art, and marrying in 1954 after graduating from high school; tells about life as a Marine wife, talking about social activities with USMC couples, housing and rank in the USMC, long separations and communication, as well as traveling with Art to Quantico, El Toro, Hawaii, Texas, and Florida; comments on life in Orange County, California; reflects on the impact of frequent moves on her children; shares work experience; remembers the commissary at El Toro, saying children were not allowed inside; comments on anti-war sentiment during the Vietnam War; shares about camaraderie among Marine wives, as well as integrating back into civilian life.

OH 4071

Narrator: Shea, John “Jack” (b. 1919)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: “An Oral History with Jack Shea”
Date: June 4, 2010
Language: English
Location: Arlington, Virginia
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages

This oral history spans 1919-2010. Bulk dates: 1939-1966.

An oral history with Jack Shea, resident of Little River, South Carolina, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), which took place at the Marine Corps Aviation Reconnaissance Association Reunion in Arlington, Virginia. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Shea’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up during the Depression, moving frequently; shares memories of Pearl Harbor, recalling he was stationed in the Virgin Islands as a bugler with the USMC; details experiences flying; discusses his time as an airplane mechanic in the USMC, speaking about aviation design and technology; talks about being discharged from the USMC and reenlisting; comments on Orange County, California, and its relationship to El Toro; tells about his deployment to Korea during the Korean War; details applying for Wherry housing at El Toro; shares about transitioning to civilian life.

OH 4072

Narrator: Lachow, Marty (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Marty Lachow"
Date: June 5, 2010
Language: English
Location: Arlington, Virginia
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited/completed; 45 pages

This oral history spans 1921-2010. Bulk dates: 1942-1967.

An oral history with Marty Lachow, resident of Thousand Oaks, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), which took place at the Marine Corps Aviation Reconnaissance Association Reunion in Arlington, Virginia. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Lachow's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in New York City during the Depression; tells about joining the USMC Reserves in 1942, sharing memories of boot camp; talks about time in Guadalcanal, recalling Seabee construction efforts; shares about the different bases at which he was stationed, including Tsingtao, China, Atsugi and Iwakuni, Japan, the Naval Test Center in Maryland, and a stay with the Royal Air Force in England; discusses attending radio school, recalling instructors and learning Morse Code; relates anecdotes about Marine friends; speaks about the different aircraft and radar systems with which he worked; talks about flying photoreconnaissance missions during the Korean War and the Vietnam War; tells about meeting his wife while stationed at Cherry Point, North Carolina; speaks about life at El Toro, talking about community interactions, an accident involving aviator Howard Hughes, and housing; comments on race and gender relations in the USMC; shares opinions on war, speaking about protests and leadership; expresses disappointment at El Toro's closure, talking about politics and land development; speaks about the difficulty of readjusting to civilian life, telling about working for Northrup Grumman Corporation from 1967 to 1992.

OH 4073

Narrator: Doyle, James (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: “An Oral History with John Doyle”
Date: June 5, 2010
Language: English
Location: Arlington, Virginia
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 30 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2010. Bulk dates: 1950s-1970s.

An oral history with James Doyle, resident of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), which took place at the Marine Corps Aviation Reconnaissance Association Reunion in Arlington, Virginia. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Doyle’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in St. Louis, Missouri, during World War II, remembering Pearl Harbor and military recruitment; speaks about joining the USMC Reserves at sixteen, travelling to Camp Pendleton, California, and sharing difficult boot camp experiences; talks about staying at Camp Pendleton as part of a Military Police company during the Korean War, due to his youth, briefly mentioning the effects of an atomic bomb blast in Nevada; discusses moving up in rank in aviation reconnaissance, including as an electronic warfare officer; briefly comments on the Cuban Missile Crisis and its effect on West Coast bases; remembers two tours during the Vietnam War, describing missions and aircraft, losing comrades, politics, and social unrest; talks about being stationed at El Toro, speaking about housing, growth of the surrounding community, aircraft noise, training operations, and crashes and fatalities; talks about moving frequently in the USMC, commenting on how this affected his family; discusses gender and race relations in the USMC.

OH 4074

Narrator: Manazir, Charles (b. 1936)
Interviewer: Gregory Garcia
Title: "An Oral History with Charles Manazir"
Date: May 27, 2010
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 39 pages

This oral history spans 1936-2010. Bulk dates: 1958-1978.

An oral history with Charles Manazir, resident of Mission Viejo, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Manazir's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Boston, Massachusetts, and applying to the United States Naval Academy; shares stories about his time at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, as well as different battleship cruises; recalls USMC training in Quantico, Virginia; talks about transferring to Twentynine Palms, California, remembering his time in the desert; tells about being stationed on Guam and other Pacific islands; discusses his training for the Hawk Missile Program and his transfer to the Lighter-than-Air Base in Tustin, California; shares memories of Orange County, California; speaks about attending Naval Postgraduate School in 1958, shortly after getting married; shares memories of the Vietnam War, and his deployment to Okinawa, Japan; tells about experiences in exchange duty to England; recalls being sent to Buford, South Carolina, where he took command of Marine Air Control Squadron Five; shares about time at El Toro, talking about socializing with his troops, as well as changes in Orange County; recalls his experiences aboard a ship during the 1973 Yom Kippur War; comments on race relations in the USMC; recalls his retirement and the closure of El Toro.

OH 4075

Narrator: Kull, William (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: "An Oral History with William Kull"
Date: June 9, 2010
Language: English
Location: Corona Del Mar, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 56 pages

This oral history spans 1929-2010. Bulk dates: 1949-1972.

An oral history with William Kull, resident of Corona Del Mar, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Kull's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in Alabama, speaking about his family; recalls joining the Naval Aviation Program in 1949 and the Marines in 1951; shares memories about the Korean War, talking about deployments and missions, carrier landings, and losing friends; tells about being stationed in Japan, recalling missions and sightseeing; discusses attending Communication Officer School in Quantico, Virginia, and transferring to Miami, Florida; elaborates on meeting and marrying his wife, traveling around Japan together, as well as raising children; tells about graduating from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, in 1959, receiving his degree in meteorology; speaks about his time at El Toro, living off base and enjoying the community; shares about being deployed to Vietnam in 1968, talking about different assignments; describes medals he has received in the USMC; comments on camaraderie in the USMC; shares about retiring from the USMC in 1972 and working for a bank; comments on the closure of El Toro and the development of the Orange County Great Park.

OH 4076

Narrator: Madden, Constance “Connie” (b. 1947)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Constance ‘Connie’ Madden”
Date: June 14, 2010
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 61 pages

This oral history spans 1920s-2010. Bulk dates: 1950s-1970s.

An oral history with Constance “Connie” Madden, resident of San Diego, California, former airline flight attendant, and daughter of two former members of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), including Junamay Leatherby Coffey (OH). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Madden’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about her parents, Junamay and Samuel, and their careers and experiences with the USMC, including Samuel’s career in aviation supply, and Junamay’s time in the USMC Women’s Reserve; shares about being a USMC dependent, discussing frequent moves, housing on and off bases, the effects of war on Marines, friends on base, relationships with extended family, and developing self-confidence; comments on changes in Orange County, California, including the dissolution of the Irvine Ranch and local agriculture, as well as land development and population growth; talks about living at El Toro, working at the PX (Post Exchange), attending church in Tustin, California, and hearing airplanes fly overhead; shares about briefly working at Disneyland; speaks about living at Quantico, remembering the size of the base, housing, and amenities; talks about Samuel’s life after retiring from the USMC in 1970, speaking about his job as Head of Energy Conservation at Stanford University, and his sudden death in 1978; shares about family reunions in Illinois and Ohio, reflecting on her parents’ childhoods; comments on the development of Los Angeles, California; discusses the effect of the Cold War on her family, remembering the Bay of Pigs Invasion; comments on the Watergate Scandal, speaking about a personal connection; discusses Samuel’s opinion of the Vietnam War.

OH 4077

Narrator: Ring, Bill (b. 1945)
Interviewer: Adam Kelly
Title: "An Oral History with Bill Ring"
Date: June 9, 2010
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 22 pages

This oral history spans 1930s-2010. Bulk dates: 1966-1969.

An oral history with Bill Ring, resident of Mission Viejo, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Ring's experiences at and around El Toro and the Lighter-than-Air Base (LTA) in Tustin, California. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Chicago, Illinois, remembering his parents; tells about joining the MARCAD [Marine Corps Cadet] program in 1966 to avoid being drafted; speaks about flight training, learning to fly advanced propeller airplanes and helicopters; comments on his first impressions of Southern California, remembering orange groves and pollution; speaks about life at LTA, remembering interaction with the community, duties, and helicopters he flew; details the day he received his wings; shares memories of the Vietnam War, speaking about bases and housing, tactics and missions, politics and public sentiment, receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross, interacting with Vietnamese people, and flying Medevac (medical evacuation) helicopters; tells about becoming the assistant to the commanding officer of a F-4 Phantom squadron in Da Nang; reflects on women in the USMC; comments on El Toro's impact on Orange County, California; shares his opinions on war and military service.

OH 4078

Narrator: Warren, Robert (b. 1941)

Interviewer: Daniel Hilger

Title: “An Oral History with Robert Warren”

Date: June 29, 2010

Language: English

Location: Laguna Woods, California

Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: restricted

OH 4079

Narrator: Thompson, Olin (b. 1935)
Interviewer: Daniel Hilger
Title: "An Oral History with Olin Thompson"
Date: June 22, 2010
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 21 pages

This oral history spans 1941-2010. Bulk dates: 1941-2010.

An oral history with Olin Thompson, resident of San Diego, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Thompson's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up near Dallas, Texas, remembering that his father joined the Military during World War II; describes camp hopping and following his father to Japan; speaks about attending Texas A&M paramilitary school and enlisting in the USMC in 1953; describes boot camp, sea school, and training at Camp Pendleton; details military life in Japan and Korea, including duties, ammunition rations, cold weather, drinking at the Slop Chute, and showering; describes library and administrative duties on base at San Mateo; discusses inventive barracks arrangements for sergeants he designed at Camp Pendleton; discusses experiences in San Antonio, Texas, on officer procurement duty; discusses daily life at El Toro, relating stories about rank, pranks, circumventing protocol, clerical duties, commuting to work and marital stress; contrasts his experience in Korea in 1954 with his return to attend the First Marines Sixtieth Anniversary hosted in Korea; relates his feelings about Koreans and their support of United States Korean War veterans; shares stories about fellow Marines, including Chesty Puller; contrasts the casual camaraderie at El Toro with other bases; discusses transition to civilian life; details politics surrounding the closure of El Toro; offers his view of war and the USMC.

OH 4080

Narrator: Marshall, David (b. 1940)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: "An Oral History with David Marshall"
Date: June 22, 2010
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 73 pages

This oral history spans 1940-2010. Bulk dates: 1950-1990.

An oral history with David Marshall, resident of Santa Ana, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Marshall's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Manhattan, New York, speaking about his parents' emigration from Iraq and Austria, and their divorce; relates his decision to join the USMC; details his training in hydraulic pneumatics and MOS; talks about visiting Washington, D.C. on the way to boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina, a Fourth of July military celebration, and going to A & P school in Jacksonville, Florida; describes his time at El Toro, as well as preparing for deployment to Japan; details a long career in Southern California aeronautics and the space industry, applying at John Wayne Airport, Autonetics, North American Rockwell, and Boeing; recalls watching the Apollo he helped build land on the moon in 1969; discusses living in Southern California in the 1960s and 1970s, speaking about beach living and struggling to make ends meet; comments on the closure of El Toro and the beginnings of the Orange County Great Park.

OH 4081

Narrator: Burns, Ed (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: "An Oral History with Ed Burns"
Date: June 29, 2010
Language: English
Location: Orange, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 27 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2010. Bulk dates: 1945-1967.

An oral history with Ed Burns, resident of Orange, California, and retired lieutenant colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Burns' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Michigan, sharing about childhood experiences and a love of sports; recalls attending the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, joining the USMC in 1945; shares memories of Pearl Harbor; discusses deployment to Japan and Korea; talks about attending MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), and later receiving a master's degree from Chapman University; details family life, including getting married and raising children; discusses different job experiences; comments on Orange County, California, and its relation to El Toro; talks about life at El Toro, remembering leisure activities and living conditions; tells about being transferred to Quantico, Virginia, and then returning to El Toro for six-and-a-half years; recalls enjoying his time in California; shares about career as a teacher after leaving the USMC; reflects on how the USMC affected his life.

OH 4082.1

Narrator: Dick, Gene (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Gene Dick"
Date: June 30, 2010
Language: English
Location: Placentia, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 39 pages

This oral history spans 1929-1962. Bulk dates: 1940-1962.

An oral history with Gene Dick, resident of Placentia, California, and retired member of the United States Navy. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Dick's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a turkey farm in the state of Washington, speaking about chores; shares motivations for joining the Navy in 1940, attending Basic Hospital Course School in San Diego, California; tells about transferring to the USS *Oklahoma* and being aboard ship during the attack on Pearl Harbor, recounting his experiences and survival; tells about separation in wartime, saying he did not meet his son until he was nine months old; details work on submarines, speaking about operations and duties as the chief of the boat; shares wartime experiences aboard submarines; shares recollections of life at El Toro, living on and off base, as well as discussing daily duties.

OH 4082.2

Narrator: Dick, Gene (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "A Second Oral History with Gene Dick"
Date: July 12, 2010
Language: English
Location: Placentia, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 32 pages

This oral history spans 1940-2010. Bulk dates: 1940-1962.

A second oral history with Gene Dick, resident of Placentia, California, and retired member of the United States Navy. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Dick's experience at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about living in Anaheim, California, speaking about being near Disneyland and the *barrio*, as well as his children's schooling; comments on the relationship between officers and enlisted men; briefly speaks about his family's encounter with discrimination when he was stationed in Hawaii; talks about former American presidents and politics; tells about his retirement from the Navy in 1962; shares memories of working for the Employment Development Department in Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley, California; comments on public sentiment regarding wars and veterans; recalls experiences during his time on the USS *Oklahoma* and the attack on Pearl Harbor; remembers close calls while stationed on submarines; discusses opinions on Communism; comments on El Toro's impact on Orange County, California.

OH 4083

Narrator: McFarlane, Kathleen (b. 1943)
Interviewer: Adam Kelly
Title: “An Oral History with Kathleen McFarlane”
Date: June 24, 2010
Language: English
Location: Orange, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 25 pages

This oral history spans 1943-2010. Bulk dates: 1960s-1970s.

An oral history with Kathleen McFarlane, resident of Orange, California, retired instructor at California State University, Fullerton, and wife of former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Richard McFarlane (OH 4051). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding McFarlane’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Santa Ana, California, in the 1950s, remembering the landscape, Lighter-than-Air (LTA) Base, population, local schools, recreation, and the *Delhi Barrio*; recalls the Cold War, seeing lights from nuclear bomb tests in Nevada; comments on being a Mormon in Southern California and in the USMC; tells about meeting Richard at church while he was stationed at El Toro; remembers attending Brigham Young University while Richard was at the University of Utah; shares about being a Marine wife, shopping at the PX and commissary, healthcare on base, and moving frequently; comments on Southern prejudice and segregation in the 1960s; vividly recalls the death of President John F. Kennedy in 1963; briefly speaks about Richard’s position as an air traffic controller at El Toro and LTA; remembers when President Lyndon B. Johnson landed at El Toro; discusses living near El Toro, speaking about housing and schools; tells about readjusting to civilian life; shares about race relations in Orange County, California; comments on social and political tensions during the Vietnam War, remembering protests and news coverage; talks about earning a master’s degree in Art History at Cal State Fullerton, and teaching there; shares opinion about war, military service, and women in the USMC; speaks about the effect of El Toro on Orange County.

OH 4084

Narrator: Stevenson, Martie (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Martie Stevenson"
Date: July 5, 2010
Language: English
Location: La Quinta, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 50 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2010. Bulk dates: 1950s-1970s.

An oral history with Martie Stevenson, resident of La Quinta, California, and wife of former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Donald Stevenson (OH 4085). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Stevenson's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Illinois and Southern California as the daughter of a single mother; shares memories of World War II, including Pearl Harbor, as well as food and gasoline rationing; recalls receiving training to become a flight attendant in Kansas City, Missouri, moving to New York and then California; tells about meeting, Donald; recalls engagement announcement at the Marine Corps Birthday Ball; shares memories of El Toro, including off-base housing, and activities in Orange County, California; discusses being a Marine wife, communicating with Donald during his deployment to Japan; comments on camaraderie in the USMC; recalls living in Orange County, buying a home and finding activities for her children; comments on the closure of El Toro.

OH 4085

Narrator: Stevenson, Donald (b. 1931)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Donald Stevenson"
Date: July 5, 2010
Language: English
Location: La Quinta, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited/completed; 91 pages

This oral history spans 1931-2010. Bulk dates: 1950-1970s.

An oral history with Donald Stevenson, resident of La Quinta, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), with commentary by his wife, Martie Stevenson (OH 4084). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Stevenson's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in San Antonio, Texas, and Sweet Home, Oregon, speaking about family life, housing, work, and education; shares about attending Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, on a scholarship and joining the USMC as a summer occupation; tells about attending boot camp in Quantico, Virginia, during the summers; talks about transferring to Pensacola, Florida, in 1954, remembering housing and flight training; speaks about life at El Toro, talking about living in Laguna Beach, working as operations duty officer at the flight tower, a UFO sighting off Laguna, and flying base airplanes around the Southwest to rack up flight hours; speaks about deploying to Atsugi, Japan, in 1957, speaking about leaving his fiancée, Martie, and flight operations; shares stories about squadron 323, remembering training, flight records, memorable flights, and interacting socially; comments extensively on camaraderie in the USMC, sharing stories about friends and roommates.

OH 4086

Narrator: Healy, David (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Daniel Hilger
Title: “An Oral History with David Healy”
Date: June 29, 2010
Language: English
Location: California State University, Fullerton, Pollak Library
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2010. Bulk dates: 1954-1970s.

An oral history with David Healy, resident of Mission Viejo, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Healy’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Long Island, New York; briefly shares memories of World War II; tells about his decision to join the USMC after the Korean War; recalls boot camp experience at Parris Island, South Carolina; speaks about pre-flight and flight training, remembering equipment and recreation; shares about life at El Toro, remembering aircraft and training, accidents, local agriculture, housing, recreation and entertainment, and flight patterns; tells about leaving the USMC in 1960, attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts and joining the USMC Reserves; speaks about his experiences during the Vietnam War, telling about missions and tactics, weather, politics and public sentiment; comments on changes and growth in Orange County, California; discusses El Toro’s closure.

OH 4087

Narrator: Sayre, Ferne (b. 1924)
Interviewer: Radiance Santifer
Title: "An Oral History with Ferne Sayre"
Date: July 26, 2010
Language: English
Location: Irvine, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1924-2010. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s.

An oral history with Ferne Sayre, resident of Irvine, California, and wife of a retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Sayre's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Kansas, speaking about her parents' divorce, as well as moving to Southern California; recalls marrying after her high school graduation; shares about living with relatives during her husband's deployment to Atsugi, Japan; discusses studying to become a nurse; speaks about living in a Quonset Hut at MCAS Miramar, California; tells about life at El Toro, talking about living off base; shares about transferring to bases in Cherry Point and New River, North Carolina, then back to El Toro; speaks about her involvement in the Officers' Wives Club; discusses her husband's transfer to Hawaii, staying in Orange County while her children attended school; recalls a Vietnamese refugee camp at Camp Pendleton, California, during the Vietnam War; talks about her husband's retirement from the USMC and his continued employment at El Toro; comments on the growth and changes in Orange County.

OH 4580

Narrator: DeFries, Christian (b. 1935)
Interviewer: Daniel Hilger
Title: "An Oral History with Christian DeFries"
Date: July 27, 2010
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 24 pages

This oral history spans 1935-2010. Bulk dates: 1950s-1989.

An oral history with Christian DeFries, resident of Mission Viejo, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding DeFries' experiences at and around El Toro and MCAS Tustin, or the Lighter-than-Air (LTA) Base. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in Kansas; recalls Pearl Harbor and World War II, speaking about his family's military service; shares boot camp experiences, as well as attending the Naval Aviation Cadet Program in Pensacola, Florida; shares at length about experiences during the Vietnam War, talking about flying helicopters, duties and missions, politics and public sentiment, as well as Medevacs (medical evacuations) and injuries; briefly discusses USMC involvement in desegregation, mentioning James Meredith and the University of Mississippi; speaks about transitioning from helicopters back to fixed wing aircraft; briefly tells about attending Chapman University in Orange, California, while stationed at El Toro; speaks about life at El Toro, talking about facilities, interactions with the community, as well as memorable flights and events; briefly discusses women in the Military; talks about camaraderie in the USMC; speaks about retiring from the USMC in 1989, working for Hughes Aircraft as a program manager for F-18 programs; comments on the closure of El Toro, speaking about politics and money.

OH 4581

Narrator: Ferree, C. Richard “Dick” (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with C. Richard ‘Dick’ Ferree”
Date: July 28, 2010
Language: English
Location: Newport Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 48 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2010. Bulk dates: 1951-1965.

An oral history with C. Richard “Dick” Ferree, resident of Newport Beach, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Ferree’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about family, early childhood, and schooling; recalls effects of World War II; shares experience in joining the Navy ROTC program, remembering boot camp; tells about transferring to Little Creek, Virginia, Corpus Christi, Texas, and Quantico, Virginia; details arrival in Southern California and El Toro; expands on flying experiences and Squadron 311; discusses stories about fellow Marines; shares recollections of living off base in Corona Del Mar and Orange County, California; talks about the camaraderie among Marines; tells about meeting his wife in Texas then moving to El Toro; shares stories about his marriage and family; tells stories about fellow Marine, Harley Chapman; speaks about being discharged from the USMC, recalling civilian jobs; expresses disappointment in El Toro’s closure and gives opinion on how the base should be remembered.

OH 4582

Narrator: Norgren, Jane (b. 1935)
Interviewer: Radiance Santifer
Title: "An Oral History with Jane Norgren"
Date: August 12, 2010
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 45 pages

This oral history spans 1880s-2010. Bulk dates: 1957-1970s.

An oral history with Jane Norgren, resident of Fullerton, California, longtime Southern California resident, and former teacher in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Norgren's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Whittier, California, during the Depression, speaking about her adopted parents; shares memories of Pearl Harbor and World War II, speaking about rationing, moving to Laguna Beach, California, and interacting with servicemen; tells stories about her grandfather's attempts to start a ranch on what became El Toro in the late 1880s, speaking about unpaved roads and summers in Laguna Beach; gives a brief history of South Orange County, California, talking about Spanish explorers, agriculture, and military installations; tells about living near El Toro, remembering the PX (Post Exchange), servicemen, and a 1966 plane crash near Laguna Beach; speaks about attending the University of Connecticut, commenting on East Coast perceptions of California; tells about teaching in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, discussing demographics, equal education, and educational standards; explains that her husband, Bob, was company commander of the Fullerton National Guard during the Watts Riots; comments on perceptions of the Vietnam War in Orange County, speaking about protests, military personnel in the community, and Vietnamese refugees; shares love of learning and continued interest in Orange County history; talks about growth and development in Southern California, speaking about population and transportation.

OH 4583

Narrator: Fraser, Donald R. (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: "An Oral History with Donald R. Fraser"
Date: September 3, 2010
Language: English
Location: St. Helena, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 76 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2010. Bulk dates: 1945-2004.

An oral history with Donald R. Fraser, resident of St. Helena, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Fraser's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Wisconsin and Missouri, recalling his father's shoe factory and his educational experiences; shares memories of World War II, speaking about rationing, knitting blankets in school, and witnessing the psychological effects of war; comments on wartime patriotism and apathy; tells about attending Northwestern University and joining the Naval ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps), talking about basic training in Quantico, Virginia; details his freshman cruise to Brazil, recalling the shellback ceremony and an American show of force; speaks about selecting a commission in the USMC and attending flight school in Pensacola, Florida, detailing the aircraft he flew; shares about time at El Toro, remembering living in Anaheim and Laguna Beach, California, befriending Linda Irvine of the Irvine family, the challenges of flying at El Toro, as well as experiences as a legal officer and pilot; tells about resigning his commission and joining the USMC Reserves in Alameda, California; talks about attending the University of California, Berkeley for graduate school, remembering the Free Speech Movement; comments on camaraderie in the USMC, sharing stories about prisoners of war, as well as losing a friend in an airplane crash; comments on women and race relations in the USMC; discusses his life after leaving the USMC, speaking about family and marriages, as well as his careers in real estate and marketing; details his friendship with Charles "Sparky" Schultz, telling about licensing contracts for Peanuts apparel and beginning an oral history project at the Schultz Museum; comments on El Toro's impact on Orange County.

OH 4584

Narrator: Stolier, Bert (b. 1918)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Bert Stolier"
Date: August 24, 2010
Language: English
Location: Metairie, Louisiana
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 30 pages

This oral history spans 1900s-2010. Bulk dates: 1940-1970s.

An oral history with Bert Stolier, resident of Metairie, Louisiana, retired employee of H.D. Lee Company, Swensen's Ice Cream franchisee, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Stolier's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in New Orleans, Louisiana, sharing about his schooling, as well as joining the USMC in 1940; speaks about being assigned to the USS *North Hampton* in Hawaii, sharing memories of Pearl Harbor; tells about naval operations in the Pacific Theater in World War II, including a battle near Guadalcanal; recalls being stationed at El Toro, talking about raising the flag during the opening ceremony, liberty in Los Angeles, California, and local agriculture; shares about witnessing the signing of the treaty that ended World War II, as well as his postwar assignments; briefly comments on the scarcity of jobs after World War II; explains the importance of sports to his family, including his work with the New Orleans Recreation Department; details owning and operating Swensen's Ice Cream stores in Louisiana; talks about his wife, five children, and their professional accomplishments, including medicine and real estate.

OH 4585

Narrator: McPhail, Joe (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Joe McPhail"
Date: August 27, 2010
Language: English
Location: Houston, Texas
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 64 pages

This oral history spans 1921-2010. Bulk dates: 1941-1981.

An oral history with Joe McPhail, resident of Houston, Texas, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding McPhail's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Texas during the Depression, speaking about his family; recalls joining the Navy V-5 Program, training to be a pilot; shares memories of Pearl Harbor; tells about flying different aircraft with the Navy, later transferring to the USMC; shares about his deployment to the Pacific Theater in World War II, recalling shooting down Japanese aircraft; reminisces about meeting his wife and starting a family; shares memories of El Toro, remembering the surrounding community and popular hangouts; comments on camaraderie among Marines, continuing friendships; recalls V-E (Victory Over Europe) Day; tells about deployment during the Korean War, talking about the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir; speaks about his career after leaving the USMC, flying corporate jets and spending time in the USMC Reserves; expresses disappointment at El Toro's closure.

OH 4586

Narrator: Parkhill, David (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with David Parkhill"
Date: August 28, 2010
Language: English
Location: Austin, Texas
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 50 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2010. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s.

An oral history with David Parkhill, resident of Austin, Texas, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Parkhill's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up during the Depression in Fort Worth, Texas, remembering his mother's job with Texaco Oil Company; shares memories of World War II on the homefront, speaking about Pearl Harbor, as well as his involvement with Boy Scouts of America and Civil Defense; tells about his career with the Boy Scouts, as well as being a teacher at a segregated school in Odessa, Texas; remembers joining the USMC Reserves in 1947 at seventeen, remembering training at Naval Air Station Dallas, Texas, as well as the reputation of Reservists; talks about being deployed to Korea and Japan during the Korean War, working on the flight line as a plane captain, living accommodations, and experiencing Japanese landscape and culture; shares opinions on war and diplomacy; speaks about life at El Toro, remembering visiting the Lighter-than-Air Base in Santa Ana, California, orange groves, local recreation and entertainment, amenities and buildings on base, as well as an accident on the way back from Camp Pendleton, California; shares about leaving the USMC Reserves in 1962 to avoid being deployed to Vietnam; discusses the impact of the USMC on his life.

OH 4587

Narrator: Borne, William (b. 1952)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with William Borne"
Date: August 29, 2010
Language: English
Location: Garland, Texas
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 43 pages

This oral history spans 1952-2010. Bulk dates: 1972-1986.

An oral history with William Borne, resident of Garland, Texas, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of former member of the USMC, Denise Borne (OH 4588). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Borne's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Garland, speaking about the community, his parents, and his education; shares about enlisting in the USMC during the Vietnam War to avoid being drafted; recalls boot camp experiences in Parris Island, South Carolina, remembering cultural differences and a snowstorm during graduation; talks about attending electrical school at Naval Air Station Memphis in Millington, Tennessee, speaking about coursework and liberty; tells about transferring to MCAS Santa Ana and later El Toro, speaking about living off base, as well as the surrounding area; comments on camaraderie in the USMC; talks about antiwar movement in California during the Vietnam War; speaks about meeting and marrying Denise, sharing about keeping in touch, and becoming Catholic; details being called in to work on Air Force One in 1975 while Denise was in labor; shares memories of working on Air Force One, as well as President Nixon's farewell; shares about his brief time in Vietnam, as well as opinions about Vietnamese refugees landing at El Toro; comments on El Toro's closure.

OH 4588

Narrator: Borne, Denise (b. 1953)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Denise Borne"
Date: August 29, 2010
Language: English
Location: Garland, Texas
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 39 pages

This oral history spans 1953-2010. Bulk dates: 1971-2010.

An oral history with Denise Borne, resident of Garland, Texas, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and wife of former member of the USMC, William Borne (OH 4587). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Borne's experiences at and around El Toro, beginning in 1974. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Garland, speaking about her family and her ancestors; discusses her Catholic education and faith; talks about public sentiment during the Vietnam War, recalling harassment of a classmate at Southern Methodist University, and other encounters with civilians; shares about enlisting in the USMC, telling about recruitment and boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina; speaks about rushing to marry in order to guarantee transferring to California together, commuting to Camp Pendleton while William was stationed at El Toro; comments on camaraderie and rank in the USMC; tells about being honorably discharged due to pregnancy; recalls life at El Toro, delivering late night meals to her husband, and watching the Blue Angels perform from the roof of a hangar; shares about being a Marine wife, including staining William's uniform before an inspection; compares duties and treatment of women Marines past and present; discusses her son's military career and combat injuries; comments on fears of having a husband and at son at war; speaks about El Toro's closure and how it should be remembered.

OH 4589

Narrator: Erwin, Bobby (b. 1951)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Bobby Erwin"
Date: August 30, 2010
Language: English
Location: Sulphur Springs, Texas
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 30 pages

This oral history spans 1951-2010. Bulk dates: 1969-1977.

An oral history with Bobby Erwin, resident of Sulphur Springs, Texas, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Erwin's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Texas, speaking about his birth parents, his father's funeral, and being adopted by the Erwin family; tells about joining the USMC, describing boot camp and training, his father's legacy, and the public perceptions of the Vietnam War; talks about life at El Toro, speaking about living in Tustin, California, daily duties, and the surrounding area; comments on women in the USMC; shares about trying to find his birth family; documents the wartime history of his birth father, Medal of Honor recipient Ambrosio Guillen; comments on the impact of the USMC on his life.

OH 4590

Narrator: André, Gaston (b. 1941)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Gaston André”
Date: August 25, 2010
Language: English
Location: New Orleans, Louisiana
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 38 pages

This oral history spans 1941-2010. Bulk dates: 1962-1966.

An oral history with Gaston André, resident of New Orleans, Louisiana, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding André’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Louisiana, as well as his Cajun heritage; tells about joining the USMC in New Orleans in 1962, remembering boot camp in San Diego, California; shares about training for maintenance and ground crew positions; details working on aircraft; tells about life at El Toro, remembering the surrounding area, as well as recreation; speaks about the Vietnam War, recalling deployment, bomb raids on camps, loading aircraft ordnance such as napalm, and sharing opinions; explains duties as a plane captain for ground crew; tells about being discharged from the USMC, marrying, and returning to the oil industry in Louisiana; offers advice to potential military recruits; shares philosophy on hard work; talks about transitioning to civilian life.

OH 4591

Narrator: Gwin, Norris (b. 1925)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: "An Oral History with Norris Gwin"
Date: August 26, 2010
Language: English
Location: Lafayette, Louisiana
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages

This oral history spans 1925-2010. Bulk dates: 1943-1945.

An oral history with Norris Gwin, resident of Lafayette, Louisiana, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Gwin's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about moving often as a child, recalling the effects of the Depression on his family; shares about joining the USMC at seventeen in 1943, remembering boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina; recalls life at El Toro, telling about the Zoot Suit Riots, local entertainment such as Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, and USO dances, the beaches, the surrounding community, interactions with civilians, transportation, an average day with the ground crew; shares experiences in the Pacific Theater of World War II, speaking about different aircraft, Dengue Fever, the youth of his fellow Marines; talks about being discharged from the USMC in November 1945; discusses attending the University of Florida and the University of Miami; tells about working for race tracks for sixty years; shares about involvement with different veterans groups.

OH 4592

Narrator: Wohlenberg, Harold (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: “An Oral History with Harold Wohlenberg”
Date: August 31, 2010
Language: English
Location: Irving, Texas
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 32 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2010. Bulk dates: 1948-1970.

An oral history with Harold Wohlenberg, resident of Irving, Texas, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Wohlenberg’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on his grandfather’s New Mexico farm; shares memories of World War II, recalling weapons testing at Alamogordo Air Force Base, and the different jobs he held; shares about the effects of atomic testing on servicemen and civilians; briefly tells about moving to Arkansas during high school; discusses joining the USMC in 1948, sharing boot camp experiences in San Diego, California; shares about life at El Toro, speaking about first impressions, liberty and recreation, the mess hall, the surrounding area, an average day as a payroll clerk and duty clerk, community interactions, and the Enlisted Club; comments on race and gender in the USMC; tells about experiences during the Korean War, speaking about duties, liberty in Japan, weather in Korea, as well as witnessing death; talks about returning stateside and being promoted to Staff NCO, being transferred to Cherry Point, North Carolina; shares about camaraderie in the USMC; comments on El Toro’s future.

OH 4593

Narrator: Proctor, Dale (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: “An Oral History with Dale Proctor”
Date: September 1, 2010
Language: English
Location: Possum Kingdom Lake, Texas
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 29 pages

This oral history spans 1933-1997. Bulk dates: 1951-1957.

An oral history with Dale Proctor, resident of Possum Kingdom Lake, Texas, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Proctor’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in a Colorado orphanage during the Depression; shares memories of World War II, remembering role models in the USMC; briefly comments on postwar racial tensions in Colorado; tells about joining the USMC and attending boot camp in San Diego, California; discusses life at El Toro, including aircraft mechanics training, the base, the surrounding community, a typical workday, amenities such as the PX and the Slop Chute, dating Women Marines, visiting Laguna Beach and the Pike at Long Beach, working in the control tower and witnessing accidents, as well as tensions between Hawaiian Marines and “Howlies” or Caucasian Marines; tells about the Korean War, working aboard the USS *Bairoko* and USS *Bataan*; shares about meeting his wife, a Native American Woman Marine from the Cahto tribe, and marrying at the El Toro chapel; talks about transferring to Hawaii in 1954 and returning to El Toro in 1956; comments on his pregnant wife and child’s experiences traveling on a troop ship; speaks about his experiences with military hospitals; comments on changes in Orange County, California; discusses working for the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) in Texas; remembers President Kennedy’s assassination and its effect on Texas; comments on contemporary wartime ethics; describes a 1996 visit to El Toro, remembering changes.

OH 4594

Narrator: Olsen, Benson (b. 1936)
Interviewer: Daniel Hilger
Title: “An Oral History with Benson Olsen”
Date: September 10, 2010
Language: English
Location: Orange, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 18 pages

This oral history spans 1936-2010. Bulk dates: 1954-1974.

An oral history with Benson Olsen, resident of Orange, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Olsen’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Idaho and Utah; tells about joining the USMC in 1954 and attending boot camp in San Diego, California; speaks about working at El Toro in the transit flight line and volunteering to transfer to the LTA (Lighter-than-Air) Base in Tustin, California, remembering the large hangars; shares about life at El Toro, remembering the ethnic makeup of the surrounding community, accidents on base, and a typical workday; briefly tells about his tour in Oppama, Japan, meeting his wife; speaks about his deployment during the Vietnam War, remembering public opinion and returning home; shares opinions about women in the military; comments on El Toro’s closure and the future of the former base.

OH 4595

Narrator: Naviaux, Jacques (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: "An Oral History with Jacques Naviaux"
Date: September 28, 2010
Language: English
Location: Rancho Palos Verdes, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 74 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2010. Bulk dates: 1952-1980s.

An oral history with Jacques Naviaux, resident of Rancho Palos Verdes, California, retired colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Astrid Naviaux (OH 4603). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Naviaux's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about moving often during the Depression; shares memories of World War II, recalling an armament center in Cheyenne, Wyoming, a community war effort, and demonization of the Japanese; briefly recalls the Korean War; tells about surveying for the Union Pacific Railroad; speaks about participating in ROTC in high school and at the University of Denver; discusses attending the Naval Academy, remembering his studies, and Army-Navy football; recalls being at West Point when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik; speaks about meeting his wife at the Naval Academy, later marrying there; shares about USMC training, attending schools in Quantico, Virginia, Pensacola, Florida, and Kingsville, Texas; discusses winging ceremonies; tells about life at El Toro, sharing first impressions, watching a general dive into the pool in uniform, the surrounding community, off base housing, Disneyland, an average day on base, liberty, the base atmosphere during the Cuban Missile Crisis, working as a safety officer, new construction, and dignitaries such as President Nixon; talks about deploying to Japan and the Philippines; briefly mentions the Naval Postgraduate Program; tells about time in Vietnam, speaking about leaders, politics and public sentiment, missions and rescues, deaths, the Tet Offensive, and the Siege of Khe San; talks about his son's involvement with the Blue Angels; shares about remaining in the USMC Reserves; comments on El Toro's closure.

OH 4596

Narrator: Pham, Quang X. (b. 1964)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: “An Oral History with Quang X. Pham”
Date: October 15, 2010
Language: English
Location: Lake Forest, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: final; 27 pages

This oral history spans 1964-2010. Bulk dates: 1986-1999.

An oral history with Quang X. Pham, resident of Mission Viejo, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Pham’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in South Vietnam during the Vietnam War, speaking about wartime and normalcy, interacting with Americans, as well as his father’s experiences in the South Vietnamese Air Force; shares memories about the fall of Saigon, coming to the United States as a refugee and leaving his father behind; talks about President Richard Nixon and the Vietnam War; talks about life in the United States, learning English and attending school, cultural differences, becoming a citizen, and attending the University of California, Los Angeles; comments on his mother’s experiences in America; compares his feelings about the Vietnam War with American perceptions; talks about joining the USMC in 1986, remembering officer training, perceptions of Vietnamese refugees, and flying missions during the Gulf War; details his father’s release from prison in Vietnam and his arrival in the United States; comments on changes and development in Orange County, California, since 1975; speaks about El Toro’s closure and future as the Orange County Great Park.

OH 4597

Narrator: Vincent, Hal (b. 1927)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Hal Vincent"
Date: October 18, 2010
Language: English
Location: San Juan Capistrano, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 44 pages

This oral history spans 1927-2010. Bulk dates: 1941-1980s.

An oral history with Hal Vincent, resident of San Juan Capistrano, California, retired major general in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Virginia Vincent (OH 4607). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Vincent's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up as the son of a banker with a pilot's license in Michigan during the Depression; tells about attending the Naval Academy, marrying there; talks about Marine basic school, infantry training, and aviation training; details deployments during the Korean and Vietnam Wars; discusses test piloting jets, helicopters, and nuclear aircraft; describes flight accidents and crashes; shares about promotions, achievements, and honors, such as being inducted into the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame; comments on relationships with other officers, generals, and presidential administrations, recalling interactions with President Kennedy; shares stories about VMF-214 and VMF-115 at El Toro during the Korean War; describes early transpacific flights, speaking about refueling and interacting with the USS *Kitty Hawk* commander; briefly shares about meeting Marilyn Monroe; briefly speaks about trying to join NASA and become an astronaut; comments on base encroachment, speaking about Ross Cortese's development of Leisure World; recalls that the Goodyear blimp was stored at MCAS Tustin; briefly discusses women in the military; comments on the war in Iraq, speaking about politics and the future of military aviation.

OH 4598

Narrator: Nickles, Earl (b. 1936)
Interviewer: Daniel Hilger
Title: "An Oral History with Earl Nickles"
Date: October 20, 2010
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans 1912-2010. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s, 1960s-2010.

An oral history with Earl Nickles, resident of Santa Ana, California, longtime resident of Orange County, and retired barber. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Nickles' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Placentia, California, where his father was the caretaker for the Tuffree family's orange groves; talks about working on Tuffree family properties, speaking about conditions, equipment, irrigation and *zanjeros*, as well as picking and local packinghouses; comments on living in Placentia, speaking about oil and agriculture, population and demographics, schools, and race relations; briefly shares memories of V-J Day; recalls a snowstorm in Orange County in 1949; discusses his involvement with the Church of Nazarene; briefly talks about attending a Lawrence Welk concert at MCAS Tustin; shares about his wife's business offering residential care to developmentally disabled children; comments on changes in Orange County, speaking about freeway development and politics; talks about his work as a barber in Orange County, speaking about interacting with Marines from El Toro; comments on the Vietnam War, talking about politics and public sentiment, Christian missionaries in Vietnam, and South Vietnamese immigration to Orange County.

OH 4599

Narrator: Smith, William (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: "An Oral History with William Smith"
Date: October 25, 2010
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 33 pages

This oral history spans 1929-2010. Bulk dates: 1949-1974.

An oral history with William Smith, resident of Mission Viejo, California, retired lieutenant colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Jeanne Smith (OH 4605). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Smith's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up during the Depression, moving frequently due to his father's position in the Civilian Conservation Corps, and living in places such as Los Angeles, California, Texas, and Arkansas; speaks about involvement in sports; shares memories of Pearl Harbor; speaks about segregation in the South; tells about joining the USMC, speaking about boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, California; recalls deployment to Guam for twenty-two months; remembers advancing to first lieutenant, as well as attending flight school in Pensacola, Florida; shares about meeting and marrying his wife; discusses flight training, flying jets and helicopters, practicing bombing, as well as accidents; recalls life at El Toro, remembering the surrounding area; comments on his deployment during the Vietnam War, speaking about missions and fatalities; recalls his deployment to Japan, talking about communication and separation; details duties during the Cuban Missile Crisis; shares about becoming a Commander Officer; reminisces about his USMC career; comments on the impact of the USMC on his life.

OH 4600

Narrator: Ericson, Donald (b. 1932)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: "An Oral History with Donald Ericson"
Date: October 25, 2010
Language: English
Location: Larkspur, Colorado
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 32 pages

This oral history spans 1932-2010. Bulk dates: 1952-1960.

An oral history with Donald Ericson, resident of Larkspur, Colorado, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Ericson's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Denver, Colorado, speaking about his parents' divorce and his father's alcoholism; comments on his diverse heritage and how it affected his life; recalls being drafted in 1952 while working as a lineman for the Mountain Bell Telephone Company; comments on the camaraderie and "brainwashing" in the USMC, speaking about cultural differences and group dynamics; speaks about being on the boxing team while stationed at El Toro, becoming a semifinalist at the All Marine Boxing Tournament in Cherry Point, North Carolina in 1953; recalls boot camp experiences at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, California; shares about transferring to Camp Gifu, Japan, working as a radio operator in the control tower; talks about life at El Toro, remembering the Lighter-than-Air Base in Tustin, California, recreation such as sports and the Slop Chute, as well as the surrounding area; briefly comments on ethnic diversity in the USMC; speaks about the impact of the USMC on his life; tells about transitioning to civilian life, attending college, meeting and marrying his wife, and returning to work for the Mountain Bell Telephone Company.

OH 4601

Narrator: Fairman, Ray (b. 1945)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: “An Oral History with Ray Fairman”
Date: October 26, 2010
Language: English
Location: Bogart, Georgia
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 57 pages

This oral history spans 1945-2010. Bulk dates: 1950-2010.

An oral history of Ray Fairman, resident of Bogart, Georgia, former United States Marine Corps (USMC) dependent, former member of the USMC, and retired police officer. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Fairman’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up as a USMC dependent, living on base at El Toro and MCAS Tustin with his father after his mother’s death; speaks about his father, his career, staying with his relatives during deployments, his remarriage, and his alcoholism; shares about life at El Toro, remembering Little League Baseball and Boy Scouts, exploring the facilities and amenities, shining shoes for Marines, and the surrounding community; speaks about joining the USMC in 1964, attending boot camp in San Diego, California; comments on the differences between bachelors and USMC families; tells about his training and education in the USMC, working as a MP (military policeman), in intelligence, and in aviation electronics; speaks about overseas deployments, including Vietnam; shares about time during the Vietnam War, talking about combat experiences, the effects of war, and politics; comments on the role of alcohol, camaraderie, rank, and loss in the USMC; shares about working as a police officer while remaining in the USMC Reserves, talking about the strain on his family, and being called to active duty; discusses the loss and recovery of his military records, as well as his military promotions; tells about duties and experiences as a civilian police officer; comments on changes to El Toro and Southern California.

OH 4602

Narrator: Lantzer, Mildred (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: “An Oral History with Mildred Lantzer”
Date: November 1, 2010
Language: English
Location: Roswell, Georgia
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2010. Bulk dates: 1943-1945.

An oral history with Mildred Lantzer, resident of Roswell, Georgia, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women’s Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Lantzer’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Hominy, Oklahoma, remembering her parents and her teachers; tells about attending Northeastern State University in Oklahoma for a year; shares about experiences during World War II, working in a munitions plant in Dupont, Oklahoma, and then joining the USMCWR; comments on the poor reputation of women in the military; recalls Pearl Harbor; remembers attending boot camp in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; shares about life at El Toro, remembering recreational activities such as attending the Rose Bowl and Rose Parade in Pasadena, California, the surrounding community, as well as working in the paymaster’s office; tells about meeting her husband at Naval Air Facility El Centro, and keeping in touch when she transferred to El Toro; discusses being discharged from the USMC and transitioning to civilian life, working and starting a family; comments on war and military service.

OH 4603

Narrator: Naviaux, Astrid (b. 1940)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: "An Oral History with Astrid Naviaux"
Date: November 8, 2010
Language: English
Location: Rancho Palos Verdes, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 39 pages

This oral history spans 1930s-2010. Bulk dates: 1957-1985.

An oral history with Astrid Naviaux, resident of Rancho Palos Verdes, California, real estate agent, and wife of retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Jacques Naviaux (OH 4595). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Naviaux's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company plantations around the world, commenting on race relations; speaks extensively about the military tradition in her family; shares memories of World War II, talking about living in Ohio while her father was interned in the Philippines; comments on the effect of deployments on military families, speaking about communication and relationships; details meeting Jacques at the Naval Academy, maintaining a long-distance relationship; tells about life as a Marine wife, speaking about moving frequently, social events, the Officers' Wives Club, her own career, and raising a family; speaks extensively about Jacques' USMC career; discusses life at El Toro, talking about housing, transportation and weather, entertainment and activities, and accidents; tells about life at other USMC bases, including Kingsville, Texas, and Brunswick, Georgia; comments on Jacques' service during the Vietnam War, remembering fallen friends and public sentiment; speaks about her sons' careers; comments on changes and growth in Orange County, California.

OH 4604

Narrator: Bryant, Jerry (b. 1942)
Interviewer: Scott Thompson
Title: "An Oral History with Jerry Bryant"
Date: November 8, 2010
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 27 pages

This oral history spans 1942-2010. Bulk dates: 1960-1965.

An oral history with Jerry Bryant, resident of Fullerton, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Bryant's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Illinois, briefly speaking about attending the University of Illinois on a baseball scholarship; shares about joining the USMC in 1960, talking about boot camp experiences at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, California; discusses rifle training at Camp Matthews in San Diego, briefly working as a rifle instructor; details work as a MP (military policeman) at El Toro; speaks about life at El Toro, remembering being an armed escort for payroll runs at a bank in Santa Ana, California, airplane accidents at El Toro and the Lighter-than-Air Base (LTA) in Tustin, California, liberty and recreation, Marines working in the surrounding community, as well as partnering with the Santa Ana Police Department; speaks about camaraderie in the USMC, sharing stories about fellow Marines; details his career in NASCAR; talks about race relations in the USMC, speaking about race and job assignments; speaks about the impact of the USMC on his life; comments on the closure of LTA and El Toro.

OH 4605

Narrator: Smith, Jeanne (b. 1931)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: “An Oral History with Jeanne Smith”
Date: December 6, 2010
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 34 pages

This oral history spans 1931-2010. Bulk dates: 1956-1981.

An oral history with Jeanne Smith, resident of Mission Viejo, California, and wife of retired lieutenant colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Bill Smith (OH 4599). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Smith’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Gary, Indiana, during the Depression, remembering family; shares memories of Pearl Harbor; tells about World War II, recalling rationing and her family’s military service; speaks about attending Indiana University and the University of Iowa, joining the Alpha Chi Omega sorority; talks about returning to Indiana to become a teacher, remembering school desegregation and teaching adult night classes; speaks about moving to Santa Ana, California, in 1955 and teaching school; remembers meeting her husband, Bill, at the White House in Laguna Beach, California, while he was stationed at El Toro; discusses midcentury attractions in Orange County, California, including Disneyland and Knott’s Berry Farm; tells about her courtship and marriage to Bill; speaks about Bill’s deployment to Japan, talking about communication and anxiety; discusses Bill’s deployment during the Vietnam War, raising a family on her own; recalls different USMC bases; comments on camaraderie among USMC families; details her husband’s discharge from the USMC; comments on El Toro’s closure.

OH 4606

Narrator: DesForges, Barbara (b. 1940)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Barbara DesForges”
Date: December 16, 2010
Language: English
Location: San Clemente, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 33 pages

This oral history spans 1940-2010. Bulk dates: 1943-1947, 1980s.

An oral history with Barbara DesForges, resident of San Clemente, California, and former United States Marine Corps (USMC) dependent. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding DesForges’ experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about her early childhood in Los Angeles, California, contracting polio and being treated by Sister Elizabeth Kenny; shares about living with her cousins, Adele and World War II ace fighter pilot, Wilbur “Jack” Jackson Thomas, in a Quonset Hut at El Toro, remembering the base theater, riding the school bus, and making friends on the base; briefly tells about her cousins’ courtship and wedding; talks about Jack’s career in aviation, speaking about performing in air shows in 1946; tells about Jack’s fatal crash into Saddleback Mountain in 1947, talking about her family’s grief, the funeral, and Adele’s remarriage; shares memories of World War II, discussing rationing and patriotism; comments on her interest in history, speaking about Margaret Mitchell and *Gone with the Wind*, as well as investigating World War II experiences with her Russian immigrant elementary class; mentions that Charles Quilter (OH 4044.1 and 4044.2) was instrumental in discovering the details of Jack’s crash; briefly tells about donating her military collection to MCAS Miramar; comments on the military and the dangers of war.

OH 4607

Narrator: Vincent, Virginia (b. 1932)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Virginia Vincent"
Date: December 17, 2010
Language: English
Location: San Juan Capistrano, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 47 pages

This oral history spans 1932-2010. Bulk dates: 1932-1981.

An oral history with Virginia Vincent, resident of San Juan Capistrano, California, and wife of retired general in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Hal Vincent (OH 4597). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Vincent's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up as a Marine dependent, speaking about USMC housing, family activities, and growing up around Marines; shares memories of Pearl Harbor, explaining that she was in Hawaii at the time; tells about her schooling at Holton-Arms in Maryland, remembering friends; speaks about her father's deployment to the South Pacific during World War II, talking about his time on Wake Island; discusses the duties of a general's wife, learning to entertain from her mother; speaks about learning to golf and winning tournaments; shares about meeting and marrying her husband; details her husband's career in the USMC, talking about his experiences flying; comments on raising children as Marine dependents, speaking about moving often and separation during deployment; talks about her leukemia diagnosis and its effect on her life; recalls sewing her own clothes for military functions and parties; comments on the closure of El Toro, talking about the loss of the base and golf course.

OH 4608

Narrator: Dahl, Peter (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: "An Oral History with Peter Dahl"
Date: December 20, 2010
Language: English
Location: St. Helena, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 74 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2010. Bulk dates: 1934-1964.

An oral history with Peter Dahl, resident of St. Helena, California, former United States Navy dependent, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Dahl's experiences at and around El Toro and Marine Corps Air Facility Santa Ana. This interview includes discussion about growing up as an only child of a member of the United States Navy, speaking about the national and international bases at which his father was stationed; shares about his parents, their backgrounds, how they met, and their values; tells about moving often to places like Adak in the Aleutian Islands and Washington, D.C., remembering schools and housing; shares memories of World War II, speaking about living with relatives in Minnesota while his father was deployed overseas; talks about attending Stanford University, sharing about his studies and joining the NROTC (Navy Reserve Officers' Training Corps); tells about joining the USMC, attending training in Quantico, Virginia; talks about learning to fly, and then transferring to helicopters at MCAF Santa Ana, recalling flight operations; shares about working on a Navy ship for nine months; discusses life at MCAF Santa Ana, remembering the surrounding area, camaraderie, daily duties, and investigating a jailed Marine at El Toro; recalls deployment to Oppama, Japan, talking about USMC relationships with Japanese civilians; tells about leaving the USMC after returning from Japan; speaks about transitioning to civilian careers, teaching at a junior college, working for Stanford University, and different positions at wineries; comments on military service and public sentiment about wars, remembering his experiences during the Vietnam War.

OH 4609

Narrator: Akin, Richard (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: "An Oral History with Richard Akin"
Date: December 21, 2010
Language: English
Location: Diamond Springs, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 34 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2010. Bulk dates: 1947-1956.

An oral history with Richard Akin, resident of Diamond Springs, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Akin's experiences at and around El Toro and the Lighter-than-Air (LTA) Base in Tustin, California. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Chicago, Illinois, speaking about his parents and their careers, his education, and friends; shares memories of Pearl Harbor and the homefront during World War II, talking about working in the Civilian Defense Corps; recalls joining the USMC, sharing about a familial tradition of military service; details his deployment to Korea during the Korean War, speaking about working with South Koreans, weather, daily activities, fatalities, a lack of clothing and ammunition, and supporting a Korean orphanage; shares stories about working on a carrier, recalling damage to the carrier while entering a Japanese harbor; briefly comments on visiting Pearl Harbor as a Marine; talks about camaraderie and lifelong friendships in the USMC; shares about life at El Toro, speaking about accidents on base, the surrounding area, and liberty; details working for the telephone company in Orange County, California, installing equipment and doing repairs at El Toro and LTA, telling about the hangars at LTA, as well as military families; comments on El Toro and LTA's closure.

OH 4610

Narrator: Bradley, Wally (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Scott Thompson
Title: "An Oral History with Wally Bradley"
Date: January 11, 2011
Language: English
Location: Laguna Woods, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 29 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2010. Bulk dates: 1964-2001.

An oral history with Wally Bradley, resident of Laguna Woods, California, and former golf professional at the El Toro Golf Course. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Bradley's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Joplin, Missouri, and Texas, remembering his father's businesses, including a golf course; recalls learning to play golf with his father; tells about attending the University of Houston on a scholarship; briefly discusses working at a Convair aircraft factory in Fort Worth, Texas; speaks about joining the United States Army for two years, playing golf on military bases; details playing golf in high profile tournaments, including the PGA Golf Tour in 1958, the Los Angeles Open, the Bob Hope Desert Classic, and the PGA Winter Tour; shares about meeting and marrying his wife; tells about accepting different positions as a golf pro; details running the shop and golf course at El Toro, speaking about playing with military personnel, repairing the green, visitors such as President Richard Nixon, and equipment; comments on the effects of golf on his life and his family; comments on the closure of El Tor and its golf course.

OH 4611

Narrator: **Mahlberg, Jean** (b. 1924)
Interviewer: Scott Thompson
Title: “An Oral History with Jean Mahlberg”
Date: January 17, 2011
Language: English
Location: Laguna Woods, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 32 pages

This oral history spans 1924-2010. Bulk dates: 1946-1952.

An oral history with Jean Mahlberg, resident of Laguna Woods, California, and wife of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Mahlberg’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Worthington, Minnesota, as the daughter of a teacher; recalls taking childhood trips often, including to see Gutzon Borglum at work on Mount Rushmore; speaks about her education, graduating from college at nineteen and beginning work as a high school teacher; tells about meeting her husband, Dwayne, while he was on leave from the USMC; speaks about her husband’s USMC career, explaining that he came to El Toro in 1943 and 1951, sharing about his time during World War II and the Korean War, and listing his citations; talks about life at El Toro, speaking about first impressions of the region, base doctors, friends, and living in Santa Ana, California; discusses her husband’s discharge from the USMC and work at North American Rockwell; shares about raising her five daughters; talks about her domestic and international travels, including Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and the Amazon; shares her and her husband’s opinions about the Korean and Vietnam Wars; comments on changes and developments in Orange County, California, speaking about population; reflects on El Toro’s impact on Orange County.

OH 4612

Narrator: Clark, Verlin (b. 1931)
Interviewer: Daniel Hilger
Title: "An Oral History with Verlin Clark"
Date: January 14, 2011
Language: English
Location: Seal Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 29 pages

This oral history spans 1931-2011. Bulk dates: 1955-1982.

An oral history with Verlin Clark, resident of Seal Beach, California, former civilian firefighter for the United States Navy stationed at El Toro, with commentary by his wife, Patricia. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Clark's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about moving to Santa Ana, California, at an early age; shares memories of World War II, remembering Pearl Harbor and spotting planes; discusses training to be a volunteer fireman in Orange County, California, sharing stories of fighting fires; briefly talks about marrying Patricia in December of 1948; speaks about working as a firefighter and fire inspector at Disneyland in the 1950s; discusses working as a civilian firefighter at El Toro, speaking about interacting with Marines and the crash crew, plane crashes, accidents and fatalities at base housing, a firestorm in Silverado Canyon, training firefighting students from Santa Ana College, visits from President Nixon, and Vietnamese refugees; talks about working with Marines to put on Toys for Tots.

*Verlin Clark suffers from a mild case of Alzheimer's Disease.

OH 4613.1

Narrator: Quinn, William (b. 1923-2012)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with William Quinn"
Date: January 26, 2011
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 27 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2011. Bulk dates: 1941-1965.

An oral history with William Quinn, resident of Mission Viejo, California, and former major general in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Quinn's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in a family of ten children in New York, remembering the Depression; shares about educational experiences, attending Harvard Business School for a Master's Degree in International Relations; discusses joining the Navy and training to be a pilot, accepting a commission in the USMC Reserves; shares about the different bases at which he was stationed, including Cherry Point, North Carolina; discusses time in the Pacific Theater of World War II, preparing for the invasion of Japan; briefly talks about arriving at El Toro in 1950, buying a home in Costa Mesa, California; explains how he became a helicopter pilot; shares about his deployment during the Korean War, remembering flying a helicopter during a snowstorm to save a Marine; speaks about working on the Mercury Project, monitoring John Glenn's orbit around Earth through stations in the Pacific Ocean; shares about deployment during the Vietnam War in 1965 and 1970, discussing operations and missions.

OH 4613.2

Narrator: Quinn, William (b. 1923-2012)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "A Second Oral History with William Quinn"
Date: May 16, 2011
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 42 pages

This oral history spans 1970-2011. Bulk dates: 1970s.

A second oral history with William Quinn, resident of Mission Viejo, California, and former major general in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Quinn's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes brief discussion about his second deployment during the Vietnam War; speaks about becoming the commanding general at El Toro, and commander of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, which was stationed at El Toro, remembering living on base, growth and development, and interacting with President Richard Nixon and his aides on the El Toro golf course; briefly shares memories of public sentiment during Vietnam War; speaks about working on the Mercury Project, monitoring John Glenn's orbit around Earth through stations in the Pacific Ocean, and taking time for R&R in the Pacific; tells about transitioning to civilian life, working for ITT on the DEW Line (Distant Early Warning Line) Project.

OH 4614

Narrator: Perkles, Franz “Frank” (b. 1941)
Interviewer: Scott Thompson
Title: “An Oral History with Franz ‘Frank’ Perkles”
Date: January 31, 2011
Language: English
Location: Burbank, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 23 pages

This oral history spans 1941-2010. Bulk dates: 1959-1969.

An oral history with Franz “Frank” Perkles, resident of Burbank, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Perkles’ experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about being born in Ruma, Yugoslavia; shares memories of World War II, fleeing to Austria in 1944; tells about living in a displaced persons camp in Austria, remembering living conditions, education, separation from his father, and interactions with American troops; talks about immigrating to Burbank, California, in 1956, speaking about adjusting to American life; shares about joining the USMC, detailing boot camp in San Diego, California; talks about life at El Toro, speaking about first impressions, the surrounding community, duties driving the commanding officer, accidents, recreation and liberty, and Disneyland; briefly recalls the Cuban Missile Crisis and its effect on El Toro; reflects on the Watts Riots; shares about deployment to Okinawa, Japan, recalling duties and interactions with locals; comments on El Toro’s closure.

OH 4615

Narrator: Reid, Phyllis (b. 1931)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: "An Oral History with Phyllis Reid"
Date: February 25, 2011
Language: English
Location: Laguna Woods, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 29 pages

This oral history spans 1931-2010. Bulk dates: 1952-1980.

An oral history with Phyllis Reid, resident of Laguna Woods, California, longtime resident of Orange County, California, and wife of retired colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Bob Reid. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Reid's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Tustin, California, during the Depression, remembering her father worked for the Irvine Company; talks about prewar Southern California, speaking about the Red Car and the beaches; shares memories of World War II, talking about Pearl Harbor, her brother's enlistment in the United States Navy, Japanese American internment, and a POW Camp near Santa Ana, California; tells about attending Santa Ana High School and Santa Ana College; shares about meeting her husband, Bob, at Santa Ana College, marrying in 1949, and transferring to San Diego State University; remembers that her husband joined the USMC during the Korean War, attending Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia, and flight school in Pensacola, Florida; shares about giving birth to her oldest son at the Corona Naval Hospital; tells about moving to Hawaii for duty, remembering taking a cruise ship; comments on her husband's deployment during the Vietnam War, speaking about his missions, and public sentiment; speaks about working on the draft board in Orange County, California, during the Vietnam War; shares about life at El Toro, living in Tustin, and visiting Disneyland; talks about her duties in the Officers' Wives Club and as the wife of the commanding officer at El Toro, speaking about fundraising, socializing, and comforting Marine wives; briefly reflects on her husband's decision to retire; comments on El Toro's closure.

OH 4616

Narrator: Cavallio, John (b. 1927)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: “An Oral History with John Cavallio”
Date: January 23, 2011
Language: English
Location: Perry Hall, Maryland
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 40 pages

This oral history spans 1927-2011. Bulk dates: 1946-1950.

An oral history with John Cavallio, resident of Perry Hall, Maryland, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Cavallio’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Maryland as the son of Italian immigrants, remembering hard work; shares memories of joining the Merchant Marines during World War II, detailing traveling during wartime, including enemy encounters at sea, as well as working with German prisoners of war; tells about leaving the Merchant Marines and joining the USMC in 1946, talking about his brother’s service in World War II, as well as boot camp experiences; tells about attending school for aviation mechanics; talks about time at El Toro, speaking about travelling to the base, duties as a fighter mechanic and crew chief, recreation, visiting Hollywood and Mexico, the surrounding area, the Leatherneck Club, and transportation on base; comments on camaraderie in the USMC; shares about different flights and air fields; details sustaining injuries in the USMC, including perforating his eardrum while at El Toro; talks about being discharged from the USMC and joining the USMC Reserves, speaking about leaving the Reserves before the Korean War; compares tolerance of ethnic and educational differences in Maryland and the USMC; discusses transitioning to civilian life, speaking about working as a firefighter.

OH 4617

Narrator: Barclay, Lawrence (b. 1942)
Interviewer: Ryan Russell Hunt
Title: “An Oral History with Lawrence Barclay”
Date: January 23, 2011
Language: English
Location: Wilmington, Delaware
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 34 pages

This oral history spans 1942-2011. Bulk dates: 1960-1964.

An oral history with Lawrence Barclay, resident of Wilmington, Delaware, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Barclay’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Perryville, Maryland, talking about his family; tells about joining the USMC, sharing about recruitment, and boot camp experiences in Parris Island, North Carolina; talks about life at El Toro beginning in 1961, speaking about expectations of Southern California, duties in aircraft maintenance, base camaraderie, recreation, amenities, barracks, the beaches, the Southern California food industry, and the surrounding area; briefly speaks about his family life, telling about his marriage and divorce; compares ethnic diversity in the USMC with discrimination he witnessed in the South; remembers the Cuban Missile Crisis, speaking about military preparedness; shares memories of President Kennedy, remembering his campaign and assassination; reflects upon his time in the USMC, wishing he had followed a military career path.

OH 4618

Narrator: Dearing, Earl (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: "An Oral History with Earl Dearing"
Date: March 4, 2011
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 42 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2011. Bulk dates: 1951-1973.

An oral history with Earl Dearing, resident of Westminster, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Dearing's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Washington, D.C., and New York City, New York, recalling World War II and Pearl Harbor; tells about dropping out of high school to work for Mann's Potato Chip Company; shares about joining the USMC at seventeen, speaking about boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina; talks about life at El Toro, remembering first impressions, the weather, duties as a guard and aircraft mechanic, the surrounding area, the Tail of the Bull Bar, as well as recreation and entertainment; comments on race relations at El Toro and the surrounding community; recalls segregation in Jacksonville, Florida, speaking about black and white Enlisted Clubs; talks about deployment during the Korean War, remembering aircraft and losing pilots; speaks about his wife and family, sharing about moves and overseas deployments; briefly recalls being in the color guard for Los Angeles Rams games; comments on the Civil Rights Movement, remembering discrimination and unrest; talks about serving two tours during the Vietnam War, speaking about duties, aircraft, and his son's experiences in the United States Army; shares opinions on war; tells about retiring from the USMC in 1973, speaking about using the G.I. Bill to attend California State University, Fullerton; briefly shares about working with the Orange County Fair Housing Council and the NAACP; comments on growth and changes at El Toro and in Orange County, California.

OH 4619

Narrator: Galkin, Julie (b. 1948)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Julie Galkin"
Date: March 9, 2011
Language: English
Location: Lake Forest, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 40 pages

This oral history spans 1948-2011. Bulk dates: 1950-1960s.

An oral history with Julie Galkin, resident of Lake Forest, California, and daughter of retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), David Gaylord (OH 3569). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Galkin's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about being born in Tsingtao, China, speaking about a Communist takeover of the American base; talks about growing up as a USMC dependent, recalling moving often and living on bases; speaks about her parents' divorce and remaining in her father's custody in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; shares about time at El Toro, remembering the cross country drive, first impressions, the surrounding area, housing at Wherry Park, sports and recreation, the movie theater and chapel on base, crashes near Wherry Park, the PX and the ceramics shop, running behind the DDT truck, and medical facilities; comments on the Vietnam War, recalling her boyfriend's death, and her brother's service; tells about working at the Patio Pantry Restaurant in Newport Beach, California, where her father met her stepmother, and where she met her husband, Dan; comments on growth and changes in Orange County, California; speaks about visiting El Toro after its closure, relating her sadness, and its impact on the community.

OH 4620.1

Narrator: Thatcher, Stephen (b. 1945)
Interviewer: Scott Thompson
Title: "An Oral History with Stephen Thatcher"
Date: February 18, 2011
Language: English
Location: California State University, Fullerton, Pollak Library
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans 1920s-2011. Bulk dates: 1940s, 1960s.

An oral history with Stephen Thatcher, resident of Buena Park, California, longtime resident of Orange County, California, and former member of the United States Navy. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Thatcher's experiences at and around El Toro and the Lighter-than-Air (LTA) Base. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Newport Beach, California, talking about the Balboa Island Ferry, and the development of real estate in the area; tells about a familial tradition of military service, speaking about his father's service in the United States Navy before and during World War II, as well as his memories of Pearl Harbor; briefly recalls LTA in the postwar years; shares about visiting Disneyland; comments on the Cold War in Orange County; talks about joining the United States Navy in 1963 to avoid the draft, becoming a quartermaster; talks about being stationed at LTA, briefly speaking about barracks and other facilities, as well as interacting with civilians; briefly shares memories of the Cuban Missile Crisis, preparing for an invasion of Cuba; speaks about attending California State University, Fullerton, briefly telling about campus changes; briefly discusses the Watts Riots; comments on the Vietnam War, speaking about politics and public sentiment, being exposed to Agent Orange, duties and recreation, and repressing memories; shares about his careers after leaving the Navy, working at North American Rockwell and Boeing, as a city manager, as well as teaching at institutions like California State University, Long Beach; shares memories of the Space Shuttle Challenger Disaster.

OH 4620.2

Narrator: Thatcher, Stephen (b. 1945)
Interviewer: Scott Thompson
Title: "A Second Oral History with Stephen Thatcher"
Date: August 18, 2011
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 22 pages

This oral history spans 1945-2011. Bulk dates: 1940s-1970s.

A second oral history with Stephen Thatcher, resident of Buena Park, California. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Thatcher's experiences growing up in Orange County. Specifically, this interview talks about his parents employment and longtime family heritage in Newport Beach; impact of tourists on local economy and the development of greater Newport Beach area; local transportation (Red Car) and businesses; shares about father's Naval service and how his parents met; remembers well known Newport Beach residents, including John Wayne; relationship with the local American Legion chapter and talks about how the community accepted the Marine presence; remembers working for Newport Beach "Street Department" and local movie theaters; development of freeway system; political attitudes and changes in Orange County, including McCarthyism and the John Birch Society; describes community reaction to Kennedy-Nixon debate.

OH 4621

Narrator: DeWeese, Chris (b. 1948)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Chris DeWeese"
Date: March 21, 2011
Language: English
Location: Avila Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 49 pages

This oral history spans 1948-2011. Bulk dates: 1948-2011.

An oral history with Chris DeWeese, resident of Avila Beach, California, and daughter of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding DeWeese's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up as a USMC dependent, speaking about moving often, base housing, making new friends, and expectations for dependents; speaks about her parents' backgrounds, discussing a tradition of military service in both families; comments on the Vietnam War, speaking about her father and brother's service, her father's departure, politics and public sentiment, separation and communication, and posttraumatic stress disorder; comments on the camaraderie among USMC wives; shares about her early interest in journalism; talks about life at El Toro, speaking about housing on and off base, the surrounding area, attending Tustin High School, as well as base recreation and entertainment; remembers her parents entertaining often, recalling parties at home, as well as the Marine Corps Birthday Ball; comments on rank in the USMC, saying it also affected relationships among dependents; reflects on her time living in Washington, D.C.; discusses her education, attending Pennsylvania State University and Louisiana State University at her father's request; shares memories of the Cold War and President Kennedy's assassination; expresses opinions on how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4622

Narrator: Hoey, Dorothy “Dottie” (1921-2011)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Dorothy ‘Dottie’ Hoey”
Date: March 22, 2011
Language: English
Location: Santa Maria, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 41 pages

This oral history spans 1921-2011. Bulk dates: 1921-2011.

An oral history with Dorothy Hoey, resident of Santa Maria, California, and divorced spouse of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Hoey’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Ohio and New York, speaking about her parents and grandparents; details her dance career, speaking about training, employment, as well as working in Hollywood films and at the World’s Fair in San Francisco, California, in 1939; shares memories of World War II, remembering international news, Pearl Harbor, dancing in USO shows, and later learning about concentration camps in Europe; tells about her service during World War II, joining the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) Program and training in Sweetwater, Texas, then joining the United States Navy and becoming a link trainer; discusses meeting her first husband, Ray Dormandy, a Marine pilot; shares about life at El Toro, base housing, driving around base, the surrounding community, and entertainment; comments on being a USMC wife, speaking about the culture of alcohol; talks about growth and changes in Orange County, California; tells about her employment with Emergency Services after leaving USMC life.

OH 4623

Narrator: DeFilippi, Aldo (b. 1949)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Aldo DeFilippi"
Date: March 22, 2011
Language: English
Location: Vandenberg Air Force Base, Lompoc, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 32 pages

This oral history spans 1949-2011. Bulk dates: 1967-1971.

An oral history with Aldo DeFilippi, resident of Lompoc, California, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and current employee of the Department of Defense. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding DeFilippi's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about moving back and forth between New Jersey and Italy while growing up, speaking about a difficult relationship with his father; shares about his decision to join the USMC, talking about patriotism and moving away from home; reflects on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy; tells about boot camp experiences in Parris Island, North Carolina; speaks about wanting to be a gunner on a helicopter, but training to become an air traffic controller in Glencoe, Georgia; shares about life at El Toro, describing runway configurations, aircraft on the base, liberty, and an average day; details duties as an air traffic controller, commenting on rank and certification, different landing and takeoff scenarios, flight patterns, and accidents; briefly comments on the Vietnam War, speaking about public sentiment; talks about President Richard Nixon landing at El Toro, recalling an incident of communications failure with Air Force One; shares opinions on war and military service; speaks about growth and changes in Orange County, California.

OH 4624

Narrator: Perriguet, Charles (b. 1945-2011)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Charles Perriguet"
Date: March 23, 2011
Language: English
Location: Nipomo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 45 pages

This oral history spans 1945-2010. Bulk dates: 1960s-1980s.

An oral history with Charles Perriguet, resident of Nipomo, California, former member of the Los Angeles Police Department, and former lieutenant colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Reserves. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Perriguet's experiences at and around El Toro and MCAS Tustin. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Southern California, speaking about his adoptive family and his education; tells about attending California State University, Los Angeles and East Los Angeles College, receiving draft notices and joining the USMC; shares about enlistment and boot camp experiences, speaking about training; talks about ECP (Enlistment Commissioning Program) and being commissioned in the USMC; speaks about flight training in Florida, flying airplanes and helicopters, as well as escorting Miss Peru at the Miss Universe Pageant; shares extensively about deployment during the Vietnam War, telling about missions and training, equipment, food, recreation, fellow Marines, interacting with locals, accidents and fatalities, politics and public sentiment, making the ten thousandth landing on a floating hospital, as well as earning accolades; tells about life at Tustin, working as a wing personnel services officer and scouting Southern California for recreational activities for Marines; shares about life at El Toro, speaking about living in Tustin, recreation, and food; comments on the camaraderie in the USMC, sharing stories about friends and fellow Marines; tells about leaving the USMC in 1988; talks about career with the Los Angeles Police Department in police aviation, speaking about leadership, fellow pilots, equipment, and duties; comments on El Toro and Tustin's impact on Orange County, California.

OH 4625

Narrator: Shelton, James (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Andy Olea
Title: “An Oral History with James Shelton”
Date: March 23, 2011
Language: English
Location: Laguna Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 38 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2011. Bulk dates: 1957-1977.

An oral history with James Shelton, resident of Laguna Beach, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Shelton’s experiences at and around El Toro and MCAS Tustin, or the Lighter-than-Air Base (LTA). This interview includes discussion about growing up during the Depression in North Carolina, talking about his parents’ restaurant business and his education; briefly tells about a familial tradition of military service; talks about studying at Davidson College in North Carolina, joining the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) and attending Marine Corps Platoon Leaders’ Program in the summer; briefly speaks about taking a commission in the USMC after college and going to flight school; tells about life at LTA, remembering the large hangars and helicopters, pigeons, noise complaints and community relations, downsizing during the Vietnam War, remembering friends, local agriculture and weather, flight patterns, and becoming the executive officer; shares about deployment during the Vietnam War, speaking about missions and helicopters, losing friends, the Vietnam War Memorial, as well as working with and evacuating Vietnamese nationals; comments on the similarities and differences between LTA and El Toro, talking about helicopters and jets; shares about life at El Toro, speaking about being a community liaison, flight patterns, community planning and working with local officials, housing expansion, Navy Relief and air shows, and crashes; discusses different helicopters he has flown; comments on changes and developments in Orange County, California, talking about housing growth; shares about his family, talking about communicating during deployments, as well as moving often; recalls an assignment with the President Richard Nixon’s presidential flight force, as well as on the Mercury Project; discusses transitioning to civilian life; comments on El Toro’s closure, speaking about its legacy and the Orange County Great Park.

OH 4626

Narrator: Gutierrez, Juan (b. 1938)
Interviewer: Andy F. Olea
Title: "An Oral History with Juan Gutierrez"
Date: May 9, 2011
Language: English
Location: Baldwin Park, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 58 pages

This oral history spans 1938-2011. Bulk dates: 1956-1960.

An oral history with Juan Gutierrez, resident of Baldwin Park, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Gutierrez's experiences at and around El Toro and MCAS Tustin. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Wisconsin and Texas, speaking about his parents and attending segregated schools; briefly recalls a familial tradition of military service; tells about enlisting in the USMC, as well as boot camp experiences in San Diego, California; talks about attending United Service Organization (USO) functions while in the USMC; tells about life at MCAS Tustin, working in the motor pool and radar control, the machine shop and equipment, the mess hall, a typical day on base, interacting with Lee Harvey Oswald, housing, the Noncommissioned Officers' Club (NCO), friends and alcohol, fights and pranks, and a Blue Angels show that incorporated the large hangars; remembers going to El Toro for his separation process, as well as a hospital stay; shares opinions about President Kennedy's assassination, believing in Lee Harvey Oswald's innocence; talks about his deployment to Japan, speaking about liberty, including climbing Mt. Fuji; comments on race relations and homosexuality in the USMC; tells about his nephew, a pilot in the United States Air Force; comments on changes and developments in Orange County, California, frequenting midcentury Santa Ana and Tustin; shares about preparing for a military intervention in Lebanon; discusses the closure of El Toro and MCAS Tustin, speaking about their amenities and legacies; reflects on the role of the USMC in his life.

OH 4627

Narrator: Mandis, George (b. 1949)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with George Mandis"
Date: May 18, 2011
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 31 pages

This oral history spans 1949-2011. Bulk dates: 1974-1998.

An oral history with George Mandis, resident of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), which took place during the Marine Corps Aviation Association Reunion in San Diego, California. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Mandis' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Indiana, speaking about his parents and education; briefly talks about attending Indiana University, Bloomington; recalls his father's military service in World War II, speaking about his duties in criminal investigation; discusses the Vietnam War, registering for the draft, losing friends, and following media coverage; talks about joining the USMC, speaking about his decision, as well as working with a recruiter; tells about experiences in Officer Candidate School (OCS), remembering instructors, training, and an injury; briefly discusses his interest in athletics, becoming the company pugil stick champion at OCS; describes training and experiences with Marine Air Support; recalls joining a Navy cruise to Australia, telling about crossing the equator, and interacting with locals; speaks about deployment to Okinawa, Japan; talks about life at El Toro, speaking about meeting and marrying his wife, liberty, local agriculture, the surrounding community, community relations, civilian employees, an average day, population of the base, the Officers' Club, amenities, as well as camaraderie and antics; speaks about his wife, Bonnie, her education, family, and life as a Marine wife; comments on women and diversity in the USMC; talks about transitioning to civilian life, continuing to work with the military and government; comments on El Toro's closure, speaking about its effect on Orange County, California.

OH 4628

Narrator: Elliott, Richard (b. 1957)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Richard Elliott"
Date: May 19, 2011
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 22 pages

This oral history spans 1957-2011. Bulk dates: 1975-1984.

An oral history with Richard Elliott, resident of Crestview, Florida, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), which took place during the Marine Corps Aviation Association Reunion in San Diego, California. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Elliott's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of childhood experiences growing up in Oakland, California, parents' divorce, and the decision to leave home at the age of thirteen; talks about the influence of his grandfather, a World War II aviator and flight instructor, on his life and love of airplanes; explains rationale for joining the Marine Corps; describes boot camp experience in San Diego; outlines educational background including current enrollment at Embrey-Riddle Aeronautical University; shares stories of everyday life at El Toro including the base chapel, chow hall, duty as drill instructors "king rat", barracks NCO duty, work as an engine mechanic in VMFAT-501, working as a part-time waiter at Coco's restaurant in Orange; comments on the community reaction to El Toro Marines, the base, and noise issues; recalls transfer to power plant school in Memphis and training on various jet engines; briefly talks about first marriage and divorce; fondly remembers reenlistment aboard the USS *Arizona* Memorial in Hawaii; discusses his second tour at El Toro and watching the F-4s leave the base and the arrival of F-18s; explains decision to leave the Marine Corps and the difficult transition to civilian life; summarizes career after leaving the Marine Corps including his current job as field engineer for Pratt-Whitney; talks about second marriage and current family life; shares his thoughts on women in the military; and finally, comments on how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4629

Narrator: Ewers, Norman (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Norman Ewers"
Date: May 20, 2011
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 23 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2011. Bulk dates: 1942-1960s.

An oral history with Norman Ewers, resident of Irvine, California, retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and father of retired member of the USMC, Richard Ewers (OH 4831), which took place during the Marine Corps Aviation Association Reunion in San Diego, California. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Ewers' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Los Angeles and Southern California, speaking about his parents, schools, dancing, and the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake; briefly shares about meeting his future wife, Susan, in high school; tells about attending Occidental College in Los Angeles, later returning as part of the USMC Bootstrap Program; talks about joining the United States Navy, speaking about recruitment, interest in aviation, the V-5 Program, and joining the USMC; shares about flight training, speaking about jets and helicopters, challenges and collisions, as well as maneuvers; tells about memories of World War II, talking about R&R in Australia, maneuvers and rescue missions, V-J Day, as well as flying a plane from Cherry Point, North Carolina, to the Solomon Islands; discusses accepting a regular commission with the USMC; tells about life at El Toro, speaking about landing practice and gunnery maneuvers in Southern California, NAMAR housing, and the surrounding community; shares about deployment during the Korean War, speaking about flying helicopters and memorable missions; briefly comments on the lives of Marine wives; tells about accompanied tour to Japan; discusses the Vietnam War, telling about training Republic of Vietnam forces with the Shufly Program; talks about working in civil aviation, as well as involvement in debates about John Wayne Airport and El Toro; briefly comments on race relations and women in the USMC; tells about his son and grandson's careers in the USMC; comments on growth and development in Orange County, California.

OH 4630

Narrator: Wilcox, Kenneth (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: “An Oral History with Kenneth Wilcox”
Date: May 20, 2011
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: service copy; 28 pages
completed; 27 pages

This oral history spans 1929-2011. Bulk dates: 1952-1982.

An oral history with Kenneth Wilcox, resident of Crossville, Tennessee, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), which took place during the Marine Corps Aviation Association Reunion in San Diego, California. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Wilcox’s experiences at and around El Toro and MCAS Tustin. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Los Angeles, California, speaking about his parents’ businesses, sports interests, and education; briefly tells about attending Pomona College; shares memories of World War II, remembering Pearl Harbor; talks about joining the military as a Naval Aviation Cadet, speaking about training; shares about life at El Toro, speaking about the community and local agriculture, housing, recreation and liberty, local bars and Officers’ Club, car accidents, squadron 323, being the executive officer, and changes over time; talks about his duty stations, including Hawaii and Atsugi, Japan; comments on different USMC aircraft, explaining preferences and challenges; briefly shares about his relationship with flying ace Colonel Jack Conger; comments on his deployment during the Vietnam War, remembering politics and public sentiment, flying helicopters, missions and medevacs, injuries and deaths, communicating with his family, Vietnamese nationals, and the Fall of Saigon; shares about time at MCAS Tustin; remembers Reservists who worked civilian jobs in the seventies; speaks about the effect of the USMC on his family; comments on camaraderie and alcohol in the USMC; tells about transitioning to civilian life, working as a flight simulator instructor; comments on El Toro’s closure.

OH 4631

Narrator: Valenzuela, John (b. 1944)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with John Valenzuela"
Date: May 21, 2011
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1944-2011. Bulk dates: 1967-1975.

An oral history with John Valenzuela, resident of Oakdale, California, and retired lieutenant colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), which took place during the Marine Corps Aviation Association Reunion in San Diego, California. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Valenzuela's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview talks about his childhood and family background; explains why he joined the Marine Corps and initial training; describes flight training; recalls impressions of MCAS El Toro and other duty stations and talks about the surrounding communities; shares memories of post-USMC aviation career; and finally, discusses opinion of Orange County Great Park and how he would like the base to be remembered.

OH 4632

Narrator: Marshall, Norman (b. 1938)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Norman Marshall"
Date: May 21, 2011
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 24 pages

This oral history spans 1938-2011. Bulk dates: 1960-1990.

An oral history with Norman Marshall, resident of Mission Viejo, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), which took place during the Marine Corps Association Aviation Reunion in San Diego, California. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Marshall's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Texas, losing his father at a young age, as well as his education; shares about joining the USMC, speaking about his decision, recruitment, and training in Quantico, Virginia; tells about flight training in Pensacola, Florida; talks about multiple deployments during the Vietnam War, speaking about housing, airplanes and equipment, missions and duties, politics and public sentiment, interacting with civilians, working with the South Vietnamese military, as well as ordnance and chemicals; shares about life at El Toro, talking about the surrounding community and agriculture, housing, an average day, accidents, noise complaints, becoming inspector general, air shows, and interacting with MCAS Tustin; tells about meeting his current wife, a former USMC colonel, at Quantico; comments on race and gender in the USMC; discusses involvement with the 1984 and 1996 Olympics, as well as the West Coast World Cup Soccer, speaking about logistics and military support; reflects on the USMC's effect on his life; briefly mentions that his A-4 Skyhawk is on display at the Civic Center in Santa Ana, California.

OH 4633

Narrator: Herrington, Richard (b. 1946)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Richard Herrington"
Date: May 19, 2011
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 37 pages

This oral history spans 1946-2011. Bulk dates: 1965-1996.

An oral history with Richard Herrington, resident of Fairfax, Virginia, and retired colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), which took place during the Marine Corps Aviation Association Reunion in San Diego, California. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Herrington's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in California as the son of a Naval officer; shares about joining the USMC, recalling boot camp and flight training; tells about life at El Toro, talking about training and equipment, the Bootstrap Program, training and accidents, community interaction, noise complaints and flight patterns, local agriculture and the Santa Ana Winds, recreation and camaraderie, and suicide on the base; shares about experiences at duty stations such as Camp Pendleton, Miramar, and Yuma, speaking about flights and accidents, as well as recreation; discusses USMC administration, including General J.I. Hudson; comments on relations between the United States and Iran in the 1970s; talks about race, gender, and homosexuality in the USMC; discusses the relationship between enlisted Marines and officers; briefly speaks about his deployments during the Vietnam War.

OH 4634

Narrator: Campbell, Thomas H., III (b. 1972)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Thomas H. Campbell, III"
Date: May 19, 2011
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 37 pages

This oral history spans 1972-2011. Bulk dates: 1978-2011.

An oral history with Thomas H. Campbell, III, resident of Fairfax, Virginia, and current lieutenant colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), which took place during the Marine Aviation Reunion in San Diego, California. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Campbell's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up as a USMC dependent, briefly speaking about his father's aviation career; shares about early interest in aviation and the USMC; recalls joining the Naval ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) at the University of San Diego, as well as his USMC commission and flight training; discusses his father's philosophy about a career in the USMC; talks about growing up in Orange County, California, remembering schools, restaurants, MCAS Tustin, as well as air shows and memories of his father at El Toro; briefly comments on his deployments to Iraq; discusses becoming a helicopter pilot; speaks about different duty stations, including MCAS New River, North Carolina, discussing housing; comments on growth and development in Orange County; reflects on his service in the USMC; discusses El Toro's impact on Orange County.

OH 4635

Narrator: Van Dalsem, Robert (b. 1924)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Robert Van Dalsem”
Date: May 20, 2011
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 37 pages

This oral history spans 1924-2011. Bulk dates: 1946-1970.

An oral history with Robert Van Dalsem, resident of Loveland, Colorado. This interview is conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Val Dalsem’s experience in Orange County and El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Van Dalsem’s childhood and family life; why he entered the Navy V5 program and the United States Marine Corps; describes wartime service during WWII, Korea, and Vietnam; recalls tours at MCAS El Toro and the Lighter-than-Air base including blimp decommissioning, interaction with the surrounding community, and recreational activities; describes process of pre-fighting aircraft and importance of flight time; describes work with photo planes and squadron life, specifically about flight time in the Corsair; talks about USMC career post-Korea and training to drop atomic bombs; compares service in Korea vs. Vietnam; describes transition to civilian life; and finally, talks about how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4636

Narrator: Godfrey, Edward (b. 1924)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Edward Godfrey"
Date: May 20, 2011
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 33 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2011. Bulk dates: 1942-1971.

An oral history with Edward Godfrey, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), which took place at the Marine Corps Aviation Association Reunion in San Diego, California. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Godfrey's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Illinois, speaking about his parents, childhood antics, and an early interest in aviation; shares about a familial tradition of military service; talks about his lifelong passion for sports; tells about joining the V-5 Flight Training Program, speaking about training; shares about life at El Toro, discussing the local community, recreation, as well as maneuvers and training; talks about racing cars across the country; discusses crashes and deaths; shares about deployment to Japan and Vietnam, including bombing runs, carrier landings, and time in the Yellow Sea; tells about transitioning to civilian life, speaking about employment and time as a Reservist; shares about his children.

*narrator declined to state place of residence

OH 4637

Narrator: Johnson, Nancy (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Nancy Johnson"
Date: May 21, 2011
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 27 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2011. Bulk dates: 1956-1983.

An oral history with Nancy Johnson, resident of Alvord, Texas, and wife of former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Robert Johnson (OH 4638), which took place at the Marine Corps Aviation Association Reunion in San Diego, California. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Johnson's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Minnesota, speaking about her parents and German heritage, her education, moving for her father's job; tells about attending the University of Minnesota and meeting her husband, Robert; tells about working for Trans World Airlines as a flight attendant; talks about life at El Toro, including housing on and off the base; reminisces about the deaths of Marines; speaks about being a USMC wife, including deployments and homecomings; describes lifelong passion for cars; discusses how physical limitations affected her husband's military career; recalls deployments, including Scotland (RAF) and Hawaii; comments on the difference between ground and aviation Marines; discusses the impact of feminism in the USMC; shares stories about her children; speaks about camaraderie in the USMC.

OH 4638

Narrator: Johnson, Robert (b. 1935)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Robert Johnson"
Date: May 21, 2011
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 35 pages

This oral history spans 1940-2011. Bulk dates: 1950-1990.

An oral history with Robert Johnson, resident of Alvord, Texas, retired colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Nancy Johnson (OH 4637), which took place at the Marine Corps Aviation Association Reunion in San Diego, California. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Johnson's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Minnesota, recalling World War II and a love of aviation; tells about life at El Toro, speaking about training and maneuvers, housing, and socializing; discusses deployments and missions around the world, including the Philippines, Guantanamo Bay, Bay of Pigs, Vietnam, Japan, Taiwan, and Puerto Rico; shares about time during the Vietnam War, telling about ejecting from a plane in Chu Lai, combat and rescue missions, interacting with civilians and diplomats, and recovering remains from two Marble Mountain crashes; recalls working as an exchange pilot with the Royal Air Force in Scotland, Europe, and the Sahara Desert; comments on rank, camaraderie, and discipline in the USMC; speaks about relationships between military branches; tells about time at the University of Maryland, recalling anti-war protests; discusses career moves, including desire to be aide to the Secretary of Defense, and time with the Advanced Amphibious Study Group in the Straits of Hormuz; talks about post at Head Quarters Marine Corps; speaks about commands in Hawaii, Iwakuni, and Texas; shares about experience with fixed wing aircraft and helicopters; recalls time in CINCPAC (Commander in Chief, Pacific Command), and landing on the USS *Midway*; talks about transitioning to civilian life, speaking about volunteer work, veterans' groups, and flying; comments on El Toro's closure.

OH 4639

Narrator: Gary Spangle (b. 1951)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: "An Oral History with Gary Spangle"
Date: June 11, 2011
Language: English
Location: Bakersfield, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 46 pages

This oral history spans 1951-2011. Bulk dates: 1971-1979.

An oral history with Gary Spangle, resident of Bakersfield, California, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Joanne Spangle (OH 4640). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Spangle's experiences at and around El Toro and the Lighter-than-Air (LTA) Base. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Bakersfield; shares feelings about the Vietnam War, Cuban Missile Crisis, and assassination of President John F. Kennedy; recalls boot camp in San Diego; tells about duty at Lakehurst, New Jersey, speaking about weather, working on the flight line, and meeting his future wife; shares about duty at LTA, recalling the large hangars, as well as alcohol and socialization; tells about deployment to Okinawa, Japan, recalling duties, and leading human relations discussions about race; talks about life at El Toro, telling about working on the Visiting Aircraft Line (VAL Line), alcohol and socialization, Vietnamese refugees, working with Air Force One, President Richard Nixon's last flight into El Toro, crashes and search and rescue missions, the local community, and air shows involving the Blue Angels; reminisces about his father-in-law and fellow Marine, Gunny Albert Baché; speaks about leaving the USMC, discussing transitioning to civilian life and joining the USMC Reserves in Bakersfield; comments on camaraderie in the USMC and desire to regain contact with friends.

OH 4640

Narrator: Spangle, Joanne (b. 1953)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Joanne Spangle”
Date: June 11, 2011
Language: English
Location: Bakersfield, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages

This oral history spans 1953-2006. Bulk dates: 1960-1980s.

An oral history with Joanne Spangle, resident of Bakersfield, California, daughter of Gunnery Sergeant Albert “Pappy” Baché, and wife of former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Gary Spangle (OH 4639). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Spangle’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about her father’s career and growing up as a USMC dependent, speaking about moving often, making new friends, and separation; shares memories of the Vietnam War, speaking about her brother being drafted into the United States Army, communicating with her father via cassette, as well as politics and public sentiment; comments on alcohol usage in the USMC; shares about life at El Toro and MCAS Tustin, telling about buildings and clubs, the local community and recreation, Disneyland, working at the dispensary and at the Staff Club, and poor medical treatment in the sixties; discusses her parents’ marriage, speaking about her mother’s alcoholism; revisits grief over the assassination of President John F. Kennedy; recalls going to see Robert F. Kennedy give a speech at Bolsa High School just days before his assassination; tells about getting married at the chapel at El Toro and having a reception at the Staff Club; shares about assembling early microchips in an Orange County factory; comments on low salaries in the USMC and the need for her father and husband to work two jobs to support their families; discusses her desire for her grandson not to join the military; comments on the closure of MCAS El Toro and Tustin.

OH 4641

Narrator: St. John Suzanne (b. 1951)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: “An Oral History with Suzanne St. John”
Date: June 23, 2011
Language: English
Location: Huntington Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 25 pages

This oral history spans 1951-2011. Bulk dates: 1951-1972.

An oral history with Suzanne St. John, resident of Huntington Beach, California, longtime resident of Orange County, California, former United States Marine Corps (USMC) dependent and divorced spouse of a former member of the USMC. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding St. John’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about her parents’ backgrounds; details her father’s USMC career, including his deployment to Korea and his time at El Toro, as well as his career with Douglas Aircraft, designing the Playboy Airplane; speaks about her mother’s job as an office manager and secretary for St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach, California; discusses growing up in Newport Beach, speaking about schools, beaches, Disneyland and Knott’s Berry Farm, movie filming, local businesses, and visiting Los Angeles; details spending time at El Toro, working at the snack bar in the C-130 hangars and attending dances at the Enlisted Club; comments on the 1960s and 1970s in Orange County, speaking about politics and public sentiment, the hippie movement, popular culture, and commercial growth; discusses growth and change in Orange County; tells about meeting and courting her ex-husband, an El Toro Marine; comments on El Toro’s closure.

OH 4642

Narrator: Beach, William (1921-2012)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: "An Oral History with William Beach"
Date: June 25, 2011
Language: English
Location: Oceanside, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 44 pages

This oral history spans 1921-2011. Bulk dates: 1942-1972.

An oral history with William Beach, resident of Oceanside, California, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Anita Beach (OH 4648). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Beach's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in Texas during the Depression, remembering his father's work as a sharecropper; shares memories of Pearl Harbor; tells about joining the United States Army, attending flight school, and joining the USMC; describes El Toro, speaking about the community, recreation, housing, training, flagpole placement, and playing baseball; tells about deployment to the Marshall Islands during World War II, flying combat missions; describes working with the ground-controlled approach (GCA) system; shares about marriage and family, telling about growing up with his future wife; shares about deployments during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, talking about missions and targets, death and casualties, working as a division officer, and being separated from his family; comments on transitioning to civilian life, recalling his retirement ceremony at El Toro, and working on parades and events such as the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the World's Fair in New Orleans, Louisiana; comments on El Toro's closure.

OH 4643

Narrator: Butsch, George “Ed” (b. 1943)
Interviewer: Ryan Russel Hunt
Title: “An Oral History with George ‘Ed’ Butsch”
Date: June 30, 2011
Language: English
Location: Tustin, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans 1890s-2011. Bulk dates: 1960-1964.

An oral history with George “Ed” Butsch, resident of Tustin, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Butsch’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Indianapolis, Indiana, speaking about his mother, father, and stepfather; tells about a familial tradition of military service; talks about joining the USMC at seventeen and attending boot camp in San Diego, California; tells about life at El Toro, talking about working in the electric shop, antics and on base, Women Marines and sexual exploits, shooting pigeons, and the surrounding community; recalls working in avionics in Memphis, Tennessee, and Jacksonville, Florida, speaking about segregation; recalls being deployed to Florida during the Cuban Missile Crisis; shares about deployment to South Asia during the Vietnam War, telling about working with CIA and civil air transport in Thailand, bailing out of a plane in hostile territory, and being wounded; tells about leaving active duty in 1964; comments on El Toro’s relationship with the community; speaks about attending Purdue University later in life, receiving degrees in engineering; shares views on war and patriotism; comments on growth and change in Orange County, California; discusses El Toro’s closure and future as the Orange County Great Park.

OH 4644

Narrator: Ruiz, Robert (b. 1922)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: "An Oral History with Robert Ruiz"
Date: July 1, 2011
Language: English
Location: Dana Point, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 35 pages

This oral history spans 1922-2011. Bulk dates: 1941-1945.

An oral history with Robert Ruiz, resident of Dana Point, California, former member of the United States Air Force, and current volunteer at the Orange County Great Park. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Ruiz's experiences at and around Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in La Jolla, California, his education and interest in sports, as well as his parents' Mexican heritage and immigration to the United States; comments on prejudice in La Jolla and the military; shares memories of Pearl Harbor; talks about boot camp and training, earning his wings and flying different aircraft; details missions in Germany during World War II, speaking about dangerous situations; briefly recalls Zoot Suit Riots; discusses transitioning to civilian life, attending San Diego State University and managing factories; shares about meeting and marrying his wife, Gloria; tells about attending military and civilian reunions.

OH 4645

Narrator: Lakin, Thomas (b. 1943)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: "An Oral History with Thomas Lakin"
Date: July 7, 2011
Language: English
Location: Downey, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 46 pages

This oral history spans 1943-2011. Bulk dates: 1960-1982.

An oral history with Thomas Lakin, resident of Downey, California. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Lakin's experience in Orange County and El Toro. Specifically this interview discusses Lakin's childhood and education; early memories of the USMC; life in the Marine Corps including: boot camp, Vietnam, and opinion about Marine Corps training; speaks about medals and commendations; recalls camaraderie with fellow Marines; describes duty as parachute rigger and life off base; details living in Japan and Japanese customs; shares about personal life and post-USMC careers and education; shares about working at LTA; describes working as military career planner; and finally shares feelings on the Orange County Great Park.

OH 4646

Narrator: Sfreddo, Collette (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Collette Sfreddo"
Date: July 11, 2011
Language: English
Location: Irvine, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 21 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2011. Bulk dates: 1957-1975.

An oral history with Collette Sfreddo, resident of Irvine, California, and wife of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Sfreddo's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Minneapolis, Minnesota, talking about her parents' divorce, Catholic education, and working at a young age; describes college education; tells about meeting her future husband while staying with friends at El Toro; talks about life as a Marine wife, speaking about expectations and duties, camaraderie among wives, entertaining, and dealing with deployments; shares about moving to locations such as Hawaii and Kingsville, Texas; comments on medical facilities in the USMC, telling about the birth of her children; talks about life at El Toro, speaking about the commissary and PX, housing, schools, and the surrounding community; remembers transition to civilian life; shares disappointment at the closure of the base.

OH 4647

Narrator: Zelko, John (b. 1924)
Interviewer: Andy Olea
Title: "An Oral History with John Zelko"
Date: July 15, 2011
Language: English
Location: San Juan Capistrano, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1924-2011. Bulk dates: 1940s.

An oral history with John Zelko, resident of San Juan Capistrano, California, former Orange County, California, police officer, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Zelko's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Cleveland, Ohio, speaking about his Yugoslavian parents, childhood aspirations, and the family home; shares about joining the USMC during World War II, attending boot camp at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and then San Diego, California, speaking about chickenpox, the train ride, rifle training, as well as authority and antics; tells about life at El Toro, talking about duties as a shore patrolman, the mess hall and medical facilities, entertainers like Bob Hope, liberty and drinking, camaraderie, the surrounding community, and the base chapel; talks about being a police officer in Orange County, speaking about military and civilian training; shares opinions on war, talking about youth and death; comments on change and development in Orange County, speaking about population and housing growth, as well as freeway expansion; briefly tells about living in a retirement community; comments on El Toro's closure, speaking about its legacy.

OH 4648

Narrator: Beach, Anita (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: "An Oral History with Anita Beach"
Date: July 23, 2011
Language: English
Location: Oceanside, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 35 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2011. Bulk dates: 1945-1972.

An oral history with Anita Beach, resident of Oceanside, California, and wife of former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), William Beach (OH 4642). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Beach's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Westphalia, Texas, speaking about the local area and crops, as well as her father's position as a country doctor; shares memories of World War II on the homefront, discussing working at Bergstrom Air Force Base; tells about meeting her husband as a child; talks about the different bases at which she lived, including Cherry Point, North Carolina; speaks about life at El Toro, telling about housing and the local community, schools, as well as family recreation and entertainment; comments on medical care in the USMC, talking about the birth of her children; shares memories of her husband's deployments during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, speaking about separation and personal strength, as well as politics and public sentiment; recalls the Cuban Missile Crisis, telling about her husband's preparation for deployment; shares opinions on politics and immigration patterns in Orange County, California; discusses her son's service in the USMC; speaks about her husband's health problems and transition to civilian life; recalls her husband's involvement in installing a large flagpole at El Toro; comments on growth and change in Orange County; discusses El Toro's closure.

OH 4649

Narrator: Franklin, Donald (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Daniel Hilger
Title: "An Oral History with Donald Franklin"
Date: July 28, 2011
Language: English
Location: Mr. Franklin's office in Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2011. Bulk dates: 1956-1960.

An oral history with Donald Franklin, resident of Santa Ana, California and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. Specifically, this interview provides a brief discussion of his childhood and explains rationale for joining the Marine Corps; describes training experiences in the Naval ROTC and Basic School; talks about flight training and why he enjoyed aviation; recalls transfer to MCAS El Toro and assignment to VMF(AW)-115; describes first impressions of Southern California and life at El Toro including: availability of off base housing, base sponsored social occasions, and interaction with the local community; talks about dangers of flying the F4D and resulting fatalities and reminisces about his squadron mates; describes overseas deployments including Taiwan and Atsugi including: visit from his wife; describes transition to civilian life and his post-USMC career in real estate; addresses long term changes in Orange County and real estate including: elimination of deed restrictions and block busting; ethnic diversity; and finally, talks about how his time in the Marine Corps influenced his view of war.

OH 4650

Narrator: Jackson, Gordon (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Ryan Russell Hunt
Title: “An Oral History with Gordon Jackson”
Date: June 27, 2011
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 34 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2011. Bulk dates: 1942-1964.

An oral history with Gordon Jackson, resident of Santa Ana, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Jackson’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Southern California, speaking about the Depression, his family, as well as working in construction and oil; shares memories of Pearl Harbor; tells about enlisting in the United States Navy’s V-5 Program, talking about training; discusses experiences during World War II, speaking about his brother’s death, missions and flying, the Battle of Okinawa, as well as public sentiment about Japanese and Japanese Americans; speaks about meeting and marrying his wife; tells about life at El Toro, remembering the local area, housing on and off base, duties as a legal officer, flying and training; shares about deployments to Atsugi, Japan, and Korea; recalls accidents, telling about flameouts, as well as the death of friends; discusses buying a home in Orange County, California; comments on growth and change in Orange County; shares about the effects of a USMC career on his family; comments on El Toro’s closure.

OH 4651

Narrator: Falconbury, Carnett (b. 1928)
Interviewer: Jay Buteyn
Title: "An Oral History with Carnett Falconbury"
Date: June 29, 2011
Language: English
Location: Portland, Oregon
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 37 pages

This oral history spans 1928-2011. Bulk dates: 1940s-1950s.

An oral history with Carnett Falconbury, resident of Portland, Oregon, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of former member of the USMC, Ruth Falconbury (OH 4652). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Falconbury's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in Kentucky, speaking about his family, as well as hunting and field work; shares memories of Pearl Harbor and World War II, recalling moving to Oregon for his parents' work in shipyards, as well as joining the Oregon National Guard and the Merchant Marines; recalls joining the USMC after World War II; speaks about boot camp in San Diego, California, telling about training, duties and instructors, and the racial breakdown of the group; discusses life at El Toro, remembering duties, food, liberty and recreation, the surrounding community and local law enforcement, training on the rifle range, working at the Officers' Club, and meeting his wife on base; tells about attending aviation fundamental school in Jacksonville, Florida; details deployment to China in 1947, talking about MP (military police) duty, sabotage and theft, working with Chinese military and civilians, fighting between nationalists and communists, the multicultural atmosphere of Tsingtao, Chennault's Flying Tigers, as well as evacuation of the base and Marines who stayed in China; tells about time at Cherry Point, North Carolina, remembering driving the liberty bus and a forgetful Marine sergeant; shares about being recalled to the USMC during the Korean War; recounts stories about a hapless Marine trying to get kicked out of the USMC; tells about transitioning to civilian life, returning to the Northwest and attending school; comments on El Toro's closure.

OH 4652

Narrator: Falconbury, Ruth (b. 1928)
Interviewer: Jay Buteyn
Title: "An Oral History with Ruth Falconbury"
Date: June 28, 2011
Language: English
Location: Portland, Oregon
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 29 pages

This oral history spans 1928-2011. Bulk dates: 1950-1951.

An oral history with Ruth Falconbury, resident of Portland, Oregon, former member of the United States Marines Corps (USMC) Reserves, and wife of former member of the USMC, Carnett Falconbury (OH 4651). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Falconbury's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in the Bronx, New York; shares memories of Pearl Harbor and World War II, recalling that her sister joined the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service); discusses briefly working for companies such as the California Almond Growers' Exchange; describes joining the USMC Reserves in New York and being called to active duty during the Korean War; tells about boot camp experiences in Parris Island, South Carolina; shares about life at El Toro, speaking about working at the Officers' Club and the snack bar, interaction between male and female Marines, dating, race relations, interaction with civilians, interaction between ranks, the surrounding community, recreation and entertainment, as well as meeting and marrying her husband; talks about leaving the USMC and settling in Oregon; comments on El Toro's closure.

OH 4653

Narrator: Lawrence, John (b. 1925)
Interviewer: Jay Buteyn
Title: “An Oral History with John Lawrence”
Date: July 31, 2011
Language: English
Location: Bend, Oregon
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 25 pages

This oral history spans 1925-2011. Bulk dates: 1943-1970.

An oral history with John Lawrence, resident of Bend, Oregon, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Lawrence’s experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about his childhood memories growing up during the Depression; explains rationale for joining Marine Corps; describes boot camp experience in San Diego and subsequent training in Aviation Aerial Gunnery School; talks about service in the Pacific Theater during World War II as aircraft gunner and later, deployment to Korea; remembers his military discharge and why he reenlisted in the Marine Corps; describes tours at MCAS El Toro and how the base changed throughout the decades; discusses justification behind awarding wartime medals; how the community/law enforcement perceived local Marines; process of promotion within the Marine Corps; how military service affected his family; briefly discusses his transition to civilian career; and finally reflects on closing of the base and how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4654

Narrator: Gillon, Robert (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Robert Gillon"
Date: August 3, 2011
Language: English
Location: Orange, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2011. Bulk dates: 1952-1973.

An oral history with Robert Gillon, resident of Orange, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Gillon's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about an international upbringing, speaking about his father's job in the oil industry, as well as moving to the United States before World War II; shares memories of World War II, remembering Pearl Harbor; tells about joining the Naval Cadet Program, speaking about flight training; discusses deployment and missions during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, sharing about being separated from family and losing fellow Marines; recalls life at El Toro, talking about marrying in the base chapel, housing and churches, the surrounding area, the Officers' Club, race relations, attending Chapman University, accidents, Little League games, and being community liaison for the base; discusses transition to civilian life; comments on growth and change in Orange County, California.

OH 4775

Narrator: Kellenbarger, Patricia (b. 1937)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Patricia Kellenbarger"
Date: August 9, 2011
Language: English
Location: Escondido, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 36 pages

This oral history spans 1860s-2011. Bulk dates: 1958-2002.

An oral history with Patricia Kellenbarger, resident of Escondido, California, former Military Outreach Ministry (MOM) employee, and wife of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Kellenbarger's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up as the daughter of a Presbyterian minister in Long Beach, California; shares about attending Tarkio College, meeting her future husband, Charles; discusses her husband's family and background in Iowa; speaks about her husband's decision to join the USMC, recalling his training; comments on being a USMC wife, speaking about expectations and duties, helping with training, the Officers' Wives Club, moving often, and working as a teacher; discusses pre and postnatal care at USMC medical facilities; comments on exposure to segregation in Florida; briefly explains work with Navy Relief; details accident in which her husband was seriously injured, speaking about rehabilitation and housing; tells about the Vietnam War, talking about politics and public sentiment, communication and visits, as well as being on her own; details work with MOM in San Diego County, California, speaking about services and social groups, financial planning and loaning furniture, domestic violence, media attention from sources such as *20/20* and *Eye on America*, and working with Senator John McCain; speaks about her husband's assignment at El Toro, commuting from San Diego County, visiting for special events and staying in the BOQ (bachelor officer quarters), and the surrounding community; briefly comments on women in the USMC; shares about transitioning to civilian life; comments on El Toro's closure, speaking about politics and legacy.

OH 4776

Narrator: William Jeffrey (b.1935)
Interviewer: Daniel Hilger
Title: "An Oral History with William Jeffrey"
Date: August 2, 2011
Language: English
Location: La Quinta, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 22 pages

This oral history spans 1935-2011. Bulk dates: 1935-1970s.

An oral history with William Jeffrey, resident of La Quinta, California, and longtime resident of Orange County, California. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Jeffrey's experiences in Orange County and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Orange County during the Great Depression; describes the agricultural landscape surrounding his home in the Irvine area; remembers attending elementary school in Irvine; discusses his father's responsibilities as an air raid warden during World War II; recalls trips with his father to the El Toro General Store and the Union 76 gas station; speaks about the J and J Juice Company owned by his father and uncle; talks about going to spotting classes with his mother and learning to recognize World War II aircraft; recalls the blimps at LTA; describes numerous Marine aircraft crashes in the area surrounding the base; discusses workers on the family ranch; reminisces about his grandfather, George Jeffrey; describes lima bean farming on Irvine Company land; comments on the community's reaction to MCAS El Toro; speaks about serving on the local school board and the Irvine Water District board; discusses the problems associated with the growth of housing developments near MCAS El Toro; talks about his time in the Army Reserves; comments on Orange County's reaction to the Vietnam War; discusses President Lyndon Johnson's arrival at El Toro Marine Corps Air Station for the dedication ceremony of University of Irvine [UCI]; recalls attending the dedication of UCI with his son; comments on the growth of Orange County; discusses the closing of MCAS El Toro; and finally, expresses frustration over the difficulty in selling the family property in Irvine.

OH 4777

Narrator: Joseph Bobowski (b. 1919-2012)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Joseph Bobowski"
Date: August 12, 2011
Language: English
Location: Dearborn, Michigan
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 53 pages

This oral history spans 1919-2011. Bulk dates: 1940-1970.

An oral history with Joseph Bobowski, resident of Dearborn, Michigan, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Bobowski's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of childhood experiences growing up in Detroit, Michigan; recalls various jobs he held before World War II, including working as an apprentice in a tool and die shop; explains decision to join the Marine Corps; talks about several of his fellow Marines stricken with mental illness; outlines daily routine at El Toro working as a painter and drill press operator; comments on the interaction of Marines and civilians in Orange County; remembers visiting Yosemite National Park and other locales while stationed at El Toro; recalls seeing women Marines at El Toro; speaks about leaving the Marine Corps and moving back to Detroit; discusses career with Ford Motor Company; comments on working with immigrants in Detroit area; explains reason for visual impairment; discusses son's multiple sclerosis and death; remembers family vacations; comments on the importance of Catholicism; discusses ethnic changes in Detroit neighborhoods; recalls the 1967 Detroit riots; talks about participating in Memorial Day parades; and finally, reflects on attending ABG-2 reunions.

OH 4778

Narrator: D'Annunizio, Phillip (b. 1926)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Phillip D'Annunzio"
Date: August 12, 2011
Language: English
Location: Howell, Michigan
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 48 pages

This oral history spans 1926-2011. Bulk dates: 1943 to 1945.

An oral history with Phillip D'Annunzio, a resident of Howell, Michigan, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding D'Annunzio's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview includes discussion about his family background, parents martial relationship and why he spent part of his childhood in an orphanage; describes his father's struggle to care for family and employment during the Depression; talks about spending his adolescence in East Detroit and describes flavor of the "old" neighborhood; reminisces about boyhood dream of joining the military and rationale for choosing the Marine Corps; describes military training in boot camp including how recruits segregated themselves geographically and close relationships formed during training; recalls influential grade school encounter with German WWI pilot; describes memorable practice bombing runs and his near death training experiences; explains how Marines react to death; reminisces about his robust social life off base, including visits to the Hollywood Canteen and interaction with movie stars; remembers deployment to Pacific and his discharge/mustering out celebration; tells story of how he met his wife and humorous antidotes about his in laws; summarizes post-USMC employment history and job at General Motors; talks about how Detroit has changed through the years and memories of 1967 Detroit Riots; outlines the benefits of GI Bill and how they influenced his education; talks about the passing of his wife and his current relationship; and finally reflects on the importance of El Toro and the Marine Corps in his life.

OH 4779

Narrator: Barclay, Verna (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Verna Barclay"
Date: August 12, 2011
Language: English
Location: Grand Ledge, Michigan
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 29 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2011. Bulk dates: 1941-1946.

An oral history with Verna Barclay, resident of Grand Ledge, Michigan, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Women's Reserve, and wife of a former member of the USMC. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Barclay's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in Washington State during the Depression, her family, as well as her father's job with the Farm Security Administration (FSA); shares memories of Pearl Harbor and World War II, speaking about her brothers' service, as well as the homefront; tells about joining the USMC Women's Reserve in 1943; talks about boot camp at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, sharing training experiences, meeting new people, learning independence, and the train ride across the country; tells about transferring to Coronado in San Diego, California, speaking about going on liberty in the surrounding community, camaraderie, the train ride, meeting her future husband, and duties; talks about life at El Toro, discussing duties, marrying her husband, and living in a trailer in a Tustin, California, orange grove; tells about moving to Michigan, owning a farm and starting a family, as well as working part-time at the local library and post office; discusses keeping in touch with USMC friends; comments on women in the military, speaking about duties, expectations, and opportunities.

OH 4780

Narrator: Lema, Angelo (b. 1951)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Angelo Lema"
Date: August 13, 2011
Language: English
Location: St. Clair Shores, Michigan
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 59 pages

This oral history spans 1951-2011. Bulk dates: 1970-2011.

An oral history with Angela Lema, resident of St. Clair Shores, Michigan, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Lema's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically this interview includes discussion about Lema's Italian roots and childhood in Detroit, Michigan; shares history of family military service, including his father's involvement in World War II; describes father's employment in the union and encounters with union leader, Jimmy Hoffa; fondly recalls daily life in Detroit during the 1950s and explains how the area has changed; talks about his educational background and childhood interest in politics; reminisces about boyhood dream of joining the military and rationale for choosing the Marine Corps; describes military training in the Sea Cadets, boot camp and ITR and experience in recruiting center; recalls personal interaction with the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, specifically citing John Kerry's involvement; describes deployment and life in Washington D.C.; talks about memories of 1967 Detroit Riots and observations of race relations in the south; explains why he left active duty and later reenlisted in the USMC Reserves; shares stories of time at MCAS El Toro including: liberty, interaction with female Marines, and work in a photo interpretation unit; discusses transition to civilian employment and work at the Michigan Bell Phone Company; outlines creation and teaching role in freelance military training tactics business and job as driving instructor at local police academy; briefly mentions deployment in Desert Storm; talks about interpersonal relationships with his wife and daughter and how the USMC affected his family life; summarizes employment history and retirement plans; reflects on the impact the Marine Corps had on his life and opportunities available to future Marines; and finally, talks about the importance of El Toro and how the base should be remembered.

OH 4781

Narrator: Schubach, Thomas (b. 1954)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: “An Oral History with Thomas Schubach”
Date: August 14, 2011
Language: English
Location: Clyde, Ohio
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 47 pages

This oral history spans 1954-2011. Bulk dates: 1972 to 1978.

An oral history with Thomas Schubach, a resident of Clyde, Ohio, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Schubach’s experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview includes discussion about his families farming background and German heritage; describes his brother’s military service in the Vietnam War and personal political views during the 1960s; rationale for joining the United States Marine Corps; reminisces about boot camp and rifle training; explains why he became an electrician and describes the differences in military vs. civilian training; compares the M-14 to the M-16 and explains why it was difficult to switch to a new weapon; talks about personal awareness of morale decline toward the end of the Vietnam War; explains why he extended Marine Corps enlistment; talks about meeting his wife and how they arrived at MCAS El Toro; recalls his initial reaction to Southern California and highlights an average day at El Toro and the Lighter-than-Air base; shares memories of his accompanied tour to Hawaii including availability of base housing, recreational activities, and tour of USS *Arizona*; summarizes post-USMC employment history and transition to civilian life; discusses influence of military lifestyle on children; reflects on his family life, church involvement;, and finally, talks about why El Toro is historically significant.

OH 4782

Narrator: Weekley, Rita (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Rita Weekley"
Date: August 14, 2011
Language: English
Location: Akron, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 48 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2011. Bulk dates: 1940s, 1960s-1980s.

An oral history with Rita Weekley, resident of Akron, Ohio, and former civilian welder at El Toro, and wife of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Weekley's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Olean, New York, during the Depression, speaking about her parents' divorce, her Catholic religion, and living with her grandmother; shares memories of World War II, talking about her brothers' military service, rationing, as well as tamping bombs and learning to weld; recalls life at El Toro, remembering the train ride to California to stay with a Marine cousin, working as a welder on the base, riding horses on base, and the surrounding area; tells about meeting her husband at El Toro, visiting in-laws, and moving to Ohio; tells about her husband's activation during the Korean War, staying in Ohio while he worked at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; details her siblings' careers and illnesses; discusses her husband's career with Goodyear and his ownership of a machine shop; comments on not pursuing welding as a career; tells about her life in Ohio, speaking about her family, housing, working as a salesperson for Singer, and learning to fly; briefly discusses attending reunions for Air Base Group 2 with her husband.

OH 4783

Narrator: McDonald, William (b. 1932)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with William McDonald"
Date: August 14, 2011
Language: English
Location: Massillon, Ohio
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 71 pages

This oral history spans 1932-2011. Bulk dates: 1950s-1960s.

An oral history with William McDonald, resident of Massillon, Ohio, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding McDonald's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up during the Depression, speaking about financial hardships, his father's alcoholism and politics; shares memories of World War II, talking about Pearl Harbor and the homefront; tells about educational experiences; recalls joining the USMC during the Korean War; remembers boot camp experiences, speaking about marching, testing, and mess hall duty; tells about training as a metalsmith and structural mechanic in the USMC, sharing about duties and dangers; talks about life at El Toro, speaking about multiple tours there, flying first class to get there, the surrounding area, duties, accidents, as well as recreation in Los Angeles and Laguna Beach, California; shares about deployment to Japan, speaking about duties in and around Korea, low temperatures, interacting with locals, and meeting his future wife; details difficulty of obtaining permission to marry his Japanese wife; shares dissatisfaction with unaccompanied tours and slow advancement in the USMC; tells about being discharged from the USMC and returning to Ohio, detailing working for the United States Post Office and its union, the National Association of Letter Carriers; comments on El Toro's closure.

OH4784

Narrator: Chapman, Harlan (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Harlan Chapman"
Date: August 15, 2011
Language: English
Location: Vermillion, Ohio
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 60 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2011. Bulk dates: 1956-1970s.

An oral history with Harlan Chapman, resident of Vermillion, Ohio, and retired lieutenant colonel of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Chapman's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview includes Chapman's childhood recollections of World War II and affect on his daily life; shares thoughts on the Cold War; talks about why he joined Navy, experience with the NROTC, and college life; comments on racial tensions in the south; describes Marine Corps instruction including training aircraft and instrumentation systems; speaks about his tour at MCAS El Toro including flight operations and recollections of the surrounding community; explains how pilots qualify on aircraft carriers and inherent dangers; describes overseas deployment to Iwakuni, Japan, and flying reconnaissance off North Korean coast; recalls El Toro's reaction to the Cuban Missile Crisis and how his military service influenced his opinion of the Cold War; shares about his deployment to Vietnam; comments on political mismanagement of war; describes his capture and time as POW including: interrogation and torture, transfer to Hanoi Hilton, tap code, and relationship with fellow prisoners; explains how housing and psychological conditions improved toward the end of the war; speaks about his release and reclamation to society; talks about why he retired from the USMC and post military employment; shares how he met his current wife and their recent visit to Vietnam with a group of former POWs; reminisces about the importance of the Marine Corps in his life; and finally, talks about his reaction to the closing of El Toro.

OH 4785

Narrator: Harley, Ben (b. 1919)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Ben Harley"
Date: August 15, 2011
Language: English
Location: Warren, Ohio
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 47 pages

This oral history spans 1919-2011. Bulk dates: 1941-1952.

An oral history with Ben Harley, resident of Warren, Ohio, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Harley's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Warren, speaking about the steel industry, education, and interest in sports; talks about family finances during the Depression; tells about meeting his future wife at a young age; shares memories of Pearl Harbor and joining the USMC; discusses boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, telling about transportation there, recruits, and training; remembers training at logistics school in Toledo, Ohio; recalls being one of the first Marines at El Toro, talking about construction, daily transportation, the surrounding community, living on the Irvine Ranch, befriending local families, as well as planning logistics for the base and driving the fire truck; tells about deploying to the Pacific Theater during World War II, speaking about being stationed places like Guadalcanal and Leyte Island, living conditions, duties, air raids, losing friends, and an eventful flight; shares about being discharged from the USMC, staying at Miramar and returning home on Christmas; tells about joining the USMC Reserves and being recalled during the Korean War, spending a year at Cherry Point, North Carolina; discusses love of singing, telling about his radio career, winning the local Major Bowes Amateur Hour Contest, and singing with Kay Kyser's band at El Toro; shares about his family and their careers; comments on his career in the steel industry.

OH 4786

Narrator: Sandorf, Albert (b. 1925)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Albert Sandorf"
Date: August 15, 2011
Language: English
Location: Cleveland, Ohio
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 36 pages

This oral history spans 1925-2011. Bulk dates: 1943-1946.

An oral history with Albert Sandorf, resident of Cleveland, Ohio, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Sandorf's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of his childhood experiences growing up in Cleveland, Ohio, during the Depression; memories of World War II including learning about Pearl Harbor and food rationing; explains rationale for joining Marine Corps; describes boot camp experience in San Diego and curriculum in technical school; remembers being assigned to Air Base Group 2 (ABG-2) at North Island Naval Air Station and work with Corsairs in the engine overhaul hangar; explains why he took a second job off base and employment opportunities open to Marines; describes work in payroll department and interaction with other Marines; talks about the transition to civilian life and post-USMC employment at the National Biscuit Company; why he settled in Ohio and his challenging familial relationships; recounts humorous stories about leisure time at North Island and El Toro; and finally, shares thoughts on how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4787

Narrator: Bandes, Roger (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Roger Bandes"
Date: August 13, 2011
Language: English
Location: Sterling Heights, Michigan
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 38 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2011. Bulk dates: 1953-1956.

An oral history with Roger Bandes, resident of Warren, Michigan, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Bandes' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Pennsylvania, speaking about school and involvement in sports; briefly recalls the Depression and its effect on his family; shares memories of Pearl Harbor; briefly tells about working at Chrysler Corporation in Detroit after high school; shares about boot camp experiences in Parris Island, South Carolina, speaking about discipline, training, preparation, and segregation in the community; talks about becoming a clerk typist in the USMC and being stationed at Opa-Locka, Florida, remembering duties, recreation, and the surrounding community; tells about life at El Toro, speaking about the transfer of the 3rd Marine Air Wing to El Toro, duties, recreation, the surrounding community, playing flag football on the officers' team, dating women Marines, and casualties on base; shares about leaving the USMC and struggling to find employment; tells about using the GI Bill for school and housing, settling in Michigan and becoming a barber; comments on Detroit, Michigan, speaking about the 1943 and 1967 riots, as well as current violence on the street.

OH 4788

Narrator: Kiss, Richard G. (b. 1945)
Interviewer: Volker Janssen
Title: "An Oral History with Richard G. Kiss"
Date: September 7, 2011
Language: English
Location: Murrieta, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 46 pages

This oral history spans 1945-2011. Bulk dates: 1965-1975.

An oral history with Richard G. Kiss, resident of Murrieta, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Kiss' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in a coalmining town in Pennsylvania, as well as New York City, comparing the two, talking about his parents' divorce, race relations in both regions, an aviation education, and interacting with celebrities; tells about joining the USMC after high school; recalls boot camp, remembering training and instructors; tells about training as an avionics technician in Jacksonville, Florida, speaking about duties and aircraft; comments on race relations in the South, remembering confrontations with civilians; tells about deployment to Vietnam as part of the Black Sheep Squadron, speaking about housing and food in Chu Lai, recreation, his best friend's death, duties, volunteering with the Korean Air Force to draw out enemy fire, wartime policy, interacting with civilians, as well as memorable flight experiences; recalls time in Thailand, speaking about flight time, recreation, and interacting with civilians; shares about time at El Toro and MCAS Tustin, talking about recreation and entertainment, the surrounding community, housing, local schools, as well as interacting with civilians; tells about spending time as a drill instructor, speaking about training for the position, the psychology of boot camp, recruits, punishments, and the long work hours; discusses tour in Okinawa, visiting the site of Hiroshima and interacting with civilians; shares views on war; tells about training aviation Reserves; comments on the USMC and family life, discussing his divorce; talks about transitioning to civilian life, speaking about different careers, remarrying, and settling in Southern California; shares about meeting Presidents Nixon and Clinton, as well as USMC leadership; comments on El Toro's closure and its effect on Orange County, California.

OH 4789

Narrator: McRay, Harold (b. 1920)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Harold McRay"
Date: August 12, 2011
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited; 49 pages -- NOT FINALIZING

This oral history spans 1930s-1980s. Bulk dates: 1940s-1960s

An oral history with Harold McRay. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding McRay's experience at and around El Toro MCAS beginning in World War II. This interview specifically covers his Marine Corps career that spanned over decades; his childhood being raised in Kansas City, Missouri; Mr. McRay shares how and why he wanted to join the Marine Corps; remembers hearing of the attacks at Pearl Harbor; describes the process of getting to fly helicopters; covers the Bell and Sikorsky helicopters; shares his experiences serving in World War II, Korea and briefly in Vietnam; his serving overseas in Okinawa; discusses being an aid-de-camp and what all that entails; his frustrations with not being promoted; shares some of his memories of El Toro and Lighter-than-Air [LTA]; talks about his career after retiring from the Marine Corps which involved stocks and bonds; discusses his feelings on El Toro closing and the impact the base made on Orange County.

OH 4790

Narrator: Robling, Terry (b. 1954)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Terry Robling"
Date: August 8, 2011
Language: English
Location: Washington, D.C.
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 17 pages

This oral history spans 1954-2011. Bulk dates: 1976-2011.

An oral history with Terry Robling, lieutenant general and deputy commandant of aviation in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Robling's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up as an United States Air Force dependent; speaks about joining the Platoon Leader's Class while in college; shares memories of first duty station in Hawaii and subsequent deployments; effect of military transfers on family life; memories of duty at El Toro; describes the surrounding communities including encroachment and development and living off base; community support; talks about various deployments, domestic and abroad; memories of MCAS Miramar and effect of housing jets and helicopters on one base; role of the USMC in Iraq and deployment; talks about promotion to a three star; discusses deployment to Okinawa and relationship between Japanese and American forces; changes in the military from Vietnam to the present; shares personal anecdotes regarding current aviator commandant, James Amos; talks about how he wants to see El Toro remembered for the future.

OH 4791

Narrator: Cox, Patricia “Pat” (b. 1932)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Patricia ‘Pat’ Cox”
Date: August 9, 2011
Language: English
Location: McLean, Virginia
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 56 pages

This oral history spans 1910s-2011. Bulk dates: 1954-1986.

An oral history with Patricia “Pat” Cox, resident of McLean, Virginia, and wife of retired major general in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), John V. Cox (OH 4793). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Cox’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a farm in Missouri, speaking about her parents, farm animals and chores, as well as education; briefly tells about attending Northeast Missouri State Teachers College, meeting her husband there, as well as teaching; shares memories of World War II, talking about her brothers’ service, public sentiment, and rationing; speaks about her husband’s career in the USMC, recalling training, promotions, as well as national and international duty stations; tells about being a Marine wife, moving often and travelling, deployments and separations, learning to keep a house, acting as a single parent, safety concerns, socializing, the Marine Corps Ball, and USMC policies towards USMC wives; shares about her husband’s deployment during the Vietnam War, speaking about communication, family responsibilities, politics and public sentiment, and returning stateside; comments on differences between duty stations, speaking about climate, housing, segregation in the South, and cultural differences in Hawaii; shares about life at El Toro, talking about travelling cross country, housing, the community, recreation, meeting celebrities like Jack LaLanne and Jimmy Stewart, as well as giving birth at a civilian hospital; details retirement, discussing national and international vacations; discusses changes in Orange County, California; speaks about staying in touch with military and civilian friends; comments on El Toro’s closure.

OH 4792

Narrator: Allen, James (b. 1940)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with James Allen"
Date: August 11, 2011
Language: English
Location: McLean, Virginia
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 52 pages

This oral history spans 1940-2011. Bulk dates: 1960s-1970s.

An oral history with James Allen, resident of McLean, Virginia, cofounder of the Orange County Fair Housing Council, civil rights activist, and former colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Allen's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up as the son of Cuban immigrants, speaking about his grandmother's influence, a Catholic education, as well as growing up with relatives in Pennsylvania and East Los Angeles, California; shares about early involvement with organizations and people such as LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) and César Chavez, learning how to run community groups; tells about receiving a draft notice and volunteering for the USMC, detailing boot camp, OCS (officer candidates school), basic school, and accountancy training at Benjamin Franklin University; comments on being one of the only minority officers at different USMC schools and bases in the 1960s, recalling instances of discrimination or extra attention; tells about life at El Toro, remembering the surrounding community, coaching softball, discrimination at the Officers' Club, as well as duties as the assistant comptroller of Marine Corps Air Bases West and group legal officer; discusses involvement in the Orange County Fair Housing Council, speaking about his initial housing lawsuit, working with Jim Hillman, recruitment and housing checks, the ethnic breakdown of the group, sensitivity training, opposition from conservative groups like the John Birch Society, as well as dedicated volunteers; details efforts for recruiting minority officers, speaking about working with television and celebrities such as Regis Philbin to promote the USMC, and helping to craft recruitment slogans; recalls involvement in USMC courts-martial, including the espionage trial of Clayton Lonetree and a discrimination suit; tells about working with the USMC and Race Relations Incorporated to call attention to race problems in Reno, Nevada; shares about experiences during the Vietnam War, talking about racial discrimination and discontent in Vietnam, as well as hostility towards recruiters at college campuses; briefly discusses involvement with President Bill Clinton; comments on current involvement with immigration rights; talks about the mysterious death of Colonel Jim Sabow at El Toro in 1991.

OH 4793

Narrator: Cox, John (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with John Cox"
Date: August 9, 2011
Language: English
Location: McLean, Virginia
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 35 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2011. Bulk dates: 1954-1985.

An oral history with John Cox, resident of McLean, Virginia, former major general in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), and husband of Patricia Cox (OH 4791). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Cox's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Cox's childhood and family life during the Depression; highlights educational opportunities and explains why he joined the Marine Corps; describes flight training and his various deployments on the West Coast and overseas; recalls initial impressions of MCAS El Toro and surrounding community; talks about an average day at El Toro and availability of base housing; describes his families interaction with the community and how civilians accepted the local Marine presence; explains importance of social events to the USMC; talks about filming TV episode of "The Lieutenant" at El Toro; describes tenure and duties as commanding general of COMCABWEST and the influence of his secretary, Bennie Boillot; tells about development of Marine Aviation Weapons Training Squadron at MCAS Yuma; effect of encroachment around the base; describes changes in Orange County since the 1950s and how weather affected flying conditions at the base; shares memories of wartime service in Vietnam pre and post 1968; effect of Marine Corps life on his family; interaction with Presidents Nixon and Reagan; describes transition to civilian life and post-USMC travels; talks about impact of El Toro and USMC on his life; and finally, shares thoughts on how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4794

Narrator: Composto, Joseph (b. 1949)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: "An Oral History with Joseph Composto"
Date: August 18, 2011
Language: English
Location: Dunn Loring, Virginia
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 36 pages

This oral history spans 1949-2011. Bulk dates: 1971-2004.

An oral history with Joseph Composto, resident of Dunn Loring, Virginia, and former brigadier general in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Composto's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in New York City, speaking about his Italian American family; tells about education and attending law school; recalls joining the USMC, speaking about training in the UCMJ (Uniform Code of Military Justice); discusses life at El Toro, remembering driving cross country, crimes and cases, housing, the surrounding community, and watching the planes; comments on the USMC and the Vietnam War, speaking about drugs and conscription; elaborates on camaraderie and love for the Marines; reminisces about deployment to Okinawa, Japan, bringing his family with him; briefly speaks about defending Robert Garwood in a desertion and collaboration case; talks about transitioning to civilian life, working for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency; shares how he would like El Toro to be remembered.

OH 4795

Narrator: Null, Gary (b. 1937)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Gary Null"
Date: September 2, 2011
Language: English
Location: Valencia, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 50 pages

This oral history spans 1937-2011. Bulk dates: 1955-1959

An oral history with Gary Null, resident of Valencia, California, and sergeant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Null's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, Null shares memories of his childhood years in Los Angeles during World War II; rationale for joining the United States Marine Corps; talks about boot camp experience and duty at Point Mugu; describes how the Marine Corps reacted to the Suez Crisis; shares memories of photo school and how he developed interest in photography; talks about his post-USMC career at NBC, Disney, and Columbia Studios including TV shoots in Vietnam and Beirut; reminisces about day-to-day operations as USMC photographer and experiences with base housing at El Toro and Fort Monmouth New Jersey; shares reaction to warfare and why lending support to active military is important; ponders how he would have reacted to serving in combat; reflects on current state of military and Orange County has transformed over the years; talks about camaraderie in the Marine and how El Toro should be remembered; describes assignment to El Toro's rifle range; and finally, reflects on management shift at NBC and advantages/disadvantages to union membership.

OH 4796

Narrator: McNamara, John (b. 1945)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: “An Oral History with John McNamara”
Date: August 22, 2011
Language: English
Location: Laguna Hills, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 46 pages

This oral history spans 1945-2011. Bulk dates: 1966-1971.

An oral history with John McNamara, resident of Laguna Hills, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding McNamara’s experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically this interview includes discussion about McNamara’s family background and childhood; talks about influential role models and boyhood aspirations; explains rationale for joining the USMC and describes training at Officer Candidate School; talks about how the USMC utilized helicopters in combat; describes harrowing mission in Vietnam and time spent in-country including his tour in HMM-354 (Purple Foxes) and an average medevac extraction; shares thoughts on how the Vietnam War is depicted in film and how the USMC prepared him for warfare; shares memories about squadron life; explains why he chose to leave the USMC at the end of his enlistment and how he met his wife; talks about why he liked Southern California and LTA; describes an average training flight and assignment as flight instructor; reminisces about El Toro including social activities and medical facilities; discusses transition to civilian employment and work at Electronic Data Services; documents how Orange County, California, has changed over the years; discusses how military service affected his life and view of patriotism; and finally, shares thoughts on MCAS El Toro’s transition to the Orange County Great Park and how the base should be remembered.

OH 4797

Narrator: Gibbs, Thomas, Sr. (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Thomas Gibbs, Sr."
Date: September 15, 2011
Language: English
Location: Highpoint, North Carolina
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 31 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2011. Bulk dates: 1941-1945, 1950s-2000s.

An oral history with Thomas Gibbs, Sr., resident of High Point, North Carolina, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Gibbs' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Greensboro, North Carolina, during the Depression, telling about hardships, education, musical inclination, and early exposure to aviation; speaks about his father's foundry and machine shop, learning the trade from him, as well as creating personal and business connections; shares memories of World War II, working at Ryan Airfield in Tucson, Arizona, and joining the USMC; recalls boot camp in San Diego, California, remembering drill instructors, punishments, training, and furlough; tells about time at El Toro, speaking about duties as an aircraft mechanic, being crew chief for Colonel Fox, the Santa Ana winds, and different aircraft; tells about briefly attending flight training; discusses deployment to the Pacific Theater of World War II, speaking about island hopping, living conditions, interacting with locals, duties, and accidents; recalls the end of World War II and being stationed with the Nationalist Army in Tsingtao, China; shares about involvement in the Marine Corps League, helping with a national convention; comments on the advantages of a USMC experience; speaks in depth about his foundry and machine shop business, telling about products and clients.

OH 4798

Narrator: Morris, Harley (b. 1939)
Interviewer: Andy Olea
Title: "An Oral History with Harley Morris"
Date: September 23, 2011
Language: English
Location: Riverside, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 25 pages

This oral history spans 1939-2011. Bulk dates: 1958-1970s.

An oral history with Harley Morris, resident of Riverside, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Morris' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Long Beach, California, speaking about his education, musical inclination, and various jobs; tells about joining the USMC Reserves and being stationed at Naval Air Station Los Alamitos; shares about joining the USMC and going to Jacksonville, Florida, for aviation school, remembering the weather and visiting family; talks about life at El Toro, speaking about being an aircraft crash crewman and later a civilian fireman, accidents and fires, injuries and mortalities, preparation and training, flight operations, recreation and entertainment, food and housing, the surrounding community, Blue Angels shows, friends on the base, starting a country music band, and promotions; shares about civilian career as a fireman, working for North American Aviation and returning to El Toro; comments on health care for veterans; briefly tells about continued interest in music; briefly comments on alcoholism in the Armed Forces.

OH 4799

Narrator: Lewis, Samuel (b. 1944)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: "An Oral History with Samuel Lewis"
Date: September 29, 2011
Language: English
Location: Chino, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 37 pages

This oral history spans 1930s-2011. Bulk dates: 1961-1966.

An oral history with Samuel Lewis, resident of Chino, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Lewis' experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Corona and Chino, California, speaking about his parents' employment and migration during the Depression, the agricultural community, and education; recalls visiting Disneyland as a teenager; tells about joining the USMC, attending boot camp in San Diego, California, and training as an aircraft launch and recovery technician; shares about deployment to Iwakuni, Japan, remembering housing and food, interacting with locals, race relations, relations between ranks, seeing Johnny Cash perform, alcohol consumption, and duties trapping planes; talks about life at El Toro, speaking about housing, football and other recreation, the assassination of President Kennedy, duties, using a catapult launch system, as well as accidents and fatalities; recalls time in Hawaii and preparing for a top secret nerve gas project on Johnston Island; comments on the USMC's effect on his life; shares opinions on mandatory military service and changes in USMC policy; tells about transition to civilian life, working as a California Highway Patrolman, a welder, and a farmer; comments on El Toro's closure and future.

OH4800

Narrator: Cooke, Richard (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Richard Cooke"
Date: October 11, 2011
Language: English
Location: Vista, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 33 pages

This oral history spans 1924-2011. Bulk dates: 1949-2011.

An oral history with Richard Cooke, resident of Vista, California, and retired major general of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Cooke's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of his childhood in Lakewood NY; shares memories of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and how it influenced his decision to join the United States Marine Corps; talks about his experience at the recruiting office and Marine Corps training including: OCS, Basic School, and flight training; describes various aircraft he flew in training; tells how he met his wife and how his family adapted to military lifestyle; recalls his impressions of El Toro and Southern California including favorite recreational activities; talks about his overseas deployments including tour in Germany and assignment to VMA-332; comments on condition of housing on Marine Corps bases; speaks about deployment to Vietnam as Huey pilot and rehabilitation from bone injury; compares flying helicopters vs. jets; comments on difficulty training in new aircraft and how this led to an increase in flight safety procedures; comments on drug usage at El Toro and how the Marine Corps worked to overcome this challenge; speaks about his role with increasing troop retention; describes how El Toro changed over the years; comments on the decision to close the base and why MCAS Miramar should have been an airport; talks about his time as commanding general of MCAS El Toro including: relationship with local communities and social events with visiting dignitaries and actors of stage/screen; remarks on the camaraderie shared by Marines; discusses his involvement in local politics; explains why he retired and what advice he would give to someone joining the USMC; describes why he enjoys flying; talks about how military service affected his view of war; and finally, shares his opinion on how MCAS El Toro should be remembered.

OH4801.1

Narrator: Coleman, Jerry (b.1924)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: "An Oral History with Jerry Coleman"
Date: October 8, 2011
Language: English
Location: La Jolla, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 45 pages

This oral history spans 1924-2011. Bulk dates: 1949-2011.

An oral history with Jerry Coleman, resident of La Jolla, California, and retired lieutenant colonel in the United States Marine Corps. This interview was conducted as part of the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Coleman's experience at and around El Toro. In this interview, Coleman talks about his childhood in San Francisco during the Depression including recreational activities and employment; shares about his parents unique living situation and subsequent remarriage; discusses the state of local (California) sports during the 1940s; recalls his experience at the Naval recruiting office and memories of Pearl Harbor; discusses how the treatment of sports injuries has changed; describes experiences at boot camp, flight school, combat training; recalls two near accidents in Korea; deployment to the Pacific during World War II; talks about his initial impressions of El Toro and Southern California; comments on women in the military; talks about how servicemen dealt with the death and how maturity affected this perspective; describes daily life and stateside communication while in Pacific; remembers coming back from the war and local reaction to V-J day; explains why the Yankees were the pinnacle baseball team to play on and personal relationships with some of the baseball greats including Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio, and Ted Williams; explains why he became a second baseman and chronicles highs and lows of his career; recalls Yankee teammates during the 1949 season; explains why baseball players did not socialize with each other and how it differs today; talks about playing in the 1949 World Series; comments on housing availability in New York during his baseball days; reminisces about receiving the 1950 MVP; compare/contrasts playing at various ballparks and describes his favorite moment on field; recalls how the Korean War affected his baseball career and his transition to personnel director for the Yankees; describes how El Toro changed between WWII and Korea; describes average day on base including living in a Quonset Hut; state of the flight program the Korean War began; association with VMA-323 (Death Rattlers); and finally talks about living in Laguna Beach in the early 1950s.

OH4801.2

Narrator: Coleman, Jerry (b.1924)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: "An Oral History with Jerry Coleman"
Date: November 12, 2011
Language: English
Location: La Jolla, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 32 pages

This oral history spans 1924-2011. Bulk dates: 1949-2011.

This is the second session of an oral history with Jerry Coleman, resident of La Jolla, California, and retired lieutenant colonel in the United States Marine Corps. This interview was conducted as part of the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Coleman's experience at and around El Toro. In this interview, Coleman comments on America's readiness for the Korean War and how pilots were trained for combat; describes the differences between World War II and Korea; talks about how he prepared himself for the possibility of death; describes typical day in Korea including living conditions and food; recalls challenging missions and friends who died overseas; talks about his return to baseball and shares remembrances of Jerry Coleman Day; talks about why he retired from baseball and the origins of his broadcast career; comments on the competitiveness of the Yankees in the 1950s; reflects on his transition from ballplayer to personnel director; recalls assignment in public relations as a USMC Reservist; remarks on women in the military and how the USMC has changed over the years; talks about how military personnel and civilians reacted to the Cuban Missile Crisis; compares/contrasts radio vs. television sports announcers; explains why he relocated to the West Coast; comments on the Vietnam War and Middle East conflicts; talks about his longtime career with the San Diego Padres; explains how he came up with his broadcast key phrases; shares about various awards received and which one is most important; remarks on influence of the "steroid era" on baseball; talks about the importance of baseball during wartime and how it compares to other sports; shares how the Marine Corps impacted his life and his view of war; talks about the importance of carrier pilots in WWII; comments on how El Toro should be remembered; and finally, talks about how the nation should commemorate the seventieth anniversary of Pearl Harbor and other key battles.

OH 4802

Narrator: Tooker, Peri (b. 1935)
Interviewer: Yolanda Polequaptewa
Title: “An Oral History with Peri Tooker”
Date: October 13, 2011
Language: English
Location: Orange, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 22 pages

This oral history spans 1900s-2011. Bulk dates: 1954-1999.

An oral history with Peri Tooker, resident of Orange, California, and widow of Don Tooker, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Tooker’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Long Beach and Coalinga, California, speaking about her French heritage, family, and education; shares about moving to Orange County, California, speaking about housing, amenities, Disneyland and Knott’s Berry Farm, politics, population growth, and transportation; tells about her employment history, becoming a legal assistant; talks about meeting and marrying Don Tooker after his retirement from the USMC, remembering the ceremony and honeymoon; comments on USMC culture, speaking about camaraderie, patriotism, Marine Corps balls, watching and meeting the Blue Angels, as well as shopping and healthcare benefits; shares opinions about the Vietnam War, remembering public sentiment and veteran casualties; recalls the assassination of President Kennedy; discusses El Toro’s closure, talking about the loss of base stores, the environmental impact, and the politics and development of the Orange County Great Park.

OH 4803

Narrator: **Phillipp, Ralph** (b. 1944)
Interviewer: Andrew Brown
Title: “An Oral History with Ralph Phillipp”
Date: October 12, 2011
Language: English
Location: Huntington Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 32 pages

This oral history spans 1944-2011. Bulk dates: 1960s-1970s.

An oral history with Ralph Phillipp, resident of Huntington Beach, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Phillipp’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up on a dairy farm in Minnesota, talking about his family and their careers; tells about joining the USMC, remembering boot camp, training for aviation electronics, and duty stations; comments on the Vietnam War, speaking about politics and public sentiment, wounded veterans, the draft, and operations stateside; tells about life at El Toro, talking about housing and transportation, extra duties in the honor guard, recreation and entertainment, and working with different electronics systems; shares about education, attending several Southern California colleges, gaining practical skills, and earning a degree in electrical engineering; tells about working with defense companies on electrical systems.

OH4804

Narrator: Judge, Eleanor (b.1929-2013)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Eleanor Judge"
Date: October 18, 2011
Language: English
Location: Oceanside, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 62 pages

This oral history spans 1929-2011. Bulk dates: 1950-1980.

An oral history with Eleanor Judge, resident of Oceanside, California, and retired Sergeant Major in the United States Marine Corps. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Judge's experience at and around El Toro from 1966 through 1968. In this interview, Judge reminisces of her childhood growing up in Cambridge, Massachusetts; recalls her memories of World War II as a teenager; provides her reasoning for enlisting in the reserves in 1949; outlines her journey starting out at Camp Lejeune and working her way up in the ranks; describes the differences of various bases including serving in Hawaii, Naples, Parris Island and El Toro; describes the facilities available for women at El Toro and the interactions between male Marines; gives examples of how men would treat her and other female Marines; shares the different administrative duties she did while on the base and moving up in rank; recalls her duties during the Vietnam War and the nation's reaction to it; remembers the introduction to computers with the Marine Corps; discusses her duties as Marine Recruiter; talks about how she never attended boot camp and yet spent two years as a drill instructor at Parris Island; shares her feeling of achieving the highest rank possible for an enlisted personnel and how the men reacted to that; provides information on the Women's Marine Association and her involvement with it; ends with her reflections on her career in the Marine Corps, her thoughts of female Marines today and provides her thoughts on how El Toro should be remembered for future generations.

OH 4805

Narrator: Duffer, Don (b. 1942)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Don Duffer"
Date: October 19, 2011
Language: English
Location: Monarch Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 40 pages

This oral history spans 1942-2011. Bulk dates: 1962-1983.

An oral history with Don Duffer, resident of Monarch Beach, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Duffer's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Texas, speaking about a difficult childhood; tells about studying to be an aeronautical engineer and joining the USMC; shares memories of being a Marine Cadet, talking about academic and physical training, flying, and high dropout rates; talks about life at El Toro, remembering his first impressions, living on Lido Island, the beach, the surrounding community, amenities, training flights, crashes, and returning for his retirement ceremony; shares about deployment during the Vietnam War, telling about missions, race relations, interacting with the South Vietnamese military, politics and public sentiment, medevacs, rations, communicating with family, camaraderie, and working with ground Marines as a forward air controller; speaks about camaraderie and friendships in the USMC; comments on career as a USMC Reserve, remembering command posts, women Marines, and simultaneously working for Continental Airlines; briefly mentions Harvey Jensen (OH 3550) was his commanding officer at El Toro; comments on growth and change in Orange County, California.

OH4806

Narrator: George Shinrock (b.1960)

Interviewer: Andy Olea

Title: "An Oral History with George Shinrock"

Date: October 24, 2011

Language: English

Location: Orange County Public Library, Fountain Valley, California

Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 27 pages

This oral history spans 1960-2011. Bulk dates: 1978-2011.

An oral history with George Shinrock, resident of Fountain Valley, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps. This interview was conducted as part of the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Shinrock's experience at and around El Toro MCAS from 1960-1999. In this interview, Shinrock explains early connection to MCAS El Toro; describes father's assignment at MCAS El Toro as an enlisted Marine; talks about living in NAMAR housing; comments on family's low socioeconomic status; explains rationale for joining Marine Corps; discusses assignment at MCAS El Toro as a Reservist in crash fire rescue; reminisces about air shows at MCAS El Toro; recalls two aircraft accidents at El Toro; expresses fondness for Orange County lifestyle including surfing and baseball; speaks about being part of the IMA [Individual Mobilized Augmentee] Reservist program; describes responsibilities as fireman at MCAS El Toro and Orange County fire department; discusses the camaraderie among fellow Marines; comments on the presence of MCAS El Toro within the surrounding community; remembers being activated for Operation Desert Storm; comments on leisure activities; recalls family outings to MCAS El Toro; describes mess hall food; discusses the growth and development of South Orange County; remembers the closing ceremony at El Toro; expresses opinion on airport verses Great Park controversy; talks about the influence of the Marine Corps on his life; and finally, expresses his views on how MCAS El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4807

Narrator: Stewart, Ray (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Tom Fujii
Title: “An Oral History with Ray Stewart”
Date: November 1, 2011
Language: English
Location: Huntington Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 22 pages

This oral history spans 1929-2011. Bulk dates: 1950-1960s.

An oral history with Ray Stewart, resident of Huntington Beach, California, retired Lieutenant Colonel United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Stewart’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Wisconsin during the Great Depression and World War II; explains his rationale for joining the Marine Corps; describes training experiences and boot camp at Quantico, Virginia, Naval ROTC and Basic School; talks about flight training and why he enjoyed aviation; recalls transferring to El Toro and describes first impressions of Southern California and life at El Toro including: availability of housing, base sponsored social occasions, and interaction with the local community; reminisces about his squadron mates and service in the Vietnam War; describes other overseas deployments including Japan; discusses his transition to civilian life; addresses long term changes in Orange County and real estate; talks about how his time in the Marine Corps influenced his view of war and concludes with his thoughts on how MCAS El Toro should be remembered.

OH4808

Narrator: DeVol, Marion (b.1922)
Interviewer: Yolanda Polequaptewa
Title: "An Oral History with Marion DeVol"
Date: November 10, 2011
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 18 pages

This oral history spans 1922-2011. Bulk dates: 1943-2011.

An oral history with Marion DeVol, resident of Santa Ana, California, and wife of Austin "Auzzie" DeVol and former member of the United States Marine Corps. This interview was conducted as part of the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding DeVol's experience at and around El Toro MCAS and Southern California from 1946-present. In this interview, DeVol briefly talks about her childhood and parents employment in San Francisco; praises her mother's financial prowess and ability to make ends meet; describes how she met her husband and life as a Marine wife including their move to a new housing tract in Santa Ana, husband's deployment to Korea, and neighborly support; describes decorating the MCAS Cherry Point Officers Club for parties and squadron get-togethers; compares/contrasts various duty stations including: Opa-Locka, Cherry Point, Corpus Christi, and El Toro; explains why her family moved back to Southern California; shares how she and her husband became small business owners and why they eventually chose to lease their property rather than sell; speaks about the relationship between Marines and civilians and negative press in the *Santa Ana Register*; shares memories of her son's military service in Vietnam; talks about how Orange County has changed over the years; and finally, gives interviewer a verbal walk through of her husband's scrapbook.

OH 4809

Narrator: Woodruff, Larry (b. 1944)
Interviewer: Michael Matini
Title: "An Oral History with Larry Woodruff"
Date: November 21, 2011
Language: English
Location: Laguna Hills, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1944-2011. Bulk dates: 1961-1986.

An oral history with Larry Woodruff, resident of Laguna Hills, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Woodruff's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Fort Worth, Texas, telling about his father's death, financial struggles, as well as education and ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) training; briefly tells about being a Marine Aviation Cadet, remembering military buildup before the Vietnam War; shares about deployments during the Vietnam War, speaking about duties with mid-air refueling and logistics training; tells about life at MCAS Tustin and El Toro, speaking about operations, the surrounding community, flight patterns and encroachment, accidents and close calls, President Nixon's visits, special services and recreation, the Officers' Club and mess hall, secondary duties, and change of command ceremonies; comments on race relations and camaraderie in the USMC; discusses transitioning to civilian life, working as a pilot for American Airlines; talks about growth and incorporation in Orange County, California, communities; comments on El Toro's closure and plans for the reuse of land.

OH 4810

Narrator: Eldred, Loran (b. 1937)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: "An Oral History with Loran Eldred"
Date: November 21, 2011
Language: English
Location: Sonoma, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 47 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2011. Bulk dates: 1948-1960s.

An oral history with Loran Eldred, resident of Sonoma, California and former pilot and colonel in the USMC Reserves. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Eldred's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Wisconsin, speaking about his childhood and family; remembering the beginning of World War II, his community's reaction, and the aftermath; recalls enrolling in the School of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin; explains his rationale for joining the Marine Corps in 1950 and the decision to become a pilot; talks about boot camp and Platoon Leaders Class in Quantico, Virginia; discusses flight training in Pensacola, Florida; recalls the Korean War; provides his duties while serving overseas; recalls life at El Toro in the late 1950s, remembering his first time on the base, his first impressions, sports and recreation, base housing, the surrounding community, the base chapel, and schools; talks about assignment in an F-18 squadron; comments on Cold War military build-up; recalls aircraft accidents at MCAS El Toro; talks about the role of alcohol and drinking in Marine Corps camaraderie; remembers being aide to General Samuel Jack; discusses rationale for leaving the Marine Corps; talks about job with United Airlines; comments on joining USMC Reserves; tells about meeting and marrying his Kay while at El Toro (OH 4811); reflects on how the Marine Corps changed his life and his feelings on how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4811

Narrator: Eldred, Kay (b. 1937)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: “An Oral History with Kay Eldred”
Date: November 21, 2011
Language: English
Location: Sonoma, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 34 pages

This oral history spans 1937-2011. Bulk dates: 1948-1960s.

An oral history with Kay Eldred, resident of Sonoma, California, former United States Marine Corps (USMC) dependent, and wife of former colonel in the USMC Reserves, Loran Eldred (OH 4810). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Eldred’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes brief discussion about growing up in Indiana, speaking about her parents’ divorce; tells about her stepfather’s career in the USMC, remembering moving often and changing schools, exposure to different cultures, strict discipline, making friends, and learning self-sufficiency; recalls life at El Toro, remembering the drive from Indiana, first impressions, sports and recreation, base housing, the surrounding community, the base chapel, and schools; tells about meeting and marrying her husband while at El Toro; comments on being a USMC, USMC Reserves, and United Airlines spouse, talking about camaraderie and support, duties, deployments, and rank; shares about importance of athletics in her life, speaking about exposure to sports at El Toro, earning a master’s degree, as well as teaching physical education and tennis lessons; briefly discusses helping establish the Wine Country Marines.

OH 4812

Narrator: **Jarvis, Harold** (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: “An Oral History with Harold Jarvis”
Date: November 21, 2011
Language: English
Location: San Jose, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 29 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2011. Bulk dates: 1941-1960.

An oral history with Harold Jarvis, resident of San Jose, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Jarvis’ experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of his early years growing up during the Great Depression; speaks about having Rickets as a child; shares his memory of the bombing of Pearl Harbor; talks about uncle’s experience aboard ship during the attack on Pearl Harbor; explains rationale for joining the Marine Corps; discusses boot camp in San Diego and combat training at Camp Pendleton; describes Airman Prep School in Jacksonville, Florida; recalls unusual pilot requests for landing; comments on initial impressions of Orange County; describes duties as an air traffic controller while at MCAS El Toro; explains Ground Control Approach [GCA]; recalls aircraft accidents at MCAS El Toro and LTA [Lighter-than-air]; comments on community reaction to jet noise; discusses community acceptance of MCAS El Toro and Marine presence; talks about inactive duty while stationed at Naval Air Station Alameda; compares active duty to Reserve duty; comments on attitude of active Marines toward inactive; compares MCAS El Toro to other military bases; remembers segregation in the South; recalls visiting Los Angeles and Disneyland; expresses opinion on the closing of MCAS El Toro; discusses the importance of MCAS El Toro and the Marine Corps on his life; speaks about his affiliation with MATCA [Marine Air Traffic Controller Association]; and finally, shares his opinion on how MCAS El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4813

Narrator: H. Derl Horn (b. 1942)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: “An Oral History with H. Derl Horn”
Date: December 1, 2011
Language: English
Location: Springdale, Arkansas
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 25 pages

This oral history spans 1942-2011. Bulk dates: 1960-1970

An oral history with H. Derl Horn, resident of Springdale, Arkansas, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Horn’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about his childhood growing up in Northwest Arkansas; summarizes educational background; recalls receiving draft notice; talks about meeting wife; explains being drafted into the Marine Corps; speaks about training in San Diego; remembers being harassed while in boot camp; describes assignment in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; recalls being sent to Vietnam; shares first impression of Vietnam; discusses how military training prepared him for war; talks about the problems associated with the M-16 rifle; comments on the camaraderie among fellow Marines; speaks about interactions with Vietnamese civilians and South Vietnamese military; recalls traumatic search and destroy mission in Vietnam; talks about being wounded; remembers the anticipation of leaving Vietnam and going home; comments on the Vietnam antiwar movement; recalls passing through MCAS El Toro to and from Vietnam; talks about reuniting with fellow Marines; voices opinion of President Lyndon Johnson’s execution of the Vietnam War; describes reaction to the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C.; speaks about the difficult adjustment to civilian life after Vietnam and the Marine Corps; and finally, reflects on what his Marine Corps experience taught him.

OH 4814

Narrator: Nutt, Beatrice (b. 1922)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: “An Oral History with Beatrice Nutt”
Date: December 6, 2011
Language: English
Location: Pomona, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans 1922-2011. Bulk dates: 1943-1946.

An oral history with Beatrice Nutt, resident of Pomona, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Nutt’s experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about her background and family life; explains why she lived with her grandparents and their negative reaction to her Mexican-American heritage; reminisces about her childhood aspirations and educational background; describes memories of World War II including the attack on Pearl Harbor; rationale for joining the USMCWR; comments on homosexuality in the Women’s Reserve; describe boot camp experience and duties at El Toro; recalls how East Coast Marines reacted to Southern California; talks about her post-USMC employment and marriage; comments on how her military service affected her life; and finally, talks about how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4815

Narrator: Frank Morgensen (b. 1924)
Interviewer: Ryan Hunt
Title: “An Oral History with Frank Morgensen”
Date: December 19, 2011
Language: English
Location: Lake Forest, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 29 pages

This oral history spans 1924-2011. Bulk dates: 1941-1990

An oral history with Frank Morgensen, resident of Lake Forest, California, and former member of the United States Army Air Corps. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Morgensen’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of parents’ European birth and immigration to the United States; shares childhood memories including first airplane ride and the 1933 Long Beach earthquake; recalls Army Air Corps enlistment and subsequent pilot training; comments on positive attributes acquired from his father; summarizes educational background; explains rationale for joining Army Air Corps; remembers bombing of Pearl Harbor; talks about flight and navigation training in Texas and Florida; expresses dislike for training command which expedited his departure from the Air Corps; speaks about career at Northrop Aircraft post Army Air Corps; comments on Reserve duty; recalls frequenting the commissary and museum at MCAS El Toro; describes duties at MCAS El Toro museum as a volunteer including restoration of MiG [Supersonic jet fighter aircraft]; comments on camaraderie between Marines and other branches of the military; remembers closing ceremony at MCAS El Toro; describes physical and social changes in Orange County; talks about the positive aspects of military service; shares view of war, in general; and finally, expresses opinion of The Orange County Great Park.

OH 4816

Narrator: DeLucchi, Norma (b. 1922)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: "An Oral History with DeLucchi, Norma"
Date: December 29, 2011
Language: English
Location: Fair Oaks, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: final; 33 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2011. Bulk dates: 1933-1960.

An oral history with Norma DeLucchi, resident of Fair Oaks, California, and wife of a former sergeant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and USMC Reserves, Robert DeLucchi (OH 4817). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding DeLucchi's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about her background and family life living in North Beach, San Francisco; reflects on her memories of the Great Depression and World War II growing up in the San Francisco area; provides insight into her rough family life/treatment from her parents; shares how she met her husband Robert and how she felt about becoming a Marine Corps wife talks about what Santa Ana and El Toro was like in the early 1950s; discusses working at the Broadway Theater in Santa Ana; shares her experience using the prenatal facility at El Toro in 1951 and mentions that having the USMC and Naval healthcare on her side during this pregnancy and birth was a relief; provides information on what young wives did in Orange County while her husband served on base; reflects on her feelings concerning the Marine Corps and admits that she wished Robert would have stayed in the Marine Corps; talks about their traveling around California after his retirement from the Marine Corps; discusses the support of her family in later years; comments on how Robert's military service affected her life; and reflects on how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4817

Narrator: DeLucchi, Robert (b. 1932)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: "An Oral History with Robert DeLucchi"
Date: December 29, 2011
Language: English
Location: Fair Oaks, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: final; 24 pages

This oral history spans 1932-2011. Bulk dates: 1933-1960.

An oral history with Robert DeLucchi, resident of Fair Oaks, California, and sergeant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding DeLucchi's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about DeLucchi's childhood and education in San Francisco; explains rationale for joining the military; recalls reaction to bombing of Pearl Harbor and life during World War II; describes memories of Southern California and housing in Tustin; talks about duty at MCAS El Toro and work as a meat cutter; discusses how the Marine Corps life affected his family; comments on race relations in the Marine Corps and in San Francisco; explains decision to leave the Marine Corps and transition to civilian life; summarizes career after leaving the Marine Corps; comments on personal challenges including his struggle with alcoholism; talks about how military service affected his view of war; and finally shares how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4818

Narrator: Lelli, Dale (b. 1946)
Interviewer: Scott Thompson
Title: "An Oral History with Dale Lelli"
Date: January 10, 2012
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1946-2012. Bulk dates: 1960-1977.

An oral history with Dale Lelli, resident of Yorba Linda, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Lelli's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of parent's birthplace and relationship with siblings; comments on father's military service during World War II; describes participation in the Civil Air Patrol at age thirteen; recalls experience at Marine Corps Recruitment Center; talks about boot camp in San Diego and infantry training at Camp Pendleton; explains how he was chosen for MOS [military occupational specialty] in administration; remembers being sent to Fleet Marine Force Pacific in Hawaii; recalls conversations with Marines returning from the Vietnam War; discusses initial impression of MCAS El Toro; describes duties at MCAS El Toro as administration clerk; comments on camaraderie among officers and enlisted; speaks about racial tension at Treasure Island; remembers job interview with United Parcel Service [UPS]; talks about returning to MCAS El Toro as civilian employee of UPS; comments on growth of Orange County; explains why he continues to live in Orange County; expresses opinion on airport verses Great Park controversy; and finally, comments on how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4819

Narrator: Davis, William (b. 1931-2012)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: "An Oral History with William Davis"
Date: January 14, 2012
Language: English
Location: Pomona, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 52 pages

This oral history spans 1931-2012. Bulk dates: 1950-1971.

An oral history with William Davis, resident of Pomona, California, who served in the United States Marine Corps from the early 1950s until 1971. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Davis' experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about his background and family life living in New Mexico; reflects on his memories of the Great Depression and World War II; provides insight into his reasoning for joining the Marine Corps and his interests while in the Corps; shares his feelings about the Korean War, duties serving in the war and getting injured; reflects upon his time at El Toro from 1955 through 1957 specifically providing his thoughts on the surrounding community, his living arrangements, his duties on the base, information on what he did off the base and his comparisons with other bases; talks about his serving in the Vietnam War and the differences between that conflict and the Korean War; discusses what kind of reconnaissance duties he would perform; reflects on retiring from the Marine Corps and his transition into civilian life; comments on how the military affected his life and reflects on how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4820

Narrator: Maldonado, Alex (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: "An Oral History with Alex Maldonado"
Date: January 26, 2012
Language: English
Location: San Juan Capistrano, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 45 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2012. Bulk dates 1942-1950.

An oral history with Alex Maldonado, a resident of San Juan Capistrano, California. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Maldonado's experience as a construction worker for the El Toro base. This interview includes discussion about Maldonado's childhood in the Artesia barrio of Orange County; recalls his parent's farm work during the Depression in Garden Grove; shares memories of attending segregated schools in Orange County, and makes comparisons to the other Caucasian schools; recounts the limited economic opportunities for those who lived in the barrio, despite speaking English; remembers his two years in high school in El Modena, and his constant struggle to catch up due to the lack of learning in the Mexican schools; recalls joining the labor union in order to work on the construction of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, for the greater part of a year; details his jobs at El Toro, such as paving underground fuel tanks, sawing lumber, and working the water pump; talks about his memories of Pearl Harbor and being rejected for service due to health constraints; remembers his work in a steel shipyard in Northern California; discusses his return to Orange County and his gradual involvement in the Santa Ana community and joining LULAC [League of United Latin American Citizens]; recalls his work within, and the goals of LULAC, including fundraising efforts for the Mendez v. Westminster case for the desegregation of schools; recollects meeting his wife at a Latino dance and marrying in 1952; recounts his family traditions and memories of recreation; discusses how Orange County has changed over the last fifty years; recalls his decades of working in the beer industry; shares his opinions on how El Toro should be remembered and what he would like for his legacy.

OH4821

Narrator: Miles, Andy (b. 1940-2013)
Interviewer: Tom Fujii
Title: “An Oral History with Andy Miles”
Date: January 22, 2012
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 53 pages

This oral history spans 1940-2012. Bulk dates: 1959-2012

An oral history with Andy Miles, resident of Mission Viejo, California, and former lance corporal of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Miles experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Miles’ childhood and education in Cardiff, Wales; comments on his parents employment and early memories of World War II; describes his childhood fascination with and why he immigrated to the United States; talks about why he enlisted in the Marine Corps, boot camp experience and graduation ceremony; recalls his initial impressions of Orange County and El Toro; describes aircraft at El Toro and his work in the control tower including how air traffic controllers managed emergencies; shares thoughts about Orange County politics and his involvement with Reagan’s gubernatorial campaign; describes life at El Toro including: housing accommodations, assignment as brig guard, and work on the *Flight Jacket*; talks about why he left the Marine Corps and his post military employment; shares about his family life including how he met his wife; explains what shaped his personal interest in football; recalls meeting President Nixon at the Western White House; talks about how El Toro shaped Orange County; shares memories of decommissioning ceremony and describes the Final Salute to El Toro; recalls opening of John Wayne Theater at Knott’s Berry Farm; talks about Orange County’s reaction to the Vietnam War; compares British and United States educational systems; shares how he felt when the base was closed; explains how military service influenced how he views American society; discusses race relations in the Marine Corps and comments on his personal experience in an interracial marriage; describes El Toro’s involvement with the Bay of Pigs Invasion; and finally, talks about how El Toro should be remembered.

OH4822

Narrator: Rogers, Robert (b. 1928)
Interviewer: Scott Thompson
Title: "An Oral History with Robert Rogers"
Date: January 24, 2012
Language: English
Location: Orange, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages

This oral history spans 1928-2012. Bulk dates: 1945-1974

An oral history with Robert Rogers, resident of Orange California, and retired master gunnery sergeant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Rogers' experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview includes discussion about background and family life; explains rational for joining the United States Marine Corps and remembers basic training; describes duty as aircraft mechanic and deployment to Korea; talks about U.S. bases in South Korea and role as crew chief during the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir; compares/contrasts USMC duty stations; shares how he met his wife and their wedding at the El Toro chapel; recalls being stationed at MCAS El Toro including: duty assignment and base housing; describes time in-country during 1968 Vietnam deployment including his role in support operations and how he stayed in contact with his family; recalls key historic moments including the Kennedy assassination; and finally shares how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4823

Narrator: Weir, Kenneth (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Ryan R. Hunt
Title: “An Oral History with Kenneth Weir”
Date: February 7, 2012
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 56 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2011. Bulk dates: 1952-2011.

An oral history with Kenneth Weir, resident of Mission Viejo, California, and retired general of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Weir’s experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Weir’s childhood as a USMC dependent and his family’s military background; memories of life during the Depression and his role models; describes his educational experiences including Severn Prep School and acceptance to the Naval Academy; compares opportunities available to young people now vs. the 1940s; speaks about values he acquired from his family and personal views of patriotism; explains why he chose to be a Marine Corps aviator; talks about experiences at Basic School; comments on how the Marine Corps affected the relationship with his father; describes his experiences at the Naval Academy including his various mischievous antics; reminisces about lifelong friendships formed at the Naval Academy and attempt to join the astronaut corps; recalls his deployment to Vietnam and assignment to Manned Orbiting Laboratory; explains why he transferred to the Reserves; talks about why he wanted to be stationed at MCAS El Toro and his command positions at the base; explains why he couldn’t serve in combat; discusses how the military interacted with the community and their relationship with local law enforcement; recalls meeting his wife and how she adapted to the Marine Corps lifestyle; comments on how Disneyland impacted Orange County; talks about his involvement with the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and the “Golden Eagles” (Early and Pioneer Naval Aviator's Association); shares how he felt about the closing of El Toro; comments on transition to Great Park and reaction to the plans; talks about the A-4 in front of Santa Ana City Hall; and finally, reminisces about how his Marine Corps career impacted his life.

OH4824

Narrator: Harris, Helen Jean (b. 1927)
Interviewer: Yolanda Polequaptewa
Title: "An Oral History with Helen Jean Harris"
Date: January 28, 2012
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans 1927-2012. Bulk dates: 1944-1970s.

An oral history with Helen Jean Harris, resident of Santa Ana, California, and wife of United States Marine, Dawson Harris. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Harris' experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Harris' employment for the United States Marine Corps during the mid-late 40s; recalls her family life and childhood in Alabama; shares memories of coming to Orange County; comments on the military and civilian responses to the Vietnam War; talks about how she met her husband and describes their wedding ceremony; shares about personal challenge with mental illness and how this affected her life; discusses the bond between Marine wives; describes husbands' memories of Pearl Harbor and combat in WWII; explains how war affects military dependents; comments on the connection between political decisions and military action; talks about family leisure time activities in Southern California; recalls deployment to South Carolina and interaction with local community including: church attendance, segregation, and Civil Rights protest; shares about her brother's experiences in post-WWII Germany; talks about racism in the military; comments on how she and her husband transitioned to civilian life; remembers how she felt when El Toro closed; explains how her southern upbringing influenced her social and political outlook; and finally, opines about current economic situation in the United States.

OH 4825

Narrator: Blauvelt, Ercel (b. 1927)
Interviewer: Tom Fujii
Title: "An Oral History with Ercel Blauvelt"
Date: February 27, 2012
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 55 pages

This oral history spans 1927-2012. Bulk dates: 1944-2012.

An oral history with Ercel Blauvelt, resident of Garden Grove, California, and retired gunnery sergeant of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Blauvelt's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Blauvelt's background and memories of life during the Depression; talks about educational experiences and work at the Glenn L. Martin defense plant during World War II including comments on assembly of the Enola Gay; explains rationale for joining the Marine Corps and the recruitment process; describes transportation to and experience at boot camp; comments on ethnic and gender integration in the Marine Corps; recalls U.S. Embassy duty in Manila, Philippines; describes training and duty as USMC air traffic controller including runway configuration at El Toro, navigational aids, and aircraft collisions; recalls initial impressions of Southern California and highway system; talks about life at El Toro including housing on/off base describes duty in logistics; talks about post-USMC employment including civilian work at MCAS El Toro; comments on USO sanctioned events including excursions to Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm; and finally, talks about how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4826

Narrator: Domenic Ternullo (b. 1923-2013)
Interviewer: Tom Fujii
Title: “An Oral History with Domenic Ternullo”
Date: March 1, 2012
Language: English
Location: Garden Grove, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 52 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2012. Bulk dates: 1941-1946.

An oral history with Domenic Ternullo, resident of Garden Grove, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Ternullo’s experiences at and around El Toro. In this interview, Ternullo talks about attending school in Boston, Massachusetts; recalls working in a button factory post-World War II; discusses parents immigration from Italy; explains his rationale for joining the Marine Corps; remembers boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina; reflects on the bombing of Pearl Harbor; speaks about first tour of duty in Ewa, Hawaii; describes duties as a metalsmith while deployed in the South Pacific during World War II; remembers standby duty in Japan during the Korean War; describes first impression of MCAS El Toro; recalls living conditions at MCAS El Toro; compares MCAS El Toro to other Marine Corps facilities; speaks about buying a home in Garden Grove, California; talks about women Marines, including work assignments and fraternizing; discusses views on Catholicism; reminisces about people he met while in the Marine Corps; describes employment at Autonetics and Douglas Aircraft located in Southern California; and finally, reflects on the closing of MCAS El Toro.

OH 4827

Narrator: Turnbeau, Pat (b. 1948)
Interviewer: Delaney Johnson
Title: “An Oral History with Pat Turnbeau”
Date: March 11, 2012
Language: English
Location: Yorba Linda, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 80 pages

This oral history spans 1948-2012. Bulk dates: 1967-2012.

An oral history with Patricia Turnbeau, resident of Yorba Linda, California, and former United States Marine Corps sergeant. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Turnbeau’s experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about her childhood in Arizona; chronicles daily life in a small town; shares about the personal influence of family values; explains rationale for joining the Marine Corps; recalls journey to and experience at boot camp; describes gender differences in boot camp training; recalls transfer to air wing in Millington, Tennessee, and El Toro; describes daily life and duties at El Toro including: barracks, mess hall, and job in Station Operations and Engineering Squadron (SONES); describes the landscape of El Toro and layout of the base; reminisces about local businesses and how the community received the Marines; comments on El Toro’s role in deploying troops to Vietnam; explains why Marines reenlisted during the 1960s-70s; describes the advancement process and ethnic breakdown in the Marine Corps; remarks on noise control issues over El Toro; comments on interpersonal relationships within an air wing squadron; reflects on memories of Vietnam era and comments on Johnson’s handling of the war; discusses anti-war sentiment in Southern California; speaks about U.S. involvement in overseas conflicts; talks about her post-USMC life including education, employment, and continued military service in the Marine Reserves, Seabees, and National Guard; speaks about husbands’ USMC career including accompanied deployment to Budapest, Hungary; reflects on the personal impact of El Toro; describes the Las Vegas Marine Corps ball; comments on how El Toro impacted the growth of Orange County; and finally, talks about the development of El Toro into the Orange County Great Park.

OH 4828

Narrator: Rollins, Joe (b. 1936)
Interviewer: Albert Rodriguez
Title: "An Oral History with Joe Rollins"
Date: March 13, 2012
Language: English
Location: Orange, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 35 pages

This oral history spans 1936-2012. Bulk dates: 1960-2012.

An oral history with Joe Rollins, resident of Orange, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Rollins' experiences at and around MCAS El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about his childhood in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; influence of education and Christianity; describes racial segregation and involvement with the Civil Rights Movement; talks about history of families military service; explains rationale for joining Marine Corps; describes Marine Corps training including MOS electronic school; comments on racism at El Toro and in greater Orange County including housing discrimination and transition of Santa Ana to Hispanic community; speaks about the anti-war movement; talks about his deployment to Vietnam including interaction with local populace, topographical landscape, R&R, and off base employment; comments on political handling of the war; explains how his personal view of war changed over time; recalls vivid wartime experiences in-country; recalls thrill of seeing SR-71 Blackbird spy plane; describes his return from Vietnam; talks about post-USMC employment; describes how he felt when El Toro closed; comments on how the base should be remembered; talks about changes in Orange County; reflects on his life and legacy; comments on personal effects of recession; and finally, talks about his decision to go back to school.

OH 4829

Narrator: Telles, John (b. 1938)
Interviewer: Andy Olea
Title: "An Oral History with John Telles"
Date: March 26, 2012
Language: English
Location: Vista, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 40 pages

This oral history spans 1938-2012. Bulk dates: 1960-2012.

An oral history with John Telles, resident of Vista, California, and retired colonel in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Telles' experiences at and around MCAS El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about his childhood in East L.A.; shares memories of his family chronicles their Spanish ancestry; discusses rationale for joining USMC and his parents' reaction; comments on vivid combat memories and how Marines prepare for wartime; describes his time at El Toro including: daily life on the base, housing, availability of medical facilities, and how the surrounding community accepted the base; speaks about the integration of junior officers into the Marine Corps; recalls first flight in F-8 Crusader; explains how aircraft unified pilots from different backgrounds; comments on camaraderie and interaction between ranks; remarks on the ethnic breakdown of El Toro; reflects on how family responded to military life; describes carrier qualifications; talks about transfer to Lighter-than-Air Base and integration to a helicopter squadron; describes differences between jet vs. helicopter pilots; recalls deployments to Japan and Vietnam; comments on American anti-war sentiment; describes post-USMC employment and transition to civilian life; speaks about El Toro's role in the development of Orange County and cultural activities available to Marines; describes how he felt when the base closed; reflects on how the Marine Corps influenced his life; recalls memories of flying in presidential helicopter squadron; and finally, comments on how the base should be remembered.

OH 4830

Narrator: Causey, Hubert (b. 1937)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Hubert Causey"
Date: March 28, 2012
Language: English
Location: Sun City, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 36 pages

This oral history spans 1937-2012. Bulk dates: 1959-1980.

An oral history with Hubert Causey, resident of Canyon Lake, California, and retired lieutenant colonel in the United States Marine Corps. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Causey's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about his childhood memories and military lineage; recalls growing up during World War II; explains rationale for joining the USMC; describes training at Officer Candidate School and graduation; comments on the value of role models; describes first deployment to Vietnam including combat operations and learning he was a father; speaks about personal growth and maturation process; describes practice bomb runs and experience with the Hawk missile; recalls duty as Battalion Operations Officer; describes humorous incident at Cherry Point involving his CO; explains why he became a career Marine; praises his wife's role as Marine wife; talks about impact of Marine brotherhood; comments on Johnson's handling of the Vietnam War and how military build-up affected the troops in-county; recalls how the county treated returning military personnel; talks about the emotional impact of making casualty calls; shares about the personal value of his Marine Corps career and mentorship opportunities; talks about experiences with female marines and comments on women in combat; describes life at El Toro; comments on Marine Corps housing; describes first impressions of Southern California; explains the process of rank promotion; shares advice he would give to a potential Marine; describes his transition to civilian life, and finally, shares how the El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4831

Narrator: Ewers, Richard (b. 1946)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: "An Oral History with Richard Ewers"
Date: March 22, 2012
Language: English
Location: Long Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 49 pages

This oral history spans 1946-2012. Bulk dates: 1964-2012.

An oral history with Richard Ewers, resident of Palmdale, California, and retired lieutenant colonel of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Ewers' experiences at and around MCAS El Toro. Specifically, this interview describes his childhood as a Marine Corps dependent; recalls his father's deployment to El Toro and initial impressions of the Southern California region; chronicles passion for aviation and why he wanted to be a pilot; describes process to get into Air Force Academy; comments on his reaction to the Vietnam war; talks about his decision to request a Marine Corps commission and process of becoming a pilot; shares how he met his wife and her acceptance of the military lifestyle; comments on involvement with Vietnam War and describes in-country deployment including: daily life, housing, and rescue operations; talks about how he and his wife dealt with squadron fatalities; discusses the Marine Corps' decision to take the F/A-18; speaks about his deployment to El Toro as Marine and benefits of local flight conditions; talks about the growth of Orange County; comments on communities reaction to jet noise; describes family activities available through Special Services; reflects on USMC career including European tour and duty as squadron commander; compares service in Vietnam vs. current deployments; talks about his post-USMC career as NASA test pilot and transition to civilian life; shares why he his son joined the Marine Corps; comments on current conflicts in Middle East; talks about El Toro's impact on Orange County and how Marine Corps impacted his life; and finally, reflects on how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4832

Narrator: Bergey, Garvin (b. 1944)
Interviewer: Albert Rodriquez
Title: "An Oral History with Garvin Bergey"
Date: March 20, 2012
Language: English
Location: Corona del Mar, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages

This oral history spans 1944-2012. Bulk dates: 1968-2012.

An oral history with Garvin Bergey, resident of Corona del Mar, California, and former sergeant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Bergey's experiences at and around MCAS El Toro. This interview includes discussion of Bergey's childhood as the son of a Navy pilot; recalls visiting grandparents in Huntington Beach and Fullerton, California; explains rationale for joining the Marine Corps Reserves; comments on the draft vs. volunteer army; talks about boot camp and Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California; discusses the differences between regular Marines and Marine Corps Reserves; speaks about training for air traffic control at Northrop Institute of Technology in Los Angeles, California, while working part-time at Los Angeles International Airport; shares first impression of MCAS El Toro; details an average day at MCAS El Toro as a Reservist operating a radar unit; discusses the outcome of the Vietnam War and Vietnam War protests; comments on the Civil Rights Movement and race relations in the Marine Corps; shares thoughts on the role of women in the military/combat; recalls attending flight school in the U.S. Army and compares camaraderie and training to the Marine Corps; talks about career as commercial pilot for Air California and American Airlines; remembers the September 11, 2001, bombing of the World Trade Center; discusses changes in airline procedures post-9/11; talks about two sons serving in the U.S. Marine Corps including son being wounded while serving in Kuwait; offers opinion on the Orange County Great Park vs. commercial airport; and finally, reflects on the interview and elicits response from interviewer Albert Rodriquez on the personal meaning of the interview.

OH 4833

Narrator: Carmen, Donald (b. 1931)
Interviewer: Delaney Johnson
Title: "An Oral History with Donald Carmen"
Date: April 3, 2012
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 35 pages

This oral history spans 1931-2012. Bulk dates: 1950-2012.

An oral history with Donald Carmen, resident of Santa Ana, California, and retired master gunnery sergeant of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Carmen's experiences at and around MCAS El Toro. Specifically this interview talks about his childhood on a dairy farm; comments on how his wife and children adapted to the Marine Corps life; explains rationale for joining the military and recalls boot camp experience; describes memories of Korean War and how the American people treated veterans in the 1950s; talks about post-war assignments and transfer to traffic control school; comments on expectations of El Toro/Southern California; recalls time at El Toro including: housing availability, enlisted club vs. officers club, and aircraft accidents; talks about shift in local racial demographics; speaks about noise complaints from surrounding community; comments on political handling of the Vietnam War; describes daily experiences during Vietnam deployment including: mail call and interaction with local populace; discusses how El Toro impacted Orange County; reflects on transition to civilian life; and finally talks about how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4834

Narrator: Rudolph, Sarah (b. 1913)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Sarah Rudolph"
Date: April 4, 2012
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages

This oral history spans 1913-2012. Bulk dates: 1940s-2012.

An oral history with Sarah Rudolph, resident of Santa Ana, California, and wife of retired major William Kennett Rudolph in the United States Marine Corps. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Rudolph's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about her childhood memories of life in Philadelphia and life during the Depression; describes work as civilian employee at MCAS El Toro; recalls how she met her husband and his career in the USMC; tells about father's reaction to her marrying a Marine; speaks about life in Orange County and at El Toro; explains how she viewed her position as Marine wife and shares advice for future Marine spouses; comments on race relations in Orange County; and finally, describes her Santa Ana neighborhood and how the area has changed since the 1950s.

OH 4835

Narrator: Henze, Donald (b. 1943)
Interviewer: Delaney Johnson
Title: "An Oral History with Donald Henze"
Date: April 17, 2012
Language: English
Location: Irvine, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 53 pages

This oral history spans 1943-2012. Bulk dates: 1966-2006.

An oral history with Donald Henze, resident of Irvine, California, and retired major in the United States Marine Corps. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Henze's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about his childhood in a small Iowa town; comments on the influence of family during formative years; talks about how he met his wife and their children; explains rationale for joining the military and why he chose to pursue a college education; describes flight training; speaks about deployment to Vietnam including: missions, housing, and interaction with civilians; comments on the political handling of the war; talks about post-war political and social ramifications; recalls his homecoming and transition to life after combat; describes time at MCAS El Toro including: surrounding community, housing, duties, relationships with other Marines, and involvement with Special Services; explains involvement with increasing childcare availability at El Toro; describes duty as casualty assistance officer; comments on the racial and economic backgrounds of fellow Marines; remarks on ethnic breakdown in communities surrounding U.S. Marine Corps bases; comments on involvement with the El Toro Aero Club; explains why he retired from the Marine Corps and post-military employment; talks about how El Toro influenced the growth of Orange County; shares how a military career affects personal growth; and finally talks about how the base should be remembered.

OH 4836

Narrator: Winkleman, Lois (b. 1932)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Lois Winkleman"
Date: April 22, 2012
Language: English
Location: Lake Forest, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 15 pages

This oral history spans 1932-2012. Bulk dates: 1930s-1965.

An oral history with Lois Winkleman, resident of Olympia, Washington. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Winkleman's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about her childhood in the community of El Toro and move to Santa Maria, California; recalls longtime Orange County residents and their role in developing south county farmland; comments on life during World War II; describes work as civilian employee in Navy Supply at MCAS El Toro; talks about how she met her husband; speaks about how Orange County has changed since her childhood and why she moved out of the state; and finally, explains the impact of the base on Orange County and how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4837

Narrator: Sanchez, Wilella (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Wilella Sanchez"
Date: April 22, 2012
Language: English
Location: Lake Forest, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 12 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2012. Bulk dates: 1930s-1978.

An oral history with Wilella Sanchez, resident of Weldon, California. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Sanchez's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about her childhood in the community of El Toro and move to Santa Maria, California; talks about how she met her husband; recalls longtime Orange County residents and their role in developing south county farmland; describes memories of MCAS El Toro's construction and its affect on local residents; comments on the Marine presence in surrounding community; shares memories of life during World War II; speaks about how Orange County has changed since her childhood and why she moved out of the county; and finally, explains the impact of the base on Orange County and how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4838

Narrator: Winkelman, James (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with James Winkelman”
Date: April 22, 2012
Language: English
Location: Lake Forest, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 11 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2012. Bulk dates: 1951-1955.

An oral history with James Winkelman, resident of Olympia, Washington, and Third Class Storekeeper in the United States Navy. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Winkelman’s experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about his childhood and recollections of the attack on Pearl Harbor; explains rationale for joining the Navy; describes expectations of Southern California and MCAS El Toro; recalls meeting his wife; comments on the growth of Orange County and explains why they moved out of California; talks about civilian career; shares about how he would like El Toro to be remembered; and finally, describes involvement with El Toro’s baseball team.

OH 4839

Narrator: McKeever, Michael (b. 1946)
Interviewer: Albert Rodriguez
Title: “An Oral History with Michael McKeever”
Date: April 26, 2012
Language: English
Location: Anaheim, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 42 pages

This oral history spans 1956-2012. Bulk dates: 1956-1986.

An oral history with Michael McKeever, resident of Anaheim, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding McKeever’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of childhood living in Long Beach and Garden Grove, California; talks about father’s military career in the Navy and its effect on the family; describes father’s job in the Navy aboard the USS *Lexington* and the *Yorktown* during World War II; talks about the Battle of the Coral Sea and the Battle of Leyte near the Philippines; recalls reunion with Marine friend of fathers while in Vietnam; speaks about father’s influence on his career in the military; recalls being in charge of intelligence on the USS *Midway*; remembers visiting Imperial Iranian Navy base in Bandar Abbas, Iran; comments on cultural differences between Iran and United States; explains motivation for joining the Marine Corps; discusses family’s economic status; shares memories of recruiting station in Santa Ana, California; explains transition from radio telegraph operator to special radio operator; talks about being the target of antiwar sentiment after returning from Vietnam in 1967; discusses second tour in Vietnam and responsibility for setting up radio communication network; describes air strip in Iwakuni, Japan; speaks about Marine Corps facility at Long Binh, Vietnam; recalls serving with Australian and South Korean Marines while in Vietnam; describes Australian Military Base in Nui Dat, Vietnam; shares experience of being injured in Vietnam and fear of becoming POW [Prisoner of War]; explains transition from communication to photo intelligence and training at Fort Huachuca, Arizona; talks about transfer to Naval Intelligence Support Command in Suitland, Maryland; comments on women in the Marine Corps; remembers transfer to 3rd Marine Air Wing at MCAS El Toro; discusses rationale for obtaining part-time job while stationed at MCAS El Toro; recalls base housing at El Toro; describes physical landscape between El Toro and Camp Pendleton; comments on community reaction to jet noise at MCAS El Toro; expresses view on BRAC [Base realignment and closure] decision to close MCAS El Toro; explains decision to reenlist and transfer to Naval Intelligence Support Center in Washington D.C.; talks about decision to retire from the Marine Corps in 1986; and finally, comments on the closing of West Coast air stations and its effect on the aerospace and defense industry in Orange County.

OH 4840

Narrator: Bowman, William (b. 1945)
Interviewer: Delaney Johnson
Title: “An Oral History with William Bowman”
Date: May 2, 2012
Language: English
Location: Lake Balboa, CA
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 48 pages

This oral history spans 1945-2012. Bulk dates 1966-1972.

An oral history with Bill Bowman, resident of Lake Balboa, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Bowman’s experiences at El Toro and in Vietnam. This interview includes discussion about Bowman’s early youth in rough areas of Los Angeles, the son of hard-working African American parents; recalls his education spent in Catholic school preparing for college that he knew his family could not afford; talks about entering the Marine Corps in 1966, shortly after Vietnam started and watching men in his neighborhood receive draft cards; remembers his infantry training at MCRD [Marine Corps Recruit Depot] in San Diego; details his arrival at El Toro and his duties at the PX; discusses the activities during time off, the advantages of living in Southern California and near the base, along with the sense of camaraderie; recalls his orders to Vietnam, as part of 3rd Marine Division, near the DMZ; talks about his journey there aboard the *USS Pueblo* before its hi-jacking by North Korean forces; remembers arriving alone and walking the dangerous roads into Phu Bai; recalls his stints in both psychiatric and medical hospitals and returning to duty, despite being offered discharge; recollects the bombardment during the Tet Offensive; details his off-duty time, living in a hooch with other servicemen, and morale activities; discusses witnessing PTSD and the catastrophic effects of Agent Orange; talks about his recent book, *A Veteran’s How-to Guide*, and his work with veterans, helping them secure their entitled benefits; explains why he feels there should still be a draft today; remembers his return from Vietnam, the stigma of being “one of those,” suffering from PTSD and the difficulty in finding a decent job; describes how blessed he feels now to be retired and have benefits and economic security in such an unsettling time; discusses possibilities for the El Toro base and how proud he is to be part of that history.

OH 4841

Narrator: Peterson, Kelsey (b. 1942)
Interviewer: Tom Fujii
Title: “An Oral History with Kelsey Peterson”
Date: April 29, 2012
Language: English
Location: Huntington Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 41 pages

This oral history spans 1942-2012. Bulk dates: 1968-1971.

An oral history with Kelsey Peterson, former lieutenant commander of the United States Navy Reserve. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Peterson’s experiences at MCAS Tustin. Specifically, this interview talks about Peterson’s childhood in Chicago, Illinois, and the importance of family role models; describes his education and why he chose to attend medical school; talks about his father’s military experience; explains rationale for joining the Marine Corps; comments on the draft and his association with the Berry Plan (military deferment plan); talks about how he was trained to become a flight surgeon and why he learned to fly; recalls deployment to Marble Mountain Air Facility, Vietnam, and medevac missions; describes the camaraderie between flight surgeons and squadron pilots; comments on the political handling of the war; recalls duty at the MCAS Tustin; speaks about the impact of Southern California military installations on the local community; shares observations of the shifting ethnic diversity in Orange County and development of the region; describes transition to civilian employment and post-military medical practice; talks about his visit to Vietnam War Memorial; shares remarks about how the state of California has changed over the past 40 years; describes air shows at El Toro; comments on environmental concerns at El Toro; and finally, shares thoughts on closing of the base and MCAS Tustin.

OH 4842.1

Narrator: Tolles, Martha (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Martha Tolles”
Date: May 3, 2012
Language: English
Location: San Marino, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages.

This interview spans 1921-2012. Bulk dates: 1930s-2012.

An oral history with Martha Tolles, resident of San Marino, California, former United States Marine Corps (USMC) dependent, and wife of United States Marine Corps Captain Edwin Leroy (Roy) Tolles. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Tolles’ experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about her childhood and family life; shares memories of Depression; talks about influence of her aunts as female role models; explains why she attended Smith College and remembers prominent classmates including: Nancy Reagan, Betty Friedan, and Priscilla Buckley; explains why she became an author; recalls meeting her husband and describes their courtship and marriage ceremony; shares husband’s wartime stories; describes civilian life during World War II and memories of Pearl Harbor; comments on how the media influences public perception of war; recalls arriving in Southern California and process of finding housing in Laguna Beach; and finally, explains why they moved to San Marino.

OH 4842.2

Narrator: Tolles, Martha (b. 1921)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Martha Tolles”
Date: August 3, 2012
Language: English
Location: San Marino, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 33 pages.

This interview spans 1921-2012. Bulk dates: 1940s-2012.

A second oral history with Martha Tolles, resident of San Marino, California, and wife of United States Marine Corps Captain Edwin Leroy (Roy) Tolles. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather further information regarding Tolles’ experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about her experience as a Marine Corps wife; describes WAVES [Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service] training and why she declined service opportunity; speaks about her job as newspaper reporter and how the war altered gender roles in the workplace; describes civilian life during World War II; shares stories of Roy’s time overseas and how they communicated; remembers when he returned from the war and their cross county trip to next duty station; explains why Roy left the Marine Corps and his decision to go to law school; shares memories about her husband including: personality traits, family stories, and his law firm, Munger, Tolles and Olson; talks about her career as an author and published works; comments on how the political climate has changed in California; and finally, shares how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4843

Narrator: Keane, John (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Andy Olea
Title: "An Oral History with John Keane"
Date: May 11, 2012
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2012. Bulk dates 1956-1981.

An oral history with John Keane, resident of Mission Viejo and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Keane's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Keane's upbringing in the working class town of Peabody, Massachusetts and being the child of Irish immigrants; remembers his decision to join the military while at Boston College, as a means to get out of his hometown; recalls his arrival in California in late 1956; discusses his initial assignment at Tustin and his transfer to El Toro shortly thereafter; reminisces on his memories of Orange County during the 1950s, such as living in Santa Ana, open spaces, country roads and the endless orange groves; recalls his other tours at Cherry Point (North Carolina), Yuma (Arizona) Camp Pendleton (California), Quantico (Virginia), and Naples, Italy; talks about his wife, having five children in the Marine Corps and their various housing; recalls his tour in Vietnam in 1965, being in charge of an air traffic control unit, in Chu Lai; discusses how the Marine Corps improved its regiments with higher-caliber recruits after Vietnam; describes average working days on the base, the camaraderie and his closest friends; recalls his retirement in 1981 and transition to Hughes Aircraft; describes the present growth and changes in Orange County since his initial arrival, such as new communities and population boom; remembers his feelings of disappointment when he heard about El Toro closing and the possibilities of a Great Park; discusses military influence on his life and his views of war; and reflects on his happy memories of El Toro and the positive impact on his family.

OH 4844

Narrator: Sifuentes, Raul Art (b. 1939)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: "An Oral History with Raul Sifuentes"
Date: May 15, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oxon Hill, Maryland
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages

This oral history spans 1939-2012. Bulk dates 1957-1972.

An oral history with Raul Art "Mad Mex" Sifuentes, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Sifuentes' experiences at Tustin LTA. This interview includes discussion about Sifuentes' early youth in Midwestern Michigan, the son of Hispanic parents; his parents as migrant workers, who followed the crops for the growing season; entering the Marine Corps after high school, in 1957; his childhood heroes, inspiration and reasons for joining the military; descriptive personalities of his parents; childhood memories of WWII; his college years in Texas; re-enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1964 and entering OCS to be a helicopter pilot; his three tours in Vietnam, his mission of minesweeping to release POWs, and medevac experience; the lack of respect toward veterans during the Vietnam era and how that has currently changed; the difficult transition from soldier to civilian; his first trip flying in to Tustin LTA, his first impressions of the base and Orange County; his family memories of living in Mission Viejo, California; the advantages of being an enlisted man and commissioned officer, and the lessons of leadership; his immense pride in being a member of the Marine Corps; working with Boeing and Rolls Royce engines; his work with MCAA; and the advantages of joining the military and the positive impact on his life.

OH 4845

Narrator: Harris, Jack (b. 1926)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: “An Oral History with Jack Harris”
Date: May 16, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oxon Hill, Maryland
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 27 pages

This oral history spans 1926-2012. Bulk dates 1947-1968.

An oral history with Jack Harris, former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Harris’ experiences at El Toro MCAS. This interview includes discussion about Harris’ upbringing during the Depression in Oregon, the child of a farmer and a house wife; remembers entering the V-12 training squadron at age 17 and attending college while in the Navy; recalls WWII ending and being discharged from the Navy, but receiving a commission in the Marine Corps; talks about learning to fly in his free time and his luck getting an assignment as a pilot in the Marine Corps, in 1947; discusses his flight training at Pensacola [FL] and Corpus Christi [TX]; remembers his two tours in Korea and being based at El Toro MCAS, briefly between tours; discusses living in Atsugi, Japan with his new family in 1953-54; talks about a tour in England, during the 1950s, when he became a better pilot due to the foggy conditions; remembers the camaraderie at El Toro, specifically during the Friday night happy hour; recollects his time in 1968 when he commuted to El Toro from Santa Barbara; talks about the Anti-Vietnam student protests on and around the UC Santa Barbara campus and his feelings about being a military officer during this time; discusses the effect that a military career had on his life and his opinion on how El Toro MCAS should be remembered.

OH 4846

Narrator: Haskin, Robert (b. 1946)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: "An Oral History with Robert Haskin"
Date: May 17, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oxon Hill, Maryland
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages.

This interview spans 1946-2012. Bulk dates: 1967-2012.

An oral history with Robert Haskin, resident of San Ridgecrest, California, and retired master sergeant in the United States Marine Corps. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather further information regarding Haskins' experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about his childhood and memories of boot camp; describes training for job as aviation ordnance; explains rationale for joining the Marine Corps; describes memories of El Toro and Southern California in the 1960s; talks about an average day on the base; recalls deployment to Vietnam including: living conditions, interaction with civilians, and work in the bomb dump; talks about vivid wartime memories; explains why he left the Marine Corps and later re-enlisted; describes changes at El Toro during 1970s-80s; comments on race relation training in the Marine Corps; speaks about various deployments including: Iwakuni, Japan and Kanehoe, Hawaii; discusses differences between the regulars vs. Reservists; comments on how military life affects the family; shares why he retired from the Marine Corps and his post-USMC career in Civil Service; and finally, talks about what El Toro means to him and how the base should be remembered.

OH 4847

Narrator: Cunningham, William (b. 1961)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: "An Oral History with William Cunningham"
Date: May 17, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oxon Hill, Maryland
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 34 pages

This oral history spans 1961-2012. Bulk dates: 1980-2000.

An oral history with William Cunningham, resident of Dumfries, Virginia, and former colonel in the United States Marine Corps. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Cunningham's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview includes discussion of early childhood and adolescent years in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois; speaks about Marine Corps training including basic school at Quantico, Virginia; describes air control officers course in Twenty-Nine Palms, California; shares first impression of Marine Air Station El Toro; recalls leisure activities while stationed at MCAS El Toro, including visits to Los Angeles and Tijuana, Mexico; talks about assignment on funeral detail while at MCAS El Toro; describes responsibilities as air control officer; compares MCAS El Toro and Camp Pendleton; remembers deployment to Operation Desert Storm in 1991; explains duties as airborne direct support in Operation Desert Storm; comments on camaraderie among Marine Corps wives; explains early exit from Operation Desert Storm due to father's death; remembers deployment to Persian Gulf during the 1992 war in Kosovo; speaks about transfer to Twenty-Nine Palms with family; remembers relocation to 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing at MCAS El Toro and work in headquarters; comments on environmental impact of MCAS El Toro and disposal of petroleum products; discusses BRAC [Base relocation and closure] decision to close MCAS El Toro; describes preparation and moving of equipment from MCAS El Toro to MCAS Miramar upon base closure; remembers interaction with helicopter squadrons at Tustin Base, Tustin, California; describes activities at the Officer's Club at MCAS El Toro; comments on transfer to Top Level School in Alabama and difficulties associated with moving the family; talks about current employment with Boeing; reflects on the legacy of the Marine Corps; talks about the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and its effects on Marine Corps operations and morale; and finally, comments on how MCAS El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4848

Narrator: Seder, David (b. 1944)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: "An Oral History with David Seder"
Date: May 18, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oxon Hill, Maryland
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages.

This interview spans 1944-2012. Bulk dates: 1966-1997.

An oral history with David Seder, resident of Fairfax, Virginia, and retired colonel in the United States Marine Corps. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather further information regarding Haskins' experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Seder's childhood and education; explains rationale for joining the United States Marine Corps; discusses the influence of Navy aviation on his career; comments on skills needed for modern day aviators; tells story of his first flight physical; talks about F-4 training and how the Marine Corps prepared him for combat; describes tour in Vietnam including daily life, duty as a forward air controller, and the relationship with ground troops; talks about how he met his wife and affect of military lifestyle on the family; recalls three tours at El Toro and talks about how the base changed over the decades; describes effect of Operation Desert Storm on base operations; comments on the suicide of Colonel Jim Sabow; talks about how the BRAC [Base Realignment and Closure Commission] affected MCAS El Toro including the transition to MCAS Miramar; compares how local community accepted military personnel at El Toro vs. Miramar; comments on FAA regulations in air space surrounding El Toro; shares memories of retirement; impact of Marine Corps on his life; and finally talks about the affect of the base on Orange County and how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4849

Narrator: Dine, Charles T. (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: "An Oral History with Charles T. Dine"
Date: May 18, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oxon Hill, Maryland
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 36 pages

This oral history spans 1974-2012. Bulk dates 1995-2012.

An oral history with Charles T. Dine, resident of Yuma, Arizona and member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Dine's experiences at El Toro as well as his current service. This interview includes discussion about Dine's upbringing in Yuma, Arizona as the son of two educators; remembers losing his mother to cancer at a young age and how that has affected his life and outlook in the Marine Corps; talks about his post-high school adventures in Alaska and early career struggles which led him to join the Corps at age twenty-one; remembers his early MOS training and becoming a firefighter in the airfield service, Crash Fire Rescue; discusses Marine Combat Training [MCT] at Camp Pendleton and firefighting school at Goodfellow AFB in Texas; recalls El Toro being his first duty station after fire school and his memories of the base and the surrounding Southern California communities; details his training at The Basic School and becoming a warrant officer; talks about the variety of crash fires that he witnessed, both on base and in the civilian community; remembers his transfer to Miramar after El Toro closed; recalls his tour in Okinawa, Japan, with his new wife and while there, receiving the news of 9/11; talks about the immediate aftermath of 9/11 and the subsequent war in Afghanistan; details his deployment in Afghanistan and his duty testing the airfields and working with landing zones in Helmand Province and the Sangin River Valley; talks about being the recipient of the 2011 Aviation Ground Officer of the Year/The Earle Hattaway Award; discusses American perception of the war in Afghanistan and the vast cultural differences that he observed; details the many advantages and benefits of pursuing a career in the Marine Corps; remembers his fondness for El Toro and returning to the base after it closed; and talks about how he would like to see El Toro remembered for future generations and residents of Orange County.

OH 4850

Narrator: Hickerson, Robert (b. 1944)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: "An Oral History with Robert Hickerson"
Date: May 18, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oxon Hill, Maryland
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 32 pages.

This interview spans 1944-2012. Bulk dates: 1962-1994

An oral history with Robert Hickerson, resident of Frederiksberg, Texas, and retired colonel of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Hickerson's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about his childhood and rationale for joining the Navy ROTC; reminisces about his education at UC Berkley during the 1960s; explains why he transferred to the Marine Corps; describes training as Marine officer and aviator; remembers how he met his wife and how flight training affected his wedding; recalls being stationed in Meridian, Mississippi, during the Neshoba County Civil Rights Trial (1967); describes MCAS El Toro and the surrounding community in the 1960s; discusses his wife's employment as teacher in local the community; talks about preparing for Vietnam and deployment to Chu Lai in 1968; describes air base, living conditions, and flying interdiction missions in Laos; recalls memorable rocket attack and air mission over Laos; explains how he would communicate with his family while in-country; comments on public sentiment toward returning servicemen; talks about being stationed in Beaufort, South Carolina, and in the Marine Air Weapons Training Unity, Pacific; recalls second tour to Vietnam in 1972 on Navy Exchange Tour; talks about transfer to Southern California to train as landing signal officer; comments on the growth of Orange County and living off base; speaks about effect of jet noise on local community; describes advantages of command positions; talks about how Marine Corps reacted to Desert Storm; compares military response in Vietnam vs. Desert Storm; discusses transition to civilian life and job at Texas A&M; comments on how the Marine Corps impacted his life; describes the effect of El Toro on his career and Orange County; and finally shares how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4851

Narrator: Anderson, Eleanor (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: "An Oral History with Eleanor Anderson"
Date: May 19, 2012
Language: English
Location: Washington, D.C.
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 41 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2012. Bulk dates: 1945-1970

An oral history with Eleanor Anderson, resident of Washington, D.C., ex-wife of United States Marine Corps General Frank Petersen. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Anderson's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of father's employment at the city water department in Topeka, Kansas, and mother's employment at the Governor's Mansion in Topeka; talks about mother's death and subsequent splintering of family; speaks about involvement in local politics in Topeka, Civil Rights Movement, sit-ins, and protests; describes atmosphere in Topeka during World War II including blackout curtains, war bonds, and brother's death while serving in the military; comments on segregation in Topeka public schools and Catholic schools; remembers being a student at Kansas University and racial tensions; talks about Brown vs. Board of Education case; shares memory of meeting and marrying first husband, Brigadier General Frank Petersen; reflects on first impression of Orange County and MCAS El Toro; discusses issues of race while at MCAS El Toro including challenges of being one of the few black families at MCAS El Toro and racial prejudice toward her children while living at MCAS El Toro; comments on the increased number of black aviators and medical personnel at MCAS El Toro in the late 1950s; talks about required social activities such as wives clubs and Marine Corps Ball; shares memories of Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, Hawaii, and the difficulties finding housing; recalls husband's transfer to Staff and Command College, Quantico, Virginia, and family's subsequent move to Virginia; discusses break down of marriage and divorce from Frank Petersen and the financial challenges of being a single mother; talks about getting a job with Washington, D.C. consulting firm; shares memory of meeting current husband, Dr. John Anderson; discusses how children coped with military life; comments on life as the spouse of a Marine; talks about death of Marine wife at MCAS El Toro and the husband's subsequent arrest in connection with her death; comments on how MCAS El Toro should be remembered; and finally, fondly remembers friends she met while ex-husband was in the Marine Corps.

OH4852

Narrator: Composto, Maxine (b. 1948)
Interviewer: Amanda Tewes
Title: "An Oral History with Maxine Composto"
Date: May 20, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oxon Hill, Maryland
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 31 pages.

An oral history with Maxine Composto, resident of Dunn Loring, Virginia, and wife of retired brigadier general Joseph Composto [O.H. 4794] of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Composto's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Composto's background and childhood in NYC; shares her father's memories of the Depression and World War II; tells how she met her husband; explains his rationale for joining the United States Marine Corps and her expectation of military life; talks about her employment history as young Marine wife; describes her husband's military training and deployment history; recalls first impressions of MCAS El Toro and Southern California; speaks about availability of base housing availability and living in the community; compares military vs. civilian medical facilities; talks about her memories of the Vietnam War and how it impacted her life; remembers learning of Kennedy assassination and its impact on Catholic community; comments on life at El Toro as young family; speaks about the influence/relationship of Marine wives and challenges of moving to a new duty station; recalls accompanying her husband on an overseas tour to Okinawa; talks about how the military lifestyle affected both her immediate and extended family and what advice she gives to new Marine wives; describes guidelines imposed on officers wives and how duties changed as her husband was promoted; talks about the effect of 9-11 on Marine community; recalls living in Newport, Rhode Island, and the local cultural opportunities; MC during Desert Storm; explains why she went to graduate school and her educational experience as a returning student; talks about Joe's promotion to brigadier general and the leadership training provided to officers and their wives; comments on the Robert Garwood POW case; remembers using El Toro base daycare center; comments on the transition to civilian life and employment at Marine Corps Base Quantico; how Orange County has changed and impact of base on area; comments on how the Marine Corps influenced her concept of feminism; and finally, shares how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4853

Narrator: Campbell, Jr. William R. (b.1939)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: "An Oral History with William Campbell"
Date: May 15, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oxon Hill, Maryland
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 27 pages

This oral history spans 1939-2012. Bulk dates: 1950-1970.

An oral history with William Campbell, resident of Fairfax, Virginia, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted for the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Campbell's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of father's career as a Marine Corps aviator during World War II and Korean War; recalls high school years in Quantico, Virginia; discusses decision to apply to the Naval Academy and subsequent acceptance; describes life at the Naval Academy including military training, academics, pay, sports, leisure time activities, and the presence of minorities and women at the Academy; remembers Basic School in Quantico, Virginia; details transition from fire direction officer to flight school in Pensacola, Florida; talks about transfer to helicopter squadron in Okinawa, Japan; shares memory of mid-air crash in Vietnam; describes duties in Vietnam as helicopter pilot; speaks about being aide to General Keith McCutcheon; remembers assignment in Quantico as flight instructor; recalls transfer to Smyrna, Tennessee, and C-130 training; discusses second tour in Vietnam as C-130 pilot; describes airplane crash in Phu Bai, Vietnam, and resulting investigation; shares initial impression of MCAS El Toro; describes job as legal officer of NWSG-17 at MCAS El Toro and discharge of Marines convicted of various offences including being AWOL [absent without leave]; remembers three week tour flying General Henry Buse to numerous locations around the world; talks about position as management analyst and speech writer for assistant Marine Corps commandant General E.E. Anderson; recalls transfer to North Island as air operations officer on the USS *Tarawa*; discusses transfer to Pascagoula, Mississippi, and training as HH-46 Alpha helicopter pilot; shares memories of last tour of duty at MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; comments on the outcome of the Vietnam War; and finally, reflects on how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4854

Narrator: Casey, James (b. 1949)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: "An Oral History with James Casey"
Date: May 15, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oxon Hill, Maryland
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed: 31 pages

This oral history spans 1949-2012. Bulk dates 1967-1999.

An oral history with James Casey, resident of Washington DC and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and current deputy director of the Marine Corps Aviation Association (MCAA). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Casey's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Casey's family and childhood in Syracuse, New York; recalls enlisting in the Marine Corps immediately after high school in 1967 and not being deterred by the situation in Vietnam; remembers boot camp at Parris Island, infantry training at Camp Geiger, and aviation training in Memphis; discusses training at El Toro for just one month and then returning to Memphis; talks about the assassination of Martin Luther King and its aftermath; details being on leave in Syracuse and seeing his friends sent off to Vietnam; recollects his return to El Toro in 1968, at age nineteen, and working Air ops; recalls his recreational activities during his off time; talks about being sent to Iwakuni, Japan, and then on to Marble Mountain, Vietnam; describes typical days in Vietnam as a gunner; remembers his reaction to the end of the war; recalls coming home and meeting his future wife; discusses his reenlistment and relocating to Cherry Point with his new family; talks about his deployment on the USS *Midway*, then being stationed in Hawaii, Washington DC and Quantico; mentions working during Operation Desert Storm; remembers his retirement in 1999 and shortly thereafter how he got his job with MCAA; reflects on rewarding aspects of his aviation career, MCAA, and his feelings on El Toro being closed and how he would like to see it remembered.

OH 4855.2

Narrator: Rich, Edwin (b. 1967)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: “An Oral History with Edwin Rich”
Date: July 31, 2012
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 33 pages

This oral history spans 1967-2012. Bulk dates 1995-2012.

An oral history with Edwin Rich, resident of Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, and member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Rich’s experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Rich’s youth in Metairie, Louisiana; recalls pertinent events of the 1970s; speaks about the L.A. riots of 1992; remembers what influenced him to become a Marine; explains his recruitment and boot camp at Marine Corps Recruitment Depot (MCRD) San Diego; mentions how he entered aviation logistics; details his time in Desert Storm in 1990 and the national support; comments on meeting his wife Charmaine and getting married in 1995; compares the mindset of a “grunt” and an officer; explains his first impressions of the El Toro/Tustin areas and his arrival in 1995; describes living in Aliso Viejo and favorite recreational activities in the area, including many visits to the Officer’s Club; discusses the birth of his son, Chase, and challenges with his heart condition; comments on Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell; recollects the community’s reaction to the base and members of the Marine Corps; remembers his favorite memories of El Toro; talks about the difficulties of losing comrades; recalls the base transition and the community debates on El Toro closing; explains where he was and his emotions on 9/11; discusses his tour in Iraq in 2005, while stationed at Al Asad airbase; compares his tour in Operation Desert Storm with his tour in Iraq, as well as the differences in national support; mentions his thoughts on PTSD and the emotional impact on veterans; describes how the military has affected his life; and envisions how he would like to see El Toro remembered.

OH 4856

Narrator: Douglas Engel (b. 1966)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: “An Oral History with Doug Engel”
Date: May 17, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oxen Hill, Maryland
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 23 pages

This oral history spans 1966-2012. Bulk dates: 1990-2005

An oral history with Douglas Engel, resident of Jacksonville, North Carolina, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Engel’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of his childhood growing up in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois; speaks about father’s influence on his decision to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps; remembers seeing footage from the Vietnam War on the evening news; explains decision to enlist in U.S. Marine Corps; recalls boot camp in San Diego, California; describes Marine Corps Base Tustin, Tustin, California, and the surrounding area; discusses transfer to Fleet Marine Force at Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina; describes responsibilities in aviation electronics repair squadron while at New River; talks about being a Reservist during Desert Storm; recalls entering officer candidate school in Quantico, Virginia; comments on tour in Hawaii with the Purple Foxes; shares advances in helicopter technology, specifically, the CH-46 and the MV-22; describes home at MCAS El Toro in base housing; remembers squadron parties and leisure activities while at MCAS El Toro; comments on the transition from jets to helicopters at MCAS El Toro; talks about the atmosphere in the Officer’s Club while at MCAS El Toro; remembers the air shows at MCAS El Toro; voices opinion on the encroachment of housing toward MCAS El Toro and the decision to close the base; recalls the atmosphere at Lambert International Airport, St. Louis, Missouri, on September 11, 2001; discusses participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom; shares current assignment as commander of MALSS [Maine Aviation Logistics Support Squadron] at New River; and finally, expresses opinion on how MCAS El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4857

Narrator: Craig Wheel (b. 1941)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: "An Oral History with Craig Wheel"
Date: May 18, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oxon Hill, Maryland
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 25 pages

This oral history spans 1941-2012. Bulk dates: 1960-1980.

An oral history with Craig Wheel resident of Newark, Delaware, and member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Wheel's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of parent's reaction to the December 7, 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor; recalls living on Romulus Army Airfield, Michigan; talks about fathers military service in the 2nd Ferry Air Command during World War II; explains decision to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps; describes boot camp at Parris Island, North Carolina; discusses rationale for leaving the U.S. Marine Corps and joining U.S. Army; talks about transition to U.S. Army flight school; remembers first trip to MCAS El Toro; speaks about 1965 C-135 plane crash at MCAS El Toro and involvement in clean-up; remembers first tour in Vietnam in F-100 squadron; talks about the death of his plane's gunner; comments on the Vietnam War and military leadership; discusses wife's reaction to decision to leave the U.S. Army; describes career with Atlantic Aviation flying corporate helicopters; compares U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army as an organization; and finally, comments on how MCAS El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4858

Narrator: Arthur and Jacqueline Larsen (b. 1938)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: "An Oral History with Arthur and Jacqueline Larsen"
Date: May 18, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oxon Hill, Maryland
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed: 27 pages

This oral history spans: 1938-2012. Bulk dates: 1955-1975.

An oral history with Arthur and Jacqueline Larsen residents of Wildwood, Florida. Arthur Larsen is a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and Jacqueline Larsen is his wife. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Larsen's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of Larsen's rationale for joining the Marine Corps at age seventeen; speaks about educational background including Catholic seminary; remembers boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California; talks about first and second tours in Vietnam as jet mechanic and maintenance material control; describes living conditions in Vietnam; comments on third tour in Vietnam; recalls recruiting duty in Chicago, Illinois; Jacqueline speaks about meeting future husband at MCAS El Toro; both share first impression of MCAS El Toro; describes atmosphere in noncommissioned officer's club; remembers commanding officer's plane crash; comments on the dangers of air shows; Jacqueline comments on Arthur's retirement and transition to civilian life; talks about influence of MCAS El Toro on Orange County economic growth; and finally, Jacqueline shares opinion on how MCAS El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4859

Narrator: Roger Thelen (b. 1940)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: “An Oral History with Roger Thelen”
Date: May 18, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oxon Hill, Maryland
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages

This oral history spans 1940-2012. Bulk dates: 1957-1970.

An oral history with Roger Thelen, resident of Sultan, Washington, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), which took place during the Marine Corps Aviation Association Reunion in Oxon Hill, Maryland. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Thelen’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of World War II memories of Lansing, Michigan, and B-17s and P-51s flying overhead; remembers listening to news reports about World War Two on the radio; talks about growing up in a German community during World War Two; explains impetus for joining U.S. Marine Corps; recalls activities as a teenager: playing sports, drinking, and exploring countryside; speaks about family’s involvement in the Korean War; describes boot camp at MCRD [Marine Corps Recruit Depot] San Diego, California, including incident at rifle range; shares initial impression MCAS El Toro, landscape and physical surroundings; talks about involvement with MCAS El Toro football team; describes average day at MCAS El Toro, playing football and attending classes; remembers crash of Blue Angel team member during MCAS El Toro airshow and base reaction; explains failure to pass flight exam; speaks about 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis; comments on the campaign and election of John F. Kennedy to the presidency; remembers tour in Japan and exploring the cities on foot; talks about Marine Corps preparation for the Vietnam War; discusses exit from Marine Corps; comments on benefits of Marine Corps on his life and career; offers advice for potential Marine Corps recruits; and finally comments on the closing of MCAS El Toro and how the base should be remembered.

OH 4860

Narrator: McDaniel, Adele (b. 1927)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: "An Oral History with Adele McDaniel"
Date: May 19, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oxon Hill, Maryland
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages

This oral history spans 1927-2012. Bulk dates 1956-1981.

An oral history with Adele McDaniel, resident of Titusville, Florida, and Marine Corps wife. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding McDaniel's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about McDaniel's upbringing in Long Beach, CA; talks about memories of World War II and its impact on her neighborhood; remembers working for Douglas Aircraft and on Terminal Island during the war; mentions the joyousness of VJ Day; explains how she met her first Marine husband, Percy, in Laguna Beach in 1948; discusses visiting El Toro with Percy and getting married at the chapel, with a reception at the Officer's Club; recollects living on the base in the former BOQ; remembers her pregnancy at the onset of the Korean War and delivering her daughter while Percy was overseas; comments on living at other bases after El Toro, including Washington D.C., Cherry Point, Quantico, and Jacksonville; explains Percy's death after he retired from the Marine Corps; reflects on meeting her second Marine husband, Jim McDaniel at MCAA, and their marriage in 1980; recollects visiting El Toro in 1980 and the changes she observed; talks about how military service affected her life and what type of legacy she would like to leave behind; details the familial connections within the Marine Corps, how important friends became to her, and how she misses many people.

OH 4861

Narrator: Makuch, Roman (b. 1961)
Interviewer: Bethany Girod
Title: "An Oral History with Roman Makuch"
Date: May 19, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oxon Hill, Maryland
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 35 pages

This oral history spans 1961-2012. Bulk dates 1981-1985.

An oral history with Roman Makuch, resident of Middle Village, New York, and former corporal in the United States Marine Corps. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Roman's experiences at El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Makuch's background and his family's Ukrainian ancestry; describes his childhood in Buffalo, New York; explains rationale for joining the Marine Corps and how his family reacted to this decision; talks about boot camp experience including arrival, daily life, and interaction with drill instructors; recalls his first impression of El Toro and daily life at the base including: squadron duty, interpersonal relationships, and recreation on/off base; remembers the challenge of changing squadrons; talks about WESTPAC widows; speaks about race relations and women Marines at El Toro; talks about the relationship between officer/enlisted at different bases; recalls aviation accidents at El Toro; comments on the introduction of the F/A-18 and describes military exercises with U.S. and Canadian Air Force; comments on community relations in Orange County and jet noise complaints; explains why he decided to not re-enlist; explains the camaraderie and personal pride in USMC; shares his memories of 9/11 and volunteer efforts and how his Marine Corps experience influenced his view of war; talks about his reaction to El Toro's closing, and finally, shares how the base should be remembered.

OH 4862

Narrator: Tibbs, David (b. 1953)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: “An Oral History with David Tibbs”
Date: May 22, 2012
Language: English
Location: Lake Forest, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 63 pages

This oral history spans 1953-2012. Bulk dates 1970-1975.

An oral history with David Tibbs, resident of Lake Forest and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Tibbs’ experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Tibbs’ formative years in Big Bear, California; speaks about his family heritage of military service and their “flag waving patriotism;” remembers his childhood challenges of stuttering and obesity; explains joining the Marine Corps in 1970 while feeling lost and bored in Big Bear; recalls boot camp then Marine Corps engineer school, where he learned skills of a heavy equipment operator; mentions his hope for a transfer to Vietnam that never came, despite his requests; comments on a brief assignment in Cuba followed by his permanent assignment at El Toro in 1971; details how he joined the Military Police (MP) and became a cross-country chaser; talks about the duties of a cross-country chaser and how he rounded up AWOLs and deserters; recollects memorable instances of criminal servicemen whom he had to escort to notorious prisons, such Fort Leavenworth and Portsmouth Naval Penitentiary; explains how it felt to be a Marine during the close of the Vietnam War and how the public perceived him despite the fact that he never actually served in Vietnam; explains how he was “kicked out” of the Marine Corps due to a back disability, in 1975, and how he otherwise would have been a thirty year man; recalls his first impressions of the El Toro base and his typical duties as an MP, which included walking post around Air Force One when President Nixon was in town; speaks about what he did for fun while stationed at El Toro; details the infractions of servicemen and women committed on the base; remembers the operations of the El Toro brig and his interactions with prisoners; mentions how other Marines disliked the MPs and their citation distribution; mentions issues of race on base, particularly between African Americans and Caucasians; talks about plane and helicopter crashes that occurred while he was there, including some instances for which he needed to secure a perimeter; details the arrival of the Vietnamese refugees in 1974 and the controversial manner in which Marines were relocated and felt marginalized on base as a result; explains his difficulty with the transition to civilian life and his work after the Marine Corps; comments on the change within the surrounding communities of El Toro; discusses how his military service has affected his worldview; compares military vs. civilian legal processes; and reflects on how he would like to see El Toro remembered.

OH 4863

Narrator: Wilson, Charles (b. 1940)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Charles Wilson"
Date: May 23, 2012
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 38 pages

This oral history spans 1940-2012. Bulk dates: 1959-1972.

An oral history with Charles, resident of Jacksonville, Arkansas, and former member of the United States Marines Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Wilson's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of childhood in southern Louisiana as the son of an itinerate farmer; explains rationale for joining the Marine Corps in 1959; talks about basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California; describes infantry training at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton; recalls first tour in Vietnam assigned to train South Vietnamese troops; talks about the beginning of computers in the Marine Corps, his involvement, and subsequent second tour in Vietnam with computer satellite communication and intelligence detachment; speaks retrospectively about the outcome of the Vietnam War; comments on the challenges of living in a foreign environment; remembers third tour in Vietnam; talks about accompanied tour in Japan and adjustment to Japanese customs and culture; compares MCAS El Toro to other Marine Corps bases; explains duties as installation chief at MCAS El Toro; describes military housing at MCAS El Toro; talks about social and leisure activities while living in base housing at MCAS El Toro; speaks about involvement in Boy Scouts of American and Girl Scouts while stationed at MCAS El Toro; comments on race relations in the Marine Corps; discusses drug addiction and rehabilitation programs in the military; recalls religious services at the MCAS El Toro chapel; talks about career with Target Industries post-Marine Corps; speaks about children's career choices; and finally, describes agricultural production at and around MCAS El Toro.

OH 4864

Narrator: Kelly, Donald (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Donald Kelly”
Date: June 4, 2012
Language: English
Location: Tustin, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 39 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2012. Bulk dates 1951-1954.

An oral history with Donald Kelly, resident of Yukon, Oklahoma, and former staff sergeant in the United States Marine Corps. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Kelly’s experiences at El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Kelly’s childhood in New Jersey during the Depression; describes his educational background and explains the importance of lifelong learning; speaks about his memories of Pearl Harbor and life during World War II including: rationing and blackout curtains on the Jersey Boardwalk; talks about employment in neighborhood butcher shop and role the black market played in local commerce; explains rationale for joining the United States Marine Corps and talks about his family’s military background; describes sailing on an LST [Landing Ship, Tank]; recalls first impressions of Southern California and arrival at Camp Pendleton; describes MOS in communications including: laying and maintaining telephone lines; compares/contrasts Camp Pendleton and MCAS El Toro; talks about various Marine Corps aircraft used during WWII and Korea; comments on how the military kept troops aware of Korean War; describes deployment to Korea in 1951 including: weather and communications duty; comments on racial integration in the Marine Corps during the Truman administration; shares personal opinion about General MacArthur’s leadership strategy during the Korean War; describes how Marine Corps training prepared troops for war and how this differed from the Army ; compares military interaction with Japanese people post-WWII vs. post-occupation; reminisces about Japanese friends met in the United States; describes wartime morale; talks about being sent to Radiation, Atomic Bomb, and Poison Gas School and why he’s glad to have missed atomic testing in Las Vegas; talks about his journey home from the Korean War; recalls experience fighting wildfires in Southern California; describes involvement with military organizations and experience at the Marine Corps birthday celebrations; shares why he wants to visit South Korea again; how he felt when the Armistice was signed; gives advice to someone wanting to join the Marine Corps; talks about how El Toro should be remembered; and finally, shares thoughts about the Korean Memorial.

OH 4865

Narrator: Babitz, Donald (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Andrew Brown
Title: "An Oral History with Donald Babitz"
Date: January 4, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oceanside, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 20 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2012. Bulk dates 1950s-1980s.

An oral history with Donald Babitz, resident of Oceanside and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Babitz's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Babitz's upbringing in the Chicago suburb of Cicero, Illinois, as the child of working class parents; discusses entering Aeronautical University to become an aircraft mechanic, which led to joining the Navy Reserves, and eventually the Naval Aviation Cadets; talks about early training and his transition into the Marine Corps as a helicopter pilot; remembers his first assignment at Tustin LTA and joining a squadron headed for the Marshall Islands; recollects his participation in hydrogen bomb testing on Bikini Atoll, Eniwetok, and Johnston Island; explains his return to LTA and daily duties; mentions brief station in Okinawa, where he would later return with his wife and family for three years; recalls flying Air America in Laos; speaks about his station on Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, during the Cuban Missile Crisis; recalls meeting and marrying his wife Barbara, while stationed at Pensacola as a flight instructor; discusses their return to LTA in anticipation of his tour in Vietnam; details his duties in Vietnam, mainly transporting troops; mentions his combat injury and working a desk for three months as a result, but still managed to finish his Vietnam tour; talks about his return to Tustin, finishing his undergrad education at Chapman University and his Master's at Webster University; recalls working at Tustin during the filming of the movie *Hindenburg*; comments on a two-year tour in the Philippines with his family then returning once again to LTA; explains his promotion to colonel and transition to El Toro MCAS for his final tour; reflects on the impact the Marine Corps has had on his life and his feelings about LTA and El Toro closing down; and finally, he shares and comments on several personal photographs from his time in the Marine Corps.

OH 4866

Narrator: Babitz, Barbara (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Andrew Brown
Title: "An Oral History with Barbara Babitz"
Date: June 4, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oceanside, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 16 pages

This oral history spans: 1934-2012. Bulk dates: 1960s-1980s.

An oral history with Barbara Babitz, longtime resident of Southern California, and wife of former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Donald Babitz (OH 4865). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Babitz's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Lowell, Massachusetts, playing in the woods and at the local YWCA; recalls first job as an accountant; discusses moving to Florida and meeting future husband, Donald; talks about moving to Santa Ana, California, husbands deployment to Vietnam, birth of child, and job with Irvine Unified School District while husband stationed at MCAS El Toro; remembers visiting several Southeast Asian countries while living in the Philippines and Japan during husbands Marine Corps career; speaks about effects of military life on families; shares memories of Vietnam anti-war protestors including incident at Disneyland, Anaheim, California; speaks about community support of military families; remembers reaction to husband's return from tour in Vietnam; talks about the effects of MCAS El Toro and Orange County on her life; and finally, expresses her wish for a military cemetery at the Orange County Great Park.

OH 4867

Narrator: Krebs, Ronald (b. 1940)
Interviewer: Andrew Brown
Title: "An Oral History with Andrew Brown"
Date: June 6, 2012
Language: English
Location: Huntington Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 16 pages

This oral history spans 1940-2012. Bulk dates: 1960-1970

An oral history with Ronald Krebs, resident of Huntington Beach, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Krebs's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about growing up in Sandusky, Ohio; explains decision to join U.S. Marine Corps; recalls Marine Corps boot camp; talks about radar control school at Olathe, Kansas; talks about assignment in control tower at MCAS El Toro; remembers overseas tours in Iwakuni, Japan, Thailand, and the Philippines; discusses camaraderie between fellow radar and air traffic controllers; speaks about decision to leave Marine Corps and work for FAA (Federal Aviation Administration); discusses the challenges of working in control tower; comments on the anti-war movement during the Vietnam War; describes leisure activities while stationed at MCAS El Toro; and finally, talks about the impact of MCAS El Toro on Orange County.

OH 4868

Narrator: Blanchard, Ronald E. (b. 1932)
Interviewer: Andrew Brown
Title: "An Oral History with Ronald Blanchard"
Date: June 7, 2012
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 20 pages

This oral history spans 1932-2012. Bulk dates 1955-1982.

An oral history with Ronald Blanchard, resident of Mission Viejo and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Blanchard's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Blanchard's youth in Illinois and Minnesota; speaks about his college days at the University of Minnesota and entrance into the Marine Corps; remembers The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia, flight training in Pensacola, Florida, and advanced training in Memphis, Tennessee where he earned his wings; explains his first assignment at El Toro in 1957 and initial impressions of the base and surrounding area; details an average work day at El Toro, as well as recreational activities; recalls meeting his wife in 1958 in Laguna Beach; mentions a nuclear standby assignment in Japan (1960-1961); comments on working as an instructor at Kingsville, Texas for three years, with his growing family in tow; talks about Officer Selection Officer duty in Minneapolis and seeing the anti-Vietnam War sentiment on college campuses; details his two tours in Vietnam, stationed at Chu Lai and Danang (1966 and 1970) as an attack pilot; explains an accompanied tour with his family at Iwakuni, Japan from 1967-70; comments on assignments in Washington D.C., and Carlisle, Pennsylvania; remembers final stints at El Toro in 1976 and 1980-82, when he retired; reflects on his most vivid wartime memory; and finally discusses his disappointment at the closing of El Toro.

OH 4869

Narrator: Swinden, James Irvine (b. 1953)

Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry

Title: “An Oral History with James Irvine Swinden”

Date: June 20, 2012

Language: English

Location: Anaheim, California

Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 42 pages

This oral history spans 1800s-2012. Bulk dates: 1940s-2012.

An oral history with James Irvine Swinden, Irvine, California, business owner and son of Joan Irvine Smith. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Swinden’s memories of the family land holdings and experiences at and around El Toro and in Orange County. This interview includes discussion of Swinden’s family history and background of the Irvines; describes his childhood and relationship with his mother, Joan Irvine Smith; explains why the Irvine family settled in Southern California and acquisition of the Irvine Ranch; details his mother’s environmental activism and independent personality; talks about his father’s service at MCAS El Toro; details how the government acquired the Irvine land for the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station; speaks about his educational background and law school; describes involvement with Irvine Museum including its mission statement, traveling shows, how they acquire art, and community outreach; recalls the impact of military installations in Orange County; explains why he feels a sense of stewardship toward the city of Irvine; speaks about his personal involvement with law school at University of California, Irvine; explains how the Reeve-Irvine Research Center was formed; comments on the family connection with the Irvine Company; reminisces about his grandmother’s impact on the greater Orange County area; talks about how Orange County has changed; and finally shares how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4870

Narrator: **Bianchino, Richard** (b. 1941)
Interviewer: Tom Fujii
Title: “An Oral History with Richard Bianchino”
Date: June 25, 2012
Language: English
Location: Anaheim Hills, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 51 pages

This oral history spans 1941-2012. Bulk dates: 1960-1985.

An oral history with Richard Bianchino, resident of Anaheim Hills, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Bianchino’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about father’s work as carman for the New York Central Railroad; talks about childhood in Albany, New York, including participation in high school sports; speaks about family members participation in World War I and II; shares rationale for joining the U.S. Marine Corps; remembers Basic School in Quantico, Virginia; describes A,B,C-rations; talks about assignment in Fleet Marine Force and Counter Guerrilla Warfare School; recalls deployment to the Philippines; recounts first tour in Vietnam as infantry officer; talks about flight school and decision to fly helicopters; describes various missions flying CH-46 helicopters in Vietnam; comments on the importance of flight surgeons and medical personnel in combat situations; describes Marine Corps Air Station Tustin and surrounding area; details physical and demographic changes in Orange County, California; comments on the influence of the media on the outcome of the Vietnam War and Americans perception of the War; discusses civilian leadership and management of the Vietnam War; remembers being shot down in Vietnam while flying medevac mission; describes procedure to evacuate wounded soldiers from the field; shares experience of being spit on upon returning from Vietnam; comments on the fall of Saigon; discusses transition from military to civilian life; remembers crash of F-18 during air show at MCAS El Toro; and finally, shares thoughts on the future of the former base.

OH 4871

Narrator: Teele, John (b. 1944)
Interviewer: Abby Dettenmaier
Title: "An Oral History with John Teele"
Date: June 26, 2012
Language: English
Location: Newport Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 41 pages

This oral history spans 1944-2012. Bulk dates 1968-1971.

An oral history with John Teele, resident of Newport Beach and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Teele's experiences at LTA and El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Teele's upbringing in North Hollywood, California, one of three sons; discusses meeting his second wife, Kathy in the late 1970s; talks about enlisting in the Marine Corps after his intended Air Force class filled up in 1968; recalls flight training in Pensacola and his decision to fly helicopters; recollects his first impressions of LTA, "an air base stuck in the middle of the fields;" remembers a typical day on the base and his other little jobs; speaks about going to Vietnam six months after he arrived at LTA, stationed at Marble Mountain, Danang; mentions recreational activity in the local area and how he'd often return to North Hollywood when he had time off; details a typical training flight in the CH-46 at LTA; comments on women in the military, the base mess hall, and happenings at the Officer's Club; talks about his first impressions of Vietnam and his typical flight missions; reflects on how President Johnson managed the war and the frustrations that came with the rules of engagement; provides his opinion on the anti-war movement; mentions his role as an air liaison officer compared to being a pilot; explains contracting a severe case of malaria as the end of his Vietnam tour drew to a close; discusses coming home, the end of his enlistment in 1971, but staying on as a reserve until the '80s and transitioning over to El Toro; talks about coming home and joining the family office supply business; expresses his opinion on the base closure and thoughts on the possibility of a Great Park; talks about American patriotism and how he views current wars, such as Afghanistan; explains the impact that military service had on his life; and finally, recollects memorable events on the base(s).

OH 4872

Narrator: Kenny, Dale (b. 1945)

Interviewer: Andrew Brown

Title: “An Oral History with Dale Kenny”

Date: July 5, 2012

Language: English

Location: Orange, California

Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 13 pages

This oral history spans 1945-2012. Bulk dates 1950s.

An oral history with Dale Kenny, resident of Orange, California, and son of United States Marine. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Kenny’s experiences at El Toro. Specifically, this interview discusses memories of Kenny’s childhood as a Marine dependent; talks about his father’s career as Marine officer and the aviation accident that ended his military career; details childhood recreational activities around the El Toro base and in the community; shares memories of Orange County in the 1950s and talks about how the area has changed; describes NAMAR housing on the El Toro base; recalls living in Santa Ana and Orange [California]; talks about his father’s post-USMC career and civilian interaction with the base and Marines explains how he felt when the base closed; and finally, shares how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4873

Narrator: Jimenez, Christina (b. 1970)
Interviewer: Andrew Brown
Title: "An Oral History with Christina Jimenez"
Date: July 5, 2012
Language: English
Location: Orange, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 14 pages

This oral history spans 1970-2012. Bulk dates 1970s.

An oral history with Christina Jimenez, resident of Lakewood, California, and lifetime resident of Orange County. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Jimenez's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview discusses memories of Jimenez's childhood in Orange County; describes her grandparents experiences at MCAS El Toro; recalls visiting the base as a child; shares story of her grandfather's airplane crash; comments on how Orange County has changed; talks about how her military background affected her view of the military and understanding of war; describes experience of writing a short story about her grandfather's accident; remembers how she felt when El Toro closed; and finally shares how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4874.2

Narrator: Brown-Erb, Ann (b. 1948)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Ann Brown-Erb"
Date: January 31, 2013
Language: English
Location: Placentia, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 52 pages

This interview spans 1969-2013. Bulk dates: 1969-2007.

This is an oral history with Ann Brown-Erb, resident of Placentia, California, and retired master sergeant in the United States Marine Corps. This interview was conducted as part of the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Brown-Erb's experiences at and around El Toro. In this interview Brown-Erb talks about her childhood and family life and explains why her family moved to California; talks about why she joined the United States Marine Corps and experience with USMC recruiter; reminisces about boot camp and Aviation Supply School; compares experience of being a woman in the military in the 1960s vs. 1980s-twentieth century; comments on how women are perceived by their male counterparts and how the military approaches sexual assault and harassment; talks about the interaction between officer and enlisted; share feelings on women in combat; explains how her personal work ethic influenced both military and civilian jobs; talks about race relations and ethnic diversity in the Marine Corps; shares memory of being stationed in Memphis, Tennessee, when Martin Luther King was assassinated; describes her first impressions of MCAS El Toro and an average day age day in aviation supply; talks about being discharged in 1969 and the transition to civilian life; explains why she reenlisted in the Marine Corps in 1984; recalls working the Visiting Aircraft Line (VAL) when Air Force One arrived at El Toro and Miramar; shares memories of the VAL line at Miramar including a haunting aircraft fatality; explains the importance of looking after the junior troops and specific response from Marine Corps leadership; and finally shares stories from her career including: a visit from the Black Sheep Squadron (VMA-214), feeding the troops during San Diego fire, and working the air shows.

OH 4874.3

Narrator: Brown-Erb, Ann (b. 1948)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Ann Brown-Erb”
Date: May 29, 2013
Language: English
Location: Placentia, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 48 pages

This interview spans 1969-2013. Bulk dates: 1969-2007.

This is the second session of an oral history with Ann Brown-Erb, resident of Placentia, California, and retired master sergeant in the United States Marine Corps. This interview was conducted as part of the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Brown-Erb’s experience at and around El Toro. In this interview she talks about why she reenlisted in the Marine Corps at age thirty-seven and how her family reacted to the news; comments on how the community around MCAS El Toro and MCAS Miramar accepted the local military presence; explains why she decided to be a career Reservist and the process of promotion; talks about the relationship between active duty Marines and their Reserve counterparts; explains why it was so important to look after her junior Marines and lead by example; remembers being called to active duty during Desert Storm and duties at El Toro; compares how people treated military personnel returning from Vietnam vs. later conflicts in the Middle East; recalls challenges working with civilians on the Visiting Aircraft Line (VAL); describes an average day on the VAL and passenger terminal; talks about interaction with Air Force personnel at Miramar during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF); reminisces about troublesome aircraft including the C-5; comments on the treatment of female Marines and how the military handles sexual assault cases; explains how she managed the roles of Marine and Marine wife; recalls handling medevac missions at Miramar during OIF and OEF; talks about the personal impact of non-combat PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] and interaction with the VA; recalls being promoted to master sergeant; shares memorable stories about fellow Marines; explains why she chose to retire and how she transitioned to civilian life; describes how military service influenced her life; recalls visit to Washington D.C. and how she felt seeing the wartime monuments; shares memories of the Orange County Great Park’s Final Salute to El Toro event; comments on the politics behind closing El Toro and the move to Miramar; talks about how El Toro impacted Orange County including: noise abatement issues and aircraft accidents; tells about her love of flying; shares how El Toro should be remembered; describes having duty at El Toro during President Nixon’s funeral; and finally, speaks about her pride in the Marine Corps.

OH 4875

Narrator: Jewell, Jack (b. 1943)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Jack Jewell"
Date: July 11, 2012
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 56 pages.

This interview spans 1943-2012. Bulk dates: 1960-1980s.

An oral history with Jack Jewell, resident of Mission Viejo, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Jewell's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of childhood in Sulpher Springs, Oklahoma; appointment to Naval Academy by U.S. House of Representative Carl Albert; remembers cruises on submarine and flying with John McCain while at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland; speaks about physical and mental challenges of the Naval Academy; comments on the presence of women at the Naval Academy; describes basic school in Quantico; recalls initial impressions of California; talks about preparation for and first tour in Vietnam as infantry in 1967; describes initial impression of Vietnam and the war; explains the difference in the M-14 and M-16 rifle; describes medical care for injured Marines while in the field; remembers leaving Vietnam days before the Tet Offensive in 1968; comments on the anti-war movement in the United States; discusses attending Army flight training program for helicopter pilots in Fort Wolters, Texas; talks about Navy instrument training at New River, North Carolina; remembers second tour in Vietnam as helicopter pilot; compares tours in Vietnam as infantry and as helicopter pilot; recalls transitioning to jets and training at Meridian, Mississippi; remembers transfer to MCAS El Toro in 1974 and initial impression of the base and surrounding communities; describes an average day at MCAS El Toro as a flight safety officer; explains A-4 automatic starter and procedures for takeoff; traces training missions over Yuma, Arizona, Salton Sea, and Chocolate Mountains; explains aviation map of El Toro and surrounding flight paths; remembers cross country flights to Texas and Oklahoma during time off; talks about family trips to Disneyland and Big Bear Mountain; explains air refueling; talks about being an instructor at the Naval Academy; remembers POWs [prisoner of war] as instructors at the Naval Academy; speaks about second tour at MCAS El Toro, perceived renovation of the base, and changes Orange County; recalls plane crash that destroyed El Toro chapel; explains decision to retire from the Marine Corps; discusses the transition to civilian life and job at McDonnell Douglas; talks about children: daughter Jennifer and son Jonathan; comments on the influence of military service on the meaning of war; expresses disappointment on the closing of MCAS El Toro; and finally, comments on the transition of MCAS El Toro to the Orange County Great Park.

OH 4876

Narrator: Harvey, Ronald (b. 1935)
Interviewer: Delaney Johnson
Title: "An Oral History with Ronald Harvey"
Date: July 10, 2012
Language: English
Location: Placentia, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 90 pages

This oral history spans 1935-2012. Bulk dates: 1950-1970s.

An oral history with Ronald Harvey, resident of Placentia, California, and retired master gunnery sergeant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Harvey's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of his childhood and family life in Lawrence, Massachusetts; explains why he joined the USMC; tells how he met his wife; talks about how his family was affected by his military career and his involvement with off base activities including softball league and Boy/Girl Scouts; explains his decision to retire and transition to civilian life; shares about the important role religion plays in his life; recalls boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina and being selected for electronics school; describes assignment and life at MCAS Miami with VMA-332; tells stories from the flight line and experience as plane captain; remembers deployment to Subic Bay, Philippines; explains how he became involved with the Marine Air Traffic Control Unit (MATCU); remembers being stationed at MCAS El Toro and his first impression; explains how radar works and assignment to Radar Air Traffic Control (RATC); comments on rank structure in the Marine Corps including: enlisted vs. officer and the importance of the senior man; explains how the Marine Air Traffic Control Association was founded; comments on the camaraderie amongst Marines; talks about his views on women in the military; comments on the ethnic breakdown in the Marine Corps and at El Toro; explains why he volunteered for Vietnam and describes his time in-country including: work with the Air Traffic Control Unit, importance of air support to ground troops, and memories of air bases in Phu Bai and Danang; talks about the role alcohol plays in the military; explains how to survey a runway; voices opinion on political handling of current military conflicts; comments on role of media in combat zones; recalls assignment to Camp Pendleton and preparing for presidential landings; explains why he disliked Drill Instructor School; talks about civilian employment and career as insurance adjuster; recalls how he felt about when El Toro closed and how it affected Orange County; and finally, shares how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4877

Narrator: Harvey, Mary (b. 1935)
Interviewer: Delaney Johnson
Title: "An Oral History with Mary Harvey"
Date: July 13, 2012
Language: English
Location: Placentia, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 22 pages

This oral history spans 1935-2012. Bulk dates 1960s-1970s.

An oral history with Mary Harvey, resident of Placentia and wife of former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), Ronald Harvey. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Harvey's experiences as a Marine Corps wife and her memories of El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Harvey's upbringing in Tennessee; discusses how she met her husband in 1954; explains having her first baby shortly thereafter and her husband leaving overseas for Japan; recalls happy memories of being a Marine Corps wife and forming relationships at each base; remembers Kaneohe, Hawaii, as her favorite base; talks about the family's arrival at El Toro in the mid-60s and her first impressions of California; comments on living initially in Garden Grove and Santa Ana; explains how much she liked the services of El Toro, as well as the air shows; recollects her feelings when she learned that her husband was going to Vietnam and how it was hard on her family; comments on her disdain for the anti-war movement; discusses how much she misses active Marine Corps life and is grateful for the benefits; expresses her sadness and disappointment at the base closing; speaks about differences she has noticed over time within the local community; and finally, reflects on how she'd like El Toro remembered and how grateful she is for their time there.

OH 4878

Narrator: Strong, Sharon (b. 1927)
Interviewer: Delaney Johnson
Title: "An Oral History with Sharon Strong"
Date: July 23, 2012
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 18 pages

This oral history spans 1927-2012. Bulk dates 1940-1960s.

An oral history with Sharon Strong, resident of Utah and wife of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Strong's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Strong's upbringing in Rigby, Idaho; mentions relocating to Los Angeles with her mother at age nine; talks about her memories of WWII while living in Beverly Hills; recollects meeting her husband, John Edward Shirley, toward the end of the war, but while he was still serving in the Solomon Islands (South Pacific); remembers visiting El Toro while her husband was stationed there, prior to his discharge after the war; reflects on the transition after WWII, marriage and family; describes her feelings on the Vietnam War and fear that her sons would have had to fight (but luckily did not); explains moving to Utah in 1979 and her husband's death in 2002; speaks about how she would like El Toro remembered; and finally, reiterates her happy memories of the WWII era.

OH 4879

Narrator: Mauer, Paul (b. 1948)
Interviewer: Abby Dettenmaier
Title: “An Oral History with Paul Mauer”
Date: July 29, 2012
Language: English
Location: Tarzana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station
Status: completed; 26 pages

This oral history spans 1948-2012. Bulk dates 1967-1974.

An oral history with Paul Mauer, resident of Tarzana and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Mauer’s experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Mauer’s upbringing in Maywood, New Jersey; talks about enlisting in the Marine Corps at age 18 in 1967, at the time of the draft; discusses his arrival at El Toro in July 1968 and his assignment in the Disbursing Department; recalls his first impressions of the base and California in general and how much he loved it; describes working the night shift in disbursing and earning extra money during day shifts at the PX; recalls what it was like living in the barracks; explains being involved in a physical fight in the mess hall with other Marines; reflects on memories and feelings of the Vietnam War era, despite not being in combat; remembers returning to New Jersey after his enlistment was finished; details how he became a professional wrestler from 1973 to 1995 as part of the WWF; speaks about returning to El Toro in 1995 for a brief visit and how the base had changed; mentions his decision to return permanently to California in 1997; comments on his feelings when he heard about the base closure and how he would like the base remembered in the Great Park; and finally, reflects on memorable music from his time at El Toro.

OH 4880

Narrator: Arthur Edwards (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Michael Matini
Title: “An Oral History with Arthur Edwards”
Date: August 2, 2012
Language: English
Location: Garden Grove, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 45 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2012. Bulk dates: 1950-1970s.

An oral history with Arthur Edwards, resident of Garden Grove, California, and former pilot in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Edward’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of mother and father’s birthplace—Canada and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, respectively—and father’s occupation as a chef; describes educational background attending high school in Philadelphia and college at Pennsylvania State University (Penn State); remembers growing up in Philadelphia, childhood friends, and neighborhood; talks about summer jobs unloading produce and washing dishes at Penn State women’s dorm; discusses lifelong dream to become a Naval aviator; recalls impetus for joining the Marine Corps; remembers the 1960 Laotian Crisis; speaks about grandfather and uncle’s military service during World War II; talks about train trip to Pensacola, Florida, for cadet training and being moved to the caboose with other African-Americans; describes flight training at Pensacola and Kingsville, Texas; recalls meeting future wife in Philadelphia; remembers first duty station at MCAS El Toro and assignment to VMF-451; talks about meeting other African-Americans at MCAS El Toro; discusses various training maneuvers, dog fighting, carrier qualifications, simulated atomic bomb missions, and war games at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California; describes leisure activities while stationed at MCAS El Toro; talks about smog in Orange County, California, and its impact on flying in and out of MCAS El Toro; compares his background to other Marines at MCAS El Toro; comments on the casual atmosphere in California compared to the East Coast; speaks about personal incidents of racial prejudice in Orange County, California, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, and Kingsville, Texas; discusses occupation in aerospace post-Marine Corps; comments on the debate over the future of MCAS El Toro property and the development of the Orange County Great Park; expresses opinion of local and national political leaders; and finally, talks about how the Marine Corps helped to shape his life.

OH 4971

Narrator: Diep, Christie (b. 1959)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Christie Diep"
Date: August 21, 2012
Language: English
Location: Cypress, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages

This oral history spans 1959-2012. Bulk dates: 1960-1970.

An oral history with Christie Diep, resident of Westminster, California, and daughter of retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as a part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Diep's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of childhood activities and associations with other Marine Corps children; talks about parent's divorce and mother's remarriage to a U.S. Marine; remembers visiting grandparents in Compton, California; reflects on her step-father's influence on her life; details her family's educational background; recalls being terrified of the Vietnam War; speaks about step-father's second tour of duty in Vietnam; describes housing in and around MCAS El Toro; remembers visiting the PX [post-exchange] and movie theater at MCAS El Toro; discusses husband's journey to the United States as a Vietnamese refugee; describes area surrounding MCAS El Toro; talks about picnics and camping at O'Neill Park in Trabuco Canyon, California; comments on the concept of "military brats"; discusses the challenges of being the child of a U.S. Marine; shares personal view of the Vietnam War; remembers attending air shows at MCAS El Toro; and finally, shares view on how MCAS El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4972

Narrator: Keyfauver, Roger (b. 1935)
Interviewer: Michael Matini
Title: “An Oral History with Roger Keyfauver”
Date: August 21, 2012
Language: English
Location: Long Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 30 pages

This oral history spans 1935-2012. Bulk dates 1953-1956.

An oral history with Roger Keyfauver, resident of California and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Keyfauver’s experiences at El Toro (1954 & 1956). This interview includes discussion about Keyfauver’s upbringing in Phoenix, Arizona; talks about Depression-era childhood, memories of WWII and how it influenced his decision to join the Marine Corps in 1953; mentions how he joined as the Korean War came to a close, but still served in Korea, at K-3; recalls his first impressions of El Toro and living on the base; discusses air traffic control school in Jacksonville, Florida; details stressful, yet vivid memories of serving in Korea as an air traffic control officer; recollects the camaraderie and social and racial atmosphere of El Toro; compares differences in the Marine Corps between now and when he served; speaks about the impact of El Toro locally, as well as on his life; explains the conditions and geographical locations of K-3 and other military bases in Korea; comments on memories of McCarthyism and early rumors about Vietnam; explains his discharge in 1956 and starting work in the electrical supply business; reflects on his feelings about El Toro’s closing and his opinion on its future; talks about the positive impact that El Toro had on his life; and finally, discusses with the interviewer military food and food in general.

OH 4973

Narrator: Simmons, Floyd (b. 1936)
Interviewer: Michael Matini
Title: “An Oral History with Floyd Simmons”
Date: September 15, 2012
Language: English
Location: Huntington Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 22 pages

This oral history spans 1936-2012. Bulk dates 1954-1963.

An oral history with Floyd Simmons, resident of Huntington Beach and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Simmons’ experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Simmons’ upbringing in Baltimore, Maryland, during segregation; discusses being the eldest of nine children and joining the Marine Corps at age eighteen; recalls boot camp at Perris Island and training at Camp Lejeune; talks about his arrival at El Toro in 1955 and his first impressions; remembers the pleasant social aspects and camaraderie at El Toro, as well as the lack of racial prejudice; details his job in aviation ordnance, loading munitions onto aircraft; mentions the lack of economic impact that El Toro had on Orange County, but comments on other types of growth in the area; speaks about assignments overseas at Iwakuni, Japan; mentions his post-military career with Pacific Telephone Company, which began after he left the Corps in 1963; explains how he ranks El Toro as the number one base of his career; remembers how he voted in favor of El Toro becoming an airport as opposed to a park; and finally, reflects on how the Marine Corps had a positive impact on his life.

OH 4974

Narrator: Wallace, James (b. 1936)
Interviewer: Michael Matini
Title: "An Oral History with James Wallace"
Date: September 22, 2012
Language: English
Location: Temecula, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 46 pages

This oral history spans: 1936-2012. Bulk dates: 1950s-1970s.

An oral history with James Wallace, resident of Temecula, California, and former staff sergeant in United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Wallace's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of parent's economic status; speaks about educational background and quitting school multiple times to work and help support the family; shares memories of World War II and the Korean War; talks about decision to join the Marine Corps at age 17; remembers arriving at MCAS El Toro in 1955; describes various types aircraft at MCAS El Toro in 1955; discusses camaraderie among fellow Marine air traffic controllers; describes leisure activities at MCAS El Toro and surrounding communities; talks about mess hall food; discusses the stressful nature of job as air traffic controller; describes responsibilities as a Marine air traffic controller; recalls aircraft accidents while on duty as an air traffic controller; describes emergency procedures for landing aircraft with ordnance; discusses community's response to the presence of MCAS El Toro; comments on the ways in which military bases contribute to local economy; remembers transfer from MCAS El Toro to Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; describes Marine Corps base at Kaneohe Bay; speaks about challenges of being an air traffic controller; comments on 1981 Professional Air Traffic Controller Organization strike; remembers flying on occasion with Marine pilots; shares reaction to the closure of MCAS El Toro; comments on how MCAS El Toro should be remembered; discusses the ways in which Marine Corps experience helped him mature and become more confident; and finally, talks about lifelong friendships with fellow Marines.

OH 4975

Narrator: Edelen, William (b. 1922)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with William Edelen"
Date: September 22, 2012
Language: English
Location: Palm Springs, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 54 pages

This oral history spans: 1922-2012. Bulk dates: 1950s-2012.

An oral history with William Edelen, resident of Palm Springs, California, and former captain in United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Edelen's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Edelen's childhood and family life in Stevensville, Texas, including fond memories of summers with his grandparents; explains rationale for joining the USMC and influence of his family's military background; talks about his relationship with his sister and their experience with polio; recounts memories of the Depression; talks about training as a Naval Aviation Pilot and flight school; explains why he left the Marine Corps and describes his post military educational background including his involvement with the religious left, pastoral duties, seminary, and teaching career; recalls memorable moments in-flight Stateside and overseas; talks about his service in the Korean War including flying medevacs and transporting a general's horse; discusses challenges with flying under visual flight rules (VFR) and introduction of radar control; shares about his relationship with Chuck Yeager; reminisces on being a WWII flight instructor and difficulty flying the F4U Corsair; describes initial impressions of El Toro and Southern California and recalls service at the base including pulling tow plane for target practice, an average day as flight instructor, community interaction, and plane crashes; describes job at Naval Support Facility, Anacostia flying VIP military personnel; comments on women serving in the military including USMC Women Reserves during WWII and current debate about women serving in combat; talks about his transition to civilian life; shares how his military service influenced his view of war including reflections on WWII, Korea, and Vietnam; shares thoughts on closing of the base and how the Orange County Great Park has transitioned the property; reflects on how El Toro should be remembered; and finally, comments on the current state of the military.

OH 4976

Narrator: Culp, Leo (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Leo Culp"
Date: September 24, 2012
Language: English
Location: La Mesa, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 32 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2012. Bulk dates 1950-1974.

An oral history with Leo Culp, resident of La Mesa and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Culp's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Culp's early years as a foster child; remembers his situation improving when his mother met his stepfather, who was in the Navy; reminisces about spending time with his grandparents in San Bernardino and attending military school in Redlands; recalls accompanying his mother and stepfather as they were stationed at different military bases; speaks about his youthful enthusiasm for sailing and tells a humorous story of accidentally sinking a boat; explains how his stepfather was a prisoner of war, forced into the Bataan Death March during WWII; mentions joining the Naval Reserves at age fifteen (lying about his age), and being sworn in to the Marine Corps while in Formosa; comments on his training at MCRD San Diego and starting his first tour in Kodiak, Alaska; discusses his early career as a drill instructor at Camp Pendleton; talks about making the transition to be an air traffic controller and working in the control tower at El Toro; recalls also working at MCAS Santa Ana (LTA) as the secret and confidential officer; recollects his assignment working in crypto publications during the Cuban Missile Crisis; mentions working with an all-woman crew of air traffic controllers at El Toro; remembers his 14-month assignment in Vietnam and working out of Khe Sanh in a Marine Air Traffic Control Unit [MACTU]; talks about getting wounded and receiving a purple heart; explains how his feelings on the war changed later; speaks about his military retirement in 1974 and working as a civilian for General Dynamics until 1992; and finally, details his pleasant memories of El Toro and Orange County.

OH 4977

Narrator: Welton, James (b. 1933)
Interviewer: Michael Matini
Title: “An Oral History with Michael Matini”
Date: October 9, 2012
Language: English
Location: Riverside, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 27 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2012. Bulk dates 1951-1960.

An oral history with James “Harvey” Welton, resident of Riverside and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Welton’s experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Welton’s upbringing in Salida, Colorado; recounts on his adolescence as a ranch hand and big game guide; talks about enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1951, and going through boot camp in San Diego; details his various assignments in Korea, mainly as a radar operator; comments on his return to the U.S. and going through air traffic control school in Olathe, Kansas; remembers his assignment at El Toro, shortly after earning his air traffic certification; discusses having an all-female crew in the air traffic control tower; details a story of hunting pheasants for his unit in Korea in order to avoid eating rations; speaks about the stress of the air traffic control job on others; recalls memorable instances of crashes and emergency scenarios at El Toro; explains assignments at Iwakuni (Japan), Opa Locka (Florida), and New River (North Carolina); discusses his retirement from the Marine Corps in 1960 and then working for the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) as a manager; mentions how he planned local air shows in California; touches on how he would like El Toro remembered; explains the positive effect that the Marine Corps had on his life; and finally comments on the 1981 PATCO strike (Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization) and the influence of unions.

OH 4978

Narrator: Wright, Kenneth (b. 1923)
Interviewer: Andy Olea
Title: “An Oral History with Kenneth Wright”
Date: October 10, 2012
Language: English
Location: Menifee, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 36 pages

This oral history spans 1923-2012. Bulk dates: 1941-1980.

An oral history with Kenneth Wright, resident of Menifee, California, and retired first lieutenant in the Royal Air Force [RAF] . This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Wright’s experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview includes discussion of early education in Scotland; speaks about outbreak of World War II in Europe; explains rationale for quitting high school; talks about volunteering for air crew duty in Royal Air Force during World War II; discusses RAF training; remembers sailing to Canada from England on the *Queen Mary* with Winston Churchill, his entourage, and several British military “heroes”; describes flight training in Dufoe, Saskatchewan, Canada, and navigation training in Portage la Prairie, Canada; talks about first bombing mission over Germany and ejection from the aircraft due to engine problems; discusses Marine Corps and RAF exchange program; describes journey to MCAS El Toro in 1954; speaks about living conditions at MCAS El Toro including bachelor officer’s quarters and apartment in Laguna Beach, California; remembers cross-country training flights and trip to Mexico; describes nuclear bomb explosion he witnessed in Nevada; talks about various British ships docked in Long Beach, California, and visiting those vessels; recalls buying duty free alcohol and cigarettes; talks about various restaurants he frequented while stationed at MCAS El Toro, including the White House Restaurant and the Sandpiper Lounge; speaks about meeting future wife, marriage, and move to England; discusses career post-military: Jaguar dealership in Orange County, writer for Road Test magazine, and announcer for California Sports Car Club; talks about business venture with Jack Beverly, former astronaut; explains system he and Beverly designed to cool down race car drivers as they race; talks about early life growing up in Scotland and the effects of World War II on his hometown in Scotland near Stirling Castle; describes first impression of Southern California; comments on the Marine Corps work ethic; shares excitement of flying over the United States; comments on the reaction of pilots to the danger of flying; describes life at MCAS El Toro including leisure activities, happy hour, mess hall, and camaraderie; remembers close friends and U.S. Marine Corps pilots, Gale Harlan OH # 4991 and Frank (Pete) Petersen OH# 3580; comments on the changes in the community in and around MCAS El Toro; and finally, shares opinion on how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4979

Narrator: Mack, Willie (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Brian Mashburn
Title: "An Oral History with Willie Mack"
Date: October 11, 2012
Language: English
Location: Anaheim, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 48 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2012. Bulk dates 1952-1973.

An oral history with Willie Mack, resident of Anaheim, California, and retired master sergeant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Mack's experiences at El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Mack's childhood background and farm life in Osceola, Louisiana; describes the job market and employment history in southern Louisiana; explains rationale for joining the United States Marine Corps; recounts journey to boot camp and experience as a young Marine; talks about being assigned to brig duty and why he liked associating with the prisoners; recalls being stationed overseas in Okinawa and making a Mediterranean Cruise; talks about military schooling including technical school in Memphis, Tennessee; compares tours in Vietnam before and after the Tet Offensive including: daily life, air missions, and interaction with Vietnamese civilians; talks about duties in Marine Corps including: playing for military baseball team, and time as avionics chief; compares/contrasts Naval Air Station Los Alamitos and MCAS El Toro; tells how he met his wife and talks about his children's lives; describes experience with Orange County housing covenants and racial discrimination; shares how the surrounding community reacted to the local military bases; talks about his involvement with politics and work with Southern California congressman; explains why he left the Marine Corps and talks about his post-military education and employment; and finally shares how he would like to see El Toro remembered.

OH 4980

Narrator: Mifflin, Robert (b. 1928)
Interviewer: Kira Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Robert Mifflin"
Date: October 22, 2012
Language: English
Location: Oceanside, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 50 pages

This oral history spans 1928-2012. Bulk dates 1950s-1970s.

An oral history with Robert Mifflin, resident of Oceanside and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Mifflin's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Mifflin's childhood in Santa Ana, California, raised by his grandparents; recalls driving to Florida and back and seeing memorable parts of the U.S. as a child, during the Depression; remembers the vast farmlands of Orange County at the time; comments on bouncing from local school to school; explains how he left school permanently, at age fourteen, and worked in a bowling alley, on Catalina Island; discusses joining the Merchant Marines at age sixteen, during WWII; talks about his various duties and travels, while working on Merchant Marine ships, including areas of the South Pacific, Central America, Puerto Rico, and Greece; mentions joining the Marine Corps at age seventeen and starting basic training at Camp Pendleton; talks about his arrival at El Toro, his first assignment as Military Police, then his transition into radar operations and air traffic control, in 1947; details his work in a GCA [ground controlled approach] unit and assignments in Pohang Dong, Korea, and Itami and Iwakuni, Japan; comments on his return home and stints at Cherry Point, North Carolina, and Opa-Locka, Florida, as well as his return to El Toro, where he became NCOIC and ops chief; explains his transition to the FAA [Federal Aviation Administration] and staying in the Marine Corps as a Reserve; returns back to early memories of Orange County, including Eddie Martin's Airport, and childhood friends, including a Japanese family that left for internment; recalls early role models; mentions childhood memories of Pearl Harbor; reflects on his decision to join the Merchant Marines and how he had to grow up fast in order to perform the jobs on ships; speaks about various side jobs he worked while stationed at El Toro; compares El Toro to other bases he experienced; remembers Nixon's resignation and his final flight into El Toro; provides his opinion on other commanders in chief, and current members of the military he admires; discusses women in the Marine Corps; explains his favorite position as a local air traffic controller; mentions an assignment training the Norwegian Air Force; recalls accompanied and unaccompanied tours with his family; details a tour in Japan after WWII, and his interaction with Japanese locals; talks about his political thoughts on the Vietnam War, as well as the role of the media; jumps back to discuss his duties as a military policeman at El Toro; reflects on how the Merchant Marines and the Marine Corps shaped him as a person; explains how current, interested recruits should enroll in the Merchant Marine Academy; and finally, discusses how he would like El Toro's land returned to the Irvine Company.

OH 4981

Narrator: Mitchell, Joseph (b. 1946)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Joseph Mitchell"
Date: November 1, 2012
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 32 pages

This oral history spans 1946-2012. Bulk dates 1965-1998.

An oral history with Joseph Mitchell, resident of Stafford, Virginia, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Mitchell's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Mitchell's father, who was a Marine Corps aviator; recalls the family's nomadic life while his father was enlisted, including a tour at El Toro, when Mitchell was six years old; remembers his early interest in joining the Marine Corps as an aviator, a result of childhood admiration of his father; talks about joining the Marine Corps in 1965, enduring boot camp and Officer Candidate School at Quantico; discusses flight school at Pensacola; mentions his first assignments at Cherry Point, North Carolina, and Beaufort, South Carolina; speaks about joining a squadron in Iwakuni, Japan, which led to a brief stint in Vietnam, where he provided close air support, in 1972; comments on his return to the states and a tour in Hawaii, where he met his wife; mentions his three children; explains his arrival at El Toro in 1975, and living in base housing with his family; details an average working day at El Toro; recalls what his family did recreationally in Orange County; talks about women in the Marine Corps; discusses his later years in the Marine Corps and his non-aviation jobs at the Naval War College, and the FAA [Federal Aviation Administration]; recollects his retirement in 1998, then teaching high school history and government; comments on the changes he has seen in Orange County since he left; talks about the decision to close El Toro; discusses his feelings about war; and finally, reflects on how he would like to see El Toro remembered.

OH 4982

Narrator: Gauch, Barry (b. 1944)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Barry Gauch"
Date: November 1, 2012
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 40 pages

This oral history spans 1944-2012. Bulk dates 1965-1987.

An oral history with Barry Gauch, resident of Delray Beach, Florida, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Gauch's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Gauch's childhood flights with his father, who was a Navy pilot, which led to his own aspirations; describes a fondness for his mother; recalls influential teachers and his performance in academics; talks about entering the Marine Corps in 1965 and serving at Beaufort, South Carolina, on the check crew; details his journey of finally getting into flight school, after serving one of two tours in Vietnam, as an infantryman; remembers his early struggles in flight school math classes; recollects his first days of boot camp and his tough drill instructor; comments on his ignorance of the severity of the Vietnam War; explains how he felt that Communism was, and still is, a real threat to capitalism; speaks about his feelings on the anti-war movement; recalls his most vivid memory of Vietnam and the first man he killed; discusses his work with South Vietnamese forces; reveals how his second Vietnam tour as a pilot was much different than his first; mentions how much he liked flying the F-4 airplane; recollects his observations of racism in the Marine Corps; explains his opinion of women in the Marine Corps; speaks about meeting his three wives; describes his arrival at El Toro in 1978-1980; discusses his feelings about Don't Ask, Don't Tell; remembers the surrounding community of El Toro; compares El Toro to other bases he experienced; shares his memories of the Officer's Club and how it changed; talks about his transition from military to civilian; comments on working for American Airlines as a civilian pilot; recalls the events of 9/11; and finally, shares his feelings on how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4893

Narrator: Humberd, Gayle (b. 1948)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Gayle Humberd"
Date: November 2, 2012
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 29 pages

This oral history spans 1948-2012. Bulk dates 1967-1999.

An oral history with Gayle Humberd, resident of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and wife of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Humberd's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about her childhood in Colorado, as the daughter of a WWII Navy veteran; remembers meeting her husband, in 1967, at Colorado State University; mentions her participation in women's rights protests; recollects her husband's number for the draft and his subsequent decision to join the Marine Corps to become a pilot; recalls his first year in Vietnam; comments on housing at various bases; speaks about the birth of her two children and differences in medical care; discusses how her husband and children coped with the distance; explains the family's arrival at El Toro in 1979 and living in Mission Viejo; talks about juggling work, children, and the duties of a Marine Corps wife; mentions the challenges that came with moving around so much; remembers shopping at the commissary and other local stores; recalls social activities on the El Toro base; comments on the surrounding community; explains reluctantly leaving El Toro the first time in 1983, and moving to Beaufort, South Carolina; discusses returning to El Toro in the late eighties, and her husband's deployment to Bahrain to build the air base in preparation for the Gulf War; remembers the changes of El Toro over the years; talks about her husband's retirement and the adjustments of civilian living; and finally, reflects on her feelings about El Toro closing and how the base should be remembered.

OH 4984

Narrator: Nauman, Richard E. (b. 1945)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: “An Oral History with Richard E. Nauman”
Date: November 4, 2012
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited; 48 pages

This oral history spans 1945-2012. Bulk dates: 1964-1970.

An oral history with Richard Nauman, resident of Land O’ Lakes, Florida, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Nauman’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of father’s career as a bombardier in the Army Air Corps during World War II; shares memories of growing up in Richmond, Virginia; speaks about mother’s educational background and work as a secretary for a local stock broker; explains rationale for joining the USMC; remembers media coverage of the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War; describes boot camp at Parris Island, North Carolina, drill instructors, and platoon leaders; expresses disappointment over inability to become an aviator due to color blindness; recalls excitement of being assigned to MCAS El Toro and the West Coast; discusses the importance of Christianity in his life and the influence of Santa Ana, California, Christian leaders John and Fern Kulish; describes physical attributes of MCAS El Toro and the surrounding area: Saddleback Mountain, orange groves, pleasant weather; discusses assignment to HAMS-33 [Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron] as a metalsmith; remembers crash of commercial 707 aircraft into Saddleback Mountain killing 150-200 troops; talks about father-in-law, nuclear engineer, James K. Pickard; describes living conditions and mess hall at MCAS El Toro; talks about leisure activities while at MCAS El Toro, including television, movies, and trips to La Habra, California; discusses race relations in the Marine Corps; shares opinion of women in the military and combat; comments on military policy of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell; recalls assignment at VMFA-314 in Chu Lai, Vietnam; describes living conditions on base in Chu Lai; remembers attending Bob Hope Show and hearing evangelist Billy Graham speak in Danang, Vietnam; shares how view of the Vietnam War changed over time; discusses job post-Marine Corps with Navigators [Christian organization] in Colorado Springs, Colorado; comments on the difficulties of finding a job in the 1970s; speaks about position in accounting at Penn Central Railroad in Washington, D.C.; and finally, talks about the importance of remembering the people who passed through MCAS El Toro and its purpose as an air station.

OH 4985

Narrator: Mitchell, Chris (b. 1952)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Chris Mitchell"
Date: November 1, 2012
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 43 pages

This oral history spans 1952-2012. Bulk dates 1974-1998.

An oral history with Christine Mitchell, resident of Stafford, Virginia, and wife of retired Marine Corps Colonel Joseph Mitchell. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Mitchell's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Mitchell's childhood in Columbus, Ohio; talks about her brother's military experiences during the Vietnam War and memories of college life during the early 1970s; describes how she met her husband, Colonel Joseph Mitchell, and the process of adjusting to military life including: housing, moving cross-country, and the challenges of single-parenthood during husband's unaccompanied tours; comments on the influence women have over their husband's careers; talks about the process of promotion and how her responsibilities changed as her husband advanced in rank; reminisces about life at MCAS El Toro including: medical facilities, housing, and social/cultural family activities; compares El Toro with other Marine Corps duty stations and talks about how the surrounding communities accepted military families; reminisces about attending the Marine Corps Birthday Balls; speaks about challenges of maintaining employment as military wife; tells about her husband's post-USMC career; and finally, shares how the Marine Corps influenced her life.

OH 4986

Narrator: Farrell, Fred (b. 1929)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Fred Farrell"
Date: November 1, 2012
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 26 pages

This oral history spans 1929-2012. Bulk dates: 1951-1971.

An oral history with Fred Farrell, resident of Kaneohe, Hawaii, and retired lieutenant colonel of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Farrell's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Farrell's background and family life as Navy dependent; rationale for joining the United States Marine Corps; describes flight school in Pensacola, Florida, and Corpus Christi, Texas; describes how he met his wife, Elin; talks about combat experience in Korea as a ground officer; recalls arriving at MCAS El Toro and his tenure with VMC-3; describes Marine Corps usage of close air support and its impact on ground troops; compares current military deployments with the 1950s-60s; talks about how the military lifestyle affects families; comments on women in the Marine Corps; shares how the Vietnam War affected the public's perception of the military and how his children reacted the influence of the 1960s; explains why he chose to retire and his post-USMC career as commercial airline pilot; explains the process of housing in the Marine Corps; talks about how Southern California has changed since the 1940s; explains why the A-4 is his favorite aircraft to fly; shares thoughts about the first aviation commandant, Jim Amos; how the Marine Corps shaped who he is today; gives advice to young Marines; comments on the presence of alcohol on military bases and how Happy Hour has changed since the 1950s; shares opinion on how MCAS El Toro should be remembered; and finally, talks about how civilian encroachment affects military air bases.

OH 4987

Narrator: Plott, Barry (b. 1948)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Barry Plott”
Date: November 1, 2012
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 12 pages

This oral history spans 1948-2012. Bulk dates: 1970s-1980s.

An oral history with Barry Plott, resident of Mesa, Arizona, and captain in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Plott’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of parent’s restaurant business in Park City, Utah; talks about goal of becoming a military aviator; recalls experience at Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps recruitment office; explains military and aviation training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, California, Marine Base Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, Naval Air Station, Meridian, Mississippi; describes coastline between San Clemente, California, and Oceanside, California; speaks about being disappointed at not being sent to serve in the Vietnam War; talks about training missions on Kaho’olawe Island, Hawaii; remembers visiting friends at MCAS El Toro; comments on the local communities reaction to Marines at MCAS El Toro; speaks about air traffic congestion in and around MCAS El Toro; recalls crash of MCAS El Toro F-4 jet aircraft and commercial airliner; discusses reasons for leaving Marine Corps; and finally, shares opinion on how MCAS El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4988

Narrator: Humberd, Michael (b. 1948)
Interviewer: Kira Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Mike Humberd"
Date: November 2, 2012
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 34 pages

This oral history spans 1948-2012. Bulk dates 1968-1995.

An oral history with Mike Humberd, resident of Colorado Springs and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Humberd's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Humberd's childhood as a Marine dependent, son of a Navy colonel; mentions attending Colorado State University and entering the Marine Corps before graduation in 1970; speaks about boot camp in Quantico, Virginia, and flight school in Pensacola, Florida; explains operating the backseat position of an F-4 airplane as a Naval Flight Officer; recollects how his family handled moving around the country; recalls work as a squadron commander; remembers his tour in Vietnam, from '71 to '73, flying combat missions; comments on keeping in touch with his family by recording tapes; details the end of the Vietnam War and being the last man to fly out; discusses his return home and his subsequent decision to stay in the Marine Corps; remembers his two assignments at El Toro in 1979 and 1990; compares his tour during the Gulf War with his Vietnam experience; talks about the BRAC decision to close El Toro; comments on his retirement in 1995; provides his opinion on aviators serving as Commandant of the Marine Corps; explains how the Marine Corps has impacted his life; speaks about working as an airport director, after his Marine Corps retirement; recalls the dramatic events of 9/11; gives advice for those considering the Marine Corps as a career; and finally, reflects on how he would like to see El Toro remembered.

OH 4989

Narrator: Beaufait, Donald (b. 1946)
Interviewer: Kira Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Donald Beaufait"
Date: November 3, 2012
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 16 pages

This oral history spans 1946-2012. Bulk dates 1968-1980s.

An oral history with Donald Beaufait, resident of Texas and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Beaufait's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Beaufait's upbringing in Michigan; details signing up for a Navy ROTC program, after high school; mentions his Marine Corps commission in 1968; talks about completing flight school at the Air Force Training Academy in San Antonio, Texas; comments on living in Europe with his family; remembers his first tour at El Toro, from 1983-1986, and his second tour in 1990-1994, and the base changes he noticed between tours; explains his position as a commanding officer, as well as an executive officer; discusses the transition from El Toro to Miramar; provides his opinion on the decision to close El Toro; touches on airplane safety and crash rates; mentions his involvement in the Libyan bombing raid of 1986; explains how his military career affected his view of war, and also how it impacted his life; and finally, discusses how he would like to see El Toro remembered.

OH 4990

Narrator: McSpadden, Charles William (b. 1946)

Interviewer: Kira Gentry

Title: “An Oral History with Bill McSpadden”

Date: November 4, 2012

Language: English

Location: San Diego, California

Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 36 pages -- (Interview is restricted until March 12, 2034.)

This oral history spans 1946-2012. Bulk dates 1965-1970s.

An oral history with Bill McSpadden, resident of Lexington, Kentucky, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding McSpadden’s experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about McSpadden’s youth in West Virginia; explains joining the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War; mentions early military influences as well as his family’s history in the Armed Forces; recalls boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina; comments on graduation day and entering infantry training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; talks about his first duty station in Memphis, Tennessee; details a fire at the Millington base, arguably started by anti-war radicals; shares his disdain for anti-war activists like Jane Fonda; remembers going into photography reconnaissance school in Pensacola, Florida; discusses his first impressions of El Toro (one of two tours) and recreational memories; recalls his tour in Vietnam, 1967-68, stationed in Danang; provides his opinion on the political handling of Vietnam; explains why he is against women and homosexuals serving in the military; speaks about his return from Vietnam, jobs he had, and how society treated him; details his return to the Marine Corps in 1973, this time going through flight school and earning his wings in 1976; talks about his return to El Toro as a second lieutenant and seeing the changes from his last tour; comments on the disadvantages of being a bachelor in the Marine Corps; reflects on his time stationed on the USS *Midway* and the various ports; recalls a tour in Billund, Norway; details his memories of intense anti-war, anti-government demonstrations at Cal State University, Fullerton, during the late sixties; explains how he would like to see El Toro remembered; and finally, discusses briefly his retirement in 1991, as a major.

OH 4991

Narrator: Harlan, Gale (b. 1930)
Interviewer: Brian Mashburn
Title: "An Oral History with Gale Harlan"
Date: November 5, 2012
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 43 pages

This oral history spans 1930-2012. Bulk dates 1949-1970.

An oral history with Gale Harlan, resident of San Diego, California, and retired lieutenant colonel in the United States Marine Corps. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Harlan's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Harlan's childhood in San Diego, California; describes his educational background; explains why he joined the U.S. Navy; describes flight training and types of airplanes he flew; shares memories (personal and professional) of Lt. General Frank Petersen and talks about struggle with racism in the military; describes life at MCAS El Toro including: flight time, leisure activities, and off base housing; talks about combat experience in Korea and job as forward air controller (FAC); describes troop interaction with Scottish, British, and Canadian counterparts; explains why he transitioned to helicopters and how he got back into jets; recalls being stationed in the Mediterranean and his involvement with Cuban Missile Crisis; talks about combat experience in Vietnam, including earning a Distinguished Flying Cross for a mission into Laos, and his disappointment with how the U.S. handled the conflict; explains why he earned a Distinguished Flying Cross for a commission into Laos; explains why he retired from the Marine Corps and his transition to civilian employment; shares stories about starting a Naval school and his sailboat adventures; talks about his wife and children; comments on how the community responded to military base and noise issues; and finally, reflects on the closing of MCAS El Toro.

OH 4992

Narrator: Miller, Ralph Darrell (b. 1933-2014)

Interviewer: Abby Dettenmaier

Title: “An Oral History with Darrell Miller”

Date: November 13, 2012

Language: English

Location: Santa Ana, California

Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 32 pages

This oral history spans 1933-2012. Bulk dates 1954-1985.

An oral history with Ralph Darrell Miller, resident of Santa Ana and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Miller’s experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Darrell’s upbringing in Gorin, Missouri, and working on a farm as a child; recalls suffering from asthma, which forced his family to move west, to Flagstaff, Arizona; remembers an early childhood interest in flying with WWII hero Joe Moser; talks about his siblings and values acquired from his family; discusses meeting his wife Colleen, prior to going overseas in 1956; recollects his arrival at El Toro for the first time, as a pilot with VMFT; mentions his close companions; speaks about camaraderie and the Officer’s Club; explains his flight training in Pensacola, Florida (1954-55); talks about flight accidents and casualties; details his first time overseas at Atsugi, Japan; comments on his return to El Toro, after his marriage to Colleen, then serving tours at Pendleton, Kingsville [Texas], and Iwakuni; remembers his first tour in Vietnam, building the airstrip at Chu Lai, and challenges therein; recalls the anti-war movement and how it deeply affected his family; speaks about his accompanied tour in Kaneohe, Hawaii; discusses his second tour in Vietnam and the differences; recollects the end of the Vietnam War; mentions subsequent assignments, returning to El Toro in 1977, and his retirement in 1985; remembers being saddened by the closing of El Toro; provides his opinion on patriotism and his views of war; and finally, talks about how he would like to see El Toro remembered, and how it benefitted Orange County.

OH 4993

Narrator: Brown, Don (b. 1943)
Interviewer: Brian Mashburn
Title: “An Oral History with Don Brown”
Date: November 16, 2012
Language: English
Location: San Clemente, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 35 pages

This oral history spans 1943-2012. Bulk dates: 1960s-1980s.

An oral history with Don Brown, resident of San Clemente, California, retired United States Marine Corps (USMC) lieutenant colonel. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Brown’s experiences at and around El Toro. In this interview Brown talks about his early years in Glendale, California, and subsequent moves across the United States due to father’s employment with the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation); describes education and training at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland; discusses rationale for choosing the Marine Corps versus Navy; recalls pilot training in Meridian, Mississippi, and Beeville, Texas; talks about summers spent in Orange County, California, as a teenager; describes physical and agricultural landscape of MCAS El Toro and surrounding communities upon arrival in 1967; speaks about transition to F-4 Phantom squadron at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar, California; discusses the advantages of training at MCAS El Toro; talks about duty in the Vietnam War as a forward air controller on temporary assignment with the Korean Marines; explains the purpose of ANGLICO (Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Corps); remembers North Vietnamese Army attack on base near Danang, Vietnam, and lack of air support; discusses tour during the Vietnam War as a combat pilot flying missions over Haiphong, Vietnam and Hanoi, Vietnam; describes second tour at MCAS El Toro in F-4 squadron; talks about urban development around MCAS El Toro and its effect on pilot training; recalls attending Top Gun school at MCAS Miramar; speaks about participation in exchange program with U.S. Air Force stationed at Langley Air Force Base, Norfolk, Virginia; discusses tour of duty at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan; comments on the outcome of the Vietnam War; talks about experiences as a test pilot stationed at Patuxent River, Maryland; explains reasons for retirement from U.S. Marine Corps; discusses civilian career as a test pilot for Northrop, McDonnell Douglas, and Boeing; shares reaction to the closing of MCAS El Toro; recalls improvements made to MCAS El Toro in the early 1980s; speaks about the reasons MCAS El Toro was selected for closure; comments on the growth of Orange County, California; remembers visiting MCAS El Toro post-retirement and ongoing camaraderie among fellow Marines; voices opinion on women’s role in the U.S. Marine Corps; and finally, speaks about how MCAS El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4994

Narrator: Watson, Donald (b. 1945)
Interviewer: Mary Frances Martinez
Title: "An Oral History with Donald Watson"
Date: November 14, 2012
Language: English
Location: Orange, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 46 pages

This oral history spans 1945-2012. Bulk dates 1964-1986.

An oral history with Donald Watson, resident of Orange, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Watson's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Watson's upbringing in small, impoverished Kentucky town; speaks about enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1964, after a run-in with the law; remembers boot camp at Camp Pendleton; explains his decision to become an air traffic controller, while maintaining a strong desire to fight in Vietnam; recalls a brief tour in Okinawa; talks about finally getting the chance to go to Vietnam; mentions working as an air traffic controller in Quang Tri, and as a helicopter machine gunner in Dewey Canyon (A Shau Valley) and Khe Sanh; explains being wounded twice, in helicopter accidents; shows narrator some bullet and shrapnel remnants in his body; details memories of those wounded in action (WIA) and killed in action (KIA); discusses living conditions in Vietnam; recollects instances of rocket fire attacks; remembers returning to the states and becoming a drill sergeant at Camp Pendleton; explains his duties as a drill sergeant; recalls three aspects that always remind him of Vietnam; provides his opinion on the draft, the anti-war movement, and the role of the media; comments on President Johnson and Secretary of Defense McNamara; speaks about qualifying as a radar controller at El Toro, for three years; remembers the Vietnamese refugees arriving at El Toro; recalls El Toro's unique runway configuration; mentions a brief stint as a top secret courier; explains an average day working on El Toro; remembers social and recreational aspects of El Toro; provides his opinion on Women Marines; recollects his easy transition from military into civilian life; mentions some of his closest Marine Corps friends; discusses how military service shaped who he is, as well as his view of patriotism; recalls how El Toro helped shape Orange County; talks about his two most vivid memories of El Toro; and finally, briefly comments on how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 4995

Narrator: Niederhaus, David (b.1941)
Interviewer: Brian Mashburn
Title: "An Oral History with Dave Niederhaus"
Date: November 27, 2012
Language: English
Location: Newport Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 20 pages

This oral history spans 1941-2012. Bulk dates 1964-1990.

An oral history with David Niederhaus, resident of Newport Beach, California, and retired lieutenant colonel of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Niederhaus' experiences at El Toro. This interview includes memories of his childhood in Evansville, Indiana; explains why he joined the United States Marine Corps and was selected for Marine aviation; describes his two tours in Vietnam including a memorable first night, helicopter deployments, and experience as forward air controller; recalls being shot down during Vietnam deployment; talks about the challenge of being a military college student and Marine Corps recruiter during the early 1970s; explains why he volunteered for duty in the Middle East in 1978 and time with United Nations Peacekeeping Forces; talks about being stationed at MCAS Tustin and MCAS El Toro and how he became involved with the aviation museum; describes assignment as El Toro facilities director and how the base won the award for finest USMC military installation; talks about how a vision problem forced him to retire from the Marine Corps; describes his transition to civilian employment with the city of Newport Beach; tells about jet accidents at El Toro including when the plane crashed into the chapel; talks about his current involvement as firefighter/fire chief with Cleveland National Forest; shares how he would like to see El Toro remembered; comments on the local political interests involved in closing the base; and finally, talks about his favorite planes to fly.

OH 4996

Narrator: MacIver, Ronald (b. 1936)
Interviewer: Andy Olea
Title: “An Oral History with Ronald MacIver”
Date: December 4, 2012
Language: English
Location: La Palma, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 19 pages

This oral history spans 1936-2012. Bulk dates: 1954-1980

An oral history with Ronald MacIver, resident of La Palma, California, and former United States Marine Corps (USMC) sergeant. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding MacIver’s experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of family’s military experience; recalls R and R [rest and relaxation] in Japan; talks about meeting future wife at USO [United Service Organizations]; speaks about his work on an experimental project with the U.S. Army in Dugway, Utah; shares first impression of MCAS El Toro; talks about working with race horses and visiting race tracks in Hollywood and Santa Anita, California; remembers the Japanese man he befriended while in Korea; comments on his desire to be transferred from base to base while serving in the Marine Corps; recalls participation in medical training exercise; talks about his role moving equipment during the production of the movie *Hold Back the Night*; comments on the lack of veterans benefits that were available to him; speaks about his career in the aircraft industry post-Marine Corps; discusses housing at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton; comments on the closing of MCAS El Toro; and finally, speaks about trip to Korea and Korean history.

OH 4997

Narrator: LaTouche, Nancy (b. 1955)
Interviewer: Abby Dettenmaier
Title: “An Oral History with Nancy LaTouche”
Date: December 5, 2012
Language: English
Location: Irvine, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 24 pages

This oral history spans 1955-2012. Bulk dates 1960s.

An oral history with Nancy LaTouche, resident of Irvine, and daughter of a retired Navy Airman. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding LaTouche’s experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about LaTouche’s parents, who were teachers; talks about her childhood in Garden Grove; explains trips to the El Toro base with her father, to buy groceries; details how her father was a Navy pilot during World War II, but retired before Nancy was born, yet how the family still took advantage of his military benefits and access to El Toro; mentions parents’ background and how they met; comments on her early jobs in Orange County; remembers traveling with her parents to Europe and Japan, since her dad could fly “space-available” at no cost; recalls the changes that took place in Orange County over her lifetime; reads a story of how her father’s plane was shot down during World War II; mentions her brother’s service in the Army and a stint in Vietnam; explains recent trips to the base and her nostalgia; comments on going to the base to receive medical care; and finally, reflects on how she would like to see El Toro remembered.

OH 4998

Narrator: Kollmann, Charles (b. 1949)
Interviewer: Brian Mashburn
Title: “An Oral History with Charles Kollmann”
Date: December 3, 2012
Language: English
Location: Laguna Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 29 pages

This oral history spans 1949-2012. Bulk dates 1950s-1960s.

An oral history with Charles Kollmann, Jr, resident of Laguna Beach and son of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Kollmann’s experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Kollmann’s childhood as a Marine brat, including tours at Cherry Point, North Carolina; Lincoln, Nebraska; Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; mentions his father’s death in a plane crash in 1959; recollects his father’s career as a Navy dive bomber pilot; discusses his father’s exploits in World War II, during which he sank enemy Japanese ships (Guadacanal) and earned the Navy Cross; describes living on the El Toro base after his father’s death; remembers his father’s tour in Korea while he, his mother, and sister stayed in Ohio, with extended family members; talks about close calls that his father experienced while flying, including an excerpt from the book *Flying Leathernecks*; recalls how his father helped a pilot who was lost in the fog, at El Toro, and brought him to safety; details how his father put on the rodeo at El Toro; speaks about special activities that he shared with his dad; mentions the mischief that he caused while roaming around El Toro; discusses the changes he has observed in Orange County, both geographically and demographically; remembers memorable and historic events in Orange County, during the sixties; explains why he did not enter the Armed Forces, as a lone surviving son; comments on his career as a survey engineer; recollects the challenges that come with being the son of a serviceman, particularly moving; provides his feelings on the base closure and the plans for the Great park;

OH 4999

Narrator: Fallman, Eileen (b. 1942)
Interviewer: Brian Mashburn
Title: "An Oral History with Eileen Fallman"
Date: December 10, 2012
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 35 pages

This oral history spans 1942-2012. Bulk dates: 1960s-1980s.

An oral history with Eileen Fallman, resident of Mission Viejo, California, and wife of Lieutenant Colonel Walter Fallman, USMC, Ret. (OH 5000) This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Fallman's experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Fallman's childhood and formative years in New Jersey; why her husband joined the Marine Corps and their first duty station; military housing and compares East Coast and West Coast air stations; differences between military and civilian medical care; unaccompanied deployments and how they kept in touch; remembers visiting husband in Iwakuni, Japan and explains why he re-enlisted; tells about arriving at MCAS El Toro and how local community received military personnel; social activities and organizations available for wives; Vietnamese presence on the base after the fall of Saigon; Nixon's presidential visits to El Toro including the day he resigned; aircraft accidents at El Toro; challenges of being a Marine Corps wife; how military association has affected her life; and finally, how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 5000

Narrator: Fallman, Walter (b. 1946)
Interviewer: Brian Mashburn
Title: "An Oral History with Walter Fallman"
Date: December 10, 2012
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 22 pages

This oral history spans 1946-2012. Bulk dates: 1960s-1980s.

An oral history with Walter Fallman, resident of Mission Viejo, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Fallman's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion of family's military service; explains decision to join the United States Marine Corps; describes platoon leaders class at Quantico, Virginia; discusses entering the Naval Flight Officer Program and various training missions; recalls being transferred to Cherry Point, North Carolina; talks about overseas tour with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Iwakuni, Japan, including training missions, week-end leave, interactions with Japanese civilians; speaks briefly about missions into Vietnam as a navigator; describes cross-country car trip to MCAS El Toro from New Jersey; recalls housing at MCAS El Toro; talks about responsibilities at MCAS El Toro as bombardier and navigator in Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 242, administration officer, NATOPS [Naval Aviation Training and Operational Preparedness Standardization] officer; reflects on the Vietnam anti-war movement; talks about how his military service influenced his view of war; comments on the loss of squadron mates during wartime; discusses political and social atmosphere in Orange County, California, after the Vietnam War; recalls noise issues in and around MCAS El Toro; describes social activities while stationed at MCAS El Toro; speaks about plane crash during air show at MCAS El Toro and crash that destroyed the base chapel; describes first home in Mission Viejo, California; talks about employment post-active duty Marine Corps: Hughes Aircraft, Ford Aerospace, McDonnell Douglas; comments on Reservist duty; remembers being called to active duty during Desert Storm; shares thoughts on the closing of MCAS El Toro and how the base should be remembered; and finally, describes the changes in the community around MCAS El Toro, including housing developments, increased housing costs, and loss of agricultural land.

OH 5001

Narrator: Miller, Colleen (b. 1937)
Interviewer: Abby Dettenmaier
Title: "An Oral History with Colleen Miller"
Date: December 21, 2012
Language: English
Location: Santa Ana, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 33 pages

This oral history spans 1937-2012. Bulk dates 1950s-1980s.

An oral history with Colleen Miller, resident of Santa Ana, and wife of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Mrs. Miller's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Mrs. Miller's childhood in Needles, California; explains being an only child and her parents' emphasis to get a college education; talks about meeting her husband, Darrell, at a college fraternity party in Arizona; recollects her wedding plans and then moving to Santa Ana with Darrell; remembers her first teaching job in Garden Grove; details her feelings about marrying a Navy pilot, how Darrell was so well-received, and her strong feelings for him to this day; explains her duties as a wife and mother while Darrell was working; recalls being pregnant and giving birth in unfamiliar places, where she didn't know anyone, including the doctors; mentions plans to accompany Darrell in Japan, which were cancelled, after receiving news that he was being sent to Vietnam (his first of two tours); speaks about the emotional challenges she faced while Darrell was overseas, and keeping a brave face for her children; discusses taking the family by ship to Kaneohe, Hawaii, and living there for two years; recollects Darrell's second tour in Vietnam and how anti-war sentiment deeply affected her family; mentions the difficult adjustments Darrell's absence had on the family; recalls partaking in some wives support groups, particularly Navy Relief; remembers what she liked so much about El Toro, despite several tours elsewhere; talks about her disappointment when El Toro closed; shares how she would like to see El Toro remembered; and finally, explains how her husband's military career shaped her view of patriotism.

OH 5002

“An oral history with Esther Lopez”

Narrator: Lopez, Esther Balderrama (b. 1936)

Interviewer: Kira Gentry

Date: February 15, 2013

Location: Episcopal Church of the Messiah, Santa Ana, California

Language: English

Project: Orange County Pioneer Council; El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project

Format(s): Digital (03:01:22); Additional comments (00:10:33)

Transcript: Final (69 pp.)

Other: Photos

Abstract: Lifelong resident of Santa Ana, California, describes early neighbors and local housing, businesses and transportation, church and school activities, and standard medical treatment for tuberculosis patients. Her mother died in a tragic accident when she was ten years old and she was orphaned at the age of twelve when her father died of TB. She was diagnosed with TB and spent nearly three years hospitalized under complete bed rest and isolated from her siblings when she was thirteen to fifteen years old; recovered with the advent of drugs to treat the disease; had reoccurrence of the illness when she was twenty. She recalls the Helms Bakery truck, Excelsior Dairy, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. She traveled to Hawaii and briefly worked there for Foremost Dairy before returning to Santa Ana and earning a degree from Cal State Fullerton Foreign Language Department. Taught Spanish and French at Irvine School which was attended by children of military personnel at El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, moved on to bilingual and ESL (English as a Second Language) community college curriculums, and did parenting training for a school in Los Angeles. Comments on discrimination she experienced herself and then witnessed again with some of her students regarding college prep opportunities. Explains her volunteer involvement with several youth intervention programs like Isaiah House, Phoenix House, and the Delhi Doers where she often taught knitting and crochet to teenagers; explains her activities as a master gardener at the Sherman Library and Gardens in Corona del Mar; describes her husband and adopted son and shares her pride in family members' involvement in various branches of the military and reserve units.

Subject headings: Race discrimination, education—1960-1980, career advancement, adoption,

OH 5003

Narrator: Barbee, Richard (b. 1942)
Interviewer: Brandy Brockman
Title: "An Oral History with Richard Barbee"
Date: March 12, 2013
Language: English
Location: Laguna Hills, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited, 36 pages

This oral history spans 1942-2013. Bulk dates 1960-1984.

An oral history with Richard Barbee, resident of Laguna Beach and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Barbee's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Barbee's personal background, the son of farmers; talks about his decision to join the Marine Corps at age seventeen, in 1960; remembers boot camp and acquiring his Military Occupational Specialty in motor transport; shares his first impressions of Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Recruitment Depot, and El Toro; details a typical day working at El Toro; recalls close friends and social activities on and around the base; speaks about his first of two tours in Vietnam, including typical days, food, and living conditions; compares his second tour (1968) with his first (1960); provides his opinion on the draft, as well as the Vietnam War strategically; discusses guerilla warfare tactics used by the Vietnamese army; recollects the massive body count and transporting bodies, via ambulance; talks about coming home, and tours at Twentynine Palms and San Jose; explains his return to El Toro, in 1976, and living in base housing; recalls meeting his wife and the challenges of family life; mentions his feelings on women in the Marine Corps; reflects on his retirement, in 1984, and life after the service; comments on how the Marine Corps has affected his life; discusses El Toro and the growth of Orange County; provides his advice to those interested in joining the Marine Corps; and finally, explains how he would like to see El Toro remembered.

OH 5004

Narrator: Rodgers, Bobby (b.1947)
Interviewer: Brandy Brockman
Title: “An Oral History with Bobby Rodgers”
Date: May 19, 2013
Language: English
Location: Irvine, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 34 pages

This oral history spans 1947-2012. Bulk dates: 1980-1990.

An oral history with Bobby Rodgers, resident of Irvine, California, and retired member of the United States Marine Corps. This interview was conducted as part of the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Rodgers’ experience at and around El Toro. In this interview, Rodgers’ shares memories of growing up in Mississippi and Tennessee with parents and two older siblings; recalls Marine recruiter visiting his high school in Mississippi; speaks about his interest in airplanes; discusses boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, and jet engine mechanic school at Naval Air Station Memphis, Tennessee; discusses leisure activities while stationed in Memphis, Tennessee, including visiting Civil War battle sites in Georgia and South Carolina; talks about duty station in Kaneohe, Hawaii; expresses disappointment at not serving in the Vietnam War; describes duties as jet engine mechanic while stationed in Hawaii; recalls meeting wife on Waikiki Beach, Hawaii; discusses leisure activities while stationed in Hawaii: fishing, body surfing, and touring the islands; remembers deployment during the Seven Day War; talks about separation from Marine Corps and decision to reenlist two years later; remembers car trip from Chicago, Illinois to MCAS El Toro; shares first impression of Orange County, California, Interstate 5, orange groves, MCAS El Toro, Tustin Air Base; recalls transfer to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, California, and assignment launching and recovering F-4 aircraft; remembers meritorious promotion to sergeant by two-star general; discusses supervisor’s school at Millington Naval Air Station, Tennessee; talks about wife’s employment at MCAS El Toro daycare center; remembers WESTPAC tour on the *USS Coral Sea*; recalls experiences as a Marine Corps drill instructor; comments on the effect of deployment on family; discusses the challenges of living on an aircraft carrier for long periods of time: lack of privacy, boredom; speaks about his desire to experience local cultures and visit the countryside when in foreign ports: Pusan, South Korea, Singapore, Philippines, and Thailand; remembers transfer to Lemoore Naval Air Station, California, and duties as aircraft mechanic; discusses 1986 Mediterranean cruise on the *USS Coral Sea* and Muammar Gaddafi attack on U.S. combat ships; recalls attending Christmas Eve Mass at the Vatican, Rome, Italy; talks about retirement from U.S. Marine Corps and subsequent job with General Electric Engine Group; comments on the difficulty adjusting to civilian life; discusses the advantages of being in the military/Marine Corps; remembers F-4 crash over Lion Country Safari, Irvine, California; recalls incident at MSAS El Toro in which pilots ejected from A-4 and aircraft flew pilotless for twenty minutes before crashing near runway; and finally, expresses disappointment at the closure of MCAS El Toro.

OH 5005

Narrator: Wood, Gary (b. 1946)
Interviewer: Bryon Walsh
Title: “An Oral History with Gary Wood”
Date: March 22, 2013
Language: English
Location: Lake Forest, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 54 pages

This oral history spans 1946-2013. Bulk dates: 1967-1971.

An oral history with Gary Wood, resident of Lake Forest, California, and former sergeant in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Wood’s experiences at and around El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Wood’s childhood in upstate New York and his parents’ background; explains rationale for joining the USMC; recalls the racial tension on base in Memphis, Tennessee when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated; explains how he was selected for duty in Vietnam and talks about his time incountry including: living conditions, rampant drug usage amongst military personnel, R&R, and experiencing multiple rocket attacks; talks about how he became a Christian in Vietnam; shares about his interaction with Montegaurd orphans in Vietnam; comments on the relationship between officer/enlisted Marines; talks about the anti-war movement and role media played in the war; discusses the importance of a cooling off period after returning from combat; recalls being selected for presidential guard duty during the Nixon administration and his interaction with the First Family; explains his duty as Sidewinder and Sparrow Missile Tech and training as water safety instructor; shares how he met his wife and talks about his children and grandchildren; tells about his post-USMC education and employment including his involvement at church and job as jail chaplain; comments on why MCAS El Toro shouldn’t have closed and how the base impacted Southern California; reminisces on how his military service influenced his life and view of war; shares thoughts on female military personnel; and finally, talks about how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 5006

Narrator: McCraw, Clifford (b. 1936)
Interviewer: Bryon Walsh
Title: "An Oral History with Clifford McCraw"
Date: April 3, 2013
Language: English
Location: Lake Forest, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 45 pages

This oral history spans 1936-2013. Bulk dates 1959-1970s.

An oral history with Clifford McCraw, resident of Lake Forest and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding McCraw's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about McCraw's upbringing in Bowie, Texas; details his college years playing football at Rice University and joining NROTC [Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps]; comments on tours on the USS *Independence* in the Mediterranean, as well as Kaneohe, Hawaii; talks about his nine-month tour in Chu Lai, Vietnam (1967), during which he flew 333 combat missions with VMF-311, and came home completely unscathed; recalls after Vietnam and serving at El Toro, as executive officer of the Black Sheep Squadron, and then Iwakuni, Japan, as executive officer; explains being passed over for lieutenant colonel at Quantico, which led to his second return to El Toro (1975); remembers his experiences in Europe while serving aboard the USS *Independence*; recollects accidents and plane crashes at El Toro; speaks about his family's activism in swimming and soccer, particularly coaching AYSO; explains his civilian job working with quality and standards for the electronic industry; comments on the responsibilities of an executive officer; details his travels with his wife; recollects some war stories from Vietnam; discusses his journey to religious faith; recalls vivid memories of both El Toro and Vietnam; mentions how he married his wife, Annie; talks about their three children; remembers how much he liked flying the A-4 and the F-8; remembers his flight training in Pensacola; explains how his family always lived off base while stationed at El Toro; mentions how he never saw antiwar sentiment or racial discord during his career; details his position during his second El Toro tour as S-4 for MAG-32; shares the pride and discipline that he acquired from being in the Marine Corps and how it affected his life; comments on how he believes he was destined to be a Marine Aviator; speaks about his activism with Saddleback Church; discusses how he felt when El Toro closed and finally, how he thinks the base should be remembered.

OH 5007

Narrator: Scott, Joy (b. 1927)
Interviewer: Kira Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Joy Scott"
Date: April 30, 2013
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 70 pages

This oral history spans 1927-2013. Bulk dates 1950s and 1960s.

An oral history with Joy Scott, resident of Mission Viejo. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Scott's memories of Orange County, particularly her experiences living on the Irvine Ranch, which surrounded El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Scott's childhood in Long Beach and Westminster; recalls Long Beach earthquake of 1933; reminisces about the end of World War II; talks about recreational activities as a young girl, and meeting her husband at a local dance; mentions getting married at age seventeen, still in high school; remembers her expectations about marrying an Irvine Ranch farmer; details living life on the Irvine Ranch for fourteen years; speaks about working at a savings and loan and a law firm in Santa Ana; comments on moving to Tustin after the ranch; recalls the vegetables they grew, as well as a typical day on the Irvine Ranch; talks about the lives of her three daughters (throughout many parts of this interview); mentions her memories of the Lighter-than-Air base; recollects her observations of the Irvine family; explains birthing one of her daughters in the backseat of her car; comments on the snowstorm in Orange County; recalls being Miss Tustin; details traveling through Europe with her family; speaks about how she would like the hangars at LTA remembered; mentions the suicide of Myford Irvine; tells a story of an AWOL Marine seeking help on her property; recollects rationing during World War II; remembers finishing high school as a married woman; and finally, recalls her husband's passion for his crops, and how he loved his life as a farmer.

OH 5008

Narrator: Chain, Charles (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Brandy Brockman
Title: "An Oral History with Charles Chain"
Date: April 30, 2013
Language: English
Location: Fallbrook, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 51 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2013. Bulk dates 1955-1975.

An oral history with Charles Chain, resident of Fallbrook, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Chain's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Chain's childhood in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; talks about leaving college and entering the Naval Aviation Cadet program; describes flight school in Pensacola, Florida, and Corpus Christi, Texas [1955]; remembers his first duty station in Miami, Florida; recalls meeting his wife Wilma there and marrying her in 1957; speaks about his first tour overseas at Iwakuni, Japan, while his wife was pregnant with their first child [1958]; comments on his return home and being stationed at Cherry Point, North Carolina [1959-62]; details his assignment as a flight instructor in Pensacola; mentions his first of two tours at El Toro, joining an A-4 squadron [1965], which prepared him for his first tour in Vietnam; discusses his first impressions of El Toro, extracurricular activities, and church involvement; explains leaving for Vietnam [1966] flying air-to-ground missions; remembers games at the O Club and other wartime memories; recalls coming home from Vietnam, returning to Cherry Point, and making the transition to the KC-130; talks about his second tour in Vietnam [1970], based out of Okinawa and Danang, and how it differed from the first; discusses his return to El Toro, settling in Laguna Hills, and becoming more involved in the community; mentions his retirement [1975] and slowly transitioning into financial planning; provides his opinion on women in the military; expresses his thoughts on the closing of El Toro; discusses how his military career affected his views on war; talks about how El Toro should have become an airport; and finally, comments on how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 5009

Narrator: Carroll, John (b. 1931)
Interviewer: Bryon Walsh
Title: “An Oral History with John Carroll”
Date: April 25, 2013
Language: English
Location: Escondido, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited; 95 pages

This oral history spans 1931-2013. Bulk dates 1954-1970s.

An oral history with John Carroll, resident of Escondido, California, and retired lieutenant colonel of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Carroll’s experiences at El Toro. Specifically, Carroll recalls his childhood in Kansas City, Kansas, and Catholic education; explains why he joined the United States Marine Corps; shares memories of his deployment to Korea from 1954-55 including his work as a forward air observer and mess duty assignment; describes boot camp experience and how it’s changed since the 1950s; discusses process of flight training, carrier qualifications, and transition to helicopters; recalls arriving at MCAS Tustin (referred to as Santa Ana by Mr. Carroll) in the 1950s and the military culture in Southern California; describes an average day / workflow in flight operations; talks about his involvement with testing of the atomic bomb at Bikini Atoll and Johnston Island; explains why he re-enlisted in the Marine Corps and talks about his duty at Oppama, Japan and a presidential visit by Eisenhower in Okinawa; recalls his role in rescue of Maryknoll missionaries in Taiwan; talks about his involvement during the Cuban Missile Crisis and helping test anti-foilage chemicals in Panama (later known as Agent Orange); shares how he met his wife while stationed at MCAS Quantico; details his time as commanding office of a Reserve squadron at Floyd Bennett Field (New York) and his Marine’s employment at the 1964 World’s Fair; talks about his deployment to Vietnam in 1966-67 with HMM-163 including: being the sole Marine squadron in charge of Dong Ha, Con Tien, Gio Linh, and Khe Sanh, the military’s people-to-people program, and medevac / insert / recon rotation; comments on the anti-war movement and how it affected the “wars” outcome; shares personal observations on how the Vietnam War is taught by educators; talks about the challenges with the Marine Corps accepting draftees; explains why he decided to retire and his post-military employment with Home Savings; recalls memorable moments at Tustin base including: FAA Balloon Convention and filming of *The Hindenburg* and being stationed at MCAS El Toro as the Aviation, Safety, and NATOPS officer; describes off-base housing including 1950s Neutra housing; shares thoughts on Old Corps vs New Corps including: changes in discipline, sergeant majors jesters, and how the Marine Corps dealt with substance abuse; reminisces about Operation New Arrival at El Toro (1975) and the Western White House; shares memories of the Marine Corps Birthday Ball and happy hours; comments on the military’s male centered culture; shares how his military career shaped his life and views of war; talks about the closing of military bases in Southern California and how El Toro will be remembered; and finally, comments on how housing encroachment affects military bases.

OH 5010

Narrator: Lewis, Bill (b. 1943)
Interviewer: Bryon Walsh
Title: "An Oral History with Bill Lewis"
Date: May 9, 2013
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited; 78 pages

This oral history spans 1943-2013. Bulk dates 1950s-1960s.

An oral history with Bill Lewis, resident of Fullerton, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Lewis' experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Lewis' father, who served in the Navy for twenty-three years; speaks about the family being stationed at Guam [1956-58]; recalls returning to California and the family settling in Anaheim; remembers working at Knott's Berry Farm and meeting Mr. Knott; talks about joining the Navy in the mid-sixties; details childhood memories of visiting El Toro; recollects his father being away, the excitement of him coming home, and watching his ship pull into port; discusses entering the Navy and catching his first ship off of Whidbey Island, Washington [1965]; explains how he started working in photography on ship; speaks about liberties in Southeast Asia; explains being on a ship that patrolled the waters off the coast of Vietnam; expresses how the U.S. was not allowed to win the war; recalls first impressions of El Toro; remembers coming back from Vietnam and being stationed at Whidbey Island; talks about meeting his wife and moving back down to California; speaks about working at a motion picture unit based in San Diego, while working at Knott's Berry Farm and Disneyland in decorating; explains how he created the Pearl Harbor Troop Train to honor World War II veterans; expresses his opinion on El Toro and the Great Park; mentions his fond memories of El Toro; comments on how his military service affects his view of patriotism; reflects on the impact of El Toro on Orange County, and how the base should be remembered; recalls visiting the El Toro PX for holiday shopping; speaks about some of the veterans he met while participating in the Pearl Harbor Troop Train; and finally, explains what he misses most about El Toro.

OH 5011

Narrator: Bailey, Richard (b. 1932)
Interviewer: Bryon Walsh
Title: “An Oral History with Richard Bailey”
Date: May 17, 2013
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited; 31 pages

This oral history spans 1932-2013. Bulk dates 1960s-1970s.

An oral history with Richard Bailey, resident of San Diego and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Bailey’s experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Bailey’s upbringing in Sandusky, Ohio, and joining the ROTC to pay for college; remembers joining the Marine Corps and entering flight school; talks about his first tour in Vietnam, flying C-130s out of Okinawa [1966]; recalls a tour in Iran as an assistant Naval attaché [1965-66]; mentions a subsequent tour stationed at Quantico, Virginia; recollects his second tour in Vietnam, again flying out of Okinawa [1970-71]; details returning to the U.S. and being stationed at El Toro for three years; speaks about general memories of the base; comments on why it was time for him to retire; explains returning to school after he retired and having a second career in agriculture; mentions how he spends his days golfing with other retired military; reflects on how his military career shaped his life and influenced his children to join the Navy; speaks about how Vietnam was a political war; recalls how El Toro’s closing surprised him; and finally discusses how he would like to see El Toro remembered.

OH 5012

Narrator: Marshall, Alice (b. 1946)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Alice Marshall"
Date: May 22, 2013
Language: English
Location: Tustin, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited; 51 pages

This oral history spans 1946-2013. Bulk dates 1970s-1990s.

An oral history with Alice Marshall, resident of Mission Viejo and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Marshall's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Marshall's childhood in Washington D.C.; speaks about her educational background and the social unrest of the sixties; provides her thoughts on feminism; remembers joining the Marine Corps in 1967 in order to get a better education; recollects boot camp in Quantico, Virginia; comments on her Military Occupational Specialty in Administration; mentions her first duty station at Headquarters Marine Corps; talks about coming out to California in the early seventies and being stationed at MCRD San Diego; discusses her position at Tulega, a camp for Vietnamese refugees; remembers meeting and marrying her husband, a pilot and colonel, at Quantico, then being transferred to El Toro in 1979; reminisces about the social aspects of El Toro, and her family's free time; mentions other tours in Okinawa and Pendleton, but eventually retiring from El Toro; recalls becoming a colonel in 1988; describes her positions as station inspector and casualty officer; recollects life after the Marine Corps and using her GI Bill to go to law school; comments on her role in Desert Shield and a brief tour in Saudi Arabia; reflects on what it is like to be a woman in the Marine Corps; talks about the impact El Toro had on Orange County; provides fond memories of the air shows; mentions the stolen A-4 incident of 1986; and finally, reflects on what remembrances could be left for the Marines of El Toro.

OH 5013

Narrator: Birzer, Ed (b.1931)
Interviewer: Bryon Walsh
Title: "An Oral History with Ed Birzer"
Date: June 14, 2013
Language: English
Location: Chula Vista, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 40 pages

This oral history spans 1931-2013. Bulk dates: 1954-1972.

An oral history with Ed Birzer, resident of Chula Vista, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Birzer's experiences at and around El Toro. This interview includes discussion about working in wheat fields on family farm in Kansas; talks about decision to join the Navy; remembers Dust Bowl conditions in Kansas; speaks about family's military service; describes flight school in Pensacola, Florida, and Kingsville, Texas; explains mechanics of arresting gear and catapults; recalls first cross-country flight to MCAS El Toro; talks about meeting and marrying wife, Louise; describes MCAS El Toro: buildings, barracks, hangars, runways; details job at MCAS El Toro as squadron pilot, ordnance officer, and safety officer; discusses safety school at University of Southern California (USC), and difficulty learning mathematics; remembers the Cuban Missile Crisis; talks about amphibious training at Quantico, Virginia; discusses helicopter missions in the Vietnam War; speaks about keeping in touch with family while in Vietnam; recalls being the executive officer of A-6 squadron at Cherry Point, North Carolina; discusses advances in fighter aircraft and bombing capabilities; describes job as COMNAVAIRPAC [Commander Naval Air Force Pacific]; talks about retirement from USMC and living in Orange County, California; reminisces about time at MCAS El Toro, squadron, and flying; remembers flying in the fog at MCAS El Toro and Jacksonville, Florida; expresses sadness over the closing of MCAS El Toro; comments on the transition of MCAS El Toro to the Orange County Great Park; recalls aircraft accidents at MCAS El Toro; shares opinion on how MCAS El Toro should be remembered; and finally, discusses the facilities at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

OH 5014

Narrator: McNeil, Paula (b. 1936)
Interviewer: Brandy Brockman
Title: “An Oral History with Paula McNeil”
Date: August 12, 2013
Language: English
Location: Alpine, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 22 pages

This oral history spans 1936-2013. Bulk dates 1960s and 1970s.

An oral history with Paula McNeil, resident of Alpine, and former spouse of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding McNeil’s experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about McNeil’s youth as the daughter of a Navy serviceman; talks about her family being stationed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941; remembers her parents splitting up and her mother being her primary role model; recalls how she met her first husband, a Marine Corps pilot stationed at El Toro; recollects how Frank Petersen (first African American Marine Corps general) and wife Ellie were her neighbors on the base; mentions her excitement of being a Marine wife; comments on her Marine Corps wedding in San Diego; details what it felt like while her husband was away in Vietnam and other tours; speaks about being stationed in New Bern, North Carolina, during a hurricane; provides her opinion on other bases (Yuma, Arizona, and Beaufort, South Carolina); discusses raising children with a military man, who was often absent; recalls the Kennedy assassination; explains the special bonds within Marine Corps wives and families; remembers her first impressions of El Toro and how it differed from other bases; talks about the Officer’s Club and where she shopped; recollects having her first child while stationed at El Toro; explains her feelings when she heard the base closed; recalls flying accidents on Saddleback Mountain; talks about divorcing her husband after his retirement; explains working in retail at Buffum’s Department store, and later in accounting for Otay Water; recalls meeting her second husband and marrying in 1996; mentions his work as a breeder of Arabian horses; and finally comments on returning and settling down in San Diego.

OH 5015

Narrator: Douglas, Noel (b. 1939)
Interviewer: Janet Tanner
Title: "An Oral History with Noel Douglas"
Date: August 27, 2013
Language: English
Location: San Diego, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 44 pages

This oral history spans 1939-2013. Bulk dates 1960s-1970s.

An oral history with Noel Douglas, resident of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton, and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Douglas' experiences at El Toro. This interview begins with Douglas providing highlights from his military career, which include the Cuban Missile Crisis, the war in Vietnam, and work in the Pentagon on 9/11; discusses his youth spent on a farm in Illinois; comments on joining the Reserves and becoming a commissioned officer in 1961; describes his time at The Basic School; explains being sent to Cuba for two months during the Cuban Missile Crisis, but saw no action; remembers his first tour at El Toro in 1964-65; recalls taking up a hobby in parachute jumping; mentions meeting his wife, and living in Laguna Beach and then base housing; comments on the special surroundings of El Toro and his disappointment in its closing; talks about the birth of his two children in civilian hospitals, and the subpar medical services of El Toro; details his first job at El Toro, in the comptroller's office; provides his opinion on the draft, as well as women's role in the Marine Corps; reflects on how the conditions out of El Toro contributed to the best flying of his life, in the F-4; talks about air crashes at El Toro; explains how he became interested in becoming a radar intercept officer, also known as a "backseater" in the F-4; comments on the challenges of flight school; describes his first tour in Vietnam [1967-68], providing air-to-ground support; remembers his first impressions, living conditions, and overall observations of the base at Chu Lai, Vietnam; mentions the Officer's Club in Chu Lai, built by the Marines; compares his first tour in Chu Lai to his second tour in Danang [1970]; retells an incident about ejecting over Laos; comments on keeping in touch with his family; provides his observations and opinions of the antiwar movement; explains his frustration with President Johnson's handling of the war; describes his time at The War College; discusses a tour at Quantico, where he retired in 1989; talks about his job in Research and Development at the Pentagon; recalls how his wife coped while he was overseas; details working in the Pentagon on 9/11, and being in the building when the plane hit; recalls the office relocation to Crystal City, Virginia, and being able to return and observe the damage at the Pentagon; reflects on his time at El Toro; expresses his feelings about the base closure; mentions his two children, a Navy doctor and a U.S. Marshall; and finally, explains how he would like to see El Toro remembered.

OH 5016

Narrator: Hansen, Dean (b. 1945)
Interviewer: Bryon Walsh
Title: “An Oral History with Dean Hansen”
Date: August 28, 2013
Language: English
Location: Lake Forest, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: Edited; 89 pages

This oral history spans 1945-2013. Bulk dates 1960s-1980s.

An oral history with Dean Hansen, resident of Lake Forest and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Hansen’s experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Hansen’s childhood in Oregon; remembers joining the Marine Corps after high school; recalls going to Vietnam in 1965-66, being based out of Chu Lai, and working in reclamation and disposal; talks about recruiting duty in Canton, Ohio, where he became a Christian, and also met his wife; discusses tours in Okinawa, Japan, and Parris Island; describes attending the Sergeant Major’s Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas; comments on a conversation with General Omar Bradley; details a tour in Hong Kong, China, on embassy duty; explains his arrival at El Toro in 1983, as the maintenance management chief; recalls his retirement working for civilian companies, and drafting technical manuals; describes his charity work and his involvement in Saddleback Church; remembers his initial feelings about being sent to Vietnam; speaks about why he wanted to retire at El Toro; details his job at El Toro, his problem solving skills, and how he prided himself on training those below him; comments on where he lived in Orange County and the changes he saw over time; mentions his family’s military experience; explains his family’s ministry work, as well as his work helping military couples at Camp Pendleton; recollects his return from Vietnam and the sentiment toward the military; reflects on his most vivid memory of El Toro, and changes he observed; shares his feelings about El Toro’s closing; comments on how technology has changed aspects of the Marine Corps, especially communication, and finally, expresses how he would like to see El Toro remembered.

OH 5017

Narrator: Ampagoomian, George (b. 1943)
Interviewer: Natalie Navar
Title: “An Oral History with George Ampagoomian”
Date: September 27, 2013
Language: English
Location: Laguna Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 37 pages

This oral history spans 1943-2013. Bulk dates 1960s-1980s.

An oral history with George Ampagoomian, resident of Laguna Beach and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Ampagoomian’s experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Ampagoomian’s childhood in Yonkers, New York, the son of Armenian immigrants; talks about early aspirations to be a pilot; describes his childhood heroes; recalls his college days at State University of New York, at Cortland; comments on meeting his wife in 1974; remembers joining the Reserves in 1961; discusses various training such as the Basic School, Hawk Missile School, Amphibious Warfare School, and Nuclear Weapons School; recollects his first impressions of Southern California; explains his “ground” jobs at El Toro and an average day; mentions his vivid memories of El Toro; details the changes he observed at El Toro over the years; provides his opinion on women in the Marine Corps; comments on race relations at El Toro; remembers changing his Reserve commission to regular, so he could go to Vietnam in 1967; explains his first tour as an air controller; explains his second tour as a pilot in VMA-211, in 1972; details examples of his flying missions in Vietnam; talks about R and R in Bangkok, Thailand; discusses his most vivid wartime memory of his friend’s plane being shot down (he later learned that he was alive, and in a POW camp); talks about the types of aircraft that he flew throughout his career, mainly the A-4; reflects on how he heard about the end of the Vietnam War; recalls how it felt to return from war; speaks about settling in Laguna Beach; mentions what he remembers most about El Toro, how it should be remembered, and his feelings on its closing; explains the impact El Toro had on Orange County; and finally, describes how his military service affected his family.

OH 5018

Narrator: Aguilar, John (b. 1951)
Interviewer: Kira Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with John Aguilar”
Date: October 18, 2013
Language: English
Location: Dana Point, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: Edited; 53 pages

This oral history spans 1951-2013. Bulk dates 1970s-early 2000s.

An oral history with John Aguilar, resident of Laguna Nigel, California, and former civilian employee at El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton, and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Aguilar’s experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Aguilar’s teenage youth, living in the town of El Toro, under the flight pattern; talks about attending school with Marine dependents and going on base with them; explains being the child of a retired Navy serviceman, with memories of living at China Lake Naval Weapons Center [California] and Naval Station Rota [Spain]; recalls attending several different Orange County high schools; remembers his eligibility for the draft and his subsequent decision to join the Army, so he could be stationed in Europe, instead of Southeast Asia; details his tour in Vicenza, Italy; describes the end of his military service and landing a civilian job at El Toro, starting in the Transportation Department, becoming a pipefitter, then working in Facilities Management ; details the many improvements and modernizations made to the base while he worked there; explains the base closure and how his job transitioned to caretaker; remembers the process of shutting down an active base after everyone left; expresses his feelings as he observed an empty base; mentions the process of opening up the runways every morning; comments on base fuel systems and ordnance exercises; recalls frequenting both the Officers and Enlisted Clubs; talks about his treatment at the base gate; recalls treatment from and attitudes of military personnel; describes witnessing plane crashes and accidents; and finally, explains the area’s transition and how he accepts that.

OH 5019

Narrator: Levin, Hugh Neil (b. 1932)
Interviewer: Natalie Navar
Title: “An Oral History with Hugh Neil Levin”
Date: November 7, 2013
Language: English
Location: Oceanside, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 28 pages

This oral history spans 1932-2013. Bulk dates 1953-1973.

An oral history with Hugh Neil Levin, resident of Oceanside, California, and retired lieutenant colonel of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Levin’s experiences at El Toro. Specifically, Levin discusses his rationale for joining the United States Marine Corps; comments on his childhood memories of Burlington, New Jersey including recollections of WWII and President Roosevelt’s Fireside Chats; describes his entrepreneurial endeavors post-USMC; talks about meeting his first and third wife; discusses training as a Naval Aviation Cadet; recalls being shot down over North Vietnam and how he escaped; talks about what air medals he earned from Vietnam; reflects on the close bond shared by Marines and how they deal with the death of their own; shares memories from his second marriage to a Naval nurse; describes his duties as commanding officer while at El Toro and the differences between the civilian and military communities; talks about his current philanthropic endeavors; reflects on his experience with PTSD; describes his response to racism at El Toro and in Orange County; comments on the importance of Marine readiness; reminisces about the eucalyptus trees and asparagus fields surrounding the base during the 1960s; describes duty as casualty officer; talks about his role in publishing the novel *The Final Salute* (written by Kathleen Rodgers) and what prompted him to write his autobiography, *An Angel Rode my Wing*; shares views on women in combat; comments on early U.S. involvement in Vietnam; describes his two tours in-country in Vietnam and the transition back to the States; talks about his flight instructor days; reflects on the impact El Toro had on the community and noise complaints; and finally, shares how El Toro should be remembered and offers parting reflections about the base.

OH 5020

Narrator: McAfee, Betty (b. 1937)
Interviewer: Navar, Natalie
Title: "An Oral History Betty McAfee"
Date: January 14, 2014
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited; 36 pages

This oral history spans 1937-2014. Bulk dates 1960s and 1970s.

An oral history with Betty McAfee, resident of Mission Viejo and former civil service employee. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding McAfee's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about McAfee's youth in the farming community of Pantego, North Carolina; speaks about the positive influence of her parents, her mother a teacher and her father a farmer; explains how she met her husband, a Marine, in Virginia; discusses how it felt to be a Marine wife, and how she balanced it with her career in civil service; recalls her feelings when he was on active duty, and sources of support; mentions her work at the Federal Aviation Administration as a statistical clerk; recollects the effects deployment had on her husband, particularly Vietnam, and how the community accepted him; describes her jobs at Tustin MCAS and El Toro, the skills required, and the challenges; comments on social activities at the base; mentions Nixon's presidential landings at El Toro; remembers her involvement with the El Toro Historical Foundation; recalls the air shows at El Toro; provides her opinion on women working in the Marine Corps; discusses the growth of Orange County; and finally, describes her feelings when the base closed, and how she would like to see El Toro remembered.

OH 5021

Narrator: Waunch, Donald (b. 1932)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Donald Waunch"
Date: February 19, 2014
Language: English
Location: Camarillo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 57 pages

This oral history spans 1932-2014. Bulk dates 1960s.

An oral history with Donald Waunch, resident of Camarillo and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Waunch's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about youth spent in both Salem, Oregon, and Hayward, California; remembers joining ROTC in 1950, and eventually becoming a naval aviation cadet; recalls arriving at El Toro in 1954, flying the FJ-2 Fury; details a year-long tour in Atsugi, Japan; speaks about being stationed in Hawaii, both at Camp Smith, as well as Kaneohe; comments on being an instructor in Kingsville, Texas; mentions having to go to Basic School to get more "Marine Corps experience;" describes being sent to MCAS Santa Ana to transition into flying H-34 helicopters; explains his day job as safety officer; recollects going to Vietnam in 1964 as a helicopter pilot, performing amphibious raids, and participating in Operation Starlight; remembers a tour at Cherry Point, North Carolina, flying F-4 Phantoms; details his second tour in Vietnam, based out of Quang Tri, performing missions out of Landing Zone Vandegrift, including resupply, assault, medevac, insert and extract missions; talks about participating Operation Dewey Canyon; mentions an incident when he was shot down; recalls friends he lost; discusses his return to Hawaii, where he finished college while working as the NATOPS officer; explains working as a legislative aid, in Washington D.C. for Congressman Jim Lloyd; comments on working for and retiring from Northrup Grumman Corporation; details sitting on the Camarillo City Council for twelve years, and his political achievements; remembers Colonel Barrow in Vietnam, who later became Commandant of the Marine Corps; talks about how he met his wife and her current work in philanthropy; recalls the end of the Vietnam War, and compares current conflicts; talks about the Vietnam Wall, and seeing the names of friends; mentions changes he observed at El Toro over the years; remembers his favorite aircraft and helicopter, the FJ-4 and H-46; recalls the dangers of flying helicopters; talks about how the Depression may have affected him, as well as memories of Pearl Harbor; remembers his stepdad and his brother serving in the Navy and Air Force; comments on flying with his brother; reflects on how El Toro should be remembered and how the Marine Corps affected his life; and finally, closes with some lighter stories from Vietnam.

OH 5022

Narrator: Haysom, Robert (b. 1931)
Interviewer: Abby Waldrop
Title: "An Oral History with Robert Haysom"
Date: March 4, 2014
Language: English
Location: Riverside, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 64 pages

This oral history spans 1931-2014. Bulk dates 1940s-1980s.

An oral history with Robert Haysom, resident of Riverside, former civilian employee, and former member of the United States Air Force (USAF). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Haysom's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Haysom's wartime youth in Santa Ana, California, and his early interest in engine mechanics (mainly automobiles); mentions memories of Pearl Harbor; remembers how he obtained his job at El Toro, washing dishes in the cafeteria; describes El Toro's surroundings, particularly the orange groves; discusses his father's role as foreman of the paint shop at El Toro; comments on (illegally) playing the slot machine in the cafeteria during his breaks; recalls the planes of El Toro; talks about his life after World War II; mentions playing softball with Nisei veterans; remembers his childhood skirmishes with Mexican kids; recalls his brief job sprinkling lima beans in Santa Ana; recollects joining the Air Force in 1950, and working as a mechanic on B-36 airplanes, in Rapid City, South Dakota; talks about his memories of the Korean War and having friends overseas; details his close friends in drag racing; explains the large parameters of the B-36 aircraft, and typical missions in which he took part; comments on observing a missile launch at Vandenberg Air Force base; recalls his civilian life as a mechanic; reflects on how he met his current wife through a pen pal program; discusses his job as an auto shop teacher, at local Orange County high schools; describes building a dragster (car) and racing it at 200 miles per hour; remembers boot camp, and how his Air Force career affected his life; reflects on the death of his older brother, a professional baseball player; talks about how his military service influences his views of war and patriotism; reflects on his Buddhist faith; and finally, reminisces about good friends who have passed away.

OH 5023

Narrator: Leahy, Linda (b. 1951)
Interviewer: Abby Dettenmaier
Title: “An Oral History with Linda Leahy”
Date: May 14, 2014
Language: English
Location: Laguna Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 33 pages

This oral history spans 1951-2014. Bulk dates 1960s, 1970s.

An oral history with Linda Leahy, resident of Laguna Beach, and daughter of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Leahy’s experiences of El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Leahy’s birth at Camp Pendleton, and her first four years of life, living in Namar and Wherry Park housing; describes her family background, and moving around briefly, but then returning to Wherry Park/El Toro when she was nine; recalls youthful activities while living on the base, including wandering in the nearby hills, horseback riding, and cutting across the airstrip to get to the PX and the movie theater; explains what it was like being the daughter of a Marine; discusses how she became a legal secretary, how her parents emphasized happiness instead of an exact career; remembers how her parents started the Marine Air Federal Credit Union; recalls her first job at the law firm that represented President Nixon during Watergate [Kalmbach, DeMarco, Knapp, and Chillingworth]; talks about going to Catholic grade school, then Tustin High School, as well as fond memories of the Beatles; reflects on the values she received from her family; recollects living in Wherry Park; describes her family’s home, the surrounding area, close playmates; describes how her brothers went into the service, and one served in Vietnam; explains her father’s position as a warrant officer at El Toro, and how she coped with his absence; recalls social and recreational activities at El Toro; comments again on what it was like to attend Tustin High School, and her love for the Beatles; mentions JFK and RFK’s assassinations, Nixon’s resignation; touches on working for Herb Kalmbach, Nixon’s lawyer, and how he “put up with her;” describes how being the daughter of a Marine impacted her life; comments on the sadness of returning to the base, and places like Wherry Park being torn down; explains her feelings when she learned the base would close, why she did not want El Toro becoming an airport, and her thoughts on the Great Park; and finally, provides her thoughts on the current state of El Toro, and the growth of Orange County in general.

OH 5024

Narrator: Ruh, Lisa (b. 1950)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Lisa Ruh"
Date: May 14, 2014
Language: English
Location: Laguna Beach, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 37 pages

This oral history spans 1950-2014. Bulk dates 1950-1963.

An oral history with Lisa Ruh, resident of Redding, California, and daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Floyd Kirkpatrick, WWII ace and retired member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton, and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Ruh's experiences at El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Ruh's childhood as a Marine dependent and her memories of MCAS El Toro, MCAS Quantico, and Camp Pendleton; documents her dad's career as WWII ace; describes her journey to Southern California as Marine dependent; recalls adapting to life off base in Tustin, California; shares why her family moved to Northern California when her dad was deployed and how they stayed in touch; describes circumstances leading to her dad's second divorce and relationships with her birth/step mothers; comments on behavioral expectations as officers daughter; describes memories of MCAS El Toro including: horse stables, bowling alley, officers pool; shares experiences at Irvine Elementary School; speaks about how her young adult years were influenced by the 1970s culture including comments on the feminist movement; reflects on the Vietnam War and reconciling her anti-war sentiments with her military background; comments on how her dad adjusted to civilian life and found employment; talks about her friendship with Linda Leahy (O.H. 5023) and memories of Leahy's family; shares how she would like El Toro should be remembered; and finally, reflects on her career with the National Park Service.

OH 5025

Narrator: Sargent, Marcia (b. 1952)
Interviewer: Natalie Navar
Title: "An Oral History with Marcia Sargent"
Date: June 23, 2014
Language: English
Location: Laguna Niguel, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited, 57 pages

This oral history spans 1952-2014. Bulk dates 1970s-1980s.

An oral history with Marcia Sargent, resident of Laguna Niguel and wife of a former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Sargent's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Sargent's upbringing as one of six children of military parents; discusses her siblings, her parents' relationship, and complicated family life; recalls the mid-air collision that killed her brother, who was a Marine Corps fighter pilot and her husband's best friend; remembers the first time she met her husband, Andy, also a Marine Corps pilot; explains her early aspirations to be a teacher and how she wound up teaching for twenty years; describes early stages of dating her husband; talks about her college and credential experience at University of the Pacific; discusses challenges of being a squadron wife; speaks about her career in writing, and how there was a need to write down the stories of pilots; remembers death and loss within the squadron, and how wives come together; recalls behavior of one particularly difficult squadron wife; explains what it was like when her husband was away; recollects the births of her three children; describes how she coped with the loss of her brother, while still accepting her husband doing the same job; talks about social activities at El Toro, as well as childcare; remembers good-humored nights at the O Club; compares the positives and negatives of military life; and finally, talks about the changes in Orange County, her feelings when the based closed, and how she would like to see it remembered.

OH 5026

Narrator: Dwinell, Clark (b. 1936)
Interviewer: Brian Mashburn
Title: "An Oral History with Clark Dwinell"
Date: June 18, 2014
Language: English
Location: Lake Forest, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed, 38 pages

This oral history spans 1936-2014. Bulk dates 1990s.

An oral history with Clark Dwinell, resident of Lake Forest. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Dwinell's memories of El Toro, as well as his role in conceptualizing an idea for the El Toro land space. This interview includes discussion about Dwinell's childhood, moving around a lot due to his father's job in the hotel business; talks about finishing high school and studying theater in college; explains moving to California from Massachusetts, and finding a job at a theater in Hollywood; describes landing a broadcast position (working with commercials) at the advertising firm of N.W. Ayer and Son; speaks about becoming a unit manager for the ABC network, then working in post-production; recalls moving to the Irvine area in 1979 and discovering El Toro MCAS; details his volunteer work on the Irvine Police Department; remembers the open spaces of Orange County; talks about his work at the American Educational Television Network; describes the technical evolution from video cassette to DVD; explains how he first heard about El Toro closing, and how the land was originally bought and sold; details the problems with making El Toro into a commercial airport; discusses how he was approached to create an idea about what to do with the El Toro land space, and how he conceptualized the El Toro Sports and Entertainment Complex, on which the Great Park is roughly based; speaks about how finding money to create his idea has always been an issue; elaborates on why the people of Orange County would have never accepted the commercial airport at El Toro; expresses his opinion on Measure W, which allowed for the creation of the Great Park; discusses the excessive development of new homes around El Toro, and the possibility of a professional baseball stadium; mentions the traffic problems with Orange County entertainment venues; and finally, how he would like to see El Toro remembered, and its endless development potential.

OH 5027

Narrator: Turnbeau, Gary (b. 1953)
Interviewer: Abby Waldrop
Title: "An Oral History with Gary Turnbeau"
Date: July 17, 2014
Language: English
Location: Yorba Linda, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: final; 70 pages

This oral history spans 1953-2014. Bulk dates 1971-1996.

An oral history with Gary Turnbeau, resident of Yorba Linda and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Turnbeau's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Turnbeau's upbringing in Missouri; remembers joining the Marine Corps in 1971, expecting to go straight to Vietnam, but instead was made an admin; talks about boot camp in San Diego; recalls first duty assignment at the Marine Finance Center in Kansas City, Missouri, and a subsequent tour in Okinawa, Japan; recollects his assignment at Los Alamitos as an inspector instructor, which also happened to be where he met his wife Pat; explains his return to Missouri for recruiting duty, where he also had time to go to auctioneer school; talks about being assigned to El Toro in 1981 as the admin chief of MWHS-3; remembers what it was like to make casualty calls for all of Orange County, as well as losing four members of his own squadron at El Toro due to non-military-related accidents; describes an average day while stationed at El Toro and the characteristics of his squadron; recalls his experiences working with Women Marines; speaks about the social aspects of El Toro; details his tours on embassy duty, starting in 1984, first to Budapest, Hungary, and then to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; mentions his return to El Toro, once again, as the admin chief of VMFA-323; explains the process of being frocked; remembers another tour at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, for thirteen months; recollects returning stateside as a sergeant major, and being based first at Tustin, with H&HS, and then El Toro, with MWCS-38 and VMFA-121; describes his assignment at Tustin and how it differed from El Toro; remembers starting the process of moving VMFA-121 to Miramar as part of the Base Realignment and Closure; talks about one last deployment in Iwakuni, Japan; recollects spending his last two months in the Marine Corps at El Toro with HMM-364, the Purple Foxes, and his retirement in 1996; remembers how he first heard about El Toro and Tustin closing; discusses his post-retirement life and transition into civilian work environments; comments on how the Marine Corps affected his life, as well as the changes he has seen take place in Orange County; shares what he would like to see at the site of El Toro, and how he would like to see it remembered; and finally, reminisces on his last days spent at El Toro.

OH 5028

Narrator: Leming, Bill (b. 1946)
Interviewer: Natalie Navar
Title: “An Oral History with Bill Leming”
Date: July 22, 2014
Language: English
Location: Anaheim, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed; 27 pages

This oral history spans 1946-2014. Bulk dates 1963-1966.

An oral history with Bill Leming, resident of Anaheim, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton, and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Leming’s experiences at El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Leming’s childhood experiences in the farming community of Jersey City, New Jersey; what it was like growing up with a single mom; talks about why he left school in the tenth grade and experience of going back to school in his twenties; explains why he joined the Marine Corps and how his family responded to the news; describes communications and field training in Okinawa; talks about his experience incountry (1964-65) including: involvement in the Gulf of Tonkin, living conditions, setting up field communications, R&R, and interaction with the ARVN and Vietnamese civilians; comments on how the U.S. was unprepared to support combat operations during his time incountry; describes his time aboard ship (USS *Mount McKinley* and USS *George Clymer*) and transferring ship-to-ship in a bosun’s chair; compares musical selection of Hanoi Hannah (referred to as Hanoi Annie throughout interview) to Armed Forces Radio; describes the search and destroy mission in Cam Ne; recalls his experience leaving Vietnam and flying into MCAS El Toro; talks about difficulties adjusting to Marine Corps life post-Vietnam and why he was court martialed; shares how he met wife #1 and #2; talks about how El Toro has impacted Orange County, and finally, shares how he would like to see the base remembered.

OH 5029

Narrator: Raths, Gregory (b. 1953)
Interviewer: Kira Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Gregory Raths"
Date: July 25, 2014
Language: English
Location: Mission Viejo, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: final; 41 pages

This oral history spans 1953-2014. Bulk dates 1973-2004.

An oral history with Gregory Raths, resident of Mission Viejo, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Raths' experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Raths' Roman Catholic upbringing in Phoenix, Arizona, the son of a World War II combat pilot; talks about his college years at Arizona State University, and enlisting as an officer in the Marine Corps in 1973; remembers always having the desire to fly, so much so that he took private flying lessons before joining the Marine Corps; reminisces about flight school and how good it felt to score high enough to fly jets; explains his additional training in Meridian, Mississippi, and Yuma, Arizona, solidifying his skills in the RF-4 Phantom; mentions being assigned to El Toro in 1978; recalls the positive military transition between Presidents Carter and Reagan; comments on Cold War era flight training, especially on carriers; mentions the relationship between Navy and Marine Corps; talks about living the Marine Corps bachelor life, in Mission Viejo, from 1979-80; remembers meeting his wife, Luci, and getting married in 1983; explains the challenges that Marine Corps life can have on a marriage and children; describes his deployment in Operation Desert Storm; shares how his combat experience shapes his view of war today; explains life on the base, in Bahrain, during Desert Storm; details his time at the White House Military Office, from 1996-1999, supporting President Bill Clinton; speaks about his book, *Nine Lives of a Fighter Pilot*; compares higher education in civilian and military capacities; talks about his son being in the Marine Corps; reflects on his military retirement; describes the changes he has seen in Orange County; remembers how he first heard about El Toro closing; and finally, comments on how he would like to see El Toro remembered.

OH 5030

Narrator: Hennessey, John (b. 1943)
Interviewer: Brian Mashburn
Title: "An Oral History with John Hennessey"
Date: July 23, 2014
Language: English
Location: Oceanside, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited; 41 pages

This oral history spans 1943-2014. Bulk dates 1953-1973.

An oral history with John Hennessey, resident of Huntington Beach, California, and corporal in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Hennessey's experiences at El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Hennessey's childhood in Long Beach, California, where his parents came from, and being one of three siblings; explains why he joined the USMC; recalls boot camp experience at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (San Diego, California); comments on the importance of Marine Corps rifle training; shares his experiences as USMC Reservist and describes his assignment as aircraft electrician; talks about being stationed in Twentynine Palms, California, and Jacksonville, Florida; shares initial impressions of MCAS El Toro and describes layout of the base, living quarters, and his assignment to Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 15; talks about how Douglas military aircraft were named; explains how aircrews modified aircraft used in Vietnam with additional gun turrets; remembers the first time he watched an F-4 Phantom take-off; recalls the Cuban Missile Crisis and shares memories of being in the military during the build-up to Vietnam; speaks about the military response to the Gulf of Tonkin; describes his experience on a troop ship from Hawaii to Treasure Island; talks about returning to Long Beach, CA, post-USMC; shares how his dad died during an aircraft mishap; describes post-USMC employment at Douglas Aircraft; talks about his three marriages and what keeps him busy in retirement; explains why El Toro should have become a commercial freight airfield; comments on the advantages of flying on JetBlue Airlines; and finally, speaks about Southern California airfields and the importance of El Toro.

OH 5416

Narrator: Titterud, William (b. 1946)
Interviewer: Natalie Navar
Title: "An Oral History with William Titterud"
Date: July 29, 2014
Language: English
Location: Irvine, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: final; 73 pages

This oral history spans 1946-2014. Bulk dates 1971-1996.

An oral history with William Titterud, resident of Irvine, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Titterud's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Titterud's upbringing as the son of a Marine Corps pilot, moving all over the country as a child; remembers his father serving in three wars, and serving as Chief of Staff of El Toro; details living on base at El Toro as a child; talks about his commission in the Marine Corps in 1968, and specializing in helicopters; comments on his father's heavy influence on his life; discusses his educational background; explains how he met his wife, Kathy, and their wedding in 1969; describes Army flight school where he mastered the H-53; mentions a brief deployment on the USS *Okinawa* during Vietnam, as part of a special landing force; talks about helicopter training at MCAS Tustin; discusses retiring from the Marine Corps in 1974, and taking a Reserve commission with MAG-46 at El Toro; details a typical day while stationed at El Toro; speaks about additional training assignments while in the Reserves; comments on nights at the O Club; expresses what it was like to come back after Vietnam; talks about vivid memories of El Toro; mentions the thrill of taking a ride in an F-4; remembers the surrounding community of El Toro, and the issue of noise and housing encroachment; explains the differences between El Toro and MCAS Tustin; discusses women in the Marine Corps; talks about his favorite aircraft, the Huey; shares how he copes with death on large scale; reminisces about what he remembers most about El Toro; recalls the impact El Toro had on Orange County; talks about the base closure, how he would like El Toro remembered, and how much it meant to him.

OH 5417

Narrator: **Randall, John III** (b. 1951)
Interviewer: Natalie Navar
Title: "An Oral History with John Randall III"
Date: August 1, 2014
Language: English
Location: Temecula, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited; 71 pages

This oral history spans 1951-2014. Bulk dates 1977-1999.

An oral history with John Randall III, resident of Temecula, California, and retired lieutenant colonel of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton, and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Randall's experiences at El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about what it was like growing up in as a Navy dependent; shares memories of his siblings and life as a twin; shares how his parents met and their experiences during World War II; talks about his role models and how the movie *Heartbreak Ridge* influenced his outlook on life; reflects on his educational background; shares how he met his wife; explains why he joined the United States Marine Corps; shares stories about military training including: Officer Candidate School and The Basic School; comments on how his family reacted to his joining the military; shares why he transitioned to the Reserves and how they changed their training requirements; talks about his Marine Corps career and assignments to MAG-46, MABS, and Okinawa; describes an average day at El Toro as squadron supply officer; reflects on R&R activities; talks about how Reservists were restricted in use of base amenities including the commissary; shares his favorite memories of El Toro including: air shows, Marine Corps birthday ball, and opening Burger King on base; talks about his involvement with the base closure; describes the landscape surrounding El Toro and how it changed during his time there; shares story about his son in an El Toro F-18 simulator; comments on women serving in the Marine Corps; talks about his post-USMC career at Bechtel Power and Southern California Edison and why he transitioned to teaching; reflects on how El Toro impacted Orange County; reminisces about memories of rocket launches on Vandenberg Air Force Base; and finally shares memories of MCAS Tustin and how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 5418

Narrator: Lawrence, Marc (b. 1956)
Interviewer: Abby Waldrop
Title: "An Oral History with Marc Lawrence"
Date: August 11, 2014
Language: English
Location: Fullerton, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited; 54 pages

This oral history spans 1956-2014. Bulk dates 1987-mid 1990s.

An oral history with Marc Lawrence, resident of Fullerton, former member of the United States Army, and former civilian worker at El Toro Marine Corps Air Station. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Lawrence's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Lawrence's upbringing in Federal Way, Washington, and Anaheim, California; remembers joining the Army in 1975 and retiring after three years; talks about social perceptions right after Vietnam; recalls a brief tour in Germany; reflects on hitchhiking across the country once his enlistment was over; explains entering the carpentry field and working at Long Beach Naval Shipyard, and then later El Toro and Tustin; explains a typical day as a maintenance worker at El Toro; mentions first impressions and how it felt to work on a military base; comments on the politics of getting on and off the base; describes civilian-Marine relations and the conditions of the El Toro buildings, particularly the housing; talks about the challenges of boredom; recalls how he met his wife, and marrying in 1987; remembers how he first heard about the base closure and how he soon took a job with the National Park Service; talks about commuting from Orange County to Calabasas on a daily basis; describes the difference working with the National Park Service versus working on a military installation; recollects special events at El Toro, mainly air shows; compares El Toro with MCAS Tustin; recalls the sentiment when he heard about the base closure; describes the closing ceremonies at El Toro; speaks about what it's been like to return to El Toro from time to time since it closed; comments on the changes surrounding El Toro; and finally, describes how he would like to see El Toro and Tustin MCAS remembered.

OH 5419

Narrator: Puckett, Donald (b. 1963)
Interviewer: Kira A. Gentry
Title: "An Oral History with Donald Puckett"
Date: August 22, 2014
Language: English
Location: Rancho Santa Margarita, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited; 47 pages

This oral history spans 1963-2014. Bulk dates 1981-mid 1985

An oral history with Don Puckett, resident of Rancho Santa Margarita, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton, and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Puckett's experiences at El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about members of Puckett's family who served in the military; memories of growing up in San Bernardino; explains why he joined the United States Marine Corps; talks about military training including: boot camp at MCRD, promotion to squad leader, and how he became a plane captain/jet mechanic; discusses advantages to serving on East Coast USMC bases; comments on how his training prepared him for his MOS [military occupational specialty]; reminisces on being assigned as a runner during boot camp; describes an average day as plane captain/flight line procedures; talks about his overseas deployment to Iwakuni, Japan and how he communicated with his family; compares Marine Corps Bases to their Air Force counterpart; reflects on the relationship between pilot and plane captain; recalls first impressions of MCAS El Toro and Orange County; speaks about the community response to military personnel; talks about experience of serving during the Reagan administration; shares story of recovering downed helicopter in Arizona; describes employment challenges post-USMC; comments on local noise abatement issues and how Orange County has changed since the 1980s; shares reaction to base closure; gives advice to anyone interesting in joining the USMC; shares about his involvement in veteran bike clubs; compares his time in the USMC to the current Corps; and finally, shares how El Toro should be remembered.

OH 5420

Narrator: Johnson, Dudley (b. 1944)
Interviewer: Abby Waldrop
Title: "An Oral History with Dudley Johnson"
Date: August 11, 2014
Language: English
Location: Mission Valley, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited; 77 pages

This oral history spans 1944-2014. Bulk dates 1987-2004.

An oral history with Dudley Johnson, resident of Belen, New Mexico, and former member of the United States Navy. This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Johnson's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Johnson's upbringing in Texas, Germany, Arkansas, and finally Orange County, California, as the son of an Army medical technician; speaks about his time in Germany and how his parents adopted a war orphan, who became his brother Steven; recalls the family then spending time in Japan, and he compares living in both war-torn countries; shares memories of his father, mother, and family; explains the circumstances of his sister's accidental death, and how she passed away at El Toro; mentions his relationship with California congressman John Schmitz (father of Mary Kay Letourneau); touches on his family's military history; shares observations of Jim Crow and Civil Rights struggles while living in Arkansas; explains why his family had to move from Arkansas to California (1962), after his father would not vote for Governor Orville Faubus; shares his first memories of El Toro; describes early aspirations to be a pilot and what led to his decision to join the Navy; mentions studying theology at Claremont College; discusses receiving his chaplaincy appointment in the U.S. Navy in 1981; comments on his deployments on Navy ships; remembers his assignment at El Toro and describes a typical day at MWSG-37 as chaplain; mentions a stint at chaplain school in Newport, Rhode Island, and retuning to El Toro as the Senior Protestant Chaplain (deputy command chaplain) and COMCAB West chaplain training officer; describes religious programs and events that he initiated at El Toro; discusses his superior officers at El Toro and how gracious they were to his needs, particularly General Drax Williams; details a visit from Russian General Uycheslav Borisov; talks about his office and living quarters on base; remembers the challenges of military life on marriage and family; comments on his ex-wife and children; recalls first impressions of the El Toro and how it changed since he was a kid; recollects when he first heard about El Toro's closing and being placed on the BRAC committee to help plan the move to Miramar; explains being reassigned to serve on naval destroyers in 1994, and the toll it took on his mental health; discusses his recovery at San Diego Naval Hospital; describes being assigned to Camp Pendleton helping Marines prepare for deployment in Bagdad (Operation Iraqi Freedom); reflects on his favorite and saddest memories of El Toro; and finally how he would like to see El Toro remembered and what he'd like to see become of the site.

OH 5421

Narrator: Mueller, Daniel (b. 1945)
Interviewer: Kira Gentry
Title: “An Oral History with Daniel Mueller”
Date: September 15, 2014
Language: English
Location: Garden Grove, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited; 63 pages

This oral history spans 1945-2014. Bulk dates 1960s-1990s.

An oral history with Daniel Mueller, resident of Garden Grove, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Mueller’s experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Mueller’s difficult youth spent on a farm in North Dakota; talks about his decision to join the Marine Corps, and subsequent boot camp at Marine Corps Recruitment Depot; mentions brief stints at Twentynine Palms and overseas; explains his first (of seven) tour in Vietnam (1966-67) based out of Chu Lai; comments on memories of the constant rocket attacks; details his job as an aircraft bomb loader for VMA-211; speaks about the problems in his marriage, which resulted in divorce; comments on keeping in touch with family while in Vietnam; mentions his last tour in Vietnam (1972), coming home, and dealing with treatment from an unwelcome society; explains his last tour of El Toro, initially working at the power plant and with aircraft; describes his transition as the maintenance chief of the 3rd Marine Air Wing, helping rotating families adjust; talks about the challenges of getting base housing; recalls the changes in Orange County since he first arrived; explains a brief tour as a drill instructor in Pennsylvania; mentions a tour in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia in 1988; discusses life after El Toro closed; speaks about his relationship with his Japanese wife; remembers his retirement in 1994 and his work in the civilian sector; talks about staying in touch with Marine Corps friends; and finally, explains how the Marine Corps shaped the person he is today.

OH 5422

Narrator: Sargent, Andrew (b. 1944)
Interviewer: Brian Mashburn
Title: “An Oral History with Andrew Sargent”
Date: September 9, 2014
Language: English
Location: Laguna Niguel, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited; 49 pages

This oral history spans 1944-2014. Bulk dates 1966-1987.

An oral history with Andrew Sargent, resident of Laguna Niguel, California, and retired lieutenant colonel of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton, and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Sargent’s experiences at El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Sargent growing up as an Air Force dependent; explains his rationale for joining the United States Marine Corps; talks about military training including: enlisted commissioning program, selection for officer candidate school, and flight training; talks about his overseas deployment to Iwakuni, Japan (1969-70); recalls his time with VMF-314 as maintenance officer; talks about Orange County in the 1970s; describes how he met his wife and how they kept in touch while dating; talks about the importance of happy hour in USMC culture and how the military responded to DUIs; shares memories of the Vietnam War and what he thinks about the conflict today; talks about being assigned to Okinawa as part of the Ground Exchange Program; explains why he chose a regular commission vs. reserve; compares East Coast vs. West Coast duty stations including: Twenty-nine Palms and Naval War College; describes transitioning to the F/A-18; describes his work with CINCPAC and coordinating combined exercise with allied countries; explains why he retired and took a job as civilian contactor at MCAS El Toro; talks about how the community responded to local military presence; explains why Marine Corps bases stopped serving alcohol; recalls adult entertainment at the El Toro officers club; talks about how/why TOPGUN was created and what he thought of the movie; recalls flying conditions at El Toro and local noise abatement issues; shares how he felt when they closed El Toro; comments on airport vs. great park controversy; and finally, talks about why El Toro was an important part of the community.

OH 5423

Narrator: Marshutz, Scott (b. 1957)
Interviewer: Natalie Navar
Title: “An Oral History with Scott Marchutz”
Date: September 25, 2014
Language: English
Location: Dana Point, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: edited; 45 pages

This oral history spans 1957-2014. Bulk dates 1979-1982.

An oral history with Scott Marshutz, resident of Laguna Niguel, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton, and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Marshutz’s experiences at El Toro. Specifically, this interview talks about Marshutz’s childhood in Long Island, New York; memories of his father’s employment as advertising executive; describes his experience at boarding school and the challenge of growing up with divorced parents; talks about his childhood role models; explains why he joined the Marine Corps; recalls military training including: boot camp and public affairs school; shares memories of MCAS El Toro including: work with community relations department, giving base tours, and assignment to base newspaper, *Flight Jacket*; recalls attachment to the USS *Tarawa* during the Iranian Hostage Crisis; recalls promotion to NCO; shares memories of USMC birthday events including his assignment as lighting director for the El Toro ball and meeting actor Robert Duvall; shares memories of the El Toro air shows; describes R&R opportunities in Orange County; reaction to women serving in the Marine Corps; explains why he back to school post-USMC; tells how he met his wife; shares how his military service influenced his view of war; speaks about how El Toro influenced Orange County; and finally, shares how he remembers El Toro.

OH 5424

Narrator: Fitzpatrick, Jimmy Dean (b. 1934)
Interviewer: Abby Waldrop
Title: "An Oral History with Jim Fitzpatrick"
Date: October 3, 2014
Language: English
Location: Banning, California
Project: El Toro Marine Corps Air Station

Status: completed, 52 pages

This oral history spans 1934-2014. Bulk dates 1960s-1970s.

An oral history with Jim Fitzpatrick, resident of Banning, California, and former member of the United States Marine Corps (USMC). This interview was conducted as part of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Oral History Project for California State University, Fullerton and the Center for Oral and Public History. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding Fitzpatrick's experiences at El Toro. This interview includes discussion about Fitzpatrick's modest upbringing on a farm in Missouri; talks about losing his mother at a young age and being raised by his father and stepmother; explains entering the Marine Corps in an effort to pay for college; remembers memories of boot camp at Parris Island; describes his military occupational specialty as an administrator; mentions initial tours at Norfolk, Virginia, and various stations in Japan; recalls his first of three tours at El Toro (1957) working in the adjutant's office; speaks about his feelings and impressions about El Toro; comments on special events at El Toro; mentions following tours at Dallas, Texas, and MCAF Tustin, and being selection for warrant officer program; recalls returning to El Toro for his second tour (1964) working in the Secret and Confidential [S&C] files, learning the extent of what was happening in Vietnam; explains his first of two tours in Vietnam (1965-66) based at Danang as an administrator, working in S&C, and as the Casualty Reporting Officer; mentions the alarming rate of casualties and how he and others dealt with it; discusses combat-related incidents at Danang; describes his living conditions, leaving base occasionally, keeping in touch with family, and R and R in Bangkok; remembers returning home from Vietnam and going on recruiting duty at New Orleans, Louisiana; explains the politics of recruitment, related to Johnson's anti-poverty program; speaks about his second tour in Vietnam (1969-70), as an administrator, based at Quang Tri and Vandergrift Air Base command posts; describes the action and excitement of moving among command posts in Vietnam; comments on spending time with three Congressional Medal of Honor recipients; makes comparisons between his first and second tours of Vietnam; comments on the decline in morale as the war progressed; talks about returning home and working an unsatisfying position at Headquarters Marine Corps; shares his feelings about the fall of Saigon, the anti-war movement, and the draft; explains his third tour at El Toro (1973-76) as the personnel officer; describes visits from President Nixon; remembers an experience of flying on Air Force One, designated as a presidential support aircraft; mentions school, recreation, and services at El Toro; talks about his military retirement in 1976 and working for Northrop Grumman in Saudi Arabia; mentions going back to school, finally, on the GI Bill; discussions transition to civilian work sector, comments on meeting wife Susan; reflects on the impact of his military career, El Toro's closing, and how he'd like to see it remembered.