

# Vietnam Questions with Norman Erkie

## By Tyler Burkhart

1. Q. What is your full name?  
A. Norman Ray Erkie
2. Q. How old are you today?  
A. 58 years old.
3. Q. What job do you have currently?  
A. Self-employed custom hay operator.
4. Q. Where were you born and raised?  
A. Dodge City, Kansas and raised north of Cimarron, Kansas.
5. Q. How old were you at the time of the Vietnam War?  
A. 19 years old.
6. Q. Were you in a relationship at the time of the Vietnam War?  
A. No.
7. Q. Where did you live during the Vietnam War?  
A. In a tent outside of Playcoub, Vietnam.
8. Q. What was you main activity at the time?  
A. Helicopter pilot
9. Q. What branch of the armed services were you in?  
A. The Army.
10. Q. What kind of training did you have before you became a pilot?  
A. I went through basic training and then straight to Army flight school.
11. Q. Who are some people you worked with?  
A. Several friends, I am in a helicopter pilots association with about 40,000 pilots and I have so many friends can't even name them all.

12. Q. What was the reason you joined the armed services?  
A. Drafted
13. Q. Where were some of the places you were stationed during the Vietnam War?  
A. Playcoub, Duckclob, Contoo, Docto, Bambituit, and Benhet.
14. Q. In what ways did the war change the way you live? ✕  
A. I learn not to take life for granite. *granted*
15. Q. What type of foods did you eat while in the Vietnam War?  
A. Sea rations, they were horrible.
16. Q. What responsibilities did you have in the Vietnam War?  
A. Pilot, maintenance test pilot, and I also qualified other pilots to fly.
17. Q. Do you know anybody who was killed or wounded during this time?  
A. Philip Hines of Cimarron.
18. Q. How did you feel when you received mail from home?  
A. Really happy.
19. Q. What news did you get during the Vietnam War?  
A. Letters from home, but not a lot of news from newspapers.
20. Q. Did you have any worthwhile experiences during this time?  
A. Working with different people, and making life-long friends who I fought in the war with.
21. Q. How did you feel about the enemy?  
A. Being a helicopter pilot you really didn't see the enemy. The first ✕  
time you actually saw who you were shooting at was a pretty lasting  
experience.
22. Q. Did your feelings change during the Vietnam War?  
A. Didn't really know much about Vietnam War and why we were over  
there, just went because the order was to go. ✕

23. Q. Were you aware of the protest against the war in the United States?  
How did you feel about that?

A. Somewhat, more so when I came home, when I wore my uniform people would spit and throw eggs at you. Being sent over to the war for a year and coming back to people that would do that made ~~him~~<sup>me</sup> feel pretty bad.

24. Q. Have you visited any of the memorials?

A. Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., the traveling wall, and many museums.

25. Q. Is there something else you would like to tell me that I didn't ask you?

A. I spent 25 years in the military and had the opportunity to go to Desert Storm and the military is a very good occupation.

*it was shot down 7 times.*

*1000/100*

# Release Form

To be completed by the person interviewed:

I, (print name here) Norman Erkie, give permission for the video/audio tape of my interview to be donated to the Cimarron City Library, to be kept on file, and used for purposes of research at a later date.

I agree that persons doing research may use my name and my statements without further approval on my part.

By giving my permission for this, I also understand that I am not giving up any copyright or performance rights that I may hold.

Accepted and agreed:

Signature: N. Erkie Date: MAY 22, 2005  
month/day/year

Address: P.O. Box 176  
City: Cimarron State KS Zip 67835