

Robards: Where did you go for basic training?

Logan: Lackland [AFB], San Antonio, Texas. Everybody went there back then. We had twelve

Robards: Where did you attend Advanced Training, and how long did it last?

Logan: It was really technical training. Panama City, [FL] was the first school the things we had to do to achieve the air defense mission. It was an awakening for a kid who had studied English in college. I got my eyes opened.

Robards: What aspects of your training did you use during the war?

Logan: Well, after that [training], I went to pilot training in my third year in the service. I to [Vietnam] right away, and I was a B-52 crew member. I was 25 years old; a brand new First Lieutenant.

Robards: Do you think that military training changed you in any way?

Logan: to tell you how, but it was when I began to grow up. I graduated probably third from the bottom of my college class. I was terrible; I was a train wreck when I was 22 years old, but by the time I was 25 I was a whole different person.

Robards: What was your job description or occupation code?

Logan: I started out as a 1741[air weapons controller], and then the pilot code was, I think, 1135. I was a bomber pilot; I flew B-52s out of Warner Robins, Georgia in 1967 and then on for a couple of years after that.

Robards: Did you volunteer to serve in the Vietnam War?

Logan: [I] waited my turn. That is how we did it. Everybody lined up, and you went

for a year like everybody else did. The rules said they could send you someplace for 179 days. If they sent you for 180, that was a tour, and you were an Air

going to lose al deployment. So you might go for 4 months, or 5 months or six months, but one day shy

[of 180 days]; you were back home for 179 days or thereabouts when you would go back again for another 179 days, and the _____ you might go again. I know guys that went 3 or 4 times. None of it counted, because when you got back home, you could get orders sending you to Vietnam for a year. And it happened! And it happened. And it destroyed families! It was terrible on families; guys were going

Robards: How did you feel when you learned you were going to South East Asia?

Logan: _____ [just] my turn.

Robards: In what regions, towns or villages did you serve in South East Asia?

Logan: Guam, Okinawa, Thailand; I also served in Korea for a full year.

Robards: What was your home base in South East Asia?

Logan: Guam is where the headquarters really were, but we had big units at both Okinawa and Thailand. So when you were there, it was just like going from one command to another _____ it was just the same.

Robards: What are the names of the units to which you were assigned?

Logan:
Wing, 28th Bomb Squadron.
people there to fly the airplanes. The guys in the cadre were from McDill [Air Force Base, FL].

Robards: What were your dates of service in Southeast Asia?

Logan: Overall service was from 20 September, 1963 through 31 May, 1988. [I was] commissioned December 20, 1963, and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel 24 years and 9 months later.

Robards: Describe your living conditions, housing and food during this tour of duty.

Logan: When we were in Guam, we lived in stone or masonry buildings _____ very quarters _____ also very comfortable. When we went to U-Tapao, Thailand, that was a

different story. They were trailers that had been hooked together; so your crew had four of these things. Three of the areas were sleeping areas and one was kind of like a family room, and it was air- compared to what we were normally used to.

Robards: What did you do for entertainment?

Logan:

that they brought in; nothing of any salaciousness or anything like that. It was always kind of cool, really. They had some good comedians. But mostly we drank, [be]cause we were on a pretty tight schedule. I think it was about 150 day rotation. In 150 days, you would have gone through all three stages and then started over. You started out in Guam with the 12 hour missions, and then you went to Okinawa with the 8 hour missions, and then you went to U-Tapao, Thailand with the 5 hour missions. As the missions got shorter, the number of days you stayed there got longer. And then you started all over again until your time came to go home.

Robards: Could you please describe your first encounter with the enemy and how you reacted to it?

Logan: I

e were essentially

unopposed; so can you call that fighting? We contributed

get attacked by enemy fighters. There was no flak or anything like that. We were up

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run out of Guam. Take off, go to the entry point, go to the IT, do the bomb run, come home. We came home at 43,000 feet, straight into the sun.

Robards: What engagements and or campaigns did you serve in?

Logan: It was called Arc Light, which was part of an overall project called Rolling Thunder.

Robards: What kind of weapons did your unit employ?

Logan: B-52 bombers. We carried varying bomb loads depending on what kind of bombs we carried. Forgive me if these numbers are not exactly correct, but we could carry something like 56,000 pounders. We could carry 72 or 73 mixed bag of 750s, or 108 500-pounders. We almost always had a mixed load; made a lot of noise, tore down a lot of trees, and killed a lot of monkeys, I suppose. We were [personally] armed with .38 caliber pistols.

Robards: As a B-52 aircrew member, how many combat missions did you fly?

Logan: 50.

Robards: Describe the most memorable event that happened when you were in Vietnam.

Logan:

anything to do with the war, but it had to do with flight experiences. [It was] a couple of [times] taking off into thunder storms and experiencing real spatial disorientation. I was a co-pilot at the time, and I had to take control of the aircraft, because they couldn't see where we were going on the runway. That is how hard it was raining. I could see the yellow line, [because] I had a slightly different angle, and I could find where the [raining], but war is hell, so we pitched off into it, and the first thing you did was make a left hand turn and of course, as soon as I started to do that, I just kept on going in my ears [sensory perception is derived from semi-circular canals in ears]. I was upside down for twenty minutes before we got out of that one. That was kind of interesting.

Another time we lost two generators right after take-off. We lost electrical power. For us, it meant an abort. That meant we were going to stay around the area and go home. Some airplanes, you can dump all the gas out; a B-52 can't. So the only thing we

Logan: They were terrific. They were smart; they were reasonable. You could argue was the guys higher up that were the problem. The stories have never come out about what they did or failed to do, or why they did what they did. I remember one night in U-Tapao, sitting at the end of the runway for almost an hour, engines running, [while] waiting for the President of the United States to decide what target we were going to bomb that night.

Robards: What medals or awards did you receive for serving in Vietnam?

Logan: Two Air Medals, Vietnam Service Medal. I was a good boy, and I went home.

Robards: Briefly explain why you think the U.S. was involved in the war in Vietnam?

Logan: I think it was essentially politics. Kennedy inherited that from Eisenhower. It had already begun when he became president

Robards: How did this war experience most affect your life?

Logan: (what we do)

did; we were trained to drop those things, and we were prepared to do that. When we

ee what you

even know they were going. You made this big turn, and the first thing you had to do was send back this report; could see the smoke and flames or whatever you hit. You had to get this report [sent] off; so I had my head turned back in the cockpit that minute or so that we were trying to

get to see the effects of what you did. It was not like the guys and fighters that were doing the low-level stuff. We were up 5 to 7 miles above it. In a sense, it was just a kind of bizarre experience. It was surreal; sometimes you be going along on this

op, [drop the bomb], and then

Strange.

Robards: If you could go back to December, 1969, would you repeat this experience, or would you change anything about it?

Logan:

prefer not to do it again, but if it were necessary, I think I would. I was over in the Middle East the night the Egyptians came across the canal, in 1973, and I got to see some of the mobilization and that sort of stuff from a somewhat different perspective. So,

Robards:
your Vietnam War experience?

Logan: The biggest thing about my experience is the disillusionment that came out of it

wrong, and nobody had the guts to stand up and tell them. They were lying, or at a

real story. But from the very beginning, they were getting it wrong. They never
hat
we were not getting beaten as badly as everybody said, in fact we were doing quite
well. That the part where I lost my innocence as far as the political system and the
t.

Robards: Thank you, Lt. Col. Logan, for your service and dedication to our country and for participating in this oral history project.

Logan: