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Interview with Chaplain Paul Easley

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Interview
Thursday, 0900 hours, 15 February 1990, by telephone
Chaplain (Colonel) Paul Easley, USA (Ret.)
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Yes, you can use my name.

I was a major in Vietnam. I ran a drug treatment center at Cam Ranh and Long Binh in 1970 and 1971. I was at Cam Ranh and the end of the tour I finished up at Long Binh. Mainly I worked, not with inmates, but with drug patients. There was another chaplain at Long Binh Jail; I wasn't at the Long Binh Jail. The chaplain's name who was there was Wayne King and he works at Ft. McPherson at the Army Community Service Center. *Chaplain*

[Easley then called Wayne King and we had a three way conversation for a moment, as follows:]

I told him you were there and he wants to talk to you. Tell him who the chaplains there were.

Vernon G. Swim, Nazarene. Their endorsing agency in Kansas City, Missouri would know what his address is.

The ^{deputy} commanding officer ^{of MP BDE} when I was there was Colonel George Proudfoot. He was deputy commander of the MP BDE. Last I heard he was in Tampa running the jail for the sheriff--about 1980. He may since have retired. *(LBJ)*

The commander of the stockade when I was there was LTC Paul Grossheim. He is director of Commissioner of Corrections in the state of Iowa.

I was there as a major. All of us were majors there.

[end of three-way conversation]

* * * *

The name of CH Ralph E. Ludwig doesn't ring a bell.

CH Wes Geary? Oh yes, I know Wes. Wes is at Ft. Hood, TX. He's still active; the post chaplain there.

Al Greenberg? Oh yeah, he's a Roman Catholic. Greenberg got out of the service, he was at the Presidio with me and now I see where he's a supervisor with CPE. They forced him out at Presidio. He'd been passed

over twice. Wasn't that good for hospital work. He rubbed two commanders the wrong way. Call the Military Ordinate and check what diocese he's in now. I think he's from New York. Talk to an older Roman Catholic priest chaplain. He'd be able to tell you. Call a colonel.

Richard E. Stewart? He's a black man. He was a United Methodist and workes for the UMC in Nashville, TN on the Board of Higher Education at Nashville. He's on the Commission on the Chaplaincy, one of its directors.

Kerry Steedley? He was an enlisted counsellor at LBJ and later became a chaplain. He's now a chaplain major at Ft. Rucker as of June 1989.

When I went down to Long Binh, Col Proudfoot wanted me to come over there but the commander wanted me to work both situations, because then they were retrograding and wanting to get the drug patients back to the United States and so I worked with the drug patients, even though I still visited the stockade.

Connie ~~Stams~~ (Stamps?) worked with the program, too. He lives in Colorado Springs, is retired. Retired out of Ft Carson. He was in the prison ministry.

Yes, I walked into the stockade on occasion. One hang-up I had there was that they were using the conex boxes as sweat containers. The commander was pissed off at me for he saw me working with the black guys. About 80-90% of the guys there were black guys. The problem was that many of them had some attitudes. The Muslim religion was being pushed there. Guys who don't have anything tend to get rebellious. The key there was the cultural lingo. White commanders didn't understand. Some guy from Chicago would say "I'm gonna kill yo' ass" (that means I'm pissed off at you), so they'd give him a court martial for threatening an officer.

There was lots of fragging going on down there. Guys who were with some units that eventually wound up in Long Binh and in LVN. There was a history of the fraggers done at LVN. They did a survey and I helped them. Done by the Mental Health Office, Mental Hygiene Department at LVN; done by a captain and a major in the Medical Service Corps worked on that. Then there was a book, a profile of AWOLs, called the "AWOL Syndrome: a study in th early identification of AWOLs by the use of the Taylor-Johnson analysis" written by CH (CPT) James C. Berbiglia, Ft. Polk, Louisiana. I can xerox a copy and send it to you.

The big problem in Vietnam at the time was fraggin. A lot of fraggin done. The other problem was that when the guys were in the stockade there was a lot of racism. Guys went there and got long sentences and later they found out it was for a different reason. If a guy in a unit was vocal; he'd wear the 'fro, they'd court martial and send him up for wearing a 'fro. I had some problems with guys who had the confederate flag in their office and then some of the black guys were carrying the

*That
were
could
work*

*at
units
didn't
understand
Therefore
would
recommend
create
markets*

little flag they called Black Flag of Freedom. It's alright for me to carry the flag I want but you can't. That's true.

*The Whites
But
Blacks
Can't*

There was a lot of rioting in the stockade there man too. And they called me at times and I came around. It was bad, you know? Most of the stockades had problems. Down at Cam Ranh Bay they had problems. They sent a helicopter up there to get some black guys out and I went along and got them out and they said they weren't going to do anything to them and then later on they eventually they got them all in the stockade and the guys thought I sort of betrayed them. But the fellows didn't hold up [admit] to what they were doing.

The Board of Corrections got a lot of guys out. There were some murderers there you know but usually in the DB if a guy came there for murder he didn't serve more than 8 years. I have a collection of poems guys wrote at the DB. Mostly they were against the system.

[The big tall guy in the chief's office who worked in the Reserve slot was also at LBJ. Call and find out who he was. Zimmerman knows his name. Also a white guy with the Chaplain Board; he had a heart attack. He was involved in that too.]

*a friend of
Vimm
Swinn*

*Chaplain Wolf Keller
(Col) USAR*

Chaplain Billy Libby