T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History Collection

ABSTRACT

INTERVIEWEE NAME: Oliver F. Rodrigue, Jr.   **COLLECTION:** 4700.0980

IDENTIFICATION: Vietnam veteran

INTERVIEWER: Donald Pierce

SERIES: Americans in Vietnam

INTERVIEW DATE: 2/1/75

FOCUS DATES: Dec. 15, 1967-Dec. 14, 1971; June, 1968-June, 1969

ABSTRACT:

Tape 1429
Born and raised in Raceland, LA, had normal childhood; graduated from Central Lafourche high school; worked at Avondale for a year; got married; joined Air Force to avoid being drafted; didn't want to be known as a draft evader; basic training in Amarillo, TX; assigned to technical school, learned to be aircraft mechanic; stationed at Nha Trang, landed at Cam Ranh Bay; pleasant at Cam Ranh Bay, not dangerous; assigned as aircraft mechanic to 9th, special operations squadron, also known as "bullshit bombers"; dropped propaganda leaflets on Vietnamese; Nha Trang was an R&R center; beach on South China Sea; got mortar rounds every now and then, about 12 attacks over the course of his year there; terrain surrounding base; Vietnamese civilian personnel at base; disgusting habits of the Vietnamese; Rodrigue put in jail for violating curfew; prevalence of marijuana; prevalence of prostitution; demographics of Nha Trang; only saw one NVA soldier, and he was dead; preparations for attack, sounding alarm; GIs used ration cards to buy things, sell for twice the price; soldier who almost got killed in combat; VC shot arrows at planes when they ran out of ammunition; racial tension between black and white soldiers; entertainment at air club; movies; propaganda leaflets; didn't want to go to Vietnam, but couldn't think of excuse to not go; probably would have joined Navy if he was single; probably never would have left US otherwise; hoped the US government knew what it was doing; was glad to be stationed where he was fairly safe; Air Force had no weapons; description of Nha Trang.

TAPES: 1 (T1429)   **TOTAL PLAYING TIME:** 40 minutes

 # PAGES INDEX: 2 pages

RESTRICTIONS: None