

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHN W. PATRICK

FOR THE
VETERAN'S ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WAR AND SOCIETY
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

INTERVIEW BY
G. KURT PIEHLER
AND
NATHAN MEEKS

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
APRIL 10, 2001

TRANSCRIPT BY
NATHAN MEEKS

KURT PIEHLER: This begins an interview with John W. Patrick on April 10, 2001 in Knoxville, Tennessee with Kurt Piehler and ...

NATHAN MEEKS: Nathan Meeks.

KURT PIEHLER: I would like to begin—you were born on April 14, 1924 in Highland Park, Michigan. Could you talk a little bit about your parents?

JOHN PATRICK: Yes. My father was born in what is now Jefferson City, [Tennessee] but was known then by the name Mossy Creek. He moved with his family from Tennessee to Indiana because of ill health of his father. He met my mother who was born in Oxford, Indiana. The two of them married, and my father led his family to Detroit, Michigan, where most of them resided, which is very interesting, because after they retired they all filtered back to Tennessee. My father had a high school education, uh, basically became a stationary engineer at Henry Ford's factory there in Highland Park, Michigan. Through correspondence courses he obtained a license as a stationary engineer. A stationary engineer is one that handles the mechanical aspects, the heat and air conditioning, or air cooling. They didn't have air conditioning then.

PIELHER: Huh.

PATRICK: He was a veteran of World War I and was proud of his service, although he didn't get overseas. Uh, he was a very kind individual. I only heard him use a swear word one time in my life! My mother was educated through high school and normal college.... [She] was a teacher, played the piano very well, and just a great, great gal. She died in 1956. Dad was a Republican and was very vociferous about being a Republican (laughter), but he was a good guy. He eventually, even with his so-called lack of education, became the assistant supervising engineer for the Detroit Board of Education. So, [he was] second in charge of all the plants, buildings, and so on for the school system. He was just a great guy.

PIEHLER: Was you father in a veteran's organization?

PATRICK: No.

PIEHLER: He never joined the [American] Legion?

PATRICK: Never joined the Legion. The only thing he ever joined was the Masonic Temple.

PIEHLER: When did you father start with Ford?

PATRICK: Back, uh ...

PIEHLER: Was it before you were born?

PATRICK: No. It was probably about 1928, and then he retired in 1955.

PIEHLER: From Ford?

PATRICK: No, from the school system.

PIEHLER: When did he join the school system?

PATRICK: He joined the school system in 1936. I remember that distinctly because he used to have to take us to school, because we moved away from where we had been going to school.

PIEHLER: Why did he leave Ford? Did he ...

PATRICK: He left Ford because a man by the name of Dolan, Mr. Dolan, that worked with Dad ... had transferred to the Detroit Board of Education as the supervising engineer, and he asked Dad to come and join him, so dad did. Now, you may not realize it, but back in the olden days—and Nathan won't understand this—there was animosity between Catholics and Protestants. Have you ever heard of that before? Dolan was a Catholic, and my dad was a Mason and wore a Mason's ring. And at first, at Ford there was a little bit of tension, and then they worked it out and they became lifelong friends. It is also interesting that when my grandmother lived with us, she came up from Oxford, Indiana, and when I would go up and see her—she had her room in our house—I told her I had a new girlfriend. She would sit there, sweet lady, with her Bible in her hand, and say, "Is she Catholic?" (laughter) which didn't make any difference to me.

PIEHLER: But that was a major dividing line?

PATRICK: Oh, definitely. Oh, I lived when *air* was clean and *sex* was dirty, Nathan. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: Your mother was also a Republican?

PATRICK: Oh yes. And very patriotic, both of them.

PIEHLER: Do you know how your parents met?

PATRICK: No, I don't, I'm sorry to say. I have no idea. Because they lived in separate towns, Battleground, Indiana and Oxford, Indiana.

PIEHLER: So, that is one of the family mysteries, is how they actually ...

PATRICK: Yes. That never entered my mind.

PIEHLER: Now you mentioned growing up you had to move because your father got a new job.

PATRICK: That was the job from Henry Ford's to the City of Detroit. Highland Park, Michigan is completely surrounded by Detroit and then a little part of it borders on Hamtramck, Michigan. Then Hamtramck is surrounded by Detroit. That was Henry Ford's first big plant, and he subsidized the little town. In fact, the elementary school where I attended was ... named Henry Ford Elementary. But they started asking for more taxes or something, and he moved out to River Ridge and built a completely new factory.

PIEHLER: What are your earliest memories? How old were you when you moved?

PATRICK: Thirteen.

PIEHLER: Thirteen. And then you moved to Detroit. What section of Detroit did you move to?

PATRICK: We moved to Northwest Detroit, Griggs Avenue. Uh, because dad worked for the city, and we had to live in the city.

PIEHLER: You had to live in the city, so that prompted the move. How did you feel about the move?

PATRICK: Didn't bother me a bit. I don't know, I guess I am a nomad at heart. I had graduated from eighth grade and was going to start what I thought would be high school. So it didn't really bother me.

PIEHLER: What are your memories of school? I guess starting with going to Henry Ford Elementary ...

PATRICK: Absolutely fabulous! I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it, even though it was work, but I lived right across from the main entrance of the school. I could be eating breakfast and hear the next to the last bell ring, get up and walk across the street and be in class. I remember music from kindergarten through eighth grade. I think it is a great travesty that we do not have more music in our schools and we don't spend the money on that. I can remember in the fourth grade, we had to swim, take swimming, because we had a pool in the elementary school.... In the summer there would be all kinds of programs for swimming and if we wanted to we could swim every day. There was a scout troop there, naturally, and we also had a gymnasium, two playgrounds with swings, and teeter-totters, and that kind of stuff, and then a great big athletic field that was completely surrounded by homes. It was in a residential district. I remember when the Detroit Tigers would win the American League Championship, school in the afternoon for all practical purposes was out. (Laughter) Now, we were in a very advanced elementary school, and we had a PA set. Every room had speakers, and from the first "Play ball!" when there was a game during school, you sat there and you listened and you wanted to. School Boy Rowe, Hank Greenburg, Charlie Geringer, Mickey Cochran, all of those, and that was sort of a fun time.

PIEHLER: So you really were into baseball growing up as a kid?

PATRICK: Oh yeah.

PIEHLER: Yeah?

PATRICK: Yeah.

PIEHLER: How often did you actually get to see a game?

PATRICK: Probably not more than ten times while ... I was in Detroit, but I think I had a very good foundation for education.

PIEHLER: Were you a Boy Scout?

PATRICK: Yes! Until we moved. I got up to second class and then there was no troop right in our immediate area. I had to travel some distance to school. So I always say they threw me out after I hit second class.

PIEHLER: You mentioned the fun of listening to the games on the PA, in particular. What else did you do for fun growing up?

PATRICK: Oh, my gosh. We had ... radios, and in the evening, after you came in from playing, and after you did your homework—although we didn't have as much as you do now—we listened to Amos and Andy, the Lone Ranger, that was probably a little bit later but that was big time to listen to the radio programs. We played a lot of games which are sort of lost now. We used to play “kick-the-can” out in the alley, uh, hockey on [roller] skates, when we could afford the sticks, and it was my good fortune to usually wind up as a goalie because I had a heavy leather coat. They would put me down between the two bricks when I was young. (Pause) We read a lot. We didn't have a library other than in the school. We played “tipi,” which is where you made a little thing that you could hit and it would bounce up and then you hit it, and it had numbers on it. Caroum, we played a lot of Caroum, which is the square board answer to pool. You used little rings, wooden rings, and you'd shoot them with your fingers and have four pockets. That was a lot of fun. If we could get carbide from a miner's lamp we would really have fun, because you can take a can with a lid on it and drop a little piece of carbide in the can, spit on it, slap the lid back on tight, but it also had a little hole in it, and you do that and then you tip it upside down on two bricks, stick a match under it, and hope that it doesn't blow your face off. (Laughter) But it would release the lid and just go shooting up. Why we didn't get mangled, I'll never know. Roller-skating was big.

Halloween was always fun. We did all sorts of nice things. We would take tin cans and fill them with water, previously having tied the string, and set that on each side of the sidewalk at night then stand back or sit back and watch people come down the street, hit the string, and the water would go onto their feet. (Laughter) Now that was really racy,

Nathan. I had two cousins that carried it a little bit farther. They would make a dummy, go down to the corner where the bus stop came—this was horrible—stand there with the dummy, and when the bus pulled up and opened the door, they would start fighting and throw the dummy on and run. (Laughter) That created all sorts of furors. Then they got where they were very sophisticated, they tied a rope to it so they didn't have to make a new one each time. (Laughter) Nathan, don't get any ideas. (Laughter)

Time for just everything. We had milk bottles. We had milk with cream on it, and if the bottle froze outside, the cream would come up about that high. (Gesturing) Worst thing in the world for you, but it was good. We didn't know it was bad for us. The ice man delivered ice, blocks, and could take it and grab a fifty pound chunk and just throw it up on his shoulders and go up three flights of stairs and put it in the ice box and that's it. In the winter, you didn't need much ice because you made a window box and put it in the window and that was your refrigerator. You put your cold food in there. We heated with coal, and I can remember having to shovel coal that was dumped into the street, into the wheelbarrow, and wheeled it up, and poured it into the opening into the basement. Hot water, we had hot water, go downstairs and lay a side arm gas heater, and when the winter [came], we were lucky because we had tubes that went in the furnace and the water circulated there and then into the tank. We walked. We rode streetcars. You probably [have] never seen a streetcar.

MEEKS: Similar to a trolley?

PATRICK: Yeah, that is what it is. My dad had a Model A. That is about the first car I can remember. There were five in our family: an older sister, an older brother, myself, mother and father, and my grandmother and my aunt. There would be seven of us and we would get in that Model A Ford and drive to Gary, Indiana. Unbelievable! I look at a Model A Ford now—we were smaller, of course, but we were sitting all over each other. Terrible!

PIEHLER: How often would you make it to the movies?

PATRICK: I never went to the movie more than once a week, on Saturday morning for ten cents.

PIEHLER: It sounds like you saw a lot of westerns?

PATRICK: Oh, gosh, yeah! And a lot of comedies, and then later on the Pathe News became a big thing. Uh, [it cost] ten cents, and if you were lucky, you got a little extra money so you could have a candy bar, popcorn or something. But you walked to the movie and there was usually a movie within walking distance in almost every community. I can remember some fairly historic events. Uh, when Wiley Post and Roy Rogers crashed, I was on the sidewalk roller skating, and I remember someone telling me. I knew who Roy Rogers was—not Roy Rogers. Will Rogers. I knew who he was. I wasn't sure who Wiley Post was. I can remember the Duke of Windsor live broadcast.

PIEHLER: What about the *Hindenburg*?

PATRICK: Never really—I knew it happened but I didn't—I have learned more about it now than ...

PIEHLER: ...at the time. Did you ever—as you were growing up, did you ever see war movies? Do any stick in your mind?

PATRICK: Yeah, the Indians and the cowboys.

PIEHLER: So you never saw movies like All Quiet on the Western Front or Wings.

PATRICK: I must have, but I don't ...

PIEHLER: What about Gone with the Wind?

PATRICK: By golly, yes. That's a classic! Everybody saw that.

PIEHLER: You went to Cooley High School in Detroit.

PATRICK: For the last two and a half years.

PIEHLER: Then you went to a Post Intermediate?

PATRICK: No, the Intermediate was first.

PIEHLER: Okay.

PATRICK: I left Henry Ford Elementary. I graduated in eighth grade.

PIEHLER: Okay, and then went to Post Intermediate.

PATRICK: Then went to Post Intermediate for the ninth and tenth [grades] because Cooley was overcrowded.

PIEHLER: Oh, okay.

PATRICK: So I went to the ninth and the tenth [at] Post, and that is where I first took ROTC.

PIEHLER: Well, you say you took junior ROTC in high school.

PATRICK: By gosh, yes. That is probably what saved my life, among other things.

PIEHLER: And why did you decide to take ROTC at that time? Do you remember why?

PATRICK: I just wanted—no, I just wanted to. I liked the uniform, but we weren't rich, so I couldn't have the fancy uniform. But the idea of having a uniform sort of appealed to me. Plus, I liked guns, and in the Boy Scouts I even liked to drill.

PIEHLER: Had your father encouraged you to join ROTC in high school?

PATRICK: No.

PIEHLER: No. So this was really your initiative?

PATRICK: It was my initiative, the same as years later in Honolulu when my son was graduating from the high school over there. He matriculated at the University of Hawaii, and we never mentioned it, but when he came home I said, "What classes did you sign up for?" and he said, "This, this, this and ROTC." I said, "You took ROTC?" "Yes sir." He said, "You know, its funny, the senior that was advising me asked the same question: 'Why do you want to take ROTC?'" I said, "What did you tell him?" He said, "I told him it was none of his business." But, there was bad feelings about the military, not bad, but people didn't think much of it.

PIEHLER: You had taken ROTC. Did you think you would go into the Army after graduation from high school or college?

PATRICK: Never entered my mind, no. I had planned on being a doctor.

PIEHLER: So you were in a college prep?

PATRICK: College prep, and I stayed an extra semester in high school so I could complete an addition of two years of French, two years of Latin, and typing, and some ... economics. I was a little younger than my friends, so I didn't think it would hurt much to stay an extra six months. And it was good.

PIEHLER: You entered ... intermediate school in 1938 and you graduated from high school in '42.

PATRICK: That's correct. Right after December 7.

PIEHLER: Do you remember where you were when Pearl Harbor occurred?

PATRICK: I remember exactly where I was. 16547 Griggs Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, which was Northwest, and I was in the backyard. We had a house with a driveway beside it and the garage behind it. Just typical, and a large apron. I was washing the car. We only had one car. That was normal then. I think it was two-thirty or so in the afternoon, my mother opened the kitchen window and said, "Jay," which was the name I went by until I went to college, "The Japs have bombed Pearl Harbor." I had not a clue where Pearl Harbor was, and I came in and listened, and she explained where it was. I am not so sure she knew where it was. Fortunately, later on I lived on Pearl

Harbor. And that was the beginning of it. That was Sunday, and Monday morning.... I was the senior student officer, and I remember lining the troops up in the gym first thing in the morning and I can't remember what I said, but it was good, Nathan. No, I told them that we should support our country and do what was necessary. Everybody agreed. A lot of those [students] are gone.

PIEHLER: How closely had you been following world events before Pearl Harbor? Did you, for example, did you or your family read a paper or ...

PATRICK: I don't think if I regularly—I think the only one who regularly read the paper was my father. And it was a ritual. [He] would come home from work, take off [his] coat, [his] fedora, kiss mother, and say “Hi” to the kids that were around, and then wash up and sit down and read the newspaper before [he] ate. But I read the funnies, I'm sure.

PIEHLER: So in other words, Pearl Harbor was pretty much out of nowhere.

PATRICK: It came right out of nowhere. Other than [that] we knew about Hitler, that through the Pathe News, through reading and then current events and in school. We knew that there was a lot of animosity within the county. I had [an] uncle who was a German extraction. He was second generation who had fought in World War I, in the Navy, in World War I on our side, and the day after Pearl Harbor he went down to enlist in the Navy and they said, “I'm sorry, sir, you are too old.” I had another uncle with four sons who said, “My sons will never serve overseas.” And before it was over, three out of the four had served overseas. But there was a great feeling about [it] on certain sides of the county: “No, we are not going to get into that war.” Unfortunately, that was the last time, when it was finally settled, that was the last time that our entire country had been together. I had a cousin that was drafted before the war. I can remember after the war started, having the bond drives in school. Ten cents or twenty-five cents to buy a stamp and you fill the book, and away you go. After I went into the service, my folks housed enlisted men who came through on bond tours. Dad always thought that was neat because they always brought a Jeep and parked it in the garage or in the driveway.... We knew what was going on, and we were familiar with the PWA, WPA, the Townsend Plan, Father Coughlin and Shrine of Little Flower, and his opposition.

PIEHLER: Well, Father Coughlin was pretty close, quite literally. You mentioned your father was a Republican. What did he think of Roosevelt?

PATRICK: Not much. (Laughter) No, he thought the country—I never really understood but he didn't, uh, he thought Roosevelt was going to be the end of the country.

PIEHLER: So he said he was for Hoover and for the whole—Wilkie. He was a straight ...

PATRICK: He was Republican. He always voted.

PIEHLER: Before sort of talking more about the war years, how active were your parents in the church? I noticed that your mother was Disciples of Christ, your father was Presbyterian.

PATRICK: No, no, he was Disciples of Christ.

PIEHLER: Oh, okay.

PATRICK: They were both. That was a big central Indiana Church which was an offshoot. It was started by Presbyterians years before that. I was more active in the church than my parents were, but they were good Christians. If that can be the truth. I would get up and go with a neighbor lady to church, starting when I was six, and sang in the boy's choir. I can't remember my folks ever going to church. Now, part of the reason was my mother stayed at home and took care of my grandmother. They were very nice people, but they just didn't go to church too much. I did. My brother didn't go necessarily, my sister didn't go until later, and they both became very good Christians.

PIEHLER: You mentioned you wanted to be a doctor.

PATRICK: Yes.

PIEHLER: Why a doctor?

PATRICK: I thought it would be nice to be able to help people, and then jokingly I'll say my writing wasn't too legible. (Laughter) It just appealed to me.

PIEHLER: Do any teachers stick out in your mind growing up? Elementary or high school?

PATRICK: Mrs. McQuaig in elementary school who was, we called her "auditorium teacher," but she taught more than that. A.J. Wolf, in high school, who was my homeroom counselor for years, and—my memory is going bad—Mr. Featherstone, my flute teacher, and there was one in high school who taught mechanical drawing that I thought a lot about because he liked to fish, too. That fishing was good. Mr. Bowers had a little lisp when he taught English. You never used the word contact because contact was a vulgar word. (Laughter) He would go spastic if you used "contact." Also my young, not young, but the lady that taught Latin, little spinster, and I didn't want to kill her, so I always did my homework, because if you couldn't answer questions, she would absolutely go bonkers and turn all red in the face, and I thought she would have a heart attack and I didn't want to be responsible. Got straight As in Latin.

PIEHLER: You had mentioned the service on the bond drives. Did you have scrap drives in your high school?

PATRICK: No, because I moved into college.

PIEHLER: Okay, so, yeah.... When did you leave high school? In January?

PATRICK: January.

PIEHLER: So, right after Pearl Harbor, you left. Had you thought of enlisting right away?

PATRICK: No, goodness, no. Never entered my mind. I was seventeen. I don't know, I was patriotic, but it never entered my mind. There is a regular progression to life. You go to school, you get married, and you have kids.

PIEHLER: ... When you started college, did you think you would be able to finish college?

PATRICK: By that time, it was very doubtful because the draft was on, and there was the Army Specialized Training Program that was fairly nice. The V-7 navy pilots program was something that I tried for and couldn't make it because of my blood pressure. So I just had to wait until the draft now. At a certain point, they cut off recruiting or volunteering, and you had to go in though the draft and then they told you where you would go. That was the situation, I was drafted.

PIEHLER: So if you could have gotten to the navy pilots program that would have been your ...

PATRICK: Ah, Doctor, I would have done it.

PIEHLER: When did you try to enlist in the naval program?

PATRICK: I tried for the V-7.

PIEHLER: Yeah, when did you try for the V-7? Was it in 1942 or 1943?

PATRICK: '42.

PIEHLER: Had you thought of the Air Force?

PATRICK: Air Corps. Not then, no.

PIEHLER: What was college like? You went to Wayne State.

PATRICK: Wayne State University. Well, then it was just Wayne University. There was 15,000 day-time students, and that was an extremely large student body. It was in the center of Detroit. Most of my friends went to Michigan State or University of Michigan. Then when we see each other they'd say, "Hey, boy, you ought to see our campus. You don't have a campus." And I would say, "I've got the whole city of Detroit as a campus." \$180.00 a semester. Books weren't that expensive. If I didn't ride

with Dad, then I'd take the bus, and it wasn't too demanding. It couldn't have been, because in high school I never had time to play football. I got to college and a lot of the older classmen had been drafted and so on, so they waived the senior rule—no, waived the freshman rule. The freshman rule was that you can't play football as a freshman in college. You had to get your education started and then you could go. But they were running out of players, so I went out for the team and became the right end. I almost got killed many times. In fact, my knees are still banged up. But that was, that was good training, and then as a result of that, the coach got me a job working with underprivileged and handicapped kids on Saturdays, which was interesting, and then the next summer he got me a job as a counselor at a YMCA camp. In three weeks, I wound up as head counselor 'cause people kept getting drafted. I met my wife there. That's where she trapped me, Nathan. She saw me in my uniform. My football uniform. I was drafted in April. So I really had a year, a full year and then some months, but they gave me a year and a half's credit, because they were sure I wouldn't come back.

MEEKS: Did you have any reservations about going? As far as ...

PATRICK: In the service?

MEEKS: Being drafted.

PATRICK: Oh, gosh, no. By that time, Nathan, everybody was going, that was the thing to do.

PIEHLER: Even though you were young, you were about the age where people should be in the Army. Increasingly, people are going away. Did you have that feeling, "I shouldn't be here, I should be in the Army?"

PATRICK: Definitely. I was younger than most of my classmates in high school, and we still kept in touch afterwards, even though they went away to college. And they were going in, and I [thought], "Boy, I got to do it." Plus, I had another incentive. My girlfriend, who I have lived with for over fifty-six years now, my wife, had a dog that went into the Army. Now, that is degrading to have a girlfriend whose dog is in the Army, and then you are not in. (Laughter) In fact, I had trouble getting in because I was trying too hard. Same as with the V-7 program. It finally got down to the point after going back two different times I said, "Doctor, I have got to get in the Army because my girlfriend's dog is in the Army." He said, "Change your address to Camp Custer, Michigan." So I did.

PIEHLER: You had some problems with the physical—the army physical, too, not just the navy. When did you actually report? You listed being drafted April 14, 1943. When did you actually report?

PATRICK: May 6.

PIEHLER: Where did you report to?

PATRICK: I went to the Cadillac Building in downtown Detroit, along with a whole bunch of others. Down on a bus, went to the train station, and went to Battle Creek, Michigan, which was where Camp Custer was located. We were all just a bunch of young kids, eager to do our bit.

PIEHLER: How did your parents feel when you told them you got drafted?

PATRICK: They knew it was coming, Nathan. I kept them—I lived with them, so they knew what was coming up. Most parents didn't want their sons to go, but they knew they should, and they never voiced any objection to it. You went to Camp Custer, were then processed, picked up your uniforms, and then while you were waiting for orders, they would send you back home for a couple of days. Boy, when I went home in my uniform with the big brown belt, that was really something. I had [a] uniform in my closet since about 1938, so from 1938 to 1975, with the exception of about a year, I always had an Army uniform hanging in the closet.

PIEHLER: You reported to Camp Custer and that was for basic ...

PATRICK: No, that was in-processing.

PIEHLER: How long were you there for?

PATRICK: Not over two weeks. Then, on a train, which was quite an experience, we just kept going and all of the sudden we stopped at a place called Kansas City, which was west of the Mississippi River. That was—crossing the Mississippi River was really an occasion then. And a man got on who was older than I was, I could tell, and there was a vacant seat next to me and he asked if anyone was sitting there and I said, “No,” so he sat down. His name was Dave Shirk. Dave Shirk is still one of my closest friends. He lives in Lawrence, Kansas. He was a University of Kansas football player of some renown, and then a football and basketball coach in the high school systems in Kansas. We went wandering around, and finally wound up in a place called Killeen, Texas. We got on buses and went from the town to Camp Walters, which is a basic Infantry Replacement Training Center (IRTC). We in-processed. Dave and I wound up next to each other in bunks. When they organized us, I was appointed a squad leader in the platoon. Dave was in my squad. We went through basic training. We were two of four people selected from the whole camp to attend the Officer Candidate School in the fall of 1943. We went through OCS together and then we both stayed at Fort Camp, Fort Benning.... I stayed for about a month, he stayed for the rest of the war as a Special Service officer. He was a great athlete. And then the next time we saw each other was when I was assigned to Fort Riley, Kansas in 1957. And we keep in touch.

PIEHLER: Did he stay in the military, too, or ...

PATRICK: No.

PIEHLER: No?

PATRICK: No, he was an educator. He got out. (Laughs) Great guy. Absolutely fantastic!

PIEHLER: What are your memories of—you were in basic infantry?

PATRICK: Basic infantry and Intelligence and Reconnaissance.

PIEHLER: What are your memories of basic?

PATRICK: Comradeship, teamwork, and if you weren't a team worker, you got stomped on. Everybody took it very seriously. Our training was a little nicer than just a rifleman, because we had Jeeps. We had to be able to go out and reconnoiter. So that was a little bit better. Those who had ROTC wound up as platoon sergeant, squad leaders, and so on. So, that made it all worthwhile. I enjoyed the marksmanship program. The drill wasn't bad. The forced marches were difficult, but we made them. We finally got to the point where when somebody'd be criticized and told to do push-ups or run around the quadrangle, everybody would say, "Great, we'll do it." Just esprit de corps. You pick on him, we will all do it. That impressed the platoon leaders who were officers.

After two weeks and a very hard five-mile march up a hill, which is hard to believe in Texas, but there was a hill there, they brought us back—hot, sweaty, oh, man, it was horrible—they set us down in this quadrangle, which was the area between all of the barracks. And the Air Corps representative said, "We need good men in the Air Corps." There were a goodly number that put their hands up and when they finished basic training, off they go to the Air Corps. I said, "They are not going to get me. I am tough, and I'm rough, and I am going to stay in the infantry." And all of those that went into the Air Corps thought they were going to fly. They did everything but fly and some of them never even got close to airplanes, so I didn't miss a thing.

[In] about a month—well, basic training was only thirteen weeks—Lieutenant White came and got a hold of Dave and myself and said, "I want you two to apply for Officer Candidate School." Well, that is pretty good, too, so we applied for it. Camp Walters had probably twenty battalions of 800 men each and we went before the board, Dave and I did, to be interviewed, and we both passed. We got our orders, and when it was finally all said and done, there were four people from that whole camp who went to OCS. Two of them [were] Dave and myself, and that was quite a feather in our hat. Basic training was—you took it seriously and you did your best.

PIEHLER: Any memories of the drill instructors?

PATRICK: No, but I have a memory of a corporal who was a mess sergeant.

PIEHLER: Is it a KP memory?

PATRICK: Yes. (Laughter) No, I never minded KP. The first time I was on KP—uh, let me start over. Each company had its own mess hall. That has all changed, you don't have that now, but that was your dining room, and you had mess sergeants, you had cooks, and you had KP's that would help prepare the food, and then ...

-----END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE ONE-----

PIEHLER: You were saying that you would have people to help prepare the meal?

PARTICK: Yes, the KP. The first time I was on KP, this corporal—I thought I would never forget his name—but he said, “Hey buddy, would you KPs know how to butcher meat?” We would say, “No, we don't know ... how to cut up meat.” And at that time, you got a whole side of beef and it had to be cut up right there and prepared for cooking. Not the whole thing all at once. Ben Stout, who was a college student that had taken ROTC, and he was the platoon sergeant—Big Stoop, as I call him—pointed at me and said, “Patrick was a butcher in civilian life.” I, of course, denied that because it wasn't true. The more I denied it, the more that corporal was sure I was a butcher, and he was going to get me. When I finally got my dander up, I said, “All right, I will cut your side of beef up.” I slapped it on the big meat block and I said, “Now, how do you want it cut?” I knew not to cut the legs off. I said, “Now, what do you want it cut for?” He said, “Well, I want some stew meat.” (Laughter) I said, “Where would you like to have the stew meat?” He told me and I cut it up. And I finally got that thing all cut up, and he never did realize I wasn't a butcher. But all I did was make him show me what to do. I thought, Nathan, I thought that was pretty good leadership on my part. But Ben Stoop really got it from then on.

Athletics is a big part of basic training because it was a part of physical training. Dave Shirk, being a coach, really helped us because he would organize a company touch football team and we would take all kinds of flag football, touch ball, we would take all kinds of honors. That was relaxing. When I played football at Wayne, my crowning glory was sacking the quarterback one time, and I'll never forget the look on the face of the guard that pulled out to block me, and I went right around him and blindsided the quarterback. Even the coach couldn't believe it, but I did it. Okay, so we're in basic training. We are in a touch football game, and I am talking to the man playing next to me, he was from another platoon. I said, “Where you from?” He said, “Miami. Went to college at the University of Miami,” or whatever it is there in Ohio. I said, “We used to play that team.” I said, “Man, that was my crowning glory.” He said, “What do you mean?” I said, “I took off to smear the quarterback, and here is this dumb guard standing there like he was anchored to the ground.” I said, “Boy, did I get around him.” He looked at me and said, “That was me.” I looked, and it was. He said, “I had a bad ankle or I would have got you.” But it was funny. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: It sounds like you hadn't thought of applying for OCS.

PATRICK: No, for one reason. In ROTC in high school, the officers that we had for the district and so on were mostly West Pointers, and I had thought they were right up next to

you-know-who and there was no way in the world I could ever approach that. One of them was Major Burns, a little short major, West Pointer, and boy, I thought that he was the greatest thing going. Now, the sergeants were another thing in ROTC, and I owe a lot to them because they taught me a bunch.

MEEKS: How was OCS training different from being enlisted?

PATRICK: Extremely intensive, and you are always under the gun. You had to evaluate—after you have been there a week or so, you had to evaluate each other. You had to maintain your equipment and stand inspections. You had to pass your tests, which is another story. You had to learn. And if you didn't, you'd notice someone being pulled out of ranks and when you got back to the barracks, they're gone and all their equipment is gone. My idea was to go as far as I could. I was younger than most, but go as far as I could and learn as much as I could because later on it would stand me in good stead, and I just wanted to go as far as I could.

PIEHLER: In OCS, how many didn't make it? You mentioned some people just sort of disappearing and their equipment gone.

PATRICK: I'd say fifteen to eighteen percent would bow out for various reasons.

PIEHLER: Did you have any difficult moments, or moments where you didn't think you would make it through?

PATRICK: Yeah, but I always made it through. I can't recall any specific [times], but there was always some doubt in the back of my mind. They are very cagey at Fort Benning and I became an instructor later on. But before an examination we would avoid "lights out" by going into the latrine, and the class before us had given somebody in our class all of the examinations that they had, and the class before them had given them all. There was only so many examinations and questions you could have on the Browning heavy machine gun. We read the manuals and then we'd go over these darn tests, over, over, and over, and quiz each other, read the question and answer it, so when you took the examination, if you really been sincere about it, you could usually pass. The physical stuff was strenuous, but if you did it, if you could exercise, you could do it. We spent a lot of time straightening trees in Fort Benning. They had a lot of pine trees. Now, do you know what I mean?

MEEKS: I have been to Benning.

PATRICK: You've been to Benning?

MEEKS: Yes, sir.

PATRICK: Drill and command. How do you strengthen your voice? How do you practice your commands? You go out in the pine forest and you give commands to the

trees.... Sounds like a bunch of idiots. “Forward! March!” But that is the way you develop your voice and command.

PIEHLER: I’m curious. Particularly at OCS, where were your fellow officers from? Any places that stick out? You were from the Midwest.

PATRICK: Yeah.

PIEHLER: The Detroit area. How many were from the Midwest, and how many where from the South, North, East and West?

PATRICK: It was about half and half. No, it wasn’t, either. There were more from the Midwest than from the South.

PIEHLER: Uh-huh.

PATRICK: And we had one colored boy and that is all in our company of 150 or so.

PIEHLER: Did he make it through?

PATRICK: Yes, he made it, but he made it on his own. I remember being in the chow line. He was behind, back there. There was another fellow behind me, and I said, “Why don’t you come up here with us nigger lovers?” The tack officer, the tactical officer, who was with the platoon leader and responsible for us, got me aside, and I thought, “Boy, that is the end of it.” Now, I have been raised in Detroit and I had lots of colored friends, and he was from the South. All he said was, “We don’t use that kind of language here,” and I said, “Yes, sir. You’re right.” He let it go, but that was a stupid thing to do.

PIEHLER: He could have even have washed you out if he ...

PATRICK: Oh, gosh yeah.

PIEHLER: I mean ...

PATRICK: That was what I was afraid of. Other memories, Fort—have you been to Fort Benning?

MEEKS: Yes, sir.

PATRICK: You know the jump towers in the middle?

MEEKS: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

PATRICK: There used to be four, now there is only three. Uh, we weren’t in paratrooper school then, but we would have classes there and we would sit in the bleachers with thin issue field jackets on. Actually, just little coats. Coldest place I have

ever been. And we would watch the paratroopers come down out of those towers, the tower with four arms, and they would use three of them, depending on which way the wind was blowing. They would just release the parachutes, pull you up, release you, and down you come and usually float off. There once in a while, one of the kids would get—the wind would switch and they would get slapped up against the tower and hang there and then there was trouble getting them down. They sent instructors up to get them down. But that always intrigued me. But the cold weather, it was penetrating, and in the field it was bad. We rode cattle cars, big trailers behind trucks with benches, and you sat, you filled it up and sat facing the rear, straddled the benches.

PIEHLER: When you were at Benning, did you have any sense of—I have interviewed a lot of lieutenants in World War II infantry, and it was a pretty dangerous job, and life expectancy did get pretty bad. How much of a sense did you have of that? Of how dangerous it was to be an infantry lieutenant?

PATRICK: We knew it was dangerous. There was no question about that. And that was capped off at ten o'clock in the morning, the eleventh of February, 1944, in the post theatre at graduation. And I don't know what his name was, but this colonel got up, the speaker, and said, "Look around, because in ninety days, one out of three of you are going to be dead." And nobody thought anything about it. You will do your best. You will do your best.

PIEHLER: Well, it was a very stark statement and actually fairly accurate.

PATRICK: It was very accurate.

PIEHLER: Yeah, no, it was remarkably accurate.

PATRICK: Yeah. We said our good-byes and everybody split. Never found out how many of them made it. Dave Shirk was the only one that I kept up with.

PIEHLER: You never ran into others over the course of your career?

PATRICK: No, not from OCS.

PIEHLER: Not from OCS?

PATRICK: No. I think most of them have probably bought the farm. Bought the farm, that's an old expression.

MEEKS: Yes. How old were you when you graduated OCS?

PATRICK: I went in when I was nineteen, and I was nineteen when I graduated.

MEEKS: Did you—I mean, how did you deal with that, being a second lieutenant, you're nineteen, and you've got sergeants that are twenty, thirty years old or so? I mean, did you have any problems getting the respect?

PATRICK: I don't think I did, no. Never really had any trouble. I remember making mistakes. One in particular: I chewed a young corporal out and then later found out that he wasn't the one that did it. Nathan, from then on, I made up my mind, "Don't chew anybody out; just correct them." I have carried that through all my life. You will never see me get mad. I may do a slow burn inside and blow up inside, but I am not going to criticize anybody. I don't know. I can't remember any insubordination. Of course, I have a tendency to shut the bad things out.

MEEKS: You were prior enlisted. Well, I mean, you were drafted.

PATRICK: Drafted. Now when you go to OCS, they promote you to corporal. I thought, "Man, I have made it now, I am a corporal."

PIEHLER: Did that help you out, you think, because I have heard a lot talk prior enlistment?

PATRICK: No, I went right straight from basic training to OCS.

PIEHLER: Okay.

PATRICK: So the only enlistment I had was basic training and during OCS. They make you a corporal to sort of give you a little—but we had sergeants in OCS.

PIEHLER: Where did you go after graduating from Fort Benning?

PATRICK: After graduating I stayed at Fort Benning as a platoon leader with a replacement training unit, and that lasted for about two months. And one day we were out in a field doing an exercise with trainees. The battalions commander, [who] was a major, came up and said, "Patrick, get your stuff, you're on orders." He took me back in the post and I packed up and got on another train and we headed for some place that turned out to be Camp Hood, Texas. But that was a very circuitous route, and you never knew where you were going to go. Got to Camp Hood and it was another Infantry Replacement Training Center. Wound up as a platoon leader, lead training of infantry platoon [in the] early spring of 1944. Drafted in '43, OCS was '44.... Graduated in 1944, then went to, stayed at, Benning.... Went to Hood, got orders to go to Camp Carson. And [I] will never forget; got on the train, ate, went to sleep that night, but before I went to sleep, I opened that curtain next to the bunk and looked out, and there was nothing but just flat open terrain and mesquite bushes. Went to sleep, had a good night's sleep, woke up the next morning, opened the curtain and you know what I saw? The same thing. Flat, and more mesquite bushes. (Laughter) It looked like we hadn't moved, but we had gone through the Panhandle the long way and then up to Camp Carson, outside of Colorado Springs. Got off in our khaki uniforms in snow up to our

waist, and joined the 201st Infantry Regiment, which was a National Guard infantry regiment from West Virginia who had been activated and wound up in the Aleutian Islands. The first troops in the Aleutians. They came back in '44 and that is when I joined them as a platoon leader. We picked up troops who were from Camp Hood, which was the [tank destroyer] training center, and this group had been the tank destroyer school troops. Very, very prestigious unit. Boy, they were high class. Marshall had been there the month before telling them, "You are gonna be part of the people who win the war. You're training these good tank destroyers," and all of that stuff. They took that unit, put them on the train with ... half-tracks... They took those troops up to Camp Carson, we met them—regimental commander was James H. O'Riley—and he got them at train side and waited until the train pulled out, which was quite a shock to the troops because nothing got off with them. And he said, "You will be trained as infantry replacements for eight weeks and then be shipped overseas." Morale problems, we had them. Now, these were school troops, supposed to be elite, and they rode every place and now they are going to be in the infantry.

PIEHLER: They are going to be in Texas, which is a pretty ...

PATRICK: No, in Colorado.

PIEHLER: Colorado.

PATRICK: Uh, we kept them for a week and then loaded them up and took them up to Terryall Reservoir for a very interesting month and a half on a ration test, a sleeping bag test, a boot test, a sock test, a vitamin test and a night vision test. What they did was take each of our companies in the battalion, put us in a valley up in the mountains—Rocky Mountains—issued us rations, emergency rations, D bars, a K box, B rations. We didn't have any Cs [rations]. And ours was the one that was—forgot what it was called now, but it had everything canned, except bread. We didn't have any bread, we had crackers. We were lucky. Ours was very good. You could live on that.

We had to fix our own meals. Any time we got packages, they had to be opened. We had to open them and men had to open them in front of us. If there was anything edible, you had to throw it in the sump. Boy, did that hurt. (Laughter) Every other day was an all-day march; that is how you test boots and socks, and we were the first ones to get combat boots with the buckles. Before you went out on the march, you had to take your weapon, they'd issue you your ammunition, take you up to a mountainside, and you laid down and you shot at targets. You just shot at targets. Get up and go ahead and march all day, come back, [get] more ammunition and shoot again. What they were doing was seeing whether or not the marching had an affect on you and they proved that when you are tired, you shoot better. You do that anyway because you don't jerk. You just want to get it over with. In-between times, you would take these tank-destroyer people and give them tactics and all of the other good stuff that infantry should learn.

... Then every three weeks we had to have an all-day test at a central location. Now, these were individual units. We never did get together up there, but when we were

tested, we had a four-mile forced march, we had the Harvard fatigue test, which was stepping up and down on a box with a pendulum swinging back and forth, and you had other things to do, plus drink raw vitamins, and then during the day, they had to collect your urine so they could test it. After every meal you had to indicate what you ate, how much you ate, how you liked it, and that went to a data processing center in Denver.... But it was good. When we came out of there we were in good physical shape, and to honor us they gave us a party. And there is a special drink that the regiment had called White Lighting. I don't know what was in it, but it looked like water, and they could drink it by the pitcher full, but I couldn't and I didn't.

But that regiment finally moved to Camp Jackson, South Carolina and from Camp Jackson to—officers kept leaving and men kept leaving, and James H. O'Riley took a shining to me and he sort of kept me out. He was ... the youngest battalion commander in ... World War I. Then he stayed in the reserves and he went active, and he was bound and determined that he was going to get his regiment back overseas. The head of the War Department was a good friend of his, and he would go Washington every once in a while to plead with him to send us overseas. He kept certain officers with him, and that's probably why I didn't get shot to pieces. That unit was inactivated in '44, just before the war ended, and then all of us who hadn't been overseas were shipped to the coast to go on.

PIEHLER: You said you were shipped to the coast after this unit was in fact ...

PATRICK: Camp Ord.

PIEHLER: This was in December of '44?

PATRICK: Yeah, what they did—well, no. December was before the war was over. Yeah, it was August of '44. It was after ...

PIEHLER: Was it after D-Day?

PATRICK: Yeah. No, it was after D-Day. It was after the bomb had dropped.

PIEHLER: After V-J Day? So it was August of 1945?

PATRICK: '45, yeah, I'm sorry.

PIEHLER: No, that's okay. No, I ...

PATRICK: Well, I am 76 years old plus 360—why, I get mixed up, I'm sorry.

PIEHLER: No, no, no, that's, uh ...

PATRICK: But James H. O'Riley, the colonel, went with us and we served together in Korea then.

PIEHLER: So you went to Korea in 1945?

PATRICK: Yes. We were supposed to be the first replacements for the invasion of Japan.

PIEHLER: Which never took place?

PATRICK: Which never took place, fortunately. We were on the ocean and the skipper came on and said, "We have been diverted from Japan to Korea." You won't believe this, Nathan. We had two hundred lieutenants on board ship. We all raced to the war room where they had a world map and we all looked down in the South Pacific to see where that little island was. No one knew where Korea was. Never heard of it. We went to Japan to unload just a few troops and some supplies. Pulled into Yokohama. I went up into the upper structure of the troop transport and could look over the buildings that were right around the port. Nathan, you have never seen such destruction, except a building here and a building there, and I found out later that they used selective bombing in Tokyo and Yokohama and kept certain buildings. They wanted the port to be intact for future use. They wanted that building, they wanted that building, and the rest of it just leveled.

We stayed there for a day and then pulled out and went through the South China Sea to Korea, to Inchon. Every once in a while you would hear a loud explosion, and the ship would stop and you would hear the explosion. Well, they'd have spotted a mine floating, and they would get the marksmen up in front and they would shoot it until it went off. Korea was different. And at Inchon where you landed, the tide was thirty feet, second only to the Bay of Fundy. So you had to anchor out in an anchorage five miles offshore and then everything had to come in on a small craft, lighter. Before we got off the ship, we had a brigadier general by the name of Shore come on and brief us in the war room. He was just talking, and he told us about all of the terrible diseases they had in Korea, and all this stuff. We finally got ashore and being a smart first lieutenant then, when they asked for a detail to move the baggage, I volunteered along with a bunch of others. We threw our duffel bags up on the ducks. That is the big amphibious thing. And we could ride instead of having to march like the rest of them. We got up there and lay down. We came out of Charlie Pier and immediately turned left on the wrong side of the road, and shook me up just a little bit because I knew we should have been on the right side of the road and then I noticed that everyone else was on the left side of the road, and that was how they did things in Korea then, because that was what the Japanese did. It scared me to start with. It is interesting because in September of 1946, I went right back to the same place to meet my wife and my young son that came to Korea, on the second load of dependents.

PIEHLER: What were your duties in Korea? You were part of the occupation of Korea. Korea is divided between Soviet and US.

PATRICK: Yeah. Okay, there were two hundred of us young second and first lieutenants, and a couple of captains. I carried, besides an infantry platoon leader, I carried an adjutant's MOS. Can you believe the 14th Base Post Office in Yong Dong, Korea, needed an adjutant? Here I am a hot shot infantry officer and I am assigned to an AG unit, but that is what you got to do. I was the adjutant for about six months.... Now, this unit had been activated and trained in San Francisco, went to Europe, and after the war in Europe, they moved it through the Panama Canal clear over to Korea ... by way of Okinawa. They didn't know they were going to Korea to start with. So those kids are ready to go home.

PIEHLER: Probably more than ready to go home.

PATRICK: Yeah! And all of the sudden the last one that happened to be a captain, old timer, turned around and says, "Here is the keys, Pat. You are now the Postmaster for Korea." (Laughter) Responsible for all the mail that comes in by air; surface and distributing it throughout the whole peninsula. I said, "I can write letters, but I can't mail them." He said, "You listen to your troops." He said, "All of those people have been postal workers and they know their business." And they did. That was a good tour. I learned a lot.

PIEHLER: So, when you were in Korea, was that your entire tour?

PATRICK: No, then I was transferred temporarily to the Army Postal Unit 235 in Seoul, pending my reassignment to the Seventh Infantry Division. Because [the] AG was an old infantry officer and he said, "Patrick, for your career you've got to get with an infantry division." I agreed. I said, "Yeah, that's right." He said, "I'm going to put you across the street in the APU until there is an opening in the Seventh Division, and you are going to join us then." My wife was pregnant and they came out and said, "She has to go home now or you will have to stay another year." We came back to Chicago and she said, "I wish you had stayed another year." (Laughter)

PIEHLER: Because of the housing situation?

PATRICK: She just realized that Korea wasn't that bad.

PIEHLER: Where were you in [Chicago]?

PATRICK: ... In Chicago, I was assigned to Kelly High School.

PIEHLER: Your wife came?

PATRICK: We both came, we moved the whole family, my son and—yeah. So I spent two full years and she did a year and a little bit over there.

PIEHLER: Now, you remained in the service after coming home?

PATRICK: It's really funny. While I was in Korea in June of '46, they sent out a notice and asked people who wanted to join the regular Army to apply. So, by that time I was kind of bent with it, and [thought], "That sounds pretty good." I knew that [I] wasn't quite as good as Major Burns but, boy, I got up there a little ways. So I applied, not dreaming that I would get it. Sometime later, I got orders saying, "Congratulations, you are now an [R.A.] second lieutenant." My serial number was 038443, which as I understand it was lower than General Eisenhower's, and I have never figured that out. Draft number, enlistment number first was 36815557 and then commission was 01326016, then regular commission 038443, then when they switched to Social Security, I'll put it on the record, the heck with it, ... you notice that they gave me a very easy one to remember ... (recites his social security number).

PIEHLER: Your memory on some things is remarkable.

PATRICK: Yeah, and then others, it's a blank.

PIEHLER: I just felt like I had to observe that because some of the things you can remember and particularly place names, your old address, and so forth.

PATRICK: Yeah.

PIEHLER: ... I would like to ask you a little more about Korea. Korea was a very poor place when you were there and it had just been liberated from the Japanese.

PATRICK: Yes. The Japanese had colonized it. There is a difference between colonizing and occupying. For example, after World War II, we occupied Germany but we didn't denude it or push it down. The Japanese, when they won the [Russo-Japanese War], they actually colonized and they built factories and they subjugated people and they took the profits to Japan. They also took qualified workers to Japan, and they ... used them to help build Japan up. As a result, when we got there, the only thing—the Koreans were common laborers, and anyone who was a leader or supervisor was not to be respected because the Japanese had always been leaders and supervisors, and they hated them. So if an American became the boss, they'd hate the American.... It was really difficult to get the Koreans [to] start helping themselves. In the military government, where I had several friends, they said they started out in the same office with counterparts and they'd just select somebody and say, "Okay, you are in charge of this," and then they worked with them. It turned out that the Koreans would [always] come to the Americans for a decision: "Is this the way I do it? Should I do it this way?" And they weren't getting any place, so the Americans, the chief of [the] military advisory group, said, "Okay, no military government. All of you Americans move across the hall and let them make the mistakes or make the progress," and that worked out pretty well. We were fortunate because in the base post office we had a Jewish boy from New York who was absolutely worthless as a soldier. We promoted him quite rapidly because he had gone to language school and could speak Japanese, and he was the only link we had between us and the Koreans. That was a real shock the first time to see him stand out there talking to Koreans. He could because he spoke Japanese and they all spoke

Japanese. They didn't like it, but they did. They stole from the Japanese, the Koreans did, because they [the Japanese] were the bad guys. We come in and they don't know the difference, so they start stealing from us. The Korean police were very, very thorough and they wanted to show the Americans they were good, so they would arrest almost anybody. We spent a lot of time down there proving to ... the police that "this guy couldn't have done that."

PIEHLER: How many Koreans worked directly in the post office? Did you have any?

PATRICK: Oh, gosh, yeah. We had about forty or fifty.

PIEHLER: ... This person from New York was pretty essential to making this work?

PATRICK: Absolutely.

PIEHLER: It sounds like you got him by accident.

PATRICK: We did. He was just assigned. I don't think the classification officer checked to see if he spoke it. He was good. The area that the post office was located in was called the Matsushita Radio Corporation. Matsushita is Panasonic Radio. And in this particular walled-in compound, which is typical of a Japanese factory, they made batteries, light bulbs, and radios. The military government came in and moved most of the raw materials out. We had some of the radios left which were very, very cheap. We had a lot of the carbon sticks from the batteries left over. Different sizes, from your little finger up to your thumb, which burnt beautifully, almost pure carbon. We had tent stoves, so that was a good fuel. We had one electrician by the name of Ki Con Du who was a radio technician, and he scared the daylights out of [us]. We had 205 volts of electricity. We watched him and I told him the light bulb was out. Ki Con Du came and got a ladder and went up there unscrewed the light bulb, wet his thumb and [put it] in the socket. It was good so he reached down, got a bulb and put it in. I would never put my finger in a 205 volt or 210. (Laughter)

Every once in a while one of our troops would come back on a weekend—well, the first time they'd go out and they'd come back and say, "Do you know what we saw?" We would say, "No, what did you see?" They would say, "We saw a pheasant." You could just tell that's what they were going to say. We'd say, "Well, where do you think pheasants came from?" "Well, we got them in Michigan. We've got them in Kansas." [We would say], "They came from here. From China. They are the Chinese ring-neck pheasants." We would go out and hunt every once in a while. They would also come back once in a while and say, "You know what we saw down in that factory? We happened to look in the boiler room and there are Koreans running around with red-hot poker trying to attack each other!"

We went armed a third of the time in Korea. We were on alert a third of the time because of the Communist influence. When you went to Japan on R&R, if you were under alert,

you had to leave your weapon at Pusan, but when you came back from R&R, you would pick it up and take it home. Communist influence was still there.

PIEHLER: What did you and your fellow officers and the men under you think was your purpose to be there? Did you quite know? I mean, we now know a lot about what happens afterwards ...

PATRICK: No, we knew. It didn't take long to realize ... that we had to be there or the North Koreans would come down and take South Korea, and we knew the Russians were up there at that time. And I became very incensed. I ran a railway mail service from Seoul all the way down to Pusan with intermediate stops.... I saw a Russian soldier in the depot standing next to an American Jeep. I said, "American," and he said, "No, Russian." They were convinced that our Jeeps we had given them from Lend-Lease were really made in Russia.

Incidentally, Korean railroads are built by the Germans. Japanese didn't do it. The name for a railroad station in Korea was Bahnhof, which is pure German. They didn't have a name for it, so they just used the German. Very primitive country. The only paved roads or hard service roads were in Seoul. The engineers started putting macadam asphalt roads down from Seoul to the Port of Inchon, which was the main supply route, and that was a real experience. We could buy Jeeps if you had your family coming over, and on Sunday afternoons that was a big thing to get out and drive on this nice smooth road. April of '46, the Koreans up in the hills thought that the world had come to an end because the Americans had decided that we were going to drive on the right side of the road. It was publicized on the radio and what newspapers they had, on bulletin boards, but the poor farmers who came out of the hills with their ox carts would come down to the main road and turn left and here is all of these Army trucks facing them.

PIEHLER: So in other words ... you changed the direction of the people driving on the road. I am curious, have you ever been back to Korea?

PATRICK: Not since '74.

PIEHLER: Do they drive the way the Americans do?

PATRICK: Oh, gosh, yeah.

PIEHLER: So you really did change the way ...

PATRICK: Yeah.

PIEHLER: A lasting legacy of the occupation.

PATRICK: There were very, very few vehicles in Korea, and those that were there ran on charcoal. They had a burner in the back. Lots of bicycles and lots of two-wheeled carts to pull and lots of four-wheeled wagons drawn by beasts of burden. It finally

straightened out. I watched Korea since 1945 through 1974, and the transformation is another subject. It is unbelievable.

PIEHLER: Your wife, she joined you in Korea?

PATRICK: Yes.

PIEHLER: How long was she in Korea?

PATRICK: From September '46 to November '47.

PIEHLER: Where did you live?

PATRICK: We lived in a compound that was built by the Japanese adjacent to the cotton mill that the Japanese had built, and there were about thirteen supervisor homes there. So this is a two-story house with two bedrooms upstairs, a kitchen, bathroom facilities, a Western room in the front, a living room and another little room. [It] was a fire trap. And I didn't sleep well until in 1947 or '46, late, I found out about the Armed Forces Insuring Association in Kansas at Fort Leavenworth. I wrote a postcard and said, "Please insure me for \$1,000.00 as of now," and I took it into my post office and hand stamped the date on it, put it in the pouch and then I was covered. That night I slept better.

PIEHLER: What did your wife do while she was in Korea?

PATRICK: She took care of the baby. We had help. They wanted you to hire people, to help the Koreans. So she had a house girl and house boy. She cooked and generally stayed busy. She would go shopping in Seoul. One time I told her not to go, and she went and got in the middle of a firefight between some Communists and the Korean police. When I came home she was very, very demure. I found out about it. (Laughter) She managed to keep busy. I don't even think she played bridge then.

PIEHLER: What about the ... social obligations of a young officer and a young spouse? Did you have any of that at Korea? I assume this is the first time she joined you.

PATRICK: That was her first overseas tour.

PIEHLER: It was more peacetime circumstances?

PATRICK: Oh, definitely.

PIEHLER: So some of that old—I got the sense that some of that got forgotten during the war, but ...

PATRICK: We were an isolated community, and there was ...

-----END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE TWO-----

PIEHLER: This continues an interview with John W. Patrick on April 10, 2001 in Knoxville, Tennessee with Kurt Piehler and ...

MEEKS: Nathan Meeks.

PIEHLER: I had to step out of the room for a few minutes in changing tapes, but you and Nathan were talking a bit, and I guess there were a few stories—I'll have Nathan sort of prompt you on which stories should go on the record.

MEEKS: Um ...

PATRICK: How about the bags? The grocery bags?

MEEKS: Oh ...

PATRICK: The only commissary that dependents could buy in was in Seoul. We had the Jeep, which was sold to us through the PX, so Barbara and I had gone to Seoul, to the commissary, and we loaded up. We came back home and parked in front of the gate, and Kim, the houseboy, heard us, so he came tearing out. But by the time he got to us, I got out and grabbed two bags of groceries—one in each arm—and headed up the sidewalk. My wife got out and she grabbed two bags of groceries and headed up the sidewalk. Kim came running down the sidewalk, grabbed my bags, and took them into the house and set them down. When my wife finally got in, now, she is a young gal, she said, "Pat, get Mr. Kim in here." And she said, "Me number one and he number ten." They could understand numbers. Number ten is bad. Later on, months later, we were having a reception for an executive officer who was marrying a Red Cross girl, and Barbara wanted some chicken. She was going to make some chicken salad or something. So I bought a case of chickens, frozen, which was the only way you could buy them. They had their heads on, their feet, their guts, and the only thing missing was their feathers. So I opened up the box of frozen chickens, and the first thing I saw was a dead nest of mice in this corner, but they didn't eat anything. It was flash frozen, apparently. She cleaned a couple of them, put the entrails and the heads and the feet on a piece of paper and then she went upstairs to do something. I saw Mr. Kim. His mouth was watering, man. Boy, that was a delicacy for him. I said, "Mr. Kim, you may have those." And he looked at me like I was crazy, then picked it up and went to the foot of the stairs and looked out and said, "Madam! Madam!" Disconcerting to hear someone call your wife a madam, but she came to the head of the stairs, and he just went like this [gesturing]. [She] said, "Yes, Mr. Kim, you may have those." He turned around as he walked by me, as if to say, 'You idiot, why are you trying to give me that stuff for?' (Laughter) No, he was happy.

PIEHLER: You were mentioning as we came back, just before we started the tape ... that when your wife came to meet you on the ship, ... you didn't recognize her. It had been a year.

PATRICK: She came on a J-boat, which was General [John R.] Hodge's craft that he used when he was on the water. She was up front. Let me start over. There was a good-looking babe up front with a hat. She had a light blue suit on. At that time, to save materials, the skirts were cut up about the knees. And behind her was a Red Cross gal with a child. And I watched her go by, and then I looked down about the rest of the little boat to see where my wife was. My wife never got off. Finally this cute gal come back and got off and said, "Hi! How are you?" (Laughs) But to make matters worse, the Red Cross lady that had our son Johnny and that helped Barb get off the ship, down the side, said, "Oh, you're Mrs. Patrick. I was at a party last night with your husband." Well, the party was given by my executive officer, Fitzpatrick, and I had attended. I don't think it was the night before, but we had been to a party, but we were just attending. She [Barbara] had quite a culture shock, I tell you.

They issued us big stock pots for the kitchen. We had a two-burner kerosene stove to start with, then got an electric stove. Just about the time she was ready to cook supper, the North Koreans would pull the switch, because the hydropower was up north. We would have to switch to something else. They gave us 150 yards of Japanese material for curtains. Some of the most beautiful brocade you have ever seen. Two weeks after it was issued, you would be surprised how many wives were wearing beautiful brocade dresses. (Laughter) Silk was cheap; cotton was the prestige cloth over there.

PIEHLER: [It] was cotton?

PATRICK: Cotton, sure. In fact, I mentioned where we lived, next door was a cotton mill. The workers for the cotton mill—the Japanese still do this—they provide a community for their workers to instill spirit and make sure they are taken care of. They had an apartment building right there.

PIEHLER: You also mentioned there was a problem of dependents coming over and that no one was there to meet them.

PATRICK: That's on the first ship. It is probably hard for some people to believe, but after a man has been in the South Pacific for three, four, five years, I am sure he started wandering in some cases. Not all cases, but in some cases. He may have found somebody else, or decided he didn't know what he was doing. But he had applied for the family to come over. And they just wanted to make sure that didn't happen again.

PIEHLER: Because you said, [in] the first group, there were dependents that came and ... they became quite a burden on the community.

PATRICK: That's correct. They had to keep them and try to explain what had happened, and then turn around and send them back. Now, the ship that my wife came in on, the ship's captain used his head, and he wouldn't let one of the dependents get off because she had been such a tramp on the way over. He said, "Boy, they don't need that kind of stuff in Korea." Marriage in Korea was another problem. The Korean girls, some of them, ladies, some of them were nice looking and some of them were just rice

paddy kids. I had two soldiers, alleged soldiers, who applied for marriage to Korean nationals. It had to be approved by me first, and I disapproved it. And they couldn't understand why. I said, "Because it's not fair to the Korean girls, 'cause you will marry them and take them back to the States, and then you will ditch them." They weren't the best high-class girls anyway. That is very common. Somebody that is overseas and they fall madly in love, and they bring their wife back and then they leave them. That happened to the Germans, it happened to the Japanese, and it happened to the Koreans. Even though in many cases, the female was better than the American soldier or airman or navy.

Hunting in Korea. We were out pheasant hunting one time and they had—just huts. They had men, by signs and drawings and so on, let us know that every night, the wild pigs would come into the village and they would have to get in behind a door, and just close up, and they would root up the gardens, and so on. I said, "Boy, we will get out and hunt them." So, I got my officers, I had ten about that time, we went out and got there before it got dark and took our positions all around the village, and we had .45 caliber pistols. Pretty soon the pigs started coming in. We could hear them, but you couldn't see them. I'll tell you that I was never so glad to realize they had gone, because they were ferocious. They had attacked us and everything else if they'd been wounded, so we stopped that. The GIs would come over and, beside seeing pheasants on their first trip out into the rice paddies—rice paddy would have dikes, like that, and there would be rice growing there and right here in the corner, they would put another dike, so there would be a triangle here and they would fill that with night soil. Stuff that they dipped out of the cesspools. Well, after a while, that gets solid on top and something may start growing on it, and if you don't know, you would think that was a nice short cut to cut across the corner. (Laughter) Ah, absolutely terrible. The only thing you could do was scrub them down and dip them in Clorox. Years later, we had to do the same thing to one of our friends, one of our sons, that had done that in Taiwan.

PIEHLER: It sounds like you have some fond memories of Korea.

PATRICK: Oh yeah.

PIEHLER: That it was a good experience in a lot of ways.

PATRICK: Yeah, and I have been fortunate, because I have seen it progress. From '47, the next time I went back was '60, '61. Then I started to go back in '69, all the way every year through '74, well, about the middle of '74. It has been interesting to see it progress, and it has progressed.

PIEHLER: Now Korea is a major country, industrialized, and ...

PATRICK: When I was in Vietnam in '66-'67, a Korean unit was a prize to have on your flank. If you had a Korean unit next to you, you were in tall cotton. Because the Viet Cong, they hated them, boy, they were afraid of them. Then you go to Korea at the same time, and the American soldiers thought the Korean units were nothing. And if you

had been in Korea and went to Vietnam and you saw the Korean soldiers going into the PX, which they were authorized to do there, they would wonder what in the world happened. Well, it turns out that the Korean armed forces are very, very proficient. Very good.

PIEHLER: You returned back to the States, back to Chicago.

PATRICK: Yes.

PIEHLER: What was your next duty?

PATRICK: I was Professor of Military Science and Tactics at Kelly High School, Archer and Kedsy, under May Allen, who, if she had been in the service, would have shorted the war by a year because she was a leader. It was thoroughly enjoyable to take young men who didn't know left from right and be able to teach them. And I remember how I started out, and I wanted them to do the same thing. Then the war started and it was really important that they get the training. I had a sergeant, McMann, who was with me. He had been there before I was at Kelly. I was a captain, but Mrs. Allen continued to call me sergeant, because that was the only thing she knew, was sergeant. That was all right. I had a great rifle team, and we had competitions. I remember Sergeant Levinson, at one of the other high schools, and he had a rifle team. My rifle team would just beat the socks off of his, and he'd get furious. He was an old Army sergeant and he'd say, "You dunderheads, I taught him to shoot, and if you would listen to me you would be able to beat his team!" Well, Sergeant Levinson had been at Cooley High School, and he taught me how to shoot, and he taught me a lot of other things that came in useful. The first time we had a unit meeting in Chicago, I went downtown to the warehouse where the headquarters was, and I walked in and looked to the left and here was a group of sergeants standing around, and there was Sergeant Levinson. I'm a captain and he's got promoted a couple of more stripes. I walked up and said, "Good morning, Sergeant Levinson, how are you?" He turned around and he looked at me—I had a nametag—he looked down and looked up and said, "Patrick, didn't you have time to shine your shoes this morning?" (Laughter) We chitchatted, I walked away, and he turned around to the rest of them, I could hear him, he said, "I taught him all he knows." (Laughter) That's a fond memory.

In February of '50, Truman took over the railroads. [The] railroads were going to strike. I got a call one night to report to the Fifth Army Headquarters. Went to Fifth Army Headquarters. General Gannon was the Chief of Staff, and I was about the most junior officer there. We had briefings. General Gannon started out by saying, "The President is directing the Army to take over the railroad system of the United States. You will receive legal briefings, logistical briefings, blah, blah, blah, and then you will be assigned a railroad." We got all the briefings, and they assigned—the transportation officer got up and said, "Okay, now here are your assignments." He [told] each one where we were going, and he said, "Colonel So-and-so," and there was a full colonel sitting there being briefed, he said, "Your sedan is downstairs and you will go down and get in your sedan and it will take you to the railroad station. You are going to San Francisco to take over

that railroad.” And this colonel stood up and says, “Well, I don’t even have a toothbrush.” General Gannon stood up and said, “Colonel, when you get to San Francisco, call your wife.” (Laughter) He meant it. Well, I had it easier because I was assigned to the Peoria-Pekin Union Railroad Company, which was in Peoria, Illinois, which had a main line of eleven miles, but 150 miles of yard track, and it was the center for trains coming from the west, or going west or south or anyplace. They’d come out of Chicago and then they’d split up. I was there for ten weeks. The president was an absolutely phenomenal man. James T. O’Day. He had a high school education, read every major city newspaper in the East every single morning, and when he finished reading it, you could look at it and just go through like that because he underlined everything that was important. He was good. I had to make daily reports. There was never any trouble. But when I reported to him, I said, “Sir, I have a presidential proclamation.” He said, “Son, sit down. I got my copy yesterday.” From then on, we were great friends. I finally wound up as his chauffeur and drove him around. He went to the Republican Convention. I took him to Chicago, brought my wife back to his house; two, three kids then, and stayed at his house. That was a little experience.

PIEHLER: ... You mentioned as a leader of a ROTC unit, you felt with a war on it’s particularly important to train people. What was the reaction to the Korean War in your high school, and among the students that you trained? Both in ROTC, but also in the wider student body and parents?

PATRICK: I made sure they knew what was going on. I would get—this is very interesting, and I wish we could do more of it—but I would get training films concerning the military training and then you could also get some that pertained to Korea and show them during lunch hour. They would eat and then come to the auditorium. That was good. Now, the war started in June.... I told my wife—I had done some of it before, but when war broke out, I told my wife, “Boy, forget about going to Germany,” because I had orders for Germany that I had gotten back in February. She said, “Why?” I said, “They’ll look at my record, and not too many have been in Korea, and they will say, ‘Boy, this kid knows the territory and the people, and we will put him back there.’” I fully expected to go back to Korea. I am a good soldier and I will go where I am told. Sergeant Levinson also told me, “Don’t volunteer for nothing.” I broke that in 1966. We kept waiting for orders to change, orders to change, they never did. So, late that fall, transferred to Germany with family, but I still kept up with the war. We would get people that had served in Korea to come to Germany, and they would go around and brief people, which was interesting. But the kids that were in the ROTC unit really took it seriously. A lot of them didn’t make it. I hear from people that so-and-so was killed and so-and-so was killed. I got a little upset. I got a phone call from a history teacher. Another little old maid history teacher, after the war started, and she read me the riot act and said, “You stick to your military subjects and leave geography and history to me.” I said, “Why, what happened?” She said, “Raymond Juske tried to convince me that Korea was a peninsula, and you just stick to your subject.” I said, “Yes, ma’am.” She was a history and geography teacher, and she thought it was an island. (Laughter) The principal placed great faith in us, and if the teacher had trouble with an ROTC cadet who

wasn't acting too well in class or needed a bath, we would find out about it and that was our responsibility.

PIEHLER: What percentage of the student body was in ROTC? How big was the contingent?

PATRICK: I can't remember exact numbers, but I would say that probably twenty-five to thirty percent of the population.

PIEHLER: How big was the high school approximately?

PATRICK: It had about 1,800 or 1,900.

PIEHLER: That is a pretty big contingent. (To Nathan) How big is the ROTC unit here [at the University of Tennessee]?

MEEKS: I'm not sure how big.

PATRICK: They aren't too big anymore.

PIEHLER: No, that is a very large ...

PATRICK: She wanted it that way.

PIEHLER: Yeah.

PATRICK: We had an annual inspection. During lunch, the colonel who was inspecting our unit said, "Mrs. Allen, I notice your halls are awfully clean," and she looked at him and said, "Yes, I like it that way." That's the way she was. No monkey business. I was walking down the hall one day and a little gal up ahead—bell rang, and, boy, she rushed toward her room, and dropped a piece of paper. And I just kind of walked on up, got by the paper, and I heard this voice behind me: "Sergeant!" I knew who it was. I turned around, and [she said], "Come here." She said, "If a student drops a piece of paper, we tell them to pick it up." I said, "Yes, ma'am." Now, I'd done that all the time, but you wouldn't let anybody get away with that in the military if you saw them. She was good.

PIEHLER: And how long were you at the school? Was it a two-year tour, or ...

PATRICK: Yeah. Really from November '47, '48, '49. No, it was more than that.

PIEHLER: Because you said you were there during the Korean War.

PATRICK: Yeah. We were there when it started.

PIEHLER: Yeah, when it started. So that would place it in ... June of 1950.

PATRICK: June of '50. Yeah. So I had been there almost two years then. Because we got there—I came home from Korea in November of '47, so I was in Chicago '48, '49 and left in the fall of '50. And that was it.

PIEHLER: Where did you go ... after you left?

PATRICK: Left the school and went to the First Infantry Division in Germany, and my battalion was in Bad Tolz, Germany, which is just as far over in the east that you can go without getting out of Germany. And I commanded Company H of the Second Battalion of the 18th Infantry of the First Division, and that lasted about two months, and I didn't like the way the place was run, and the battalion commander didn't like me. So, I was put on a levy for a new unit to go to Berlin. So I left Bad Tolz and went up to Graffenwier and was the first person on the morning report. Watched every officer, every cadre man, and every filler come into the unit and then trained them. So, that was a great experience because whatever they did, that was my fault or a compliment to me. We trained in Graffenwier for about two months and then moved the unit to Berlin. That was after the [Berlin] Airlift. To form the unit, to form units, each unit there in Germany had to have an A-Cadre and a B-Cadre. Everyone you had was either on an A or a B. You turned those rosters in and you kept them up to date. When a unit was organized, a new one, the commanders [at] EUCOM would say, "Okay, you [send] A-list, you [send] B-list ..." and so on. Those were the people you had to send to the new unit. Well, Monk Myers was H Company Commander of the 18th Infantry and he loaded one of the lists. He was taking a chance. I got all of his key noncoms, which was great for me, but then the fillers had come in. We got them to Berlin and we finally got a concession from the Berlin commander that if they had more than three court martials we could send them back to the unit from whence they came. Boy, what a headache that was, but we finally got them straightened around and got some pretty good people. Our battalion was at Templehof Air Base in a three story office building with marble floors, marble latrines, an elevator/escalator, which scared the average enlisted man to pieces because you just walked up and stepped on it and up it goes and you step off. No buttons, and it didn't work good with bicycles, as some of them found out. (Laughter) It was a showplace, but we had to train in the center of Templehof or go all the way across the Gruenewald, the big city forest, to train, and that was very interesting.

PIEHLER: You were in Berlin at a time when there was no Berlin Wall. Berlin always was an occupied city until it was unified, but even there it was more apparently an occupied city because there was access to the Soviet Zone.

PATRICK: You had the Russians, you had the British Sector, American Sector—French, British, and American, and the Russians. You were surrounded by the Russian Zone, and it was the only place where any time during the day, you could see day and night at the same time. You can stand on the Allied part of the side of the Teltower Canal and turn around and everything would be happy and fairly nice, and then you look across the canal, and it was dismal. Absolutely terrible. That has had its impact on modern Germany when they unified Germany, because now the West Germans are having to build up East Germany, and it is a pain and it's expensive, because those people over

there don't like to work yet. They've got big problems, plus I hated to see the capital go back to Berlin from Bonn. Berlin, I haven't been there for about four years, but it was bad then and I am sure that it is still bad. But living was nice. We had a fifteen-room villa with a living room so big that a baby grand piano was lost in it. (Laughter) You had to have—we hired a maid, but you had to have a housekeeper or a gardener. Which the government furnished because it was a confiscated house, and it had to be taken care of or the government would have to pay for it.

PIEHLER: What was your rank at this point?

PATRICK: I was a captain.

PIEHLER: You were living pretty well for a captain ...

PATRICK: Man, I was living well. I had a steam-heated garage underneath. [The] bedroom was enormous with a open patio [on] the second floor off of it. It had a wall safe at the head of the bed, but I never realized why it was there. It had a marble bathroom, complete with a bidet, and big marble tub, and oh, it was sumptuous. It had call bells in each one of the rooms. When you sat down to eat—fairly soon after we got the house, we had to have some of the officers from the company with me, and all of the sudden, Gertrude, the maid, came tearing in. We didn't call her maid, we called her helper. She came in and said "Yes, Mrs. Patrick?" Barbara said, "I didn't call you." She said, "Oh, yes, you did." She said "How?" "You rang the bell." Under the table was a bell and all you had to do was tap it and it signaled in the kitchen. But I got her, because the fence outside had a gate, and to get in somebody had to buzz inside to open the gate, or if I wanted to get out, she would buzz and I would walk out. One day, I came home and she [Gertrude] said, "How did you get out this morning?" My wife had let me out. I said, "Well, it is really easy. I found that all you have to do is open the door, get outside on the steps, reach in and push the button and then run to open the gate before it stops buzzing." The next night I came home, and she met me at the door, tapping her feet. "Ja! You punch the button and you run!" Apparently she had tried it time and time again. (Laughter) The garage was under the house, and it was steam-heated. In the winter it is cold in Berlin. In the winter when you came out, backed up the drive—it was quite steep—the temperature gauge would be off the needle and as soon as you went about a block, went, BAM, it would go down and then you would have to bring it back up.

I was duty officer on Christmas over at Templehof. All week I had been driving across town and there were Christmas trees for sale on every corner. It was our practice to get the Christmas tree the night before Christmas, so the kids wouldn't see it, and then all of the sudden it was a big surprise. I was duty officer that day, I went into the company that morning, [and] there were trees around. About five o'clock, I am relieved, so I drive back across and I am going to pick up a Christmas tree. I kept driving and driving—there wasn't a Christmas tree to be seen. So I got home and walked into the house and kissed my wife and said, "Hi, how are you?" She said, "Did you get a Christmas tree?" I said, "No." I explained to her what happened. There wasn't any around. And she went up

one side and down the other and when she finished, we had a cook who was real old, she was sixty years old, that we wanted to help, so she would come to the house and help cook. She was a good cook. Then we invited her to stay for Christmas. Well, she went up one side and down the other because you have to have a Christmas tree. My wife said, “You go out and don’t come back until you have a Christmas tree.” (Laughter) Well, the first thing I could see was this big beautiful spruce in the back yard. I thought, “Oh, shoot, I would get hung if I cut that.” So, I went tearing around town and never could find one. I thought about going to the Gruenewald, the big forest, and cutting one. No, I would get caught for sure. So, I went to the Teltower Canal—why, I will never know, but I wound up there. I parked and I walked up [to] the edge and I looked down and here was a canal boat with a little house in the front, and a yellow light was on. Way back in the back here is a Christmas tree. Not the nicest Christmas tree in the world. (Laughter) And I climbed down the ladder and knocked on the door and the man inside was—had been imbibing, celebrating, early for Christmas. No, not celebrating early for them, ‘cause that is when they celebrate it. I didn’t speak too good of German, but I asked if I could have it and he looked up at me like I was crazy and said, “Yeah, take it.” “How much?” “Nothing. Crazy American, get out of here.” I tied that on the back of a 1950 two-door red car, and proudly drove home. It was tall, so I cut the base off, started trimming limbs off, fitting them in, nailing them, and that was the most beautiful Christmas tree that I had ever seen. But that is the Christmas tree story. Ever since then, I get the Christmas tree early. (Laughter) Berlin Airlift was over, and the American army moved their dependents in. The Air Force didn’t. So, after a year or so the Air Force said, “We are not moving ours in because it is too much of a logistics problem.” Because a lot of stuff still had to be flown. “You,” American army, “Take your dependents out.” So all but the senior officers’ dependents had to leave, so they sent me to the zone, Augsburg, and it was about four months before I could get my wife in, and family. We lived in a row house that was this wide, three stories high and to get to the back yard you had to go through the basement.... What a change.

PIEHLER: Because you were living pretty comfortably?

PATRICK: Berlin was wonderful. They had a twenty-seven-hole golf course. You didn’t want to hit the golf ball out of bounds on some of the holes, because the East German police was right there. Let the ball go.

PIEHLER: You mentioned earlier that you probably ended up in Berlin because you didn’t agree with your commander?

PATRICK: Yeah.

PIEHLER: You didn’t see eye to eye. What was the problem?

PATRICK: There was a lieutenant, I won’t mention his name, who had been my predecessor, and he was still there as an executive officer. The First Infantry Division was notorious for trying to outdo each other and I didn’t agree with some of the tactics they used. If you are going to have a contest, fine. When it is over, or whatever you’d

done, well, that's it. I didn't believe in going under the table to get money and stuff, so we didn't win.

PIEHLER: What were you competing against?

PATRICK: Other companies or other battalions.

PIEHLER: Compete in what ways?

PATRICK: Uh, something like the March of Dimes collection but not ...

PIEHLER: It would not be a boxing match, you would be competing on all kinds ...

PATRICK: Yeah ...

PIEHLER: In the end it had a good ending. It sounds like you really enjoyed your posting.

PATRICK: Oh, absolutely. Then after Berlin came [the] Augsburg Military Post. I am a hot shot heavy weapons company commander, and they assign me as the club director. But I learned a lot at that job, like the post office. I had twenty-seven EM [enlisted] clubs, officer clubs, and hotels in Southern Bavaria. Mostly losing money, but when I left they were making money. It was worthwhile.

PIEHLER: How long were you in that position in Augsburg?

PATRICK: Probably close to a year and a half. Then back to Fort Benning for advanced course, and I stayed at Benning ... until late summer of '55, when I went to Taiwan. Benning was interesting. It is good to be an instructor.

PIEHLER: You had not seen combat yet?

PATRICK: No.

PIEHLER: But you would eventually see combat. Any sense of being an instructor without having been in combat? What are the strengths, in a sense, of not seeing combat and being an instructor? What are the limitations?

PATRICK: I always was a little bit unhappy that I hadn't seen combat, but no one else seemed to hold it against me. The subjects that I taught, if you had combat, fine; if you didn't, well, that would be all right. I was primary instructor in troop movements and assistant instructor on amphibious operations, airborne operations. I helped write the manual for helicopter operations. We didn't even have the helicopters that could do what we wanted. We had a very farsighted deputy commander at Benning, and he called the staff together and said, "Someday we are going to have helicopters that are better than

those little diddly things we have. We want to be ready for it.” So, I wrote some of the stuff for it.

PIEHLER: You were in Taiwan?

PATRICK: Yes.

PIEHLER: We weren't talking [about] the communist Chinese, much less ...

PATRICK: You bet we weren't.

PIEHLER: How long were you in Taiwan for?

PATRICK: A little over two years.

PIEHLER: What was your posting at Taiwan?

PATRICK: I started out as senior advisor to a regiment that was outposting the northern third—they had exactly 180 kilometers of coastline to secure. One regiment. That's not too many people. That's maybe, by their standards, about four thousand. Three battalions, four companies. Three rifle companies and a heavy weapons company in each one. It started on the West Coast and went all of the way up to Kaohsiung and part way down the East Coast. And as commander, I had been in operations at Benning, and I said, "How do you have your troops deployed?" He had been to Benning. He said, "I have two battalions up and one battalion in reserve." So he only had two battalions on the coastline. So we go out and inspect and all he had was just outposts. One or two men down on the water's edge and then maybe a squad back up in the hills someplace. Not too effective, but he thought they were. And then somebody realized, I forget which one of my friends fingered me, but said, "Hey, you are going to be the corps operations advisor." So I moved back to Taipei and was Third Corps Operations Advisor. Then, Jay Hunt, who had been my company commander in the rations exercise in the Rocky Mountains, was the G-1 advisor and he found me—well, he knew my name, so he looked me up, and he knew my wife. He eventually would come and he said, "Patrick, I want you to come work for me." I said, "I'm not a personnel man. I am an operations man." (Impersonating Jay Hunt, yelling), "I'm an operations man, but I'm a personnel man now, so, by golly, you're going to come and work for me!" I said, "Colonel, if you want me to work for you, you're going to have to order me to!" And he said, "By golly, I will!" And he did. (Laughter) But we were good friends, and we are still good friends. He is ... living in Vienna [Virginia]. It was a good tour. You learn that you can't tell people in the Orient what to do. You have to sort of make them think it is their idea. There are two islands, Matsu and Kinman?

PIEHLER: Quemoy and Matsu?

PATRICK: Quemoy, yeah. What did I say, Kinman?

PIEHLER: I can't even remember.

PATRICK: Matsu?

PIEHLER: Quemoy and Matsu.

PATRICK: Yeah. They, as you well know, are within shooting distance of the coast. Well, I told my wife ... to go over there and find a house to live in first, and then ... apply for dependents to come over. She came over and I told her to be sure to bring an air conditioner, a two-burner kerosene stove, get a wringer washing machine, leave your automatic at home, leave your automatic dishwasher at home, and bring an ice cream freezer. The old hand crank. So, she did. Well, it turns out that the troops on Matsu liked ice cream and they wanted an ice cream maker so we gave that—my ice cream maker. I sent it offshore to them. But I enjoyed Taiwan. We didn't get a chance to look around too much, and the quarters weren't the greatest in the world, but they were sure adequate. Our children had to be half-day schooled at home. They used the Calvert System, out of Boston. They go to school for a couple of hours in the morning, and then the wives were responsible for the rest of it.

PIEHLER: How many children did you have at this point?

PATRICK: Four.

PIEHLER: Four children?

PATRICK: Yeah. They all turned out to be nice kids. Out of all the places, they enjoyed Taiwan the most.

PIEHLER: Really?

PATRICK: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Why Taiwan? Was it their age or was it ...

PATRICK: They could ride Mongolian ponies. We could watch them shoot fireworks. It was just a nice semi-tropical area. I agree. It was very nice. Still primitive compared to what it is now. They didn't have any major manufacture. Although, we still have furniture that we had made there. We picked up a Chinese-German-Irish setter, which was with us until 1974, early '74. We had to put it asleep in Hawaii.

PIEHLER: Where did you go after Taiwan?

PATRICK: My boss in the corps headquarters, ... the senior advisor for the corps, had taken a shine to me, and had me sent to Fort Riley, Kansas, where he was. He was a G-3 of the division. I wound up his operations officer for the First Infantry Division. It was the second time I have been assigned to it. I kept that job. I fought to keep it for two

years. I was the only operations officer they ever had for two straight years. They usually got ...

-----END OF TAPE TWO, SIDE ONE-----

PIEHLER: ... Could you repeat what you just said?

PATRICK: In the military, I always tried to make my own way. I didn't ask to go to [Fort] Riley, because Steve Kelly had got me assigned there. But one of the commanders, before I left, said, "Now, I want you to come to the Pentagon with me," because he knew that would be his next assignment. I said, "No, sir. I think you can go your way and I will go mine." In 1961, when I left Korea, the three-star general there said, "I want you to come to the Sixth Army Headquarters with me." I said, "General, you go your way and I'll go my way." If you tag on to the tail of a star, you would have a better career, as a rule, but I wanted to do things my way. I wanted to stay down with the troops as much as possible. So, after two years at Fort Riley, I went to the Command and General Staff College, a short course, associate course, even though I was a regular, and then went to Korea, and wound up in personnel there for about two weeks. And then the former artillery commander from the first division got a hold of the corps commander and said, "What do you have Patrick in G-1 for? You ought to get him G-3." So, they transferred me to G-3 again, and I wound up as the maneuver director for the corps and planned some really amazing maneuvers. My crowning victory was to talk the corps commander into reversing procedure. Usually you attack from south to north towards the DMZ, and then withdraw and then attack again. "Okay," I said, "Let's do something different. Let's give the troops on the DMZ an opportunity to see what the North Koreans are going to see when they attack south." So, the intelligence reports were out of this world because the North Koreans could not understand why we were—you do it in the winter because the ground is frozen, the rice crop paddies are all right to maneuver on. They moved the tail of the division, as an example, up close to the DMZ. They left enough security people up there, but they just turned the unit around. It blew the North Koreans' mind. They couldn't figure out what was going on. Then that gave the troops a chance to see what the North Koreans are going to see coming south.

There was a regiment of ... South Korean Marines over here on the Kimpo Peninsula. I put a Thai company next to them and a Turkish company, last [unit from] Turkey, in Korea there. I put them up against each other and their umpires came to me, I had written a scenario, they came to me, and they said, "We are going to have troubles." I said, "Why? You just withdraw and then you attack. Give everybody a chance." He said, "The Turks do not withdraw." The Thai said, "We don't withdraw, either." It took almost an act of Congress and the president to get them to follow the scenario. They didn't like that a bit. But it was a good maneuver. And then I ... got transferred into the operations center which was second home, like, to me.

Then, in May of '62, my people woke me up about three o'clock in the morning, and I said, "What is going on?" and the sergeant on duty said, "Sir, there is a coup." I said, "I will be right there." By the time I got there, well, one of the Korean generals had already

notified the corps commander, General Ryan, so he was in his office. He had notified my boss, General Jolson, and then they sent me the word. It turned out that some of the South Korean artillery units that spearheaded the coup and had gotten the tanks from Kimpo Peninsula [to] come back down. I ordered three helicopters immediately, one for me, one for the G-3 and one for the exec. They came and we took off for the Kimpo Peninsula, because that was where the heavy stuff was coming out of. We landed. Two of us got through, and one of the helicopters had problems so he went back. We go into the hut of the American marine advisor, who was a character, [and he said], “Hey, what you doing?” [We said], “Get out of bed.” [He said], “Well why, what is going on?” [We said], “Anything happen during the night?” He said, “Yeah, my tanks are moving out. They are going on maneuver.” I said, “Yeah. Right for the center of Seoul.” “What!?” He jumped up. [We] took off from there—it was daylight—and flew over the city. Well, a coup—the best way to start a coup is to get some senior officers behind it, take the radio station, take the newspaper, and they didn’t have television, but if you have, take that, and then you have control of things or people will think you have control. Well, Eighth Army headquarters, it’s sort of bollixed up and boxed in their compound. They couldn’t get the helicopter, so the two of us flew around Seoul, giving position reports to our headquarters in our operation center in Oujonbu, and then they would notify the Eighth Army over whom we were hovering. That was the only way they could get the information. Things settled down.

The lieutenant colonel who masterminded it was a Communist. He thought the figurehead, the major general, I have forgotten his name, but the major general, he could hoodwink him and he would be—the lieutenant colonel Communist would be in charge. The major general would have no part of that and he finally took over for sure. The Eighth Army, the senior UN American there, he left in disgrace because the first thing he said was, “The American government supports Syngman Rhee.” That was a mistake: make sure which side is going to win before you commit yourself. The one that took over got rid of the coffeehouses, got the girls back in Korean clothes, took people off the outside of taxi cabs and buses, which saved numerous lives, and got the Korean mores and so on back on track, and he did a good job of that.

You will notice that Koreans wear white. Back in the olden days, whenever any of the nobility dies, they had to wear white for five years, three or five years or something.... They’d die so frequently that they just always wore white. That is why they wear white with a little horsehair hat. I imagine that has gone by the wayside. Anyway, going through the coup was a good experience. I left there and went to Fort Lewis, Washington, and became the G-3 of the division, which was very, very interesting. I started out with a battle group as a battle group exec and then went to G-3, and that’s where I got one of the best proficiency reports I ever had, and the chief of staff thought he was cutting my throat. He said, “This officer does not always do everything I tell him, the way I tell him to do it.”

PIEHLER: That can be taken in various ways. (Laughing)

PATRICK: Yeah, yeah, and apparently they took it the right way because I got promoted. (Laughs) But as lieutenant colonel, I organized a mechanized battalion to support Davy Crockett. Davy Crockett was a classified atomic weapon that was designed for close support. Just fire it ahead of the front lines. I took the unit to a Nevada test site, and we shot that sucker, and it looked like a watermelon at the end of a long pipe, and fired from a recoilless rifle. When it cleared, the torque would release pins on the pipe and the darn thing would just sail off by itself, spinning. And we had to give briefings on the exercise from California all the way to the Pentagon. I met the man who designed it and he looked just like the weapon, like a watermelon. Only the weapon had fins on it ...

MEEKS: Was that primarily like an antitank weapon?

PATRICK: No. It was a close-in atomic weapon. It would fire over the heads of the troops and out far enough so the secondary effects would not get to the front line. It was about a half kiloton, but it had a good wallop to it.

PIEHLER: The testing you did, what year was this, that you tested the Davy Crockett?

PATRICK: '62.

PIEHLER: '62?

PATRICK: Yeah.

PIEHLER: Did you actually do live fire? Did you detonate the weapon?

PATRICK: Yeah.

PIEHLER: How many times did you do that?

PATRICK: Only once.

PIEHLER: Only once?

PATRICK: That was enough. They had an eight-inch artillery shell, but that—you had to put the gun so far back to get close-in support. This was fired with a recoilless rifle that wasn't as long as this table. A recoilless rifle was one you can shoot and as much force goes out the back as the front and it just sits there, and it just bobbed up and down. Now, it was air burst, which was illegal as far as the treaty with Russia was concerned, but it was about ... a hundred feet off the ground, and as soon as it blew and we got the wind by us and dust, I jumped into the helicopter and went over to see what had happened. I had a reconnaissance platoon sergeant who wanted to see just how much radiation he could get, so he went right straight across ground zero and he didn't get any. We all had dosimeters, but that was a good experience. General Ryan, the one that wanted me to go to the Sixth Army with him, he was the overall responsible individual. The first time I took the technical proficiency test, I didn't pass it. The troops didn't pass,

although I was assured that, “Boy, oh yeah, the experts said they were good.” He looked at me and says, “Patrick, you are going to the desert. You make sure that you pass the next one,” and we did. In the snow, in the desert, which was unusual. I left Fort Lewis and went to the language school for French, because we had orders for France. If you ever get a chance to go to a language school, if you have the aptitude, go. ‘Cause that’s one of the handiest things you can do.

PIEHLER: Why do you recommend language school so strongly?

PATRICK: Because we are linguistically lazy, and you are always going to run into somebody that speaks another language. Japanese, French, Spanish, German, they are all—if you can speak Japanese and get into the business world, you are in tall cotton, but just highly, highly intensive. In fact, when I went back to college in 1968, I had to have [twelve] hours for a minor in French, and the university gave me 16 hours of credit for four months of intensive French training. And I mean, it was intense. It was a six-month course, but I was needed in France, which was a bunch of baloney. I knew that would be the way. They gave me four months, and gave me the final six month test. Dr. Picard, the department head, gave it to me and I said, “Doctor, ... I have never heard some of those words.” He said, “I know, that is what we are going to give the rest of your classmates when they finish.” He said, “You did really well.” I said, “Okay, thank you and goodbye.”

I drove across the country with a dog, three kids, and my wife. We took the U.S.S. *United States* to Le Havre, got off the boat at Le Havre, and just started speaking French. I loaded up the car with the dog, luggage, and family, and headed for Fontainebleau, to begin maneuvers. I planned a nice maneuver over there, something that I had always wanted to do. Map exercise, command post exercise, with two armies. We went to Luxembourg and got into a great big convention hall, like a big gymnasium, and we had controllers—company level—down on the floor with ten foot square tables, with maps that could be rolled back and forth. They played the front lines and fed the information back up to the next level, which was on the second floor, and then they would react. They would issue orders and then the opposite side down here would play what they wanted to do. It was fantastic. I don’t think anybody had ever done it again. It was a good way to do it. General Crepin was the Allied Forces, Central Europe Commander and I had to brief him on the nuclear play. I took my templates and gave him allocations and so on, and he said, “Well, your templates are wrong. It would be a much larger damage area.” I said, “Okay, sir, I’ll enlarge them.” But I knew from past experience you can set one off, but you don’t know exactly how far it is going to kill things out. I said, “If you want it bigger, we will make it bigger. Yes, sir.” I left France because I needed to volunteer to go to Vietnam.

PIEHLER: When you said you needed to volunteer ...

PATRICK: I was lieutenant colonel and I had been passed over for colonel, which surprised my dear friends, but it was probably because I hadn’t been in combat.

PIEHLER: So, if you didn't volunteer, in many ways your career is going to stop?

PATRICK: Well, I'm not—I don't know.

PIEHLER: Yeah, but you felt that it ...

PATRICK: It could have been. Plus, the other reason was, and this was probably more pressing, we had three kids with us. My son had gone back to the States to college. I had a daughter over there who had applied for Central Michigan University and was going to leave us and go there. DeGaulle was going to throw us out of France. We didn't know whether we would be in Belgium or the Netherlands, but no matter where we were, we knew our two remaining kids were going to have to go to high school some place in Germany. My wife would be some place, I would be some place, we would be in four different locations. I said, "Baloney. I ought to go and I'll go." I applied for it and moved the family back, bought a house in Mount Pleasant.... I went to charm school for advisors at Bragg. My son came home to look at the house—and he was going to St. Martin's College in Washington State—he came home and saw the house and said, "Wow, you buy this house and I'm moving back here if I can take ROTC." He never had thought about ROTC. So, he went over to the university and they said, "Yeah, we'll be glad to have him." So, he transferred there. And I took off for Vietnam, which was the first time I ever heard mean bullets or ...

PIEHLER: You said that you spent a year in [Fort] Benning as an advisor. You said charm school. Why the term charm school?

PATRICK: No, that was at Fort Bragg.

PIEHLER: Oh, excuse me, Fort Bragg. Why the term charm school?

PATRICK: It was about two months and they teach you how to be an advisor to the Vietnamese. They tell you such things as, "don't ever speak French to them because they hate the French. Don't do this, do this and be sure to take a knife with you." I don't know, but it was interesting. I got mad at the little gal that taught the language because the stupid Americans in our course, most of them would say, "Well, why do you say 'You are how?' instead of 'How are you?'" Well, that is just how they do it. I got unhappy a couple of times because I wanted to learn the language.

PIEHLER: So there was language training as part of this?

PATRICK: Yes, but the little female instructor, *bah* means "Mrs.," the *bah* would try to use her English on us more than the French. In the French language school, the defense language school, you had instructors that didn't speak English, couldn't speak English, and you had to learn. That was fabulous, and I thought this would be the same. Also, in the language school you learned dialogues. By the time I got to France, I had been through a dialogue about how to go to the library, how to go to the drug store, how to rent a house, how to get a car repaired, and all of this stuff, and every day you learned a big

dialogue and it would become second nature to you. When I went to Vietnam, I was assigned to the Capital Military District Advisory Team. I wound up at Tan San Nhut with my own operations center. We built it, but it was for the Vietnamese, and we advised them. I remember one day I had a team of four advisors out with a Vietnamese rifle company. They were catching heck and they were giving us reports, and they asked for gunship support, helicopters, and fire. We couldn't authorize it unless the Vietnamese on the other side of the room said, "Yes, you can do it." It kept getting hairier and hairier and hairier and I kept saying, "We've got to know, can we shoot? Can we shoot?" Finally, the last plea came from the advisor on the ground and I turned around and just automatic, I hollered out in French, "DO WE HAVE PERMISSION TO SHOOT?" Whew, did they come back in French, "Oh yeah, great, go ahead." After things had settled down and they extracted the unit, then my counterpart came over and said, "I didn't know you could speak French! That's great!" I had been staying away from it because I thought they ...

PIEHLER: You had been given explicit instructions.

PATRICK: He had been educated in France. In fact, the commander I advised on ground security had better French food in his officers' club in Tan San Nhut than in France, and he was educated in France. From then on, we could talk to each other, and the average American or Vietnamese couldn't understand it. I left Vietnam. I applied for an extension. I wanted to stay and join an American unit. The word came back [to] go home and get in line. There were so many colonels that wanted to get into Vietnam. If I stayed, I wanted to stay with an American unit.

PIEHLER: It is interesting, because you sort of saw the Vietnam War from the South Vietnamese perspective, not from an American perspective. Is that accurate?

PATRICK: Yeah.

PIEHLER: What had you been told at [Fort] Bragg about the Vietnam War, sort of how we got there, thinking back? We now know a lot more of the big picture, but at the time, what was the thinking on "How did we get here," and "What is the prognosis for victory?"

PATRICK: They didn't spend—there was no doubt that we would win as they were concerned.

PIEHLER: Yeah, that wasn't in question.

PATRICK: They didn't give you the background. They were more interested in telling you about the Vietnamese people and how you would interact with them, what some of their customs [were], what some of their tactics were, and so on.

PIEHLER: So, in some ways it really was like charm school. You didn't have discussions over strategy. It doesn't even sound like you had much discussion over

operational planning, or is that ...

PATRICK: Yeah. They told us how they operated, and how we could probably help them improve. The first time we went out on, uh—they put out ambush points all around. Tan San Nhut is on the edge of Saigon. The range of a Russian rocket was seventeen kilometers, so we had to secure seventeen kilometers out to make sure that Tan San Nhut did not receive rockets.... So, at night, they would put out ambush points. Maybe thirty, forty, or fifty, all out there, and then we would go out to check to make sure they weren't sleeping. Well, my counterpart that I really worked with, Major Chu, he started out in his Jeep ahead with his lights on, and one of his MPs with a .30 caliber machine gun on a pedestal mount in the back of the Jeep. And I am behind him with my little pistol. And I was driving, because I was stupid. I always traveled alone with the Vietnamese. We got through that night okay. I had to ease into it after we got back the next day, but I tried to tell him that it was not smart to drive down the road with your lights on at night in a combat zone. It took some convincing, but he eventually came around to it.

I had a Vietnamese driver who had been fighting for about thirty years. I used him sometimes, but he was married, and I'd let him off. To educate him I said, "Trun Si Nuk San, if we are going down the road and someone throws a grenade into the Jeep, what do you do?" ... The solution is you get the heck out of the Jeep, but he said, "I point my finger at it and it no blow." I said, "No, wait a minute, what if someone throws a grenade in?" "I point my finger at it." I looked at him and he said, "I have the lifeline." He opened his collar and he had a red ribbon. I started checking around after we got back, because I knew what I was going to do. I'd get out. It had turned out he had been fighting up north and if you eat a little bit of the spleen of somebody, a dead enemy, somebody that had been killed, well, then you had a lifeline. He said that's what happened up north one day. Somebody threw a grenade at him and he just pointed at it and it didn't go off. I said "Trun Si Nuk San, I don't know." (Laughter) We had a male interpreter and a female interpreter. He would pick up the female interpreter first and come by the house where I was living. I would get in the jeep and I would pretend like I was really mad and she would say "Good morning, Daita!" I would turn around and bust out laughing. She looked so funny saying that. She now lives in Raleigh, North Carolina.

PIEHLER: Have you stayed in touch?

PATRICK: No. Stayed in touch, haven't seen her.

PIEHLER: You have stayed in touch though?

PATRICK: Not in the last ten or twelve years, but my wife was a little upset when she found out that the gal married an American civilian who was of no account. He came back to Raleigh and then he bugged out. They had had one child and she named him Patrick. My wife was a little unhappy about that and wondered what was going on. I had been long gone. She thought—she called me daddy because she found out I had a

daughter her age. She would sometimes say, “Good morning, Daddy.” (Laughter)
Terrible. Vietnam was interesting. Did you know Ho Chi Minh helped support or did support Chiang Kai-Shek and that after the war Ho Chi Minh came to the United States and asked for our support in getting rid of the French and we said “no?” So, he went to the Russians. Bad news.

PIEHLER: ... Having done a tour of duty in Vietnam, what did you think of the war at that point in time? It is easy to project feelings we have now, but at the time—I mean, you obviously signed up for another tour.

PATRICK: I attempted to.

PIEHLER: Did you still think that we could still win this war at the time?

PATRICK: Yeah. From where I sat, yes.

PIEHLER: Yeah, you didn't ...

PATRICK: It was interesting to note that they didn't attack during Tet until I left. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: You missed the Tet Offensive?

PATRICK: I missed the Tet, yeah.

PIEHLER: But not by much.

PATRICK: November to January.... That was another—I should have been there, because my successor did not cover himself with glory, and I would have hoped I did.

PIEHLER: What happened with you successor? Without naming names.

PATRICK: No, his first mistake he made, he introduced himself as my replacement at a change of command party one night. I said, “Hey, Bernie, come here. You may succeed me but you're never gonna replace me.” And he didn't. He didn't do what he was supposed to do. And then later on I found out from one of my good sergeants that lived in Morristown and had been with me, that Colonel Coung, the base commander of the airfield, had been hit in the head. He saw it on television. He called and said, “Did you see Colonel Coung get killed last night?” I said, “No, what happened?” He said, “He was running across the cemetery,” and I knew exactly where that was, “and he got a RPG rocket right in the forehead.” He said, “He was carrying that M-16 you gave him,” which was a cut-off little thing. No, I didn't see that and I'm glad I didn't. But, I thought we could win. I guess I had the small picture instead of the big picture.

PIEHLER: Looking back, though, it seems that you have reflected some more.... Now knowing what you know, do you think victory was possible?

PATRICK: Yes. I tell you the first thing that would have guaranteed it. If every single American in this country at a given time had gone outside and said, "We're going to win!" But when you have division at home, then you are going to have some trouble over there. And Jane Fonda was one of the biggest factors that led to the downfall. Oh, that was disgraceful.

PIEHLER: But, militarily, what would it have taken to achieve victory from your perspective? Particularly having observed the South Vietnamese army.

PATRICK: More troops, more equipment, and a better morale for the troops. They knew what was going on with Jane Fonda, and what the attitude was at home. I just think if it had been like World War II, there would have been no problem. I am not saying that the atomic weapons ... would have helped too much. It's interesting. I've always said that the first one to use a nuclear weapon is going to have the rest of the world, not just one or two people, but the rest of the world, down their throat. I may be wrong, but I still feel strongly about it.

PIEHLER: ... I am just curious: what did you think of William Westmoreland? As far as the thinking among officers about Westmoreland?

PATRICK: They thought he was all right. I never questioned his ability. His deputy, Creighton Abrams, I thought was equally as good. It is interesting because the MAAG headquarters was in my area. It was a separate compound, but around it—I was supposed to make it secure. The security people came to me and said, "Can you please convince General Westmoreland not to put his office in that corner of the second floor?" It was a brand new two-story building with aluminum siding. I said, "Why don't you want him there?" They said, "The rockets can reach him. He ought to be on the inside." I said, "Fred, if you think I am going to tell General Westmoreland that he should move his office, you're crazy." (Laughter) Every Sunday morning Creighton Abrams would come to our headquarters to get a weekly briefing. He would sit here, I would sit here, and Tommy Watson, my boss, would sit on the other side. I called it going to church. General Abrams was Catholic and he had already been to Mass, but we couldn't go to church because the times interfered. I thought he was extremely capable, also. He later died of cancer, but he was good. We could have won.

PIEHLER: After your tour, where did you go? Where was your next posting?

PATRICK: I did something that I thought was foolish. I applied for one year at Central Michigan University to go to college. To finish. Now, I left college in May of '43 and now here in the fall of '67, I apply for college. I'm a colonel; I have only got a few more years to go in the Army, eight or nine maybe. I needed a year. I had gone to Wayne, University of Maryland, Kansas State, Southern California, and all at extension things. No matter where you go in the Army, you are going to have an opportunity to go to college. I was evaluated and I needed one more year. Of ash and trash, mostly. So I put in for it and didn't hear. I got orders for Fort Knox. Landed in Michigan, up in Central

Michigan, Midland, in my khakis, snow up to my waist again. And my wife kissed me and then said, “You have got to call the Pentagon.” As soon as I got back home I called the Pentagon, career branch, and they said, “Don’t to go to Fort Knox. You are going to have a six month interim assignment in Grand Rapids with reserve units, and then you are going to finish up your college education at Central Michigan University.” I said, “Man, that’s great, thank you very much, but why did you approve it?” Stock answer: “It is our policy. Thank you very much.” Bang! (Laughter) And that is what I did. Now, with the reserve units it was very interesting. I commanded the ones in the left half of the lower peninsula. I went back to college the summer of ‘68. We lived right on the edge of the campus. Three kids were home. One was in high school, and the other two were going to Central Michigan University with me. We all went to college together. My son graduated the semester before I did. (Laughter) He graduated in January and I graduated in May.

PIEHLER: What was it like to go back to college? It is a very different college experience, too.

PATRICK: What a ball! They’d say, “Don’t you find it difficult to study?” I said, “Let’s see, I am a colonel, drawing colonel’s pay. I am carrying sixteen or eighteen hours, which means I go to class maybe three and a half to four hours a day, study four or five hours a night. That is a nine-hour day. I said, “I can do that with my eyes closed.” I said, “I think it is great!” But of course, I was the oldest one in the class. I objected to them calling me father, but that’s all right. I felt like I could contribute.

PIEHLER: What was your interaction—we are now more used to nontraditional students on campus. But in your era, ... it was a young campus. There were very few nontraditional students. What was that like to be the old man on campus?

PATRICK: My kids were going there, and they were just like my kids. We had a good time. When I registered, the registrar said, “Well, let’s see, you’re going to have to take—” I was going for a minor in French and a major in history. You would have never guessed a major in history, but I did. He said, “Okay, you are going to have to take physical training, and you are going to have to take this and this.” I said, “Whoa, hey, physical training or whatever it is?” And he said, “Yeah, you have to take that, you don’t have it on your record.” I said, “Great! I want to go out for the football team.” I was born in ‘24 and this is 1969. He said, “You can’t do that; you are too old.” I said, “Okay. I will take ROTC.” He said, “You can’t do that. You outrank the PMS.” I said, “Get out your book of equivalency,” and he opened up and said, “Yeah, you get credit for PT.” So that was good. (Laughter) I came home, and the kids all wondered, “What classes are you in? What classes are you in?” So I told them. They said, “Health 101? That is ‘Sex on the Campus!’ You have to take that?” And I said, “Yeah, I need that.” My oldest daughter said, “Don’t buy a book, dad, you can use mine.” So I said, “Okay, fine. I will use yours.” So I went through the whole thing, and I thought—it was funny, but in college they assigned you reading but they don’t talk about it. I got right down to the final and I suddenly realized that I had been using the wrong book. (Laughter) But I still got a B.

One day my son, who was a senior, came by to pick me up on his way home and I was arguing with the little health ed teacher. And he said, "Dad, are you about ready to go?" and she looked at him and she looked at me and said, "That's your son?" I said, "Yeah," and she said, "Well, no wonder you're having trouble in this class." I never could figure that one out. But I got a B in that one. I should have gotten an A. I could have, if I had had the right book. Then came Hawaii. We took two kids with us to Hawaii. Well, one; the two oldest, the son and the daughter, had gotten married, and then I took the youngest daughter and one son to Hawaii. The youngest daughter just went over for the trip and then came back to Central. Our son went over and did the last year of high school in Honolulu, then went to the University of Hawaii. Got a degree in zoology, and immediately went into the service through ROTC and retired after 23 ½ years of service. From Hawaii, where did I go? Back to Fort Gordon for about three or four months, and then retired. Why did I retire? I said I would always stay until they throw me out. Well, they were going to throw me out in July of '75, but I didn't particularly care for the individual I was working for, the two-star general. So, I came home one day in November of ... '74 and said, "Honey, I am retiring." Being a good army wife she said, "But I am not ready." I still went ahead and retired and came here [to East Tennessee].

PIEHLER: So you came here right after retirement?

PATRICK: Yeah.

PIEHLER: I guess I am curious: why here?

PATRICK: My father was born in Mossy Creek, Jefferson City, and my first trip up to the Smoky Mountains was in 1924 on the lap of my mother, from Detroit. I don't remember too much about it, Nathan, so don't ask me questions. But we came down in the mid-thirties to camp in the Chimneys and after the war, every year they would come back at least one or two times a year to stay in Gatlinburg or ... Pigeon Forge. When they retired, they started moving here. I haven't been able to be with my father too much so I said, "Fine. We will go there." I had an uncle and his wife who built a great big house outside of Sevierville and we were home on leave one time and he said, "You and Barbara want to come here to live until you figure out where you want to settle? Well, that's fine." That November I called him and said, "Uncle B., is that offer still open?" He said, "Yep. What kind of carpet do you want? What color?" (Laughter) We told him and we just moved from Augusta, Georgia to Sevierville, Tennessee. We stayed with them a year and then bought our own house. I was fifty-one when I retired, and I still don't agree with the law that says after so many years you have got to get out. I have written the recommendations against that.

PIEHLER: In some places the system is even harder than in your—back in the '60s and '70s. I interviewed a Colonel who was an academic, who was basically forced out of West Point because he didn't get his promotion.

PATRICK: That's what happens.

PIEHLER: Yeah.

PATRICK: I made permanent colonel in '70. You have a temporary rank and then you have permanent rank, and I would have been in rank five years in July of '75. I thought—I was fifty years old, and [thought], "I'm worthless." That's John F. Kennedy's plan. There is something to be said for it. Anyway, in early November, I found out I was working for \$500.00 a month. The difference between retired pay and active duty pay. Under the circumstances of where I am at and who I am working for, I am going to retire.

PIEHLER: How did you enjoy your retirement?

PATRICK: I thought it was great for the first year.

PIEHLER: And then what happened?

PATRICK: Well, I'd pick up Dad in the morning and we would just have a ball and be at the house for lunch. And after a year, what happened was my wife called me aside one day and said, "Honey, I married you for better or for worse, but not for lunch. Go do something!" So I said, "By golly, I don't like how the real estate people treat me. I am going to sell real estate." So I got a license and went with a real estate company on the Parkway, and after five more years she said, "Aren't you ever going to stay home? Look at all the work we have to do." I said, "That's it." Plus, my sister and her husband had moved here. I still have relatives here.... I have been [involved in] First Presbyterian Church, twenty-year member of the Lions Club, seventeen years I was co-chairman of the Fort Campbell Retiree Council. Doctor, I assure you I stay busy ...

-----END OF TAPE TWO, SIDE TWO-----

PIEHLER: This continues an interview with John W. Patrick on April 10, 2001 in Knoxville, Tennessee with Kurt Piehler and ...

MEEKS: Nathan Meeks.

PIEHLER: Let me give Nathan a chance to see if there are any questions at this point to follow up on.

MEEKS: I guess, going back to Vietnam, how did you feel about our strategy in Vietnam as far as us not bombing Hanoi—as far as our tactics that we used?

PIEHLER: Particularly search and destroy. The emphasis on search and destroy, and also the bombing offensive campaign.

PATRICK: I think everybody over there would have liked to see Hanoi bombed. But it was Harry Truman that kept the civilians in charge of the military, which I still agree with. I think it should be that. I say again that was not the trouble. It was the feeling of

the American public that influenced the outcome of that war.

MEEKS: ... You said you went back to college in '68. What was the campus life like, as far as the student's feelings on the war? How did you feel while you were there? You had been in Vietnam.

PATRICK: I never encountered any antagonism, or—I don't know why I missed it all. But other veterans just suffered agony over what was said and done to them.

PIEHLER: ... Not even being on a college campus?

PATRICK: No. The only ones that looked cross-eyed at me were the sociology teachers. I never thought much of them anyway. (Laughter) Wearing sandals and having long beards. Unfortunately, they were right next to the history department. They had a good history department. They had one of the best history instructors that I have ever met, Dr. Tavenet. I was old so I could go in to the department head and say, "This instructor is really good. You ought to go and sit in on his classes." And Dr. Blackburn said, "I can't sit in his class; you just don't do that." [I said,] "Well, you ought to sit in this one, this retired lieutenant colonel who is teaching history, because he is terrible." "Oh, I can't do that. He's got tenure." That turned me against ever teaching in a university. I was at a party one night, and the president was sitting across the table at dinner, and I'd never seen him. I said, "What do you do around here?" and he said, "I think I am the President." (Laughter) I said, "Okay, that's fine." We lived where a lot of the instructors were. I don't remember any of the kids ever looking down on me.

PIEHLER: Were any curious about your career and about Vietnam?

PATRICK: Oh, gosh, yes. Yeah, they would ask. We had a lot of artifacts—not artifacts. A lot of stuff that we had acquired overseas. I had to have an art class, which was most interesting, and invited the whole class over to see what American military—how they live and what they acquired, and so on. I think I contributed to the classes, and I tried to influence those who were going into instructing [and] teaching to leave college after they graduate and go get some experience, and then go back. Don't go—I don't know what you did, but don't go to college, get a Masters, get a doctorate. Do anything in between college and the masters, just to get a better feel for society. Some of them said, "Yeah, that makes sense." I also said that if they get a chance, to go overseas and teach in a military school. That is all gone by the wayside now, but that was a good way to get your feet on the ground and also travel and make some money.

MEEKS: It seems like education has been really important in your life. Does that have anything to do with your parents, as far as your father working with the Board of Education or his, I don't want to say lack of education ...

PATRICK: No. My mother had been a schoolteacher, among other things, and I don't think I mentioned that, but she had been. I never liked to get anybody upset, and my parents would get upset if I didn't do well. You just get accustomed to doing what you

are supposed to do. I don't think his lack of education influenced me as much as his desire to see us improve. That's the way it should be. Every generation should improve on the old timers.

MEEKS: Where do you see this generation at? As far as my generation?

PATRICK: Oh. That's a hard one, but I can give you some thoughts on it. I used to talk to high school kids about patriotism. I would say, "Okay, let's say you are walking down the street with your girlfriend. I am coming towards you and I pull out a gun and point it right at her. What are you going to do?" What would you do? If I am this far away from you and she is right there. She is your girlfriend. I am going to stand there. You don't know if I am going to shoot or not. What are you going to do? What would you do? Theoretically, what would you do?

MEEKS: What would I do?

PATRICK: Yeah.

MEEKS: Um ...

PATRICK: Or I would do it right here to the Doctor.

PIEHLER: No, I might be expendable. (Laughter)

PATRICK: Poor choice! Poor choice! (Laughter) Years ago, I would like to think my generation would not have run, but would have jumped in front or would have done something. I am not so sure that the young people of today are interested—in the first place, they don't realize the sacrifices that have been made so they can be here. I am concerned that they are not willing to sacrifice, so those that come after them will have what they have and more. I look at my fifteen-year-old grandson, 6'2", all-A student, loves the saxophone, just a great kid. But I wonder if he would be willing to lay down his life for the country. I would hope he would, but I don't know for sure. So, that's what I think of the present generation. They haven't been tested.

PIEHLER: You were in the military. You went from a segregated military to an integrated military in your career. What was that process like, both as you saw the Army change, but also some personal experiences? You mentioned your first encounter in some sense being in officer candidate school. In fact, it was one of the areas in the Army that was the first to integrate, even before general integration.

PATRICK: Truman started the big integration. Remember that. The first time I really encountered any problems was in Korea. In 1960. There was a lot of dissension over there between the races. In particular, a place now called Suwon. It was an air base and an army depot installation. They had riots. Where I was in Wijongbu, we didn't have any trouble, but in other places in Korea they did. The next time I encountered it was in Hawaii. I was at a briefing, a staff meeting, which we had every Thursday. Someone

came in and spoke to the four-star general. The general turned around and looked and said, "Pat, you better get over to your office." I was the inspector general for the army in the Pacific. He said, "You've got some visitors over there, plus newspaper reporters." I thought, "Uh-oh." So I got up and left and went right back to my office, and here are all of the television lights and camera, group of black soldiers, Army, except one who was an air force sergeant. He, it turned out, was from Hickham Air Force Base. And they wanted to register a complaint. Well, that's where you registered, you go to the IG. I said, "Good. What is your complaint?" They said, "This man was tried for something and punished, and it's not fair and he shouldn't have been punished." And I can't remember all of the details but he said, "Its discrimination, and he wants to file a complaint. They are discriminating because he's black." And I said, "I hadn't noticed." There were probably 12 black people there. Military. I said, "As far as I am concerned, there is only two kinds of people in the military, good ones and bad ones. Now what kind is he?" They didn't answer. "You want to file a complaint, sit down right here and I will give you the form and you write it out." The sergeant from Hickham said, "We're not going to get any place here." They turned off the lights and the television camera and they left. I thought, "Whoa, what's going to happen?" That night on television, I turned it on and it had backfired on them. They had me on camera, and they had me saying what I'd said. But it worked out.

The next time was at Fort Gordon, Georgia, which is not one of favorite posts. Affirmative action was a big thing, and it came under me, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel Community Activities, DPCA. We had to have affirmative action instruction for all of the civilians, and I had a black officer, captain, who was going to do it. He was the affirmative action man. Boy, did he get me in trouble, because he started talking to some of the southern ladies that we had working for us about sex, and how the black sexual organ was so big, and that's what they wanted, and all that stuff. Boy, did I get reamed over the coals for that. I wasn't there. I should have been, I guess. It was a series of courses. That sort of got me. Some of the best officers I have ever had were black, although they referred to themselves as colored. They objected to being called black, just like I objected to being called white, because I am not white. I'm a European-American. I have been known to scratch out white on applications and say European-American. That is something we have to face. Discrimination is caused by ignorance. There's good people in all races, and there's crumb bums in all races.

PIEHLER: I'm also curious: most of your career was with a conscript Army, a draft army. I mean, there were volunteers, but what is your assessment—you also were in your career at the tail end of the volunteer army. What is your assessment of the volunteer army both at the time and as you sort of follow things since '75?

PATRICK: There is no comparison as far as intelligence. A lot of the volunteer army went in for the educational benefits and they still do that, but I don't mind that. As long as they do their job, then they should get the benefits. We had good draftees and we had some lousy draftees. Fortunately, you could get rid of the ones that weren't too good, but you couldn't get rid of all of them. But the volunteer army was the way to go, as far as that.

PIEHLER: You thought at the time it was the way to go?

PATRICK: Yes. And I also think, and I will put this on record for sure; that every single young man and woman in this country should have one year of compulsory military training. Not necessarily all to make war, but some kind of work. The Civilian Conservation Corps was a great program. Not only because it helped financially, but to teach values to young people. We've got the best soldiers in the world today. They are highly intelligent. I can remember one time when the military had more doctorates in it than any other profession.... That was their policy. Educate them.

PIEHLER: I'm curious. I have a student writing a dissertation about chaplains in World War II, so I want to ask you a general question: what has been your experience over your military career with chaplains, both as an officer and any attending services and on a more personal level?

PATRICK: Most chaplains are excellent speakers, but besides being a speaker, they have got to be a troop chaplain. As an enlisted man, before OCS, I didn't see a chaplain too much. They were there if you needed them. Then after that in the regiments, corps headquarters, there was always one around. Always some around, at least one. Their value is inestimable. For the most part, they are great speakers. They have to go through screening, and their family has to go through screening, and if they don't pass, they lose, they miss out. The good chaplains are those that spend time with the troops. They can be your right hand man. They can get the pulse of a unit and know where trouble spots are coming up, and so on. Some of the finest churches I have ever attended have been where I've heard army military chaplains, army and air force, speak. The prettiest church I have ever seen was a big tree out at Fort Lewis, Washington with a mountain in the background and a black pond in front. It was absolutely gorgeous. I have always found that the chaplains were an asset. At Fort Lewis, as a deputy battle group commander, they always put the chaplains—we usually took two chaplains to the field. One Catholic and one Protestant. For some reason they would always put them in the tent with me. I will never forget, the Catholic priest would always set his footlocker down and put a white towel on it and sit his mouthwash and his shaving equipment, and his toothbrush and his toothpaste on it, and a hairbrush or comb. First thing he did. The Protestant chaplain was from Memphis. He was a good guy. We'd just come in and set up our stuff and that was it. But the priest was always neat. He was always happy, and he always seemed to be warm, even though we were in the field. He received orders for Alaska, and he drove a Porsche. He was going to have to ship the Porsche. (Laughter)

One Sunday afternoon, I was mowing the lawn because that was the only time I had to mow the lawn. His little blue Porsche pulls up and he gets out and comes walking towards me. He said, "Colonel, I just came by to say goodbye." I wished him well and thanked him for the great job he had done. I had to give him a proficiency rating. I gave him a good one. He says "Oh, by the way, I want you to have this." He reached into his pocket and pulled out a bottle which was very familiar to me. It was blue mouthwash. I remember having seen it right there on his kit thing. I looked at him and I said, "I am

going to chase you around the block! What do you mean giving me mouthwash?" And Micron was the name [of the mouthwash]. He said, "No, no, Colonel, go ahead and taste it." "Oh, really?" I opened it up and took a little sip put the lid on and said, "You better go to Alaska." (Laughter) I said, "Now I know why you were always happy and warm in the field." He would clean it out and put vodka in it, and a half of drop of food coloring.

Years later when we were in France, the president of the company that made Micron came to France, because he was a relative to a friend of ours, and we were invited over to have cocktails. I said, "Oh great." So I emptied a Micron bottle, put some vodka in it, put a little bit of coloring in it and took it over. We sat down and met them, he and his wife, and just had great time. And then finally the host said, "What would you like to drink?" And I said, "I don't need anything. I brought my own. I just need a glass." I put this little Micron bottle out, and he looked at me. I said, "I need a glass." I poured it in and when everybody had been served I drank it and he kept looking at me. Before we left I had to tell him what it was. (Laughter) I have used that several times on my friends. What else can I tell you?

MEEKS: What was military life like on your family, as far as the moving and traveling?

PATRICK: Okay, wife first. Very, very difficult until she got used to the fact she's only going to be in a place for two or three years, and then she got geared to it. The hard part was, I would leave and then she would have to move the family. She came to Korea by herself. She came to Taiwan by herself. We had an accompanied tour to Germany; she liked it, eventually. In fact, we were in our house for three years here and she said, "Isn't it time to move?" And she was serious, because we started accumulating stuff. As far as the kids, the first move, when they're young, was always hard. You sit them down and you explain that you are not leaving these friends, that you are going to make new friends here, and then eventually you are going to run into these [friends]. And that is true in many cases. They just sort of rolled with the punches. I think they got a better raising, more rounded, by being shuttled around. The son that finished up in Hawaii, the senior year, is usually critical but he had been moving around before so it didn't bother him a bit. Military kids stay together. Military brats, we call them.

Our two daughters attended Drew High School, south of Paris. Can you believe every other year Drew High School has a reunion? Not just for their classes, but for the other classes. It was only in being for a short while. They will have it in New Orleans, Las Vegas, all around the country. They get together and just have a ball. I keep saying, "When are you going to invite the parents?" Some of them are dead, but a lot of us are still alive. We would get caught up on people through the children. The kids, when they come back from those, are always bringing us information of who died and who remarried. Some families can't stand the move and they break up because of it. Other families love it. I always wanted to be assigned to Alaska, and I think we could have handled it, but the secret to Alaska and the family is that every single person in the family has to like outdoor sports, hunting, fishing, and skiing. If the whole family loves it, man, it's the greatest thing in the world. If one doesn't, you are in trouble. Remember that as

you go on.

PIEHLER: I think we have kept you here long enough for today.

PATRICK: I tell you what. If I am late for the doggone Sevierville Lions Club meeting tonight, I don't care, because I was at the board meeting at 8:00 this morning! (Laughter) Let me ask Nathan a question.

MEEKS: Yes, sir.

PATRICK: Most influential and important president of the United States during the twentieth century?

MEEKS: You know, I have been thinking about that since I got the e-mail, and uh ...

PATRICK: Let me give you a clue. Who made the decision to use the atomic bomb, which saved my life without a doubt?

MEEKS: That would be Truman.

PATRICK: Who started the United Nations?

MEEKS: Truman.

PATRICK: Who did the Berlin Airlift?

MEEKS: Truman. (Laughter)

PATRICK: Who started NATO?

MEEKS: I think you have a ...

PATRICK: Truman. Who did the Marshall Plan? Truman. And the list goes on and on and on. I have nothing but the utmost respect for him, even though he got rid of MacArthur, which was the right thing to do.

PIEHLER: I am curious, did you think so highly of Truman back in the forties, coming from such a Republican family?

PATRICK: Uh, ...

PIEHLER: There were some harsh words said about Truman at the time.

PATRICK: Oh, gosh, yeah. Eisenhower couldn't stand him. He wouldn't go along with protocol for the inauguration. I guess I was too interested in other things. I thought at first Roosevelt was going bonkers. I didn't think some of his programs were so good.

Then I came around. I realized, yeah, he had done some good. Medicare, Truman was the first one to suggest Medicare. In the military you don't really get too involved in politics. It is hard, after you get out, to get involved in it. I think you look mostly at "What impact does it have on the military?"

PIEHLER: One of our advisors on the Center she said, "When I was in the Navy, we really didn't think in political terms." That you really do—in fact, I have a second cousin who is married to a marine corps officer and he—I remember once when they were in the service she said, "Oh, we are lucky if we vote in the presidential elections." Being abroad, particularly if you are abroad during a presidential election, it must look very distant, even with Armed Forces Radio and newspapers. It still must look at a distant phenomenon.

PATRICK: I am ashamed to admit that I never did use an absentee ballot. I always made sure that an absentee ballot or a voting officer was appointed so that those [who wanted to] could. I think that's changed. I think the military now takes a little more interest in it. As it should. Clinton, before he left, signed some bills which are very interesting. One in particular gives the retirees support for pharmacy. Effective 1 April, we can get mail-order generic prescriptions filled for no price, or for no money. And name brand is \$9.00 a whack and they'll send you ninety days' [supply]. Now, I have been buying mine ever since 19[75]. When I became sixty-five, I was under Medicare. That was twelve years ago. Not too many people do that. You haven't been buying yours. You've had medical coverage.

PIEHLER: There is some medicine I have bought.... It is expensive.

PATRICK: That is a big boost for us, and we've always had to have a supplemental insurance policy to back up Champus. Allegedly, 1 October, what is called TriCare, TriCare Senior, will become second pay to Medicare and we won't have to pay premiums, so things are looking up. But it has taken years to get that stuff through. But we are making progress. I have enjoyed every minute of this.

PIEHLER: Oh yeah. We have enjoyed—I think I can speak for myself. I think Nathan has done a very nice job.

PATRICK: Invite me back sometime and I will tell you about the military. (Laughter)

PIEHLER: Also, you should really make sure Nathan comes up, and take him to lunch when he comes up to Celebrate Freedom.

PATRICK: You bet.

-----END OF INTERVIEW-----

Reviewed 12/6/2002 by Greg Kupsky
Edited 1/12/2003 by Kurt Piehler