

# 2021 Spring Veterans Project

Northport Public School in collaboration  
with the Omena Historical Society

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# How Did He Get Involved?

He enlisted when he was 18, and originally wanted to become a chef.

However soon after his enrollment he placed so high on his IQ test, that they immediately made him the head of the technology department.

He was later deployed to Germany, where he was in charge of teaching the Germans and others on base how to use certain things like their computers.



# His Rank

- He reached SP5/E5 also known as Sergeant. At the time, this was the highest rank achievable in his field. He never achieved the lower ranks, but was rather immediately given SP5.
- However in 1985, SP5 and SP6 were discontinued as they were no longer seen as necessary.



# How did his service shape his worldview?

During his enlistment, there were two major events ensuing. One was the Vietnam War, a conflict in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, from 1 November 1955 to the “Fall of Saigon” on April 30, 1975.

The other major event that was going on was the Detroit riots, also known as the “Detroit Rebellion” and the “12th Street Riot.” This was the bloodiest incident in the “Long, hot summer of 1967”.

He was told he might be sent back to the U.S. for the Detroit riots, and was almost deployed in Vietnam but was never needed.

When he thinks back on his enlistment, he says the three words that come to mind, are “Germany, Wartime, and Discipline.”

# Conclusion

I learned about a special rank and how they don't always keep certain ranks and eventually some of them will come to be discontinued. Also, I learned a lot about how my grandfather got into the Army and what he did.

His takeaway from the interview was that he remembered "The need for military during non-peaceful times."