

Veteran Voices Project: 1970s Transcript

James C Day Jr.: I enjoyed my time in the military. But it was also the ending of the Vietnam War - you know, the civil rights movements that were going on at that present time. It was rough to be a Black officer in the U.S. military at that time. It was rough. So, I'm not making, you know, this is not a...I'm asking for a pity party or anything, I'm just telling you how it was for me to be in that situation at that point in time, in that time of history in this country. Being an officer was rough. Being a Black officer was even rougher. Because I learned having rank means nothing if you can't get your men motivated. I was more readily accepted in Germany and with the German soldiers - 'cause we used to do reforger exercises, you know, with the German soldiers. And I was more readily accepted with them than with my own.