

# Veteran Voices Project: 1980s and 1990s

## Transcript

Wilem S. Wong: I joined in 1988 and I went to basic training in May of '89. And I remember it was the fall of the Berlin Wall. And by the time I actually got out of basic training and A.I.T., the Cold War was pretty much over, right. When I first got to basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, right, we were all mixed in from different parts of the country. People from California, midwest - and I didn't see any other Asian faces for a long time. I know there were some people that were making fun of my ethnic background. Since my last name was Wong, right, if I did anything incorrect - "Oh, what's wrong, Wong?" It was basically at the time of Don't Ask Don't Tell, right. I had one of my roommates, he had photos of himself in drag and eventually - by the end of the week he was gone. I said, "Wow."