

## **Transcription: Gayland Daugherty**

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*Today is Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010. My name is Bill O'Hara. I'm the Director of Surveying Division in the General Land Office and done several interviews for the Voices of Veterans interviews, and I'm interviewing Mr. Gayland Daugherty.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Correct.

*This interview is taking place in the Land Office Building on the telephone, at Stephen F. Austin Building, 1700 Congress Avenue in Austin. This interview is being conducted in support of the Texas Veterans Land Board Voices of Veterans Oral History Program. OK, that gets that stuff on record.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** OK.

*All right, so we're gonna just start off with a few general questions and we'll slowly get into information about your time you were in the Air Force, correct?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** That is correct.

*That's great. My dad was in the Air Force, so I grew up on Air Force bases.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Oh, OK.

*And I was in the Air Force myself. I enlisted right after high school and I spent a little bit of time in the Air Force myself, so I'm really excited to hear your story. I feel like we're sort of contemporaries. OK, so we'll start off with some of these types of questions. So when is your birthday, and where were you born?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** OK, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 1938.

*OK, and where were you born, sir?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** OK, I was born in Torrence County, New Mexico, about 25 miles from the closest town of Mountainair.

*What part of the state is that in?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** That is just about as dead center in New Mexico as you can get. It's about 80 miles south of Albuquerque.

*OK, and is it anywhere near Truth or Consequences?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** It would be quite a bit west of Truth or Consequences because basically if you look at Santa Fe and Albuquerque, we would be pretty much due south of there.

*OK, and when I was in the Air Force I was stationed at Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Oh OK.

*So I know New Mexico a little bit, but I never went over to, I went to Albuquerque a lot, but I never went to your –*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Well, Mountainair was a very small town. When we were there it was pretty much the pinto bean capital of the world, but shortly after we left, they ran into such severe droughts that they pretty well had to stop the growing of pintos.

*I'll be darned. OK, and so what are your parent's names?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** My dad was Jule Roosevelt Daugherty. My mother was Olive S.L. Smith Daugherty.

*And where were they born?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** My dad was actually born in Dallas County, Texas and my mother was born in northwestern Arkansas, but both of their parents ended up in the 19-teens, around 1916-17, something of the sort, going to central New Mexico and homesteading there.

*Interesting, OK. And so you joined the Air Force, and when did you join the Air Force?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** OK, well I had gone through the Air Force ROTC program at Texas Tech from '56 to '60, and went on active duty in July of 1960.

*OK, and what made you want to join the Air Force?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Well, for some reason I was always a bit fascinated with the Air Force and in fact toyed around with the idea of trying to get an appointment to the Air Force Academy, but when I found out that I would not be able to be a pilot, I sort of gave up on that, and that was due to less than great vision.

*So having not perfect eyesight kept you from being a pilot?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Right.

*So how old were you when you joined the Air Force?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** OK, I was 22.

*You were 22, so you finished school and then joined the Air Force.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** That is correct, yes.

*Did you go to officer training school?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** No, like I say, I had gone through the ROTC program, Reserve Officers Training Corps, and was commissioned at the same time I graduated from Texas Tech.

*OK, I see. Where did you go from there? After you got out of Tech and you went in?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** OK, my first assignment, and I was with the Air Force Auditor General, my first assignment was with the resident auditor's office in the Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, which is Albuquerque area.

*So that was kind of like going home.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Just about was, although we had actually left New Mexico shortly before I was 7 years old. I mostly grew up down around Lampasas, Texas.

*I see, and that's where you're at now then, you live in Cherokee, is that right?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** I live in Comanche.

*Comanche, OK. Where is Comanche?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** OK, if you're familiar with Brownwood and Stephenville, we're just about halfway between.

*And that is, what county is that, I want to say Erath -*

**Gayland Daugherty:** No, it's in Comanche County. We adjoin Erath.

*I see, OK. So back to the Air Force career. I get sidetracked real easily sometimes. So you went to Kirtland.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Right, and like I say, I was with the Air Force Auditor General's Office and was mostly doing audits of base type activities, supply, the accounting and finance, just any of the activities there at the base, trying to see the accounting was proper and the money being accounted for and so forth.

*And that was 1960?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** 1960, actually from July '60 to January of '62 I was at Kirtland Air Force Base. I had, I married in July of '61, and within about three months after that, I received orders to go to Goose Bay Labrador, unaccompanied, and just found out that my wife was pregnant and really hating to spend an unaccompanied tour up there, I asked them if there was any options on it. I had had a three-year commitment actually. I would have been eligible to be out of the Air Force in July of '63, but they said if I would sign an indefinite agreement to where I would have enough time left to be accompanied by my wife, they thought they could get the assignment changed, so I signed the agreement and within a few weeks after that, I received my orders to go to Tachakawa Air Base in Japan.

*OK, and your wife got to go with you.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** She got to go with me. In fact my older son was born in Tokyo.

*And how long were you there?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** I was in, actually I was assigned there for three years, from January of '62 through January of '65. So we were responsible for auditing in the entire Far East, so I spent

probably as much time outside of Japan as I did in Japan, you know, going in, and now mostly they had me auditing defense contractors while I was stationed at Tachakawa Air Base and I had a lot of trips into like Korea, Guam, and the Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand.

*And what were you auditing?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Primarily defense contractors.

*And these were defense contractors doing work for the US Air Force.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** For the US Air Force, that is correct. Well, Vietnam was primarily Air Vietnam that I audited. They did a lot of overhaul work for the Air Force. In Thailand, it was Thai Airways, and then Manila, Philippine Airlines.

*And so how did you get around from one place to the next? Did you just Air Force planes - ?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Yes, they were primarily charter aircraft that the United States had contracted with on it, and flew regular routes to nearly all of the Far East destinations out of Tokyo.

*OK, and so you were in Japan for a few years?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Right, I was there for three years.

*And how was that assignment? It seems like it would've been an interesting one.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** You know, I loved it. I really enjoyed the three years in Japan. I could never understand there were some people would go over there and basically never leave the base where they were stationed at all, but we got out and saw just as much as we possibly could on it. Of course that was true in Japan as well as a lot of the other countries that I was in doing auditing.

*Yeah, and your wife liked it there, too?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** She did. She was very active with things like the Protestant Women of the Chapel and the officer's wives clubs and so forth, and of course we had a part time maid, which cost us about a little over a dollar a day on it. So yes, it was very enjoyable. Particularly when I was going in and doing audits in Vietnam, there was certainly a lot of uncomfortable times then on it, when I first started going into Vietnam. I was doing my work in Saigon and most of the fighting was at that point, because we're talking '62 to '65, it was out a ways from Saigon, in some of the provinces, but the later trips in my time in Japan when I was going to Vietnam, certainly, you know there were a few times when we landed at the airport there with quite a few small artillery bullet holes in the fuselage and so forth, and I know just within a couple of weeks after my last assignment there, the hotel where I usually stayed was pretty well demolished by bombs on it. So things they got uncomfortable, but I never was in the midst of combat on it.

*You were there, your time in Japan was I guess about the time that Vietnam was kind of gearing up.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** It was, when I made my first trip to Vietnam I guess that was about mid-'62. You couldn't tell Saigon a whole lot from any other capital city in Asia, but certainly in the later trips, they were moving in pretty heavily on it. Of course one of the things that was always pretty perturbing to us, some of the people I'm sure that were working with the Army and Air Force there probably they were drawing their paycheck by day and then working with the Viet Cong at night. You just had no way to know who was really the friend and who was not on it.

*What was your rank then?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Well let's see, OK, I was actually promoted to second lieutenant, first lieutenant, on my way to my assignment in Japan, and then coming back from Japan to my next assignment three years later, I was promoted to captain on it. So first lieutenant for my whole stay in the Far East.

*OK, so it goes second lieutenant and then first lieutenant?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Correct.

*And then captain.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Yes.

*I was in the Air Force but I was in the chairman ranks. I wasn't an officer.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Well of course I am the auditor general. We were not heavily military at all. We didn't do a lot of rank recognition because we had a mix of officer, civilian and enlisted on it.

*OK, let's see. So you were in Japan, Vietnam, kind of gearing up, and you're going to Philippines, Vietnam. Where else did you travel to?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Quite a few trips to Thailand, and several trips to Taiwan and Korea would have been the main places. Well, a couple of trips to also to Guam for audits there.

*OK, did you meet anybody famous along the way in your travels? Any celebrities?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Not particularly, now that was certainly one of the nice things in Japan, they brought in a lot of entertainers to the officer's clubs to put on shows and so forth, and certainly enjoyable to oh, meet people like Billy S. Fine and Earth \_\_\_\_, that kind of stuff, but as far as celebrities outside of the entertainment industry, no, not a lot of them. Of course every once in a while I would draw officer of the day duty where at night I had to make sure everything was going smoothly and so forth, and certainly quite often we would have visiting dignitaries come in, but that was about the extent of it I would say.

*So you were in Japan, and anything else you want to talk about your time in Japan and the Far East?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Well, you know I went over there not knowing at all what to expect on it, and so everything was very much a very pleasant surprise to me on it. One thing that really struck me I guess was that you know, we are not talking that many years after the end of World

War II, from about '45 to the early '60s, so really less than 20 years, and I was just always struck how gracious the Japanese were. I'm sure that a lot of them really did not care much for Americans and so forth, but they never did let it show at all on it. Another thing that was impressive to me, of course in the United States, never being exposed to anything other than Christianity, you have the tendency to think that well, since Japan's not a Christian nation, it had to be a bunch of backward heathen people on it, and you know, I've found, made friends with an awfully lot of very devout Shinto Buddhists and so forth, and you just really got to expand your horizons that way by seeing that there are things outside the United States that are very good. Of course, some of the places I traveled to I know in the Philippines, I was always struck by, well there was one weekend we had the opportunity to tour the presidential palace in Manila, and of course everything was just as opulent as it could be there, and you walk outside and less than a half a block away from the presidential palace you literally had people living in cardboard boxes or a piece of tin nailed between two trees to make a roof for them to sleep under, and the contrast was just incredible on it. I think probably certainly Bangkok was one of my favorite places when I was in Thailand because they have these wonderful Buddhist temples and so forth, and it was really a photographer's paradise.

*My dad was in the Air Force, he was a boom operator on a KC-135, and he spent I don't know how many trips he made over to Vietnam. It was actually to Thailand is where they went, they operated out of Thailand, and they absolutely loved it over there. He went to Japan, he went to Thailand, he went to the Philippines, and he loved it, just absolutely loved it over there. He'd always come home talking about how wonderful the people were and the beauty of the place.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Well of course it was, the three years I was there was just chock full of new experiences, people, and of course things could get pretty interesting at times whenever we would do our semi-annual audit in Thailand, we always had to go up right against the Laotian border to one of our outposts up there, a little base called Oodorn, and there was no regular commercial passage to get up there. So we always would have to hop a ride with the Australian Air Force flying their converted World War II Bristol bombers. You know, that was another great experience, just getting to know those airmen from Australia. Of course I don't know, I'd been in Japan for a couple of years I guess, and one sort of interesting story I suppose is that, now normally when I would go to Manila and Saigon and Bangkok, I would leave Japan and I would spend two or three weeks in each of those locations before I ever got back to Japan, so I literally might be gone two months at a time without setting foot back in Japan. I had gone into the Air Force as a reserve officer, commissioned as a reserve officer out of ROTC, and after I'd been in Japan for a couple of years I guess, there was a telegram came into our office in Tokyo offering me a regular commission. But I was off, I believe, yeah, I was in Saigon at the time, and so my office forwarded that offer to me for the regular commission, and so I had to give them a yes or no immediately, and I wired back that yes, I would accept the regular commission. Well our boss called up my wife and said hey, I just heard from your husband this morning, and I think he must have contacted jungle fever or something. She said what on earth are you talking about? He said well, he's accepted a regular commission.

*And without talking to your wife?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Yeah.

*You were in a little hot water, weren't you? So what did that mean to become a regular commissioned officer. Did that mean you were basically signing on for some more?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Well yeah, it was just an open-ended as to how long I would stay in, and certainly it was an advantage if you were going to make a career out of it, and I had still not actually decided at that point for sure whether I would try to make a career out of it or would get out. But then after my three years in Japan, I realized that if I were going to leave the Air Force, certainly leaving it while I was still stationed in Japan was not very smart because no way to get back and do interviews and so forth in the civilian economy. So I did take an assignment back in the States that I knew I would have to stay with it for, there was requirements once you do a permanent change of station, you must remain in the Air Force for at least a year after that. So my assignment back in the States was at Patrick Air Force Base in Florida, Coco Beach just about, you know, of the Cape Kennedy launch center. So I came back there in January of '65 and I was named the Assistant President Auditor for Internal Audits, and that would be like base type activities but that also did both a lot of internal audits and defense contractor audits. Somehow while I was responsible for internal audits, I spent most of my year there either writing defense contract audit reports or working on a special assignment where they put me in charge of an activity we were trying to determine whether the Air Force was receiving proper reimbursement from NASA, in support of NASA activities on it, and so literally I spent a good part of the year that I was there commuting between Patrick Air Force Base and Andrews Air Force Base in the Washington DC area. There again, not a whole lot of, well dignitaries met while doing my work, but certainly involved a lot of the big brass on it, so that could be certainly intimidating at the times with the captain working with almost nobody lower than a full colonel.

*And you were 27 years old or so?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Yeah, I would've been about 26 or 27 at the time.

*OK, young captain out of Texas Tech.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Right.

*Telling them how things are gonna get done. So how did you like Florida?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Quite frankly, I guess that was a very big disappointment to me. I didn't care much for Florida at all, and a part of it was probably the location as much as anything because really the only reason that Patrick Air Force Base was established was pretty much in support of NASA, and the launch center and so forth there, and so there really was not just a whole lot to do there. Most of the land was nothing but the scrub palm meadows, and we used to joke about it that about your only choice for entertainment there were to walk around on the beach or sit in the officer's club and drink beers after work. Literally to do anything cultural at all you had to drive to Orlando which was about 80 miles away. I think another thing that certainly left a bad taste in my mouth on Florida was the head of that audit office at Patrick Air Force Base was a lieutenant colonel felt that everybody owed him I think on it, and the lower your rank, the more it flows downhill. Probably for me one of the, well what sort of broke the camel's back on it was that I had to make a trip with him to several of our locations in the Bahamas to do some audit work. When we were getting ready to go on that trip, he pulled out his immunization records and so forth and realized that he needed to have some shots before he went on the trip. He called his first sergeant and required his first sergeant to forge immunization records because he just didn't want to have the shots. So that kind of thing. He never personally gave me a hard time or anything, but being how he treated people that were working for him, that's probably more than anything tipped the scales on me deciding well, I have a couple of kids now and it's probably time that I establish some roots somewhere, and of

course in retrospect I felt that that was not all that intelligent of a decision because I have seen that while the children are moved around a lot and so forth, it makes them very, very resilient, they can make decisions on their own and so forth, probably much better education than you get located in one place the whole time they're growing up.

*I'm wondering, what command were you in?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** It is an independent agency, the Air Force Auditor General. All of the officers report to I believe at the time it was a brigadier general. Now certainly you know the bases where we were established had their own homesman structure and so forth, those Kirtland Air Force Base and Patrick Air Force Base were I believe at the time I went in, they were called ARDC's, the Air Force Research and Development Command, and at some time while I was in the Air Force, they changed the name to Air Force Systems Command. But it was certainly all research and development activities while Hachikawa Air Base in Japan was primarily in Air Force logistics.

*OK, so but the Auditor General, it's a separate entity.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** It isn't separate, it was sort of the, oh, comparable to let's say the staff judge advocate and the Chaplain Corps. We were always considered tenants on whatever base we were assigned to.

*OK, so did you decide then to finish up your time in the Air Force and go back to civilian life?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Yes I did about six months into that year in Florida I decided to go ahead and establish a separation date as soon as I had finished the mandatory one year there. I started lining up interviews and so forth at that point, looking towards getting back to Texas.

*It's always a great place to come home to. And so when you got out of the Air Force you moved to what part of Texas?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** OK, well I spent my first couple of years after I got out of the Air Force, spent down at Dow Chemical in Freeport as a product cost accountant there. But then I took a position with TrayCorps in Austin. They were a defense contractor of course, they were a few years going out, bought out by British Engineering. But I spent about 10 years with them. They had just won their first very large contract and I really did not have government accounting expertise but also I was hired as the Director of Government Accounting, to come in and set up all the required systems and so forth. So I did 10 years in the defense industry with TrayCorps and then the retired president of TrayCorps just did not like being retired, so he ended up establishing a subsidiary with an energy company, petroleum reserve evaluation company and so forth down in Houston and we were doing research and development contracts with the Department of Energy. So I spent about 11 years with the \_\_\_\_ company in both Houston and the Dallas area, Department of Energy research and development contracts and all, when the energy industry totally cratered. Oh I guess that would've been the late 80s, say about '88. So I ended up going with Aetna Healthcare Plans in setting up an accounting and contract administration activity that was servicing CHAMPA, and that's the healthcare program for military retirees and dependents of active duty. So my last 12 or 13 years were all involved in managing healthcare activities. Then we got out of the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex just as quickly as we could and was able to retire. You go where you have to go but it doesn't mean

you have to live there forever. So since we were raised on ranches, we were ready to go back to the country.

*Yeah, and now you live in Comanche. Do you live in town, or -?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** We're actually 12 miles out of Comanche. We have the best of all worlds. We just have a 2-acre plot with a house and we're surrounded by ranches and farmland, so we got all the benefits of cattle and so forth without having to worry with it. The center of our lives is also our two cats.

*That's great. How many kids did you have?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Well I have three, yeah, two sons and a daughter, and now my wife and I have been married for just about 25 years now. We both had families when we married and she has four children. So between the two of us we have a total of seven.

*All right, and what's her name?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Her name is Royce \_\_\_\_\_. As you can imagine, everybody mistakes that for a man.

*Royce? OK. I think I've heard that name as a woman's name before.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Well, I've known two or three.

*OK, well let me see, I've got a couple of other questions to come back to your time in the service. Do you recall any humorous incidents while you were serving? Something funny happen along the way that's just a memory you never forget? Nobody thinks of auditors as having any real fun.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Well, surprisingly enough, we did have our fun times and forth. One of those things when we just got to Japan and I was just not aware of much involving Orientals and so forth, and one of the big things in the Far East is the Chinese zodiac calendar. We happened to get to Japan and just in time for the start of the Chinese new year, so at the club, first time we went to the club they were having a celebration of the Year of the Tiger. So we spent in the start of the Chinese new year to the tune of Oh White Tiger. Then a couple of years later when it was the Year of the Rabbit, everybody was doing the bunny hop on it. But yeah, one of the more humorous things I think, I had mentioned the lieutenant colonel that left a whole lot to be desired, well he was, oh he had had about 22 years in the service I guess and in the middle of the summer, orders come in for him to be transferred to I believe it was Tilmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska. Well he said you know, I'm not going to go there. And he told me what I'm going to do, I will put in my retirement papers. After they've been in for a couple of months of processing, I will call the Pentagon and just inquire as to how my retirement papers are coming along and so forth, and I will ask them well incidentally, what have you done about the opening in Alaska? And so he calls up the Pentagon, and well yeah, your retirement application is up in order and it's in process, so I don't see any problems on you getting out. So then they asked about the Alaska job and they tell him who they have gotten to fill that position, and so he tells him, you know, I have been thinking about it and I might may have been hasty in putting in my retirement papers. I think I may want to stay in for another two or three years. So they said well OK, colonel, we can certainly do that. We can extend the retirement processing and by the way,

would you prefer to be stationed in Oson, Korea, or Foon Sun, Korea. He says I think you better just go ahead and process my retirement papers.

*So he didn't want to go there, either.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** With my feelings toward him, I sort of felt like he got his just deserves out of that.

*You know what they say, what goes around comes around.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** That's right.

*OK, and so what is your most memorable experience from your time in the military service?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Well I think I would have to say my three years in the Far East. I mean if I'd have tried to get to all of the places, see all the things that I saw during that three years, it would have cost a half a million dollars to do that as a civilian. So that was just a very wonderful thing on it, and certainly some of the people that I met while I was in the Air Force. Now I've lost touch with a lot of them, but there are still a few that I talk to them every once in a while, and just hashing over old memories and so forth and do you remember when type things, and I would have to say that despite the year in Florida that was not that exciting and so forth, the Air Force was a wonderful experience to me. Quite frankly after I got out, I was still in the Reserves so I would have to spend a couple of weeks each summer on active duty training, but quite frankly I had made up my mind that if for any reason they called me back on active duty, I would just go ahead and stay in and make a career out of it. So I was a little disappointed a couple of times when I would get some sort of letter. Generally those letters would be requesting information on when would be my best time to take a few weeks of active duty, and so forth. But I just was really sort of secretly hoping one of them was going to be a letter calling me back to active duty.

*By then, Vietnam was really gearing up and going pretty strong about then. Then a few years after you got out –*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Yes it was, and of course, while I was certainly not in what you would consider a high-risk job in Vietnam, I had some friends – I know one of the men I knew very well there in Japan was in the postal department and so forth, and you think well boy, you talk about low-risk job, but they sent him over to Vietnam on temporary duty to establish a \_\_\_ post office over there. He never came back. And so certainly it had its, you realized it was always a risk, but I've never been quite sure whether the risk was a whole lot greater than getting in your car and getting out on the highway.

*That's true, especially over there in the metroplex area.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Right.

*What was the toughest part of your experience? I guess you're going to tell me Florida, but -*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Well, from a standpoint of doing my job, I mean there were some real challenges there. For example, whenever I would go into Bangkok to audit Thai Airways at their repair and overhaul place there, all of their records were in the Sanskrit language and to make it

even worse, they did not use Arabic numerals. They were Sanskrit numerals on it. So you would literally have to learn what each number looked like, zero through 9 on it, which was a challenge in itself. First thing I would have to do, I would walk into the president's office and ask for a translator to work with me the next three weeks, and I've often told people you know, that I would pull a sample of invoices, audit, and yeah, I could pretty well tell that it was 800 of something, but that translator, it could have been 800 bottles of Jack Daniels and she could tell me that it was 800 wing strut assemblies and I had no way of knowing different. Then one time we got into probably one of the toughest audits I ever worked on was an audit of a terminated contract plane in the Philippines that was one of those situations basically where we had hired a contractor to be mercenary for us I guess is the best way to say it, and that audit involved about four or five different countries and involved each one of them had their own monetary system and so forth, so you talk about a challenge of trying to convert everything to U.S. equivalents on it and you're working with Laotian, Cambodian, Vietnamese monetary systems and Philippines, so forth, it was tough. The president of that company, he was withholding a lot of records from us. The only way we could get records was we would take him out to lunch after he had had three or four double scotch and waters, he'd come back and tell his people, give them anything they need to see. Well we would frantically work for a couple of hours until he sobered up enough to realize what he had done and so he would pull the records. So yeah, just the logistics was probably the toughest part of it.

*That's a pretty interesting story. You don't ever think about that, most of us don't think about that concept going on in the military, what the auditors are doing, I think I never do, so it was really interesting to hear some of these stories. Did you ever observe, or what are some of the bravest acts that you observed while you were in the service, and did you ever see any acts of cowardice that you recall?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** You know, from a standpoint of physical cowardice, no, I cannot say that I ever saw any of that. I'd run into situations every once in a while where people rather than doing the right thing would do nothing at all on it. They would know things were being done that should not be done and they did nothing to try to stop it. That was always discouraging to have it brought that close to you, but people don't always act with integrity. But as far as physical cowardice, no, I don't believe I ever saw any of that. Certainly and I'm not sure I recall real specific any of these things, but some of the acts of bravery would involve some of the locals in Vietnam that you knew by doing the right thing they were certainly putting their lives at risk. Not actually being out in the field where combat was going on, I really did not see much of that although certainly one thing that stood out to me, I had mentioned early in this interview, the last couple of times we flew into the airport there at Saigon, we had some bullet holes in the fuselage, and I was just amazed at some of the pilots because they got to the point where what they were doing, they stayed as high as they could until they got right to the edge of the landing strip and then it was almost a dive bomb landing. Same way on taking off from the airport. They would literally stand on the brakes and rev those engines up to where it was as close as you could get to vertical takeoff with nonvertical aircraft. So just to me just the expertise that they showed on it and knowing that they were, that was the only way they were protecting us from being shot down.

*That's great. OK, just one more question for our interview anyway. I'm going to follow up in a minute here with some of these other questions just so we can get some data from you. Is there one thing that you would tell the current group of soldiers or airmen, sea men, submarine, sort of what would it be about military?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** OK, I would, I think what I would really tell 'em is that despite anything they might hear to the contrary, every veteran in the United States is behind them 100 percent in their efforts to do what is right, and what brings that on, Bill, is that to me the greatest disappointment I had while I was in the Air Force, of course being over in Japan and Vietnam and so forth, the news was pretty highly managed. We did not know, I didn't know until I physically got back to the United States, all of this draft evasion and civilians not supporting the troops and so forth, and really looking on the people that have been in Vietnam as almost traitors I guess you would say in a way, fighting in a war that a lot of civilians didn't believe in, but we had no idea all of these anti-war marches and so forth were going on in the United States and it was an absolute shock to me when I got back and I just want those young men now to know that not everybody may be behind 'em, but every veteran I know of is fully for 'em.

*That's well said and I agree with you. OK, before we stop is there anything you'd like to add?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Nothing really comes to mind at all. I do think though I certainly appreciate what you're trying to do in the Voices of Veterans program.

*We appreciate your participation. If we don't have veterans like yourself participating, we wouldn't have much of a program. So we appreciate your time, too.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** I know of course my story is not very flashy, so like I say, I was not in the midst of combat and so forth, but to this day I do not watch war movies at all. I've been close enough to it to know what it's all about, but I don't need that.

*Well Mr. Daugherty, on behalf of Commissioner Jerry Patterson and the Texas Veterans Land Board, I'd like to thank you for your service to our country and for spending the time today to tell your story.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Well, I really appreciate it, Bill. I think you're doing a great thing.

*Thank you and it's been a real pleasure to conduct this interview with you.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** I've not gone online anywhere to look at any of these stories and so forth. I assume that a lot of the information is online on it.

*Yes sir, you can go online and I think if you just do like a Google search or Yahoo search, whatever engine you use, just search for Voices of Veterans, or Texas Veterans Land Board Voices of Veterans. I think if you do Voices of Veterans you'll find a link to the web site and there's a number, I looked recently, I think it's about two dozen, three dozen, something like that, audio files that you can listen to. You can download and listen to them, and I think there may be text versions of them, too. Because what happens is James Crabtree whom I think you've talked to, James is running this program and he kind of goes through and cleans up the audio version. We're recording this on a little digital recorder right now and he'll go through and just clean up any sounds, he just does some minor editing of it. Then we get them transcribed into a Word document, so then you can read 'em as well.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** OK, that sounds great.

*And he's going to provide you with at least one, but probably more if you want more, copy of the audio file on a CD, and he'll probably send you a copy of the one that's transcribed. He'll send you a copy of that as well.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** That sounds great.

*So that leads me to the next thing. There's a data sheet we need to fill out and we can do it now or James can call you back. But we might as well do it, just some important information. So the unit you served in was the Air Force Auditor General.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Correct.

*So your specialty is auditor.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Right, in fact my degree was in accounting.

*OK, so is that a BA?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** BBA.

*BBA in accounting, Texas Tech. There's some red rider's around here who will be happy to know that a Tech grad got interviewed. OK, and class of 1959 or '60?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** '60. Yeah, in fact, Bill, the way this works, they would let you know as early as they could which, they had to call you to active duty within a year after you were commissioned, and I thought well, if it's going to be close to a year, I'll just go ahead and start graduate school. Well I graduated on May the 30<sup>th</sup> I believe it was, and my active duty date was July the 11<sup>th</sup>.

*You didn't have much time, did you?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Not much.

*Did you get married during that time?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** I got married, I'd been in the service for just over a year.

*OK, you were already up at Kirkland when you got married. So that was ROTC?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Right.

*And your dates of service were 1960 through 1968?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** '66.

*'66, OK. And last thing is medals or awards?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** OK, actually I believe the only awards were let's see, I received an Air Force Outstanding Unit award, and I received the Good Conduct medal, and it seems like there was one other but I don't remember, but we had a lot of people that were upset in the Auditor

General unit in Japan because they felt that I should have had a Vietnam \_\_\_\_ medal. Then in all of the information and so forth, and it was rejected because I never had a permanent change of station to Vietnam. Now you were entitled to the medal if you served more than 30 days, but there in Vietnam, but there interpretation was that had to be 30 consecutive days, so I never received that one.

*You were never over there for 30 days consecutively, were you?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Not quite, yeah, I probably spent three months altogether but never 30 days consecutively.

*Do you have any nicknames?*

**Gayland Daugherty:** No, I really don't.

*OK, you go by Gayland, or Mr. Daugherty? All right sir, I think if James Crabtree has any further questions that he needs answered, he'll call you back.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Very good, OK.

*Thank you very much.*

**Gayland Daugherty:** Well it's good to talk to you.

*It's been delightful, OK.*

*[End of recording]*