Vietnamese American Heritage Foundation  
&  
Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: TIFFANY LE  
Interviewer: Roger Le  
Date: November 10, 2010  
Location: Westminster, California  
Sub-Collection: Vietnamese American Heritage Foundation 500 Oral Histories  
Length of Interview: 01:05:18  
Transcriber: Stephanie Wong

**Time Log**

**Track 1**

00:00:39   Tiffany Le talks about her family and how her parents immigrated to America.

00:01:45   She touches upon how both her brother and herself served in the Marines.

00:02:20   She describes Riverside, California as the place she grew up in. She discusses her childhood experiences.

00:03:27   She describes her childhood best friends.

00:04:27   She talks about her first realization of race differentiation and hostility. She recalls how classmates made fun of her for being Asian.

00:07:00   She vividly describes her fondest childhood memory: orange groves.

00:08:00   She explains how she was not involved in afterschool activities during middle school.

00:08:45   She shares memories of her high school activities. She describes a delinquent character as a huge part of her high school life.

00:10:45   Tiffany truthfully explains why and how she joined the military.
She describes her first experiences of boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina. She explains how she was in complete culture shock.

She recalls how she came to the realization of deep appreciation for her mother, for freedom, and for the opportunity of being a Marine.

She recounts her motivations to complete the 3 month boot camp.

She describes how she changed after boot camp.

She describes how she became close with other recruits. She explains how she recently reconnected with other recruits.

She reminisces about the culture shock of being exposed to someplace other than California. She describes how she was fortunate to grow up in a “perfect” home.

She describes her job assignment as a videographer after boot camp.

She recalls the number of Vietnamese-Americans in the marines.

She talks about the perceptions people had of her, and how they were sometimes negative. She describes several experiences.

She describes how she was both scared and excited for weapon training. She recalls the heaviness and hardship of shooting a weapon.

She explains how she went from shooting an M-16 to shooting video.

She describes her experiences after videographer training. Her reserve duty station was in Miramor, CA.

She was incredibly happy to graduate from boot camp, but also very sad because everyone had become her family. She describes how she was taught to be a Marine, to have honor, courage, and commitment.
She describes where she went to school, what major she chose, and how she came to work at Nguoi Viet.

She compares and contrasts her experience going through the military and going to college.

She explains how she was associated more so with older students because that was whom she learned from.

She provides advice to young Vietnamese females who’d like to join the military. She encourages individuals to join the military in order to improve themselves.

She gives advice for the parents of those Vietnamese ladies who want to join the military.

Her brother played an important role in her decisions, and provided constant guidance. She hopes to be a positive mentor for someone someday.

She recalls how she dreamt of Vietnamese food every night and how she wished she could at least have had soy sauce to help her get by.

She is very happy as a journalist at Nguoi Viet, and hopes to be a media and marketing consultant with a focus on NGOs (based in Vietnam/helping Vietnamese communities) in the near future.