

**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.

- 00:15:05 She describes her first experiences of boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina. She explains how she was in complete culture shock.
- 00:20:55 She recalls how she came to the realization of deep appreciation for her mother, for freedom, and for the opportunity of being a Marine.
- 00:24:37 She recounts her motivations to complete the 3 month boot camp.

Track 2

- 00:01:09 She describes how she changed after boot camp.
- 00:03:19 She describes how she became close with other recruits. She explains how she recently reconnected with other recruits.
- 00:04:17 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.
- 00:06:50 She describes her job assignment as a videographer after boot camp.
- 00:08:00 She recalls the number of Vietnamese-Americans in the marines.
- 00: 08:35 She talks about the perceptions people had of her, and how they were sometimes negative. She describes several experiences.
- 00: 17:27 She describes how she was both scared and excited for weapon training. She recalls the heaviness and hardship of shooting a weapon.
- 00: 20:28 She explains how she went from shooting an M-16 to shooting video.
- 00: 24:08 She describes her experiences after videographer training. Her reserve duty station was in Miramor, CA.
- 00: 22:56 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.

Track 3

- 00:00:01 She describes where she went to school, what major she chose, and how she came to work at Nguoi Viet.
- 00: 01:37 She compares and contrasts her experience going through the military and going to college.
- 00: 02:50 She explains how she was associated more so with older students because that was whom she learned from.
- 00:04:40 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.
- 00: 07:00 She gives advice for the parents of those Vietnamese ladies who want to join the military.
- 00: 08:57 Her brother played an important role in her decisions, and provided constant guidance. She hopes to be a positive mentor for someone someday.
- 00: 10:25 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.
- 00:12:00 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.