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05/01/11
History of Vietnam
Escobar
Online Class

Assignment #2

There are some very impressive human traits that come across in these personal accounts and I must admit I found it difficult to choose a theme that connected so many different stories. I think I will choose "duty" amongst the three stories I chose to write about because this basis alone sets the tone for so much that can be done in war. An individual's sense of duty can be paramount to one whether the stakes are low or high. When one feels they have nothing left, it is often times duty that is the single driving force in pushing them to continue. The three stories I have chosen captivated me and I think are all linked. As a member of the Army National Guard we learn and live by the 7 corps Army values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless sacrifice, honor, integrity, and personal courage. Duty is a great basis for any of the others to come together. It is said that to have 6 of these traits, means you have honor.

Dennis Deal goes in to great detail about his struggles and combat experience in Vietnam. (Appy 130) He was considered an elite in that he was a ranger and graduated airborne school. (Though I think any typical grunt could have been in his place and done what he did.) His telling of events is quite unique and if you have seen the movie We Were Soldiers, you would see how incredible this engagement was. He talks of many different situations but the part that stood out in my mind the most was where he finally makes it to the creek bed and they prepare for another assault. He says "My platoon was on the right flank and I was the right man. Nobody was to my right-I was alone." (Appy 132) I almost thought this should be in capital letters because of the incredible realization that must be to a soldier especially given his account that they just got blown to hell not more than a few minutes prior. This feeling of being alone in such a situation is everything that fear is. Sense of duty in a soldier can help a soldier do anything. (Accomplish any task and overcome any fear.) It is something that is drilled into ones mind from the moment they enter the service. For good reason, to David Smith is a very dedicated doctor who fully believed in going to Vietnam and believed what Johnson was saying about it. I think, by his telling of events he realized what the president said had little to do with what he was dealing with. As a triage officer he had the difficult task of separating those with the worst or simplest injuries.

ANK

Theme: Duty

not a sentence NS

and Dennis did...?

NS

President

unclear

past tense

yes