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Assignment One

Part One: Bernard Trainor

The personal account from Part One that stood out to me most was that of Bernard Trainor, the 70 year-old retired lieutenant governor from the United States Marine Corps. Initially, before even getting to the story, I was intrigued by the quote "It turned out the Mayor of Danang was a double agent" because of a film I watched in Intercultural Communications, Daughter from Danang. As I got into his story though, I found myself drawing many parallels to our current "war on terror". As he made comparisons to the Revolutionaries fighting against Britain for independence, I was able to see the similarities in Iraq and Afghanistan. The optimism towards the war that is prevalent in the beginning ^{an} begins to fade as time ^{goes} drags on, casualties accumulate and no discernable benefits are found. The lack of drive and personal connection of British troops to the fight, as they bide their time until being pulled out; the same can be said of Americans, both in Vietnam and the Middle East. Kennedy's philosophy of the U.S. bearing any burden and paying the price for liberty, has an eerily familiar tone to Bush's commitment against terrorists. I found Trainor to be a reliable, trustworthy and believable speaker. Not only was he well-educated, he was in a position of power. Though some may argue that his authority would be a reason to doubt his reliability, his accounts were not only objective, but also constructively critical. He was not blindly in support or opposition to the events of the war. He was able to take a step back and see what tactics were beneficial, and which were hindering the objective. In addition to his education and experience as a military analyst, I found that his story had merit. From my own personal experience with Vietnam Veterans and what I have read or seen, his sentiment seems to be shared. Although quite a bit of time has passed, thirty two years to be precise, he seems to recall events at though they happened only yesterday. The fact that he was there, first hand, gives him a sense of credibility, as does his post military career as an analyst and military strategist. Most strikingly, though, his account of Father Joe Curran, the Jesuit professor from Holy Cross, questioning his answers and requiring