

BC: This is Brian Carlson, it's March 26, 2011 and I'm with Major General William F. Burns. Also, previously he was interviewed and that interview is deposited in the La Salle Archives. Do I have your permission to record, General Burns?

WB: Yes.

BC: I would like to first start out with in 1950 ROTC¹ program, when you were a freshman at La Salle², and the ROTC program also arrived in 1950 at La Salle. What sparked you interest in the ROTC program?

WFB: Well first of all, I was more interest in the Navy than the Army. 1949, I went to La Salle College high school and in 1949 I took the Navy scholarship exam. Navy was the only service who had a ROTC scholarship at the time, and I got the scholarship, but I couldn't pass the physical. In 1949, of course, we didn't believe we were ever going have another war. The services were all cut back the services were taking in relatively few officers so they raised the physical standards quiet a bit. I was born with a double thumb, one was taking off and they took the wrong one off so I had a bone deformity which disqualified me from the Navy at the time. I was still sort of interested in, not so much in the military service as a career but at the time the draft was on, and generally you were drafted after college, if you went to college, and you served two years and that seemed to me it would be much better to graduate to from college and serve two years as an officer rather than as an enlisted man, so that was my motivation, not a very strong one.

After four of us went over right before we graduated from high school and signed up for ROTC. As you said, the unit had just been established, an officer from the Valley Forge military academy³, was there temporally, and Sergeant Major Baldwin who was there permanently was the one who interviewed us and took our names and so forth. And, the enrollment progress was fairly simple at the time but what was interesting of course was that about two and half, three weeks after we graduated signed up and graduated from high school the Korean War⁴ started. So, by the time we took our Army ROTC

¹ The Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) was born when President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Defense Act of 1916. Since its inception, Army ROTC has provided leadership and military training at schools and universities across the country and has commissioned more than a half million Officers. It is the largest commissioning source in the American military.
<http://www.goarmy.com/rotc/legacy-and-value.html>

² In 1863, La Salle University was established through the legacy of St. John Baptist de La Salle and the Christian Brothers teaching order, which De La Salle founded 300 years ago. <http://www.lasalle.edu/univcomm/glance.php>

³ Valley Forge Military Academy was founded in 1928 by Lieutenant General Milton G. Baker. General Baker modeled many of the school's drills, customs, and ceremonies after those of Sand Hurst, Great Britain's West Point. The full dress uniforms were modeled on those of the British Army, while others were West Point and British hybrids. The Academy maintains its loyalty to these traditions today.
<http://www.vfmac.edu/About/History.aspx>

⁴ Korean War (1950- 1953)- Throughout the summer of 1950, the U.S. and the other involved United Nations' states scrambled to contain North Korea's fast-moving army, assemble the forces necessary to

physicals as long as you didn't die during the physical examination you passed. By December of that year, either you were in ROTC, you were physically disqualified, or you were drafted out of college because the Korean War built up very quickly. So, I spent the Korean War in college because of ROTC. In the summer of '52, I was asked by the professor of Military Science, Colonel Unger, to if I would be interested in going into the advanced course. I did, and ended up getting a regular commission out of the advanced course of '54. At that time, you had an eight year obligation, if you served two years on active duty as a reservist, you still had six years of active reserve time. If you served three years as a regular your service, service obligation was satisfied. So, it seemed to me and my future wife that it would be much simpler just to serve three years and that was it. At the end of my three years though, I was the battery commander on my way to Germany and one thing led to another and 34 years later I retired.

BC: Did you ask you parent on their advance on joining the military, and what were their thoughts on joining the ROTC at La Salle?

WFB: At the time, they were supportive. I found out later on when talking to other relatives, that they were very concerned and not too sure that basically not to sure I would make it in the military. But, certainly sure, I was not going to stay. But, generally they were supportive of my going on active duty and taking a regular commission.

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BC: Do you remember how La Salle received the establishment of the program?

WFB: Well, La Salle wanted it. It was a way of attracting students of course. In 1950 the Army expanded the ROTC program by about 25 percent. What was interesting about the expansion is that I think 42 of the 50 colleges that got ROTC in 1950 were catholic college and universities. So, it was a general move on that it was a good thing to do and so forth. These decisions were all made before the Korean War broke out. So Korean war did not have a real affect on it. As I said, we were sort of looking forward to a long period of peace in 1949, 1950 so there was no there was no war scare or anything that brought ROTC to the campus. The administration of the college at the time, was extremely supportive, in fact shortly after it was established, right after my time, they made ROTC compulsive of the first two years, so all freshman and sophomore were automatically in ROTC and that lasted until middle towards the end of the Vietnam War. The institution itself was very supportive it couple professors were antiwar or sort of from the ground up so they opposed it but that was about it.

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BC: In 1988, you had an article in the La Salle Magazine and you spoke highly of Father Gischarde.

WFB: Yea, Dr. Gischarde, who later became priest.

defeat it and simultaneously begin to respond to what was seen as a global military challenge from the Communist world. <http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/events/kowar/kowar.htm>

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BC: Can you expand on that? Because you said he was very influence in joining the program.

WFB: Well, he was influential in the sense that I majored in French and he gave me leeway as to what I took and how I took it so forth so I could really major in ROTC with a French minor in a sense, but John Gischarde was very supportive of the institution itself and very supportive of the ROTC program he was favorable disposed to the whole thing which makes it much easier when the head of the department which you are majoring does that.

BC: Do you recall, because now at La Salle a brother is I guess, in a sense is a sponsors the program is a mentor like brother Joseph Willard is now do you remember any brothers being the mentor during your time?

WFB: There were several, the President's brother, who was not a brother, Joe Sprisler was the business manager he was the one who was directly responsible. The Army requires the institution to appoint one individual who is the sort of logistics go between the Army and he was extremely supportive of the program. The President was Brother Paul he was extremely supportive of the program. I knew a number of the brothers, because I had gone to the high school and so forth. The head of the Sociology department was a Cousin so these people were all in one or another very supportive of their ROTC program. At the time, there were no, fortunately we had a very fine Professor of Military Science the entail one we had was there for three years and he graduated from Duquesne in 1940 and had been in the army since and was instrumental in molding the program to what it became. He had very high standards.

BC: Was that Lt. Col. James Unger?

WFB: Yea. He later, became a full Col and retired at Fort Sill in the late 70's because he had just retired when I was there in 1980.

BC: Can you describe your course work with the ROTC program. Because I know now each year it's divided in your first year introductory MSI level the basic land navigation, military courtesies. But, can you describe what course work you went through in your four years?

WFB: Well, it was Field Artillery⁵ unit in those days most ROTC units were tied to a particular branch in the Army and La Salle was field artillery so the first year, as you described is basic and the third and fourth year were devoted primarily to field artillery. So, we learned fire direction, forward observation we could do in the classroom. And of course we went to summer camp where we put this stuff into practice. But, it was not, today's program is more physical conditioning and things like that, unlike the program we had but that was a number of years ago.

⁵ The Army's Field Artillery Branch is responsible for neutralizing or suppressing the enemy by cannon, rocket and missile fire and to help integrate all fire support assets into combined arms operations.
<http://www.goarmy.com/careers-and-jobs/browse-career-and-job-categories/combat/field-artillery-officer.html>

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BC: Can you describe, because now, most of the cadets in the program every morning they would have PT, Physical Trainings, take a PT test push ups, sit ups, running. Did you guys do any physical tests?

WFB: We took a PT test and that was all. Then we had close order drill on Thursdays that was the extent of it.

BC: You had no morning drill or anything?

WFB: No morning, none of that, it was a different kind of program.

BC: Where did you guys do most of your field training exercises?

WFB: We didn't do any. We went to summer camp, but I shouldn't say we didn't do any we had a couple exercises reconnaissance, and occupation of position and things like that. Or we walked from the campus to look for areas where you could put a field artillery battery and things like that. But, we didn't go to Fort Dix⁶ or whatever they do now or Indiantown Gap or anything of that. We did make one trip to Indiantown Gap⁷, but that was more orientation on the Army training program at the time. Sorry, Indiantown Gap was a big training center during the Korean War. We also went to visit military units around Philadelphia. Big cities in those days were surrounded by anti-aircraft batteries and they were in relatively primitive position they were in tents and so forth so we went out to visit a couple of those that was the extent of that. There were no organized program as there is today.

BC: Today La Salle is part of Task Force Dragon which consist of: Drexel, University of Penn, Rowan was that the case when you were going or were you your own company or platoon?

WFB: No, ROTC in those days was organized purely around an institution sometime Penn, Temple, La Salle had Army, Villanova had Navy, Penn had Air Force along with Saint Jose's. The ROTC units were [] on their own when we started in our freshman year we had a strange setup there were no sophomores everybody was a freshman except for about 25 who were veterans who were able to go into the advanced course and these were generally veterans who were anything from freshman to juniors and they finished the course in 52³ those who graduated in 52 commissioned basically went to Korea and those who did not, you know, got their commission when they graduated, which was in either 53 or 54 but I think we had about maybe 150 in the ROTC that first year the first

⁶ Fort. Dix supports and conducts Reserve Component Training, Mobilization/Demobilization operations, and facilitates the well being of Soldiers, their Families. <http://www.dix.army.mil/>

⁷ Fort Indiantown Gap, a National Guard Training Center, is located in Annville, Lebanon County. http://www.dmva.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/ft__indiantown_gap/7269

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year and perhaps 20 were dropped out during that first year. If you did not maintain a B average you were dropped from the program or because of discipline reasons or a number of other things. If you were dropped from the program this fact, and of course you had a one D ROTC deferment your draft board was notified that your deferment was lifted however, if you had finished the first year of ROTC or maybe it was the first semester you were considered to have completed basic training so thirty days later you found yourself in Korea which is tremendous motivator to keep your grades up this is just not the grade in ROTC it was your academic grade across the board, so we lost about 20 to grades but when we finally graduated I think there were about 20 of the advanced course students and vets who were commissioned and I think 23 in our class or 24 something like that eventually got commissions.

BC: Since usually in the program your freshman year you start out as a private and you move up the ranks and Junior and Senior level you start taking the leadership roles: platoon sergeant, platoon leader did you see that as an advantage because there weren't that many upper classman so you could take a more higher leadership role than the average freshman or did they still allow the veterans to take the leadership role and you had to move up the ranks?

WFB: Well, the veterans took the leadership roles to start with. But in our freshman year we didn't get uniforms until the second semester. I mean, the place was organized and so forth. And, we had, let's see, we were organized as a battalion of three batteries and we only had about forty in the battery I think, at the time. The first year, second semester, most of the advanced course people got rank of some sort. I was the first one to make sergeant out of the non-WWII veterans and I made cadet Lieutenant in my second year and then I became cadet Lt Col, battalion commander, my third year when the Veterans were all gone and then Cadet Col. Regimental commander we were organized as a large unit. So, that was the progression normally, you didn't make Cadet officer rank until you were junior and more like senior year. Once you got four years going we were sort of the odd balls of the time.

BC: Did the veterans of WWII did they take you under their wing and guide you since they've already had most of the training and experience and did you learn a lot from them?

WFB: Yea, I think that was, when I started high school in 46 the first veterans were just coming back from the war we had 1,100 students in high school this is on the what is the university campus just about a 100 students in the college, and it was the high school that kept the college going financially throughout the war. That shifted around and by the time we started college the bulk of the veterans had come through or were finishing up who were senior or juniors at the time. The veterans who had come in, in 1950 or 48 some of them were generally people who had been drafted after World War II some of them had WWII service but most of them were junior enlisted during those couple of years they were in the Army. Yea, they served as mentors and role models or whatever, some more than others, but it was, it was a helpful thing to have them there. Now, I don't know, I

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don't know whether that works today, whether the veterans actually join up for ROTC at that time it was very helpful.

BC: Do you still keep in contact with some of your ROTC classmates, because also in the La Salle article, Robert Schafer 54', graduated with you, talk about your experience, do you still keep in contact with most of those?

WFB: Yea, a lot of the people who signed up for ROTC had come out of the high school with me. We still get together as a group a couple times a year. The ROTC before it was disestablished in 93' we had much stronger, much more frequent get together but now on a monthly basis people are dying off but we do stay in touch by email and occasionally get together.

BC: You said you didn't wear your, you guys didn't receive your uniform, until your second semester but after that did you wear it once a week, did you wear it all the time what was the code on that?

WFB: Lets see, we wore it once a week, wore it on Thursdays. We had classes on Tuesday and Thursday we wore the uniform on Thursdays.

BC: Can you describe some of your memorable Cadre? We talked about your Lt. Col but any enlisted NCO's⁸?

WFB: We had several interesting officers. We started off, three officers, no I'm sorry, let me back off for a minute. We started off with Col Under Sergeant Major Baldwin, Bill Baldwin, then they were promised more officers suppose to have two more officers but because of Korea everything was in a turmoil. We had supply sergeant named Clancy who was there for all our four years. We had another sergeant who's name master sergeant who's name escapes me now but he was a transportation corps Non commissioned officer had been an officer in WWII lost an eye in combat, he was reservist and in those days if you stayed in as an enlisted man in those days if you stayed in as an enlisted you were graded as a master sergeant. He came in one day wearing a Col. Suit out ranking our professor of military science. He had just been called up because the Pusan Peninsula perimeter⁹ was being established and he had apparently run ports in Europe and they needed someone to run a port. So, he was on a plane the next day flying to Korea and took command of the port of Pusan which sort of startled us up until then we didn't realize the flexibility of the personal with in military.

We had two other interesting individuals. Young Captain at the time, Napoleon Bonaparte Panel. We didn't believe it either. That was his name, he was a field artery officer had been a Lt in world war II and stayed in the Army and now was a Captain during those five years promotions were very slow. Then we had a Major National Guard Major, from Nebraska Beverly Finckle. And he was a character, he was the second

⁸ NCO is a noncommissioned officer

⁹ The port city of Pusan lay behind the front on the peninsula's southeastern tip. The city of Taegu became a symbol of the American determination to halt the KPA's advance.

www.rhermes.com/Dad/Pusan/PusanPerimeter.htm

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ranking next to professor of military science, he was very well politically connected. I think he had run for governor in the state of Nebraska sometime. He was so well connected that for example, when I was the Cadet regimental commander he called me in one day and he said write a letter to the Vice President and tell him we plan to come to Washington on such a such day. Two or three days, I thought he was kidding, he was not I wrote the letter. I got a very nice letter from Vice President Nixon saying I'll be there he meet us on the Capital steps and took us a personal tour of the Capital. We went to Fort Myer¹⁰, Arlington, we went to quarter master museum and so forth and so on, and it was quite a thing at the time in 1952 or whenever it was. We got a picture taken with Nixon and so forth but little did we know the future history as it evolved but last time I saw him was here in Carlisle in 84 I was deputy commandant at the War college we were going to a black tie dinner and the door bell rang and I went to the door and here was Finckle. He retired Col. He was traveling visiting friends stopped by and spent about an hour with him wouldn't stay the night he said he had to go on. I couldn't take to him to whatever the dinner, I couldn't take him to dinner, but two days later his wife called, have you seen my husband? He had gone down to Washington to see a friends and mentioned he would stop by to us but he hadn't gotten home yet, and what happened to him he was still wondering around seeing friends. He died, oh maybe ten years ago. We also had two other captains who were there temporarily, I'm sorry one Captain was there temporally he had lasted about four months. He was a devout alcoholic and one morning one Tuesday morning we were having battle field first aid class and showing a film which showed fairly gory detail when the film ran out the camera kept running and he had passed out in the back of the room so that was the end of him. He was a lawyer from Richmond who had just been called up. We also had a First Lt. who was Jonny Mauer class of 47 I think or 48 he had been in Germany ordered to Korea by way of the United States, but when he got here he was sent to ROTC duty at La Salle very disappointed. They gave a war and I couldn't come type of thing. What was interesting about him he was he was real martinet he never smiled never he was my boss 70's in Germany when I came out of the Brigade and he was Corp artillery command he was a one star at the time. We saw him probably in 93 when we had our final affair before the ROTC closed he came up for that by that time but by that time I was a two star so I didn't worry too much about him. He was a good guy but he sort of counter point to the other officer who were ROTC graduates National Guard officers, OCS graduates. That was the pan plea of officers we had there. In 53' Unger left I think he went to Korea and Col came in who, cant think of his name right off hand, anyway he was a different type, good man, but different type by that time faces were changes pretty rapidly because of the Korean stuff.

BC: Did you feel that most of your Cadre taught you a lot and you learned a lot just because they were veterans from WWII and they're also coming in out of Korea so there was a war time?

WFB: I think that's very true. Major Crawl was a great believer in teaching the basics we spent a tremendous amount of time much beyond what the curriculum called for on field artillery. We had to learn how to do the mathematical calculation to fire artillery rounds

¹⁰ Fort Myer is a former military post in the Civil War

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from the ground up. We started off with a ruler, pencil and a piece of paper and we had to work the geometry out of it and so on. I think I learned more about field artillery from him than in the next thirty years. He was very demanding, but he also knew his stuff and he had served in combat and he had been a battery commander in WWII. He knows what he was talking about. One of the interesting thing in the Army of course is in my time, that the people with the real experience were people from both WWII and Korea two different kinds of war, but you had a very, very broad background as suppose to people to day who have a narrow anti terrorist , anti insurgent kind of background.

BC: Can you describe some of the lessons the NCO's taught you? Were they more drill?

WFB: NCO's were more administrative than anything else the offers did the teaching. There were some NCOs [] close drill the NCOs took part. They did relative little teaching in those days.

BC: Do you know why the Army designated La Salle as a field as a field artillery school and other schools infantry, why did they?

WFB: Simply because that was because they needed so many infantry so many field artillery so many armor so many quartermaster master. Why La Salle was pick field artillery I don't know its probably for negative reasons than positive in other words if you were setting up if you were setting up an ROTC in an engineering school then it would be a corps of engineer school. Liberal Arts College generally got the combat arms. I don't think it was anything about LaSalle that made us a great field artillery institution.

BC: Were you able to once you commission could you transfer or request transfer to a different branch?

WFB: We had, well what was interesting in that, we had a field artillery unit everybody was headed towards field artillery when it came to commissioning it was what the army needed at the time. Individual, we had one individual, who majored in marketing and he was offered a regular commission but in the quarter master corp. The other people who were offered regular commission were offered in field artillery. One individual who was commission in the Finance Corps in the reserve, because that's what he majored in college a lot of those things they tied in with your major some of them we could never figure why someone was assigned to it. The only reason was that's where the vacancy was.

BC: Toady, in ROTC there are some extra curricular activities such as Color Guard, scabbard and blade were you part of any extra curricular activities with in the program?

WFB: Yea, because I was a Cadet Col. I was not involved in any color guard or ROTC band at the time. The only band the university had. We had the Casian Club which was sort of a honor society which the ROTC which I was in that. We had a drill team sort of started out at our time. So no, there were activities such as that.

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BC: Can briefly describe what your average week would be with the ROTC commitments: class drill and such?

WFB: Well, we had class four, well basic course you had I think it was two hour class on Tuesday two hour class on Thursday and one hour of drill on Thursday. In the advanced course we had three hours of Tuesday three hours on Thursday and I'm sorry, basic course was one hour on those two days the advanced course we had three on Tuesday and three hours on Thursday days and you had the drill. Extracurricular activities added to that. Cadet officers had more duties and more responsibilities. I would say I spent an hour a day over in ROTC in addition to everything. Now, in those days you didn't have the restrictions you have today on the number of credited hours and so forth. My lowest number of credited hours was 21, I think I took 24 or 25 one semester. That included one hour of ROTC. We were pretty busy.

BC: Where were the offices of ROTC. I know today they have moved were they in college hall. They were in Benilde hall which no longer exists it was torn down. When the ROTC started we had our classes generally in Benilde for the first year then they moved under the stands and they housed under one side of the stands ones running along 20th street. To fit ROTC needs the first office was the grounds guy had nothing to do with ROTC, then there were two offices one for the Professors of military science and one for everyone else. Then we had two classrooms then there was a large room in the back used by the band for practice. We had two 105 Howitzers¹¹ in there. That was all, it was very crowded. For the number of Cadets we had at the time it wasn't bad. It really got pretty sorry over there in recent years. Talked to the President about it a couple of times. Now it's moved over to West campus.

BC: Today, in the ROTC usually each summer after the freshman sophomore year they go to summer training events Air Borne, Air Assault I realize you didn't have those but did you participate in those besides the after the junior year did you participate in summer training following your freshman sophomore?

WFB: The ROTC program, well I don't think there were any possibility to go to Ranger school¹² or airborne school or anything like that if you were a ROTC cadet.

BC: And then, could you describe your time I guess they call it ,LDAC now or Warrior Forge when you were going through it when you went to Fort Sill¹³ for you summer training after you Junior year?

¹¹ 105mm towed howitzer is a lightweight towed weapon that provides direct support fires to light, airborne and air assault forces. <http://www.army.mil/factfiles/equipment/indirect/m102.html>

¹² The United States Army. Ranger School is an intense, 61 day, combat leadership course, oriented to small-unit tactics to produce Rangers. It is located at Fort Benning. www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/Ranger_School

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WFB: It was quite different than today. At Fort Sill, Cadets were treated as young gentleman NCOs said sir to you and I was purely Field Artillery and a lot of practical work. We worked six days a week as I remember. But, it was, I think it was more relaxed than it is today or more when I was on ROTC duty in the 60's it was even more relaxed than that. I mean, we had physical training we had, PT, but not over exerting ourselves. It was, much slower pace than you have today. We did have to qualify with a carbine with a pistol so forth and so forth. We did get a chance to fire a howitzer a quite a bit. It was a fairly large summer camp. There were six battalions three or fives 5 three pack 75s. It was six weeks which what I think it is right now. Now just about now everyone goes to about one or two camps. In those days each branch had its own camp. That meant there were 12 or 14 ROTC camps and in those days there was only one camp at the end of junior year now. Now, I think now there's something between sophomore and Junior year as well as Junior and Senior year so.

BC: Do you remember any stories about how I guess you and your fellow Cadets arrived or how you got to Fort Sill?

WFB: Yea, we went by train I left from the BMO station which no longer exists it was a two day train ride down. We were meet by bus in Oklahoma city and taken down to Fort Sill and then came back the same way. It was, one individual had problem with his physical and he went back after we got there, but everyone else stayed everyone else finished. But, nobody had a car and we really didn't have much time to do anything not much activity you know with the little time we had. Intuitions colleges and university were spit up so you may only have one or two from your institution in your battery. So, you didn't see too much of your people. During the one or two day period they invited people from the university down and we did get together for dinner or something like a picture with everybody. So, that was about the size of it.

BC: When you were in Fort Sill were you guys graded on your qualifying PT or anything?

WFB: Yes, first of all, on marksmanship you were graded, you were graded on your performance in field artillery and duties and so forth you were ranked according to you battery. So, one individual got a marksmanship trophy from La Salle. He's dead now. I think two of us can best in our batteries the highest ranking in the batteries but that was about it.

BC: So you were number one in your battery when you left you Fort Sill? Do you remember any other awards you received while you were there?

¹³ Fort Sill is the home of the US Army Field Artillery Center, including the Army Field Artillery School and III Corps Artillery, and the Army's Center for Fires. www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/fort-sill.htm

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WFB: No, because that was the only thing you got and you got a little trophy for it, and outstanding marksmanship award was really only the award they gave in those days.

BC: After you left Fort Sill was that, your ranking, were you compared with everyone else that were probably going to commission into the field artillery branch?

WFB: Before, you were nominated as a distinguished military student and I think there were some sort of evaluation of all those who were nominated. But, I'm not sure it was formal as a numerical ranking. I think it was more as this individual got his by mistake than certain negative thing rather than a positive thing.

BC: What leadership roles did you have when you were in Fort Sill?

WFB: Everybody had battery commander and battery exec. I was a battery exec I think one time. I was Captain of the guard once. You know, numerous other jobs, technical jobs in the battery. Fire direction officer or fire direction center, chief of firing battery of guns and so forth. Its was rotated every day so for six weeks you had different jobs pretty well worked you through your jobs.

BC: Did you have a favorite position?

WFB: Well I liked to be boss.

BC: Going back to some of the anti war professor do you remember any run-ins with them any debate?

WFB: In our day, there was practically no anti war actives on a catholic college campus and the Korean war was not like Vietnam. It was generally supportive by the American populous and in those days to be conscientious objector you had to have strongly held religious beliefs pacifism. Which meant if your were Roman Catholic it was very difficult to be a conscientious objector, and it was more difficult at La Salle because Father Heap who was a Dominican who was the Chaplain at the time was a Naval Academy graduate and he had his diploma hanging on the wall behind him. When you went to try to play conscientious objector with him you didn't get very far so it was a different attitude on college campuses in the 50's than there was at then end of the 60's.

BC: You were described in the La Salle Magazine in 88' as being quiet and on the reserve side when you were going through school. How did ROTC change that and did it help you and shape you and mold you into the leader you became?

WFB: I don't think, I don't think it affected me negatively because I stayed that way. I was not a ranter and a raver or jumping up and downer, and the only times I would lose my temper was when I planned to lose my temper was one occasion as a battalion commander I commanded two battalion as a Brigadier Commander I waited for the opportunity to show my peak and I did when your were mild mannered and you do that

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you get everyone's attention. I came out, out of my first battalion in Fort Irwin I was having problems with the maintenance program because a lot of the battery commanders were not really paying attention to their responsibilities down there. So, waited for about a week and was down there and watch a truck driver back his truck into a trailer and bent the tailgate and about a thousands dollars worth of damage then he drove off. So, I got all the battery commanders together and really read the riot act and we were having dinner at our house for all the battery commanders and the first sergeants that night two of the wives called my wife and asked was the dinner still on? And of course I was all sweetness and light when they arrived and I talked to a couple of them since then. They said, we didn't know how to act, and I said that's exactly what I wanted. I did the same thing when I was a Brigadier Commanders, it works very well. But, you can't be a ranter and raver and expect people to get excited or get concerned because suddenly you ranted and raved. That was my, that was my outlook at the time.

BC: Since your leadership style was much more reserved did you not respect or were you kind of turned away from the people that ranted and raved a lot.

WFB: Yes

BC: Did you remember?

WFB: I didn't like to be ranted and raved at and those who did who were my subordinates I did what I could to educate them.

BC: Do you think this style was taught through the ROTC or was that always you or did they help you?

WFB: I think La Salle did a good job, La Salle did a good job, or ROTC at La Salle did a good job in helping you think of how you wanted to be a leader. You know what leadership really was you know, it's I think that was a very strong point of the ROTC program at the time I was in it. I think leadership is the ability to get ordinary people to do extraordinary thing. Particularly in combat you have to do that because the normal 21st century American the average does not like to go out and kill people. You have to motivate them to do that but not to become mentally killers and that's not, not easy to do, and it, it takes leadership skills to do it.

BC: When you were going through the program did you always read and keep a close eye on the conflict in Korea because you know you were going to commissioning in a few years. Did you always pay attention to it closely?

WFB: I'm sorry, pay attention to?

BC: The conflict in Korea when you were going through Korea

49:30

WFB: Yea, I think it was in the background of course the Korean War ended in summer well the combat ended in summer 53 with the truce. But, yea, because at that time the odds were you were going to Korea because we still had a lot of troops there well what was interesting the way it worked out most of the people who went were those who had reserve commission those who had regular commission didn't go. In field arterially I went to the 82nd Airborne¹⁴ and was medium field artillery battalion and after two years regular field artillery was a two three year service all went back to Fort sill for a years course which again sort of drill gunnery everything else into your head. It was an outstanding course but the Army only ran it for three years because it was too expense 100 regular Army First Lt. of field artery tied up for a year which they couldn't afford. And then the cost itself was pretty high for the government, so it only lasted three years at the end of that course I had three years service, and I was assigned to a field artery battalion in fort sill and was scheduled to leave for Germany in six months. We had a program then where units up to division 16,000 troop's rotated from states to Germany and Germany to the states literally did it overnight. Your family household goods wives and kids and everything else went on a troop ship out of New York with the entire battalion the dependents go over and rotated with the battalion in Germany. Just traded equipment stayed, but the people went. So, it was a great opportunity we were just beginning to get nuclear weapons in field artillery so that was a real challenge and at the end of my three years I there was no question I was going to stay in and go to Germany for three years, and we played each assignment that way suddenly I was in 18-20 years. That's the way it went.

BC: Up until, when you arrived at Germany looking back what do you think the ROTC program taught you and what were you able to bring from that program and carry all the way through your military career?

WFB: By the time I went to Germany, I don't think the ROTC program had that much affect. What the ROTC program does is fit you for or orient you for your first assignment or maybe your second assignment. After that, I think to much water is over the dam in your active military experience to have ROTC affect it that much. I think as I said earlier Major Finckle gunnery instruction was very important for that assignment or even ten years later that was very important but I don't think, I don't think he- In the ROTC program gives a very broad basis I'm not sure the program today does the same thing mainly because your hours of contact per week are so weakened you don't have much of the cadre on campus you don't see them they and the ROTC cadre themselves are changed so frequently because the needs of the two or three wars or whatever we are involved in now makes it less personal than it was for us.

BC: So in 54' you commissioned?

WFB: Yes.

¹⁴ The 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, provides the ability to begin executing a strategic airborne forcible entry into any area of the world.
www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/army/82abn.htm

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BC: You went straight to Fort Bragg¹⁵.

WFB: No, I went back to field artillery school for the basic course and that was almost four month course in the United States.

BC: And then from there you went to Fort Bragg.

WFB: Went to Fort Bragg

BC: Now did you go through Air Bourne? How was that?

WFB: Three times I went through.

BC: The course three times! Why?

WFB: I broke an ankle the first time

BC: What part of the course? There's ground phase, tower phase and jump week.

WFB: Yea, well, I did the first jump and broke my ankle and so I ended up making four no three jumps all totaled but never graduated. Because they said I was too much of a risk after the third time.

BC: Were you disappointed?

WFB: Yea, you go that far you should be

BC: And that was in Benning? Correct?

WFB: Pardon me?

BC: Benning the.....

WFB: No, no no Fort Bragg had jump school at the time.

BC: When did it change?

WFB: Oh, probably in the late fifties they gave up jump school.

55:30

BC: So, did you so you never actually you went to three times and every time something.

¹⁵ One of the largest and busiest military complexes in the world, Fort Bragg hosts America's only airborne corps and airborne division. www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/fort-bragg.htm

55:37

WFB: See I was already assigned to the 82nd but I was assigned to a medium artillery battalion at the time I was assigned on a test basis at the time the army was trying to figure out how they could drop a 155 howitzer from a plane. We demonstrated it definitely you couldn't do that. We tore a bottom out of a C-124 one day and the Air Force said not only no but hell no. At the time pulled that off, so the battalion while it was called 98th airborne field artillery was not airborne but it was in the division. The majority of officers were airborne qualified, couple were glider qualified from World War II they, I was battery exec, well, I started as battery commander because they were really down on officers a battery had no officers in it so I became battery commander for six weeks then I was motor officers then executive officer then I was personal officers. In 55' we were changing the personal system and put me and said change it. Then I became battalion adjunct and my last 8 or nine months there I was battalion adjunct. Then I went back to Fort Sill for that one year course.

BC: During this time what were your wife's thoughts about moving every couple of years, what two three years?

WFB: She was a very good Army wife. Once she started moving, this is our 29 house in 34 years. That does not count thirty moves back and forth to Geneva that were two months here and two months there. She sort of thrived on it the kids thrived on it. It was a major burden because they were constantly uprooting and you never truly unpack because you know something is going to happen and since I came up here as a Brigadier General in 84' to be deputy commandant. I came out on the two start list the week I got here I know we were going to be leaving here in a year. Four months later I got a called to come back to Washington two months later I was back in Geneva negotiating with the Soviets. So, in one year I was in four different places, and you tolerate it but you don't really get used to it but you tolerate it, and you know we've been here 20 years now and it nice to be in one place.

BC: When you were in the 82nd just going through to you remember the first time you had a problem with a soldier? Behavior problem or anything like that did you ever have to?

WFB: In those days you had constant problems. I the first formal problem was with an individual named Anthony Calalini who had stolen a motorcycle and I had been appointed the investigating officer of what should happen to him. It's called a 15-6 regulation investigation because that's the Army regulation number that covers it and my recommendation was that first he's mentally unstable he was not really able to tell right from wrong they decided they were going to court martial any way. He was shot and killed three months later trying to escape the stockade at Fort Bragg. So, that was really the first formal disciplinary problem I had to deal with but you always had little minor things and in the positions I was in 82nd and 92 field I really didn't have I didn't have those kinds of responsibilities that I would deal with individuals with disciplinary reasons. I did when I took over a battery in 36 turret going to Germany, and there was a constant problem in those days because most of our troops came from the draft and the draft was inequitable at the time because in the battery I took over I had 127 men we had

1:01:29

to, I had six individuals with masters degree another 10 with bachelor degrees and 20 who couldn't write their names x on the payroll couldn't read or write. So, you had a different kind of disciplinary problem as you have today. People with masters degrees were always trying to second guess the system not with any malice but simply because, for instance with fire direction everything was done by rope and forms this was before computers and all that and you had to fill out a form a 10-40 you know, fill-in line two three four five then six and all that. So, we can draw a better form than that this is very complex, this is very true but for an individual with barley a high school education they needed the form maters with math was one of the individuals you know it was sort of childish. The individuals who were the 20 who couldn't read or write were a different kind of problem obviously a different intellectual level some of them were very smart but never went beyond the second or third grade and so forth. So, just one of the problems were a little different than they are today. In that military justice system was much more clear cut than it is today. We had a lot of changes and a lot of modifications and today we have much more politically correct and than we had to be in the 50's.

BC: How were you able to lead soldiers with a wide variety of education? Did you find anything helpful?

WFB: Well, I think what you had to do was meet them were they were. You couldn't establish a one suit fits all for everybody. You had to sit down and reason with people who were fairly highly educated give them credit for their education but you also had to make sure they understood where the limits were. You were running the place and that was it. With the people at the other end of the spectrum it was easier you could appeal to loyalty pride and things like that much more than with the highly educated ones. In those days, just about all the officers had to have a college degree. The Army in 57' came up with a program which didn't work, where they took all of your entry scores and all that and put them together and classified all the soldiers into five categories. ABC5 was the highest was the highest, ABC0 was the lowest. The Army decreed in 57 all the ABC0 would be eliminated from the Army as unqualified and unfit we had a Master Sergeant who was chief of detail, which meant, he was responsible for locating battery during the survey and so they had during those days pre-computer and pre-laser and everything so he had to get out and measure the ground, turn angles and so forth. He could do a lot of this in his head. Because he turned out to be ABC0 and the Army was going to get rid of him. He had 27 years service he had grown up with the horse artery and really knew his way around. So we got the Battalion Commander to put in a letter and so forth and hadn't heard anything back and they said he could go over seas and we took him anyway. He ended up staying and retired with thirty years of service. So, the Army was going to this business at the time trying to sort out people and some could have done better than others. They explained to him that this is what the Army says, but we're fighting it was a little difficult. Our first sergeant, who signed himself Woodrow Wilson Hesner democrat because he was had been a platoon sergeant and was sent to 2nd div to Alaska in 1940. He joined the 1st division in the 26 regiment which had a whole cast of characters in WWII, still does. He was very good but he was an infantry man and he had a heart attack and made him come into field artillery which was theoretically easier on him. He detested

1:07:20

being in the field artillery because he was infantry. He would take the troops out 5 in the morning for bayonets drill. And until someone would cut somebody he couldn't stop. He wanted to see blood and of course field artillery used carbine very shot rifles and short bayonets, so it was almost hand to hand combat. He was very good 1st sergeant he was one of the last to use the third person. You know, would the Lieutenant like this kind of stuff, but he was very good with dealing with the troops we had very few disciplinary problems because he generally handled them. Germany at the time, the living conditions weren't good, we had a lot of problem along those lines. We also had as I said nuclear weapons which created real problem because a number of our troops had to have a fairly high clearances which are difficult to get. It was generally the college grades generally got them which is not to good, it was a really drain of the battalion in a sense of providing security. Plus, the computations for firing a nuclear round were extremely complex and we were evaluating all sorts of headquarters at the time and one mistake meant everybody got relieved. So you know, it was very difficult situation.

BC: Do you feel as though that helped you in your career?

WFB: Oh yea, well I mean I got involved in nuclear weapon then and still involved in nuclear weapon, matter of fact, I found out, Wednesday that Ill be going to Moscow end of June to talk to the Russians about what we are going to do with tacking nuclear weapons, so ya, I've been involved in the last fifty years and that was a good basic knowledge because we had to learn from the ground up. In those days these were the first generation tactical nuclear weapons and came in five boxes and an hour to put together and had to put together in the exact right sequence and you had to and the tolerance were to the 10 thousands of a millimeter. You were inspecting your self on how well you put it together. Oh, and by the way if you didn't put it together right you may blow everybody up. So, that was you know, and put me in a good [] when I went to negotiation with the enemy range nuclear forces with the soviets in 81 I really knew nuclear weapons and I although I had no scientific background I had in back on the 50s required us to memorize all of this. So, I can still tell you how to put together B33 weapon which created its own problem I'm still limited where I can go and who I can talk to about some of these things. But anyway, yes that was a tremendous background for the future although at the time no idea what it was going to be.

BC: So you had no formal, I guess, no formal scientific training maybe on the job training they would give you?

WFB: Yea, as I said I majored in French, I took 8 years of Latin two years of Greek. And in high school I had a choice of taking Greek or physics and I took Greek. As I told a group down in the National academy of sciences, not to long ago [] noble prize winners there []. And I said you know what told them I suppose to take to Greek rather than physics since then all science has been Greek to me. I got a little chuckles some frowns little chuckle out of them.

BC: So, you would say that your time in Germany really started your career with nuclear weapons?

1:12:10

WFB: I think really confirmed the fact that I was going to stay in the Army because by the time I got back I made Captain in September of 1960, we took a lot longer in those days to get to be Captain, but then I came back and went to the advanced course and went back to La Salle for ROTC duty. One of the strange things at the time was the Army gets to be despondent. Excuse me.

Phone rings

Audio file 2

WFB: When we left Germany, we had three kids by this time, I think my wife really like the Army life I really like the army life. In 1961 things were relatively quiet. In '59, we had some problems with the Soviets and things got a little nip and tuck and they quieted down the next year. I came back and went to the advanced course in Fort Sill which was a year. And then, the army had its quirks now and then suddenly they decided all regular officers must have reserve component duty. So, they asked do you want a national guard advisor or reservist advisory or ROTC. So, I pick ROTC and ended up being assigned at La Salle. My assignment officer at that time was Lt Col Unger so he was the one who sent me back to La Salle which was great. My youngest brother was in the ROTC at the time my mother had just died my father was alone so it was good to be back there. And, President was a brother who was an old friend and I knew a lot of the brothers there. It was a great assignment. The only problem was, that was 1962, 1965 Korean Vietnamese War was going on. When I went down in 1964 to talk to my assignment officer in the pentagon who was a major at the time I was Captain still and he said oh, you made a mistake by going to ROTC your group had already gone to Vietnam and your behind the power curve. I'm not even sure you'll make the command and staff college. He was very negative about the whole thing. Well I did make the command and staff college after that I went to Vietnam in 1966. But my assignment officer then was major many years later was [] and I was a Colonel and he was a Col and we got to be good friends and he worked for me later on so I mean it was one of those famed situations. He... or... when I one of my ROTC duties it was all my service troop duty and had never been on a high staff or anything never been on an advisors duty so it was probably time for me to do it and it was probably a good time. I really enjoyed and of course ROTC was compulsory we had 1800 students the first two years were compulsory and we had about 250 in the advanced course and another Captain and my self taught the freshman so I taught 450 a week and that was pretty much you know, grinding it out. And we did some innovations but we went through Cuban missile crisis and got to La Salle and Cuban missile crisis was in September and Kennedy assassination and all that it was it was all to high point low point if you will in that assignment. Then in '65 I had orders to command and staff college and in the Army 50 percent go to Command and staff college, if you don't go there, generally you either leave the service or retire as a major. I made major well actually literally to Leavenworth. If you go to Leavenworth then, Lt Co. and Col more or less open up to you. And I put in a year at Leavenworth and all in the class who had not just come back from Vietnam was going to Vietnam so we all knew that. I ended up going to the 1st Division which was a very good assignment. I was operations officer in

5:05

division artillery. I did all the directed all the current operation as far as the field artery was concerned.

BC: What do you think you gained out of that post, position?

WFB: Well, combat experience because I was in a helicopter over the battle generally a couple hours and a day number of fortuitous circumstances I ended up command a battalion for about six months and I only had a about a year in grade at the time. I was the executive officer six weeks not six months and I was executive officer with battalion for about five months so I had fairly wide range of experience in combat, and I had very fine division artillery commander and got along with to the division general command Hue had a reputation of relieving people getting rid of them, he relieved 43 Lt Col commanders and his year in command. There were only 25 commanders in the ranking division he went through pretty fast. We had General Burnie Roberts who was a Brigadier General who later was Chief of Staff of the Army and also Supreme Allied commander in Europe and General Holonsworth who was character out of fable. He, just as one example, he gave an interview with Time Magazine and used some negative terms referring to the North Vietnamese and General Johnson who was Chief of staff who was very religious man and very narrow in his views. So, General Holonsworth got an article 15 and administrable punishment a reprimands using language the Time magazine quoted. Generally, you just retire because you would never get promoted and he retired as a Lt General. He took his reprimand and framed it and instead of having President Johnson picture on the wall he had this article 15 on the wall. And he pointed it out to everyone who came in, officers tell us you don't see many Generals who get an article 15 and live to talk about it. But, we had some characters in the division. Again, the troops were mostly draftees I was there before the big drug problems or what started up so I was fortunate in that. But, while I was there Christmas day I got a letter from the Department of the Army offering me two years at Princeton to get a Masters degree and regular officers in those days you could apply and then they would go through the application and pick people.

BC: Why Princeton? Why did they pick Princeton?

WFB: Well at the time, the Army had two slots at Princeton they filled every year, no, every second year, because they had two slots and it was a two year program and every year they had an officer going through. And, the Army then and still now always thought higher civilian education is as important as higher military education so that is a normal progression for majors at the top, 25% of the regular officers, and I was fortunate for being picked for it. So, I came back from Vietnam, and went to Princeton and of course that was the height of anti war movement it was interesting time.

BC: Did you have to wear you uniform on campus or were you civilian?

WFB: No, no, no I wore it a couple of times one because I was president of the board of officers investigating ROTC Cadet who was seditious and my and no I never []. And

10:21

then, in I made LT. Col in summer of 68' and I was half way through the course and the course didn't matter that much and I had some interesting professors Richard Paul who was well know international lawyer who taught a course in international law what I took. He spent a good deal of his time over at Fort Dix defending anti-war protestors in the military and so forth. So, that was an exciting course.

BC: Did they all know, most of your professors know you were?

WFB: O yea, well we were the only ones with short hair. No, they knew.

BC: Any negative?

WFB: No, this fella I got an A from him. We disagreed violently on most things but, they were very professional the faculty. And I had dealings with some in other environments, but no they were most of them anti-war but they didn't they knew where we came from too. Lets see, in the spring of, I had spent the summer of '68 in Washington working for a nuclear planning group in the office of secretary of defense and got involved in NATO and nuclear issues and so forth.

12:08

BC: Now how did you become involved in nuclear just because of the Germany assignment you had or how did you?

WFB: No, no it was, it was primarily, yea it was primarily German assignment.

BC: So that German really. Career.

WFB O yea.

BC: With out that you probably..

WFB: If the army hadn't gotten nuclear weapons and if I hadn't gone to Germany at the time I probably wouldn't have gotten involved I that. The army had nuclear weapons in the mid 50s until 1991. My second oldest son was a Lt in Germany in the late 70s early 80s and he was in heavy field artery down in Augsburg and they had the same nuclear weapons as we had in the fifties, but the army deeply involved in if I had not had that assignment I would not have had done as well as id did. And, as I said we had to memorize so much I could go in observe an assembly operation what their doing wrong which surprised them and surprised them too. No, I, in the Spring of 69' I was talking to my assignment officer I already had been told that I was going back to the office of Secretary of defense he called up and said do you really wanna go to Washington and I said why. Well, would you like to command a battalion. I said certainly I would rather command a battalion. So, I ended up in Fort Irwin command AA battalion and then Fort Irwin was closed and my battalion was inactive so I command second battalion so I had to battalion second was in fort Sill and then Vietnam was begin to wind down and that battalion was put in storage and then I was selected for war college so we moved here in

14:53

71. Then in 72, I stayed on as the faculty and stayed here four years. And basically I was director politico economic studies economics and politics that I taught.

BC: What rank were you here?

WFB: I was Lt Col when I came as a student I was a Lt Col, on the faculty til' my last year and made Col in 1975 and then 1976 I was selected for Brigade level command so late 75 I was selected late 75 I was command . Summer of 76 we went back to Germany.

BC: Now your time at the War College how helpful was that in your rest of your career? Not just by you being selected?

WFB: If you go to the war college 1 in 4 make General. If you don't go to the war college nobody makes general. So that's the big dividing point there.

BC: So, just being selected just means the odds are you would make it.

WFB: Yeah, being selected is probably more important than actually attending it, from a promotion point of view.

BC: if you're a LT Col and you don't make that selection to the War college would you just retire. Because you knew....

WFB: Yea, a lot do. But the changes of making Col aren't too bad. But a lot of stay around to make Col which is about you 22nd year. So...

BC: But being a full bird Col. and not having the War college experience you pretty much aren't going to be a general.

WFB: Yeah. The only people who make general like that are chaplains, lawyers, doctors. Cause they often don't come the war college. But, staying here on the faculty for four years didn't help my chances of getting promoted. However, we been moving around every year since 67. Our oldest had been already in two different high schools this was his third high school in three years. And we decided that enough was enough. I didn't think I thought there was a fair chances I would make Col but I wasn't going to make Gen. So, I stayed here and commandant called me in and your name is on the list and that will be published tomorrow. at 730. However I wanna give you another option if you turn it down, in June you will become the chairman of dept of national security studies and for being very junior Col that was real feather in your cap. So he said thank you general if someone offered you a division tomorrow would you take it. He said sure. He laughed and said I got your answer. I was never sorry I did that and I came back here in 84 as deputy commandant so I did a second tour here. The command I got was not considered a second class command because artillery for the everyone fought for. I was perfectly happy to get a brigade because I didn't expect to get command of any type. It turns out to be a very interesting command. I had 4 US battalions and a brigade. Two missile battalion and two cannon battalion three of the four were nuclear capable. I had

19:12

maintained battalion and air defense battalion. The responsibility I had three field artillery groups another 2000 people in north Germany these were troops who controlled nuclear weapon who we made available to allies so it was a group taking care of the Belgium and Dutch. Two groups taking care of Germany. And then I had tank failed artillery that I had operation control if war broke out. So I had very wide command reasonability. I was of all local military commander and under the residual occupational law I had certain authority over the German populous government and all the US dependents and we had 5000 dependents in the area and so forth. It was a very interesting multi-spectrum responsibility. I did that for suppose to be a year and a half and I did that for 22 months. Went up to the German army and heard the liaison office there. This is up in Colonel and did that for two years so all that came together and was one set of experience builds on another. I had court martial jurisdiction over the people and they had some problems it was very tough duties some troops broke under the strain and that was creating problems LT Col command his group some weren't as experienced as others and so forth.

BC: And then in '80 you came back to the United States

WFB: in '80 the commandant of fort sill ask me to come back as deputy assistant commandant; basically the Col who runs the school. I agreed because I had four years left I thought and didn't think I would make General went back and Fort Sill if you are one of the commanding officer its very old fashion Army post. School not particularly difficult we had that was the year females were intergraded into field artillery. But, we had a lot of problems because of that not because they were females because the bulk of the females came from Puerto Rico and they were suppose and ROTC was suppose to be taught in English and the army sends Spanish speaking officers to Puerto Rico many from Puerto Rico and many taught in Spanish and many of these ladies came and couldn't speak Spanish.. 6 of the officers than arrived in June of 1980 the average grade after half the course was bellow 7 out of 100 they couldn't take the exams. That was those were the kinds of problems I had to deal with at the time and then four months later I came out on the list for one star, and took over a task for at Fort Sill. Developing requirements for a battle field missiles. I was never involved in a requirements field, so it was a good education for me to get involved in. In Sept of 81 if got a call from the chief of staff had been the deputy commandant when I was a student so I know him pretty well and he said would you retire rather and negotiate with the Russians. I wouldn't retire but your questions intrigued me but he said I cant talk about it over the open line. About two moths later I got a call from the deputy chief of staff for operations sent to Washington tomorrow morning. I was met at Fort Belvoir on the air field by an army Col who said on the way back to the pentagon we are going to the stop and the state department because you are representing the chairman of the joint chiefs interagency meeting to discuss range sort what's the range for a TNF. Well sir I brought the black book and you might want to read it because the meeting starts in 18 min. Fortunately it was like most Washington meetings all you do is you hit the can down the road. 18 days later I was sitting down with Gen Leveleth from Geneva that was further start I know a lot about nuclear weapon negotiations.

25:54

BC: Do you recall who attended the state department meeting?

WFB: Honestly I don't. It was assistant secretary level admiral rear admiral who was assistant secretary director of political military affairs and I think he was sitting in the chair. I represent JCS, Frank Gaffney represented OSD and there was somebody there from the arms controls agency and someone there from the intelligence community. Typical interagency meeting.

BC: Why didn't they give you any heads up couple days before because....

WFB: The administration still wanted to decide if they wanted to negotiate with the Soviets. And there was nothing really firmed up it would have been nice if after the chief had talked to me in September they had given me a little more information about it. This is not unusual. Its amazing what the army expects of the Generals. Unfortunately General Leveldeth, who was my opposite in Geneva, had started negotiating in 1969 when he was a major. He was a major general. And we got to know each other pretty well over the years, in fact a couple a years ago when my son was an Ambassador to Moscow he kindly had some of my old soviet friends over most retired now. Leveldeth said he could not understand how they could send someone who never had experience in doing this stuff. I said you were very kind you could have eaten me alive. Anyway, I did that for two years until the soviets walked out of November of 83 and that was quite of an experience that where nuclear weapon helped quiet a lot. Had not had any use or dealing in practice that included people on the Soviet side. When they walked out I stayed in the pentagon for 4 or 5 months because we were maintaining for fiction that we were willing to come back at anytime if they would come back to the negotiating table. Finally, by May, I went to see the chairman General Betsey had been my gunnery instructor in this year long course in 1967 so we knew each other pretty well. The advantage of long service and teaching at the war college you get to know an awful lot of your contemporaries and one of the unwritten rules is that among war college graduates there is no rank. If in public with somebody you would address them by rank or sir or something. But its first name basis it's not generally known around the army but that's the way its is. You feel perfectly free calling someone two rank higher than you telling them what you think. Anyway I went to see Gen Betsey and said you know I feel very embarrassed staff my contemporaries come in at 7 in the morning leaving at 8 at night. I'm coming in at 9 leaving at 3. And I said now I'm having trouble keeping things to do between 9 and 3. So, he said what do you want to do, I would like to go back to the war college as deputy commandant. He already knew I would get a second star, I didn't. So he said, you know when I was vice chief joint staff we took it way from the war college. I said the reason you took the star away because you needed a star to join the staff all I'm doing is taking a star back. Ok well we are going to talk about it and about an hour later the army chief of staff called me and said I wonder and we been thinking about it how would you like to go back to the war college as deputy commandant. I said well general if that's what you want me to do. So anyway, I came back here and the week I got here I came out on the two star list that a long story. I was here the agreement was I would spend one day a week in Washington doing arms control which I did and on thanksgiving

32:00

day the chairman called me and I want you here first thing in the morning how soon could you be here. I said I could be there at 730 if that's the earliest you could make it ok but be here at 730. The soviets indicated they wanted to comeback and negotiations and I was asked to go back to Geneva for one round and didn't work out that way and they wanted me to stay there permanently which I did.

BC: How did you learn the negotiations? How to negotiation with the Russians? Was it on the job training?

WFB: On the job training plus some thing like Paul Nixons had a long history of negotiations with the soviets and a lot of it was on the job training and observing other people I found it not particularly difficult to get under the soviet radar they were, they were very dialectic they were very high bound in the early days particularly they had some people there who were devote Leninist. You know if you pushed the wrong button you would get a 30 min lecture of what Lenin said about this and that and so forth. They would even quote Stalin obviously. It wasn't too difficult to repute their arguments because all they knew is what they memorized.

BC: So you did not have to go back and read a lot of material?

WFB: O yea, there was a lot of material had to be read and so forth because we were dealing with the Pershing 2 missile on the US side and the ground launch cruise missile and I had no experience with those particularly systems so I spent some time with the Pershing brigade in Germany from the operating side what they did and how they did it.

BC: So you did a lot of homework for yourself?

WFB: A lot of homework for my self and also the intelligence community was very helpful on the Soviet side.

BC: You could ask anything and they would give you any information?

WFB: O yea, we had a couple of people from the intelligence office community with us and they were very good. And the army had just acquired a fax machine that for the first time could send classified information \$135,000 fax machine. The chairman called and asked would you like to have one we have one here. We could send information much easier like the crossword puzzle from New York Times. Anyway, it was, things like that were very useful because I had information the rest of our delegation had but there was a lot of work I had six people working for me three army two air force and a navy. I was able to pick people I wanted and they were all very good and very knowledgeable not afraid to argue.

BC: What rank were they?

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WFB: From Major to Full Col. Navy Captain well no we had one Army Col and one Navy Captain. They were very good and we what I didn't know they were able to work out by telling me. But, the way the negotiations worked we met with the Soviets side every side Tues and Thursday at 10 in the morning and that meeting lasted the formal part of the meeting lasted about an hour and that was exchanging formal prepared statements and we would give them a copy in Russian and a copy in English and they would do the same for us. The formalized way one day would be at the US mission and the other would be at the Soviet mission. At the end of the exchange of the statements the host US ambassador asked the Russian if they had anything else they would like to add he would say no and the US would say we would like to invite you for refreshments. We would go outside and break into small groups and that's where the real negotiations would take place and that would last anywhere from 2 hours to four or five hours and we would cover the water for them.

BC: Were you at all surprised that most of your negotiations took place during your refreshment hours?

WFB: No, no, no that was the... and then we would meet socially with them once a week maybe twice and that's where the serious negotiations took place. It was all sort of a sham because the formal negotiations which were recorded publically when and where they were basically restated the obvious because for the first year neither side moved an inch. So, the statements were basically the same.

BC: Would you ever read the newspapers and laugh because you knew what you were doing?

WFB: But then, then in the social meetings you get hints and they would hint where they might go and might not go. And that was it was sort of cerebral battle. And again, I had a chance to talk to some of these people and its interesting how they interpreted what we said we felt we were clear and we weren't and so forth. I was up at Harvard two years ago now and invited former Secretary Shultz and Former President Gorbachev hosted and a lot of the people I knew were there the people I negotiated with. And it was interesting in that kind of environment but any event I could go on and on about negotiations and I don't wanna take your time. The most interesting thing was the sort of incremental almost imperceptible change in the Soviet thinking and Soviet style as the years went by. And that's why I was skeptical the people who say you don't need long negotiations you only need a few weeks. That may be fine in some cases but dealing with nuclear weapons and particularly dealing with the Russians today you cant just rush into things it takes a long time.

40:49

BC: At what part of the negotiations did you start to see them changing their ideology?

WFB: Well when they came back in 85' they had a serious problem in '82 president died next year Brezhnev died the leaders they became more and more rattled and less and less

41:17

confident you could see that and they had no idea who was in charge and that's dangerous about the communist system because if a charge is the wrong one it will cost you your head. And in 85' Gorbachev took over he was obviously someone different they didn't know how to figure him out. We didn't know how to figure him out but we knew it was going to be different.

BC: You had a lot of intelligence analysis reporting back about Gorbachev and his personality.

WFB: Some of it wasn't even correct.

BC: But, like what, to do you remember?

WFB: The trouble is, no body really anticipated Gorbachev taking all it was between and Gorbachev and Molotov and the betting money was on him and he didn't make it. Gorbachev made a couple of statements that sounded as though he was going to be more liberal than his predecessors but nobody believed him. It took about six months to start to figure out Gorbachev. The soviet delegation but it was worst because heads were on the line as I said. The, you asked when the first major change was.

BC: When did you start to see them change?

WFB: in the summer of 85', they made the first flexibility over the things like including they insisted British and French systems be include in the US numbers because we armed their systems, which was only partially correct. And they started to say well that's set that aside for a while and not talk about that which is a sign of weakness. Same thing when including aircraft and other technical points. Then they flirted an idea of you know, equal low numbers where the United States said either we are going to deploy or go to zero on both sides. They said suppose would you consider a hundred and twenty launches equal levels and we would not include British or French. That was the first major change that was made.

BC: What did the administration say when you reported this?

WFB: They, what the Russians wanted was only ground launch cruise missiles and we said no we would consider equal numbers at some levels but both sides would have []. The big problem was and this is part of communications and 1980 there was an article in magazine that said that the range of the Persian II was 2400 km and this is based on the question the reporter asked the manufactures. We said the missile went 1800 km I'm sorry at the time the missile that we were talking about went 1600km and we were trying to figure out how to make it go a little farther in a technical point of view. The reporter asked the technician how far could you make it go. He said oh you could make it go 2000 2400 but what he didn't say this is without any guidance system this is just a blob of metal being tossed Persian II was extremely accurate missile every test flight that actually

45:57

took off there were eight or nine test flights would put the missile at eight hundred miles at this room. This is a 150ton missile, which would take out Carlisle, Pittsburgh so it was extremely accurate. In the late 70's with earth penetrating war head it didn't work because nobody could figure out to hold a nuclear warhead together for 8 or 10 seconds it takes. This has been published in Aviation Week so when the Russians analyzed all this they said ah ha the Americans are lying through their teeth the Persian II doesn't go 1800 it goes 2400. If it goes 2400 km it could hit Moscow we were very careful it couldn't go as far as Moscow. The Soviets were building a secret underground control facility just west of Moscow and we had some intelligence about it. We figured they knew we knew about the facility and the Earth penetrating warhead would take it out. Therefore, the Americans are lying through their teeth this is not just a replacement missile this is a missile designed to be a one two punch first [] this would fire from Europe a 14 minute time of flight before we could do anything about it. Command and control would be gone then they would launch their ICBMs and there's nothing we could do about them because everything would have collapsed in the command and control side. Every intelligence analysis if it was true we didn't realize this was their analysis we thought they were fighting the problem. We had a similar problem with 20 missile and our analysis of that. And you know if we had known if they had known we could have cut a couple years out of the negotiations just by fussing up but we didn't and that was the problem of the time.

BC: How did you work through the Pershing the issue with the Pershing missile¹⁶?

WFB: Oh well, we didn't we they ended up they were so anxious to give up the Persian missile they gave up their SS-20. We had Pershing 2 deployed at the time I had requested 200 SS-20¹⁷ with three war heads each ground launch cruise missile. But no, the solution was both sides gave up everything right now the United States and Russian can not have any missile which have a Range of 500-550 km. You could have short range battle field missiles you could have ICBMs¹⁸ but nothing in between this is creating a problem with the Russians right now because they are absolutely scared straight of the Chinese and we are not sure exactly of what the Chinese are talking about right now. This is why I'm going over to Russia to talk to them about fairly strange ideas of what they would like to do anyway that's the different story. But, anyway I don't know how it would have worked out if the Russians would not have thrown the towel in if they would have given up the SS-20. The SS-20 was more political anything else because the SS-20 could strike our European allies but couldn't hit us. The Europeans said they didn't like that because they wanted us to be equally threatened and the Russians liked it because they felt they could split NATO over this.

¹⁶ Pershing has been part of the Army inventory for over 27 years and in Europe since 1964.
pershingmissile.org/template.asp?file=IntroStory/IntroStory.htm

¹⁷ The greatest strategic threat to the United States is an attack by one or more ballistic missiles armed with nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction.
www.missilethreat.com/missiles-of-the-world/id.139/missile_detail.asp

¹⁸ intercontinental ballistic missiles. www.fas.org/nuke/guide/usa/icbm/lgm-30_3.htm

BC: did you ever find out why the Russians would build a command center west of Moscow instead pushing it maybe of East?

WFB: I think if had to do structurally with the soil and everything else.

50:49

BC: That was the only reason.

WFB: Plus, yea I think that was probably the only reason and they needed something if you put it too far back then it doesn't do very much given the technology of the 70's and that's what we're talking about it would not be able to control the land battle very well. I think there were some valid reasons why they would put it there.

BC: So, then in the, do you remember January 7th, 1988?

WFB: January 7, 1988. I remember the date I don't remember what happened.

BC: That's when you were nominated or named the head of the Arms Control Agency.

WFB: Oh, well actually I was nominated in November

BC: But publically.

WFB: Well I think it was in the newspapers about that time.

BC: Yes, the New York times. And could you just tell me about your nomination process. Because there were a couple of road blocks that a couple senators tried to put up.

WFB: First of all, I, in October, I got a secretary came in and said there's some crank on the phone who has called three times says the President of the United States wants to talk to you. I was deputy assistant of secretary of state which is sort of a mid level state executive position. Presidents don't call deputy secretaries and we laughed about it and came in a couple minutes later and said I think it is the president. I got on the phone and he asked me if I would take the arms control agency. So, naturally to say you know I am very honored but I want to as courtesy to tell the Chief of Staff of the Army and you know I don't have three years in a pay status as a major General and Army regulation you need to have three years in to retire that way and I don't want to retire as a Brigadier. Fine, so the next morning the white house messenger came over with a box page out of a pad from the situation said if the general burns elects to accept my appointment as Director of the Arms Control agency he will retire as a major general signed Ronald Reagan with the date.

BC: Do you still have that piece of Paper?

WFB: No, I had a copy of it but it's in a file someplace. But, I sent it over to General office management office and meanwhile I talked to the chief of staff who had worked for me years ago and I knew him very well. I was suppose to get a third star in May of 88' and get a command so I went over and told him and I said President called me and here's the story before I tell him yes or no. I want to know what command I would get if I stayed in. He said well we are thinking about an Army command like sixth army third 54:33

army or first army which is commanding national guard and reserve outfits. Well I can't turn the President down I just wanted you to tell me that it would be a three star job I didn't really want. So, we laughed about it and I passed the word that I would accept. Then you have to go through [] because you have to fill out all sorts of forms. So forth, have to go over and rant and rave at the white house with personnel and I did that. Ok, I went over and seldom wore a uniform and some reason I did that day I went over and sat down and a pernicious 40 year old probably fella first thing he said have you ever voted for a Democrat. And I said certainly, I voted for John F Kennedy as an example and asked have you ever voted for a democrat. Well sir I was in college in 64' and couldn't vote for Goldwater I said you didn't vote for Barry Goldwater and here your sitting in the Reagan white house, I'm surprised. So, I have you ever served in the Army? Oh yes sir. Did you volunteer? Oh no I was drafted. what did you do. I was the cook's helper for two years. Which says you didn't go very far in the army. Well I hoped you were a good cook's helper. We went on for about another 10 minutes. I went to see his deputy, was the young woman who had been in State Department as the liaison the year before and I knew who she was and I went down to her office and she was getting off the phone laughing. What in the hell did you do to my boss, he's a quivering wreck he called me and said be careful of him, he'll eat you alive. Well I thought I was mild manner Major general coming over here visiting the White House. So, anyway we talked a little bit about her boss and I didn't hear anything thing else about it. Then I got a call from the FBI right before Christmas. Chief Director just wanted to let me to know that all the paperwork all went through and I had no criminal past. The hearings were very clean I wore my uniform to the hearing.

BC: I was reading a couple of the New York times articles that I have and a couple of Senators tired to block

WFB: Helms.

BC: At one point because he wanted something from the white House

WFB: Yea that was a problem.

BC: Can you explain?

WFB: There was a report from the arms Control Agency that required on an annual basis that was on Soviet Violation of previous arms control agreements a compliance report. And ah, the White House and its freedom said we going to submit it because the far right will to block treaties and so forth so ah did not submit the report what he did he put a

hold on my appointment and then privately told the white house its going to stay until we see the report.

BC: What was your thought during this point because you couldn't do anything about it.

58:50

WFB: No, I could do anything about it, fortunately I said I would not retire until I was confirmed so you know punish me bad give me a third star and send me off to the Presidio off the California because Presidio of San Francisco so I was not particularly worked up on this. Was on the twenty I think it was the 26 or 27 of February on the second of March Jessy Helms¹⁹ called me and said this is nothing personal this is just my grape with the White House I'm going to release the hold today. Well, I thought you being a senator you would be much more aware of the process an army officer can only retire on the last day of the month and today's the 1st of month I can't retire from the Army. My staff didn't tell me that, well you better get a new staff. Jessy Helms was a blow hard. But anyway, White house was all upset about it but there had been an incident over in defense few days before where an individual had used his new office this is before he had been confirmed by the senate and actually signed some memorandum from the office and some senatorial staff and there was a big hug and cry and he ended up loosing his appointment. So, the White House was being very careful about that and I was warned not to go near the office anything like that, and so I just stayed in the state department doing what I was doing and the 31 of March I was sworn in. I went down to take over.

BC: Do you remember that day? Any fond memories?

WFB: Oh yea I remember, I was sworn in by the administrator of ACTA and only my wife was there and he and about a month later I fired him I remember that. But, anyway ACTA had some problems at the time ACTA only had fewer than 300 employees the law said that all employees at ACTA had to have a top secret clearance. A top secret clearance takes about \$25,000 and six months to get and everybody including the janitors had to have the top secret clearance which was the law which was pretty stupid. So, there was a moral problem in ACTA because of that because say someone like you wanted to go to work for the Arms Control Agency. I would say fine, we would be happy to hire you could start filing your paperwork for the secretary clearance but we couldn't pay you for six months. We lost a lot of good people that way. We really had to recruit and steal from other Agencies from people who already had clearances. That was one problem, other problems were shortly after I took over for no particular reason I just asked my chief of security when was the last time you did an inventory of classified documents. He said looked at me I found out in 61 they had never done an inventory and when we started the inventory of the highest classification of documents and we found out that there were several hundred missing, so that was the second problem I had. I had a lot of little problems down the road. The third problem I had, the day I took over we were

¹⁹ Senator from North Carolina. bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=H000463

six hundred thousands dollars over in travel accounts. Now, in an agency the law says you can only spend money in each category as Congress appropriates if you over spend in any one category without prior congressional approval it a felony, five years in jail, so I had to go over and talk to the chairman of the Senate of foreign relations committee and get that squared away. I was six hundred thousand short and I had eight ambassadors doing negotiations throughout the world. I had and probably paying for 60 or 70 people traveling on the negotiating and another 60 or 70 so we were spending a lot of money and
1:03:56

we were spending money we didn't have and that was another problem I had to resolve. So, the first two or three months was taking up doing that. I did get to China in the first six months too they were clandestinely selling a missile to a third country like North Korea we had to get them to stop.

BC: How did that meeting go?

WFB: Well they denied it, one of my people one of my deputies was there with Singapore trade fair where they were adverting with very nice English and the foreign minister walked out. That night he had a dinner for us with the Foreign minister it was very nice and took me aside and said you know that missile we hadn't sold. We are not going to do it anymore. And they didn't for 18 months and then they started, this is the 9N²⁰ missile and started to sell the N10²¹ missile.

BC: What did you do about the N10 missile?

WFB: we put the same pressure on them and stuff.

BC: Did they ever sell the N11?

WFB: Yea, matter of fact they did, [laugh] but well after my time. It was a good little missile. Then I went to I went to Japan to basically held hands with both them and went to Moscow went to did the usual things. In January of 1989 I was headed the US delegation to a conference in Paris on chemical use. There was you know we had treaty sides would not use chemical weapons but there was no treaty that said sides would get ride of chemical weapons and that's what we were pushing the French offered to host for their own reasons. And we had, a day things started was the day we shot down the Libyan jets over the Gulf of Sidra²² and before the meeting could get started the Libyan ambassador and raised all sorts of hell about the United States taking acts of war against Libya, so I signaled over to the chairman that I needed to speak and I got up and said I hat to correct the Libyan colleague but the United States did not shoot down two jet in the Gulf of Sidra one we shot down one jet and but the second jet crashed because the

²⁰ N9 missile was a Chinese missile

²¹ N10 was a Chinese missile

²² On January 4, 1989, two US F-14 Tomcats downed two Libyan MiG-23 Flogger Es in an engagement that has come to be known as the Gulf of Sidra incident. www.military-heat.com/64/gulf-sidra-incident-1989

coward in the cockpit bailed out. [laugh] And the Libyan ambassador started screaming and stamping his feet and everybody chuckled.

BC: Were you able, did the administration give you permission to speak freely on issues like, such as that one in meetings or were you-?

WFB: No, no well I could speak I was an independent head of an agency I was by law the principal advisor to the President on Arms control. I spent 45 minutes with the President
1:07:39

two days before in the oval office talking about what I was going to do, and I felt perfectly free to say whatever I wanted to as long as I thought what Ronald Reagan wanted me to do. He always got on the side. The reason why I went over to do it was just for that reason. If anybody complained I would say I look talk with the President. Colin Powell who was National Security advisor was there was witness. And, no in fact Reagan asked what I planned to say and this is what I planned to say and this is what I planned to say, that sounds great. Don't give up, don't give the bastard a break at all. But, he, no he was not the doddering old Alzheimer patient who people like to he was a smart man. He understood the broad issues. He didn't worry about the detail because he had staff to do that but he had a real sense of leadership.

1:08.52

BC: Did you admire his leadership?

WFB: Oh, yea, yea he was very good, he was not, I mean he was very pleasant about things but was obvious what he wanted in the [] papers. Conversation with Paul Nitsa Paul Nitsa was the guy in the negotiations and Nitsa objected to what the administration wanted to do so he wanted to go see the President and he did. In the NSC meeting I happen to be at President said Paul this is what I want you to do Nista said Mr. President this is what I'll go to the Soviets Reagan said tell them you work for a hard noise son of a bitch. Everyone chuckled and he did not say that to the Russians but no Reagan from that point of view was easy to work with. He put you at your ease right away and everything in fact let me show you. This in the oval office one I was talking about and there's Colin Powell sitting behind

BC: Who's

WFB: That's John Negroponte²³ who was Deputy National Security advisor at the time.

BC: Was he the head of the intelligence?

WFB: Yea. Yea! But anyway that was-

BC: That was the king of Jordan? Correct.

²³ A career diplomat, was named by President George W. Bush to be the first Director of National Intelligence. www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=John_D._Negroponte

WFB: Yup, King of Jordan. That's my son when he as Ambassador to Jordan.

BC: Are you concerned with Jordan and all what's going on?

WFB: Not, not Jordan as much as Syria and Yemen and they are all part of the same. But, anyway that's-

BC: How was, Powell when he was National Security advisor? How did you like working for him or with him?

1:11:24

WFB: I never worked for him, but we were next door neighbors at Fort Myer. Cold winter mornings scraping ice off the windshield and the White House limousine would pull up and take him over to the White House and he would say hope you're not to cold out there. No, they were good people. They had tragedy at the time they have a son who was a Lieutenant in the Army who was hurt badly in an accident in Germany and almost became a paraplegic he recovered from it. But he was living with them at the time, and my wife got to know Elma his wife pretty well. But, no he was a good, again he Colin hard man he doesn't settle for fools gladly. I thought he was an excellent National Security Advisor. No he was my everyday point of contact. I was the statutory member of the National Security Council. So, every time there was a National Security Council meeting, which was like once a week, I was over there and you know you don't think back in 1954 when you graduated from LaSalle that you would be sitting in the White House situation room ten feet from the President and he asked you what you think about a thing. It takes a little while to get used to that.

BC: How often would you go to the White House?

WFB: Probably once or twice a week depends.

BC: And one of those would be for the National Security meeting?

WFB: Yea, National Security Council meet as needed. So, sometimes you would have two or three meeting in a week and maybe National Security Council would meet. But the people who were permanent members or advisors Secretary of State Secretary of Defense the Director of the CIA and then anybody that the President who wanted who in Secretary of the Treasury would like to come. The President obviously liked Baker so he came and then everybody was allowed to bring one at that was in the second row in the back. Situation room is in a very small room table sits about 10 people it is a very informal kind of thing.

BC: Were you intimidating the first time?

WFB: Well you see I had been there sitting in the second row with the Chairman several times before that so least I knew how the thing worked, and it was yea, first time sitting you're sitting at the table is intimidating. You think that guy is Secretary of State that guy

is Secretary of Defense and they're asking me about things that intimidating to say the least. But the, I don't know we used to get together George Shultz²⁴, Secretary of Defense me and the wives and National Security advisor about once every six weeks for dinner which is a very casual let your hair down kind of thing. You often got more business done, the reason I was sent to state in 86' was that Weinberger who was then Secretary of Defense and Shultz were getting very bad press. The press were talking about how they were constantly fighting and didn't get along, so I get a call and I was in Geneva and got a call from Weinberger to go to states we both think you over there you could fix the problem. [laugh] How are you going to fix the problem but they said George will be his military advisor and also will be your line job so I was deputy assistant secretary for arms control but I had direct access to Secretary which bothered a number of senior people in State. But it was true, Weinberger and Shultz didn't like each other so I talked Colin Powell about it at that time was military assistant to Weinberg he was a one star. I was a one star no I was a, yea he was still a one star I was a second star, anyway he said I suggested that maybe we get fast to face meeting so we agreed that every Wednesday morning at seven o'clock they would have breakfast and the only people there would be the two secretaries and me. Collin and I would control the agenda so on Tuesday, my secretary would solicit the principals of state department what issues would you like them to talk and they would come up with these elaborate papers and I would decide and call Collin Powell the two things they should talk about. No officers were allowed at the meetings he and I would decide what they said and at 9:30 or 10:00 I would call the principals together at state and say the secretaries meet and the following guidance's were offered in their meetings. Yea, well we weren't consulted very deceptive. You weren't consulted. And that worked for six to eight months eventually extra people got to in but it did first and secondly we were able to get some tough issues resolved once got a chance to talk about it. It worked, so and then part of the problem was ignorance on the part of Schultz on the military stuff do you know what a black program is.

1:18:31

BC: Secret, Top secret, very secret.

WFB: More beyond, this is when the stealth bomber was in the black program and I talked to the chairman about it and we agreed that we should give the secretary briefings on each of the services black programs. Nobody else at State just the secretary and we did and then I took the secretary out to Omaha and showed them the stealth bomber which was still under deep wraps in a hanger and it cleared the air and a lot of areas one was national reconnaissance, national reconnaissance office is the office which controls satellite and aircraft penetration in hostile territory. The RB71 the U-2 all those at the time and the program is at the time was highly classified and access was very limited. I was the only one in state other than the Secretary who was allowed who had access to what the missions were going to be and we had a veto for political and foreign policy side. In other words, if country X were sort of sort of volatile right and they wanted to send an over flight we might veto that you cant fly over that country this month because if the plane comes down we would create such an international event so forth and so forth. I was the one who had than and there was issues sometimes bring up to the

²⁴ He was sworn in on July 16, 1982, as the sixtieth U.S. Secretary of State. www.hoover.org/fellows/10657

secretaries because we'd say no and defense national reconnaissance office do it and it just clarified things a bit. But. It was interesting job at state and it was interesting at the time my oldest son was had a relatively junior job at state department at the time and then he went over to the white house as deputy director for Middle Eastern affairs. He became director for Middle Eastern affairs and then became director for policy and planning staff in State department. He was working at a pretty high level for a young Foreign Service officer. We used to get confused emails I got an email Friday from an individual who had been in and out of the government congratulating me on my testimony before the senate 1:21:43

Foreign relation committee on Thursdays. It wasn't me it was my son. He's a LaSalle graduate, class of 78'.

BC: What was his major at La Salle?

WFB: International Affairs, and he went he got the Marshall Fellowship²⁵ the only Marshall Fellowship and went to Oxford and got a Doctorate in three years; went into the foreign service the next year.

BC: You have another son that was in the Air Force correct?

WFB: He's still in the Air Force in the Pentagon. He was in Japan last commanding an air base in Masha and he's back in the Pentagon two years I suppose.

BC: He didn't wanna go the Army?

WFB: He decided he went to the University of Florida we were coming back it was 1980 fort still several kids including his girlfriend were going to University of Florida by the time he had got there the girl friend had found someone else so I think he sagged his conscience by joining the Air Force ROTC. He's done well for himself, F-16 pilot he's now running the directorate for Regional affairs in air force plans. These are Air force to Air Force contracts in these countries.

BC: Well, last, in the arms control director how do you want to be remembered thought out history, how do you want to be remembered?

WFB : Perhaps, as little as possible. No, I think, see being Director of the Arms Control Agency was sort of another stopping point because in 1992 I would have been out of the Arms Agency a couple of years and not thought of going back in the government and was asked to come back as the older Bushes envoy to negotiate the disposition of former Soviet nuclear weapons in Russian and I did that for over a year and negotiated in agreements for Russian and Ukraine and the other two countries who had nuclear weapon at the time. After that I've been sort of involved in it ever since primary through National Academy of Sciences their committee on international security and Arms Control and they so you know I still keep my hand in there I've been on two advisor committee at

²⁵ Marshall Scholarships finance young Americans of high ability to study for a graduate degree in the United Kingdom. <http://www.marshallscholarship.org/>

Sandia National Lab where they make nuclear weapons and again in recent years I'm on the Conference of Catholic Bishops international committee. And, getting involved in those a lot of church positions in the United States in nuclear weapons. Last year I was asked to go to the Vatican and talk about the nuclear weapons they said we've been making pronouncements about nuclear weapons and we suddenly realized we did not know anything about nuclear weapons can you come talk, and then I still keep my hand in and there I'm no longer involved with San Dia but I'm on the board at Mount Seminary which has nothing to do with nuclear weapons I hope. I was a trustee at La Salle for twenty years and gave that up two years ago. So I still keep, as I said I got a call to go to Moscow in June to see the nuclear weapons and I got involved two years ago
1:26:36

with two members of House of Representative who wanted to come up with a resolution on nuclear negotiations. Tim McGovern who was a very left wing Liberal from Massachusetts and Dan Lungren²⁶ who is a very conservative right wing representative from California who is cosponsor a resolution which I wrote a great degree calls for negotiations to agree to a thousand deployed missiles, I'm sorry deployed warheads, with a total of 3000 so I'm still doing things like that. My wife thinks it keeps me out of trouble and I'm gratified that in '89, which after I had my run in with the Libyan ambassador, my son went to negotiate with him about nuclear weapon back in 2004 we were talking about it right before we had to go back and it was all hush, hush when the negotiations were taking place. When you talk to Muammar tell him to take a price off your fathers head and he did. I said tell your father ill take the price off your fathers head immediately we are all friends.

BC: What are your thoughts about that situation in Libya right now.

WFB: I think the White House has miss handled it very badly I think we either go in or we don't. But if we go in much of the world looks to us for leadership and we are not providing it and this business of going in a little bit and then we are going to turn the no fly zone over to someone else it doesn't make much sense. We should be supporting the rebels we are not exactly sure who the leadership is it is a lot better than what we got. Further more, I think we have some serious technical problems. We have a fairly ragtag rebellion going on poorly trained poor armed individual and it's inevitable it is more and more time to use high performance aircraft attacking ground targets because we got to have someone of the ground to control them and if we continue our present policy we are not going to put people on the ground. Excuse me. So you know I think we have a lot of work to do and I hate to say more because my son is []. (Phone rang)

File 3.

BC: General Burns, thank you for the interview appreciate it. Do you having anything else to say.

WFB: No, I'm just very happy to do it.

²⁶ Dan Lungren represents California's 3rd Congressional District, which includes parts of Sacramento and Solano County, as well as all of Alpine, Amador, and Calaveras Counties. <http://lungren.house.gov/index.cfm?sectionid=9§iontree=2,9>

Major General Burns Interview by Brian Carlson
Carlisle, PA

March 26, 2011

BC: Thank you.

WFB: And I wish well.

BC: Thank you.