

it is, I can't expect perfection from that guy if I don't do my best. Now, I got to do that too. And as long as I'm a first sergeant, I'm responsible for that man's, like a mother to all of them. I got to chew them out, I got to raise Cain with them, but I can be just as friendly with them off duty. And they know that. Just like when I got out, they say boy, we lost a good first sergeant, and nobody be like that to come, never has since the company's been going on. And three platoon sergeants was in there and they say Howard if you get out, we're going to get out too. They had the same amount of years I had. I got out and I thought they was kidding; they got out the same time I did.

HOWARD WENT BACK TO SCHOOL AND GRADUATED AFTER ARMY SERVICE

But, like I say, going back to that education part, I took advantage of it, I got a high school diploma. I didn't think, well I'm too old to learn.

(Did you get that while you were in the service?)

No, I got it right here in high school. There was an old professor at that time that said, "If you want to go to school you can go to night school and take your test. If you pass your test, you get a high school diploma." Well, I took advantage of it. I didn't say well, I was too old. I need that. I wanted to be able to fill an application out and when they ask did you finish high school I want to put yes on there. I got a diploma. I went back to school, took my test, missed it by two points. The high school principal happened to be a good friend of mine and he said don't give up, try it again. So I went back again, tried it again, then I went back and took my test and test was completely