

Dan O'Donnell
Specialist 4th Class
Pershing Tactical Nuclear
Missile Battery
81st Field Artillery
56th FA Brigade
U.S. Army
Neu Ulm, Germany



Enlisted June 16, 1971
Deployed at Wiley Barracks, New Ulm, Germany
Discharged from active duty June 14, 1974 (I got two days off because it was the weekend)

I was a Specialist 4th Class. My Basic Training was at Ft. Leonard Wood in Missouri, followed by advanced training at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. In Germany, we were stationed at Wiley Barracks, Neu Ulm, Germany, C Battery, 1st Battalion, 81st Field Artillery, 56th FA Brigade.

I didn't take many (make that any!) photos of me in uniform in Germany. The only one I have is this one of the battery headquarters platoon.

I did serve during the Viet Nam era. However, I did not serve in the conflict but instead was stationed in Germany and Joyce and Sean were able to join me. My draft

number was around 100, and there was a chance that wouldn't have been drafted, but with a pregnant wife and no certain future (I wasn't accepted to grad school until after I enlisted) I didn't want to take the chance of going to war. By enlisting for three year's active duty, I was able to choose my MOS (military occupational specialty).

I served in a Pershing missile battery and Joyce and I lived off base on the economy. The Pershing missiles were a tactical nuclear unit, so the only chance we would be in a war would be if it were the end of the world. Thank goodness that never happened. When I was off duty, I could take leave time and travel around Europe. It was a pretty nice station, considering the grim alternative. I feel lucky that we had it so good.



Dan O'Donnell,
Front Row
Left



Pershing Missile