

Kellogg, Keith US Army

[00:00:17.10] KEITH KELLOGG: I was born in May 1944 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, at that time Air Base, Army Air Base in Dayton, Ohio.

[00:00:26.19] JOE GALLOWAY: Dayton, Ohio.

[00:00:32.91] KEITH KELLOGG: My dad was at that time in the Army Air Corps. And my mom at that time was just a housewife. And my-- I had an older brother who beat me by two years. And he was born at the Davis-Monthan in Tucson, Arizona.

[00:00:47.55] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:00:48.06] KEITH KELLOGG: So we had two at the time. And then later a couple others came along.

[00:00:51.83] JOE GALLOWAY: Some more came along.

[00:00:53.12] KEITH KELLOGG: Yeah.

[00:00:53.67] JOE GALLOWAY: What do you consider your hometown where you grew up?

[00:00:57.26] KEITH KELLOGG: Long Beach, California. But it's like-- Joe, like all of us who've been in the military,

[00:01:03.04] JOE GALLOWAY: You were a Air Force brat.

[00:01:04.34] KEITH KELLOGG: And again-- and I left actually in Army Air Corps.

[00:01:06.64] JOE GALLOWAY: Army Air Corps brat.

[00:01:07.94] KEITH KELLOGG: When I left-- I left California in the military because the majority of the bases were on the East Coast, even though I'm-- I've never really returned home. I would go home for family occasions and things like that. But once I left Long Beach on my drive to Fort Benning, Georgia, to start my infantry officer basic course, I was-- that was the last time I--

[00:01:28.36] JOE GALLOWAY: That's where your hat was.

[00:01:29.56] KEITH KELLOGG: That's exactly right.

[00:01:33.67] JOE GALLOWAY: How did you enter the military?

[00:01:36.07] KEITH KELLOGG: I came in through ROTC. I originally had wanted to-- I had applied to West Point. And I was the first alternate. And then a good friend of mine got the appointment. And I went up to Santa Clara where my brother was, Santa Clara University, where

my older brother was. And when I went up there after a year, I was going to reapply to the Academy. And then I went into ROTC at Santa Clara.

[00:02:01.21] And then I realized there were a few things that West Point did not have. It involved perfume, better known as girls. It involved alcohol which they didn't allow at West Point. And allowed gasoline. I had my own car. And I played football at West Point. I said, I think I can get my commission out of here in four years instead of going up there. So I stayed.

[00:02:17.59] JOE GALLOWAY: How did it go--

[00:02:18.07] KEITH KELLOGG: At Santa Clara and ROTC, and went in that way. But I had always planned-- I always wanted to go into the military.

[00:02:23.56] JOE GALLOWAY: And what year did you get your commission?

[00:02:25.75] KEITH KELLOGG: 1966, December.

[00:02:27.64] JOE GALLOWAY: '66, December. The Vietnam War was well underway by then.

[00:02:32.38] KEITH KELLOGG: It was. It was.

[00:02:35.68] JOE GALLOWAY: What did you know about that war at that point?

[00:02:40.39] KEITH KELLOGG: And a lot of-- and you appreciate this and a lot of people probably don't, but not very much. And the reason why it wasn't very much is because everything you saw on the news was B-rolled. You took it. You came back. There was no instantaneous communications. You didn't have stuff right on the ground.

[00:02:56.64] So it's what you really saw on the evening networks. There was only three major networks every night-- ABC, NBC, CBS. And there was no cable networks. And the stuff that you got was generally 24, 48 hours after the event occurred. So it was like, OK, there's a war going on in Southeast Asia. We're involved in it. But it didn't play that large because the coms that we have today that you see on a daily basis, it--

[00:03:26.18] JOE GALLOWAY: We didn't have then.

[00:03:27.21] KEITH KELLOGG: No, we didn't.

[00:03:32.32] JOE GALLOWAY: Where did you do your officer basic training?

[00:03:34.90] KEITH KELLOGG: Fort Benning, Georgia.

[00:03:35.86] JOE GALLOWAY: Fort Benning, Georgia.

[00:03:36.78] KEITH KELLOGG: Fort Benning. I went there and did my basic, and my airborne, and did my Ranger training. And then from there, I went right up to Fort Campbell,

Kentucky, and joined the 101st. And the day I showed up at the 101st-- 3rd brigade of the 101st, the brigade commander, Jim Mallory said, hey, you're lucky. We just got told we're heading to Vietnam. I said, great. So that was my--

[00:03:57.52] JOE GALLOWAY: So you were one day on post and ready to get deployed.

[00:04:00.70] KEITH KELLOGG: I did. And the gentleman who followed me on the post that day when I went to my first battalion, which was the 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 506th Infantry, because at that time we had two airborne divisions; We had 101st. We had the 82nd-- was a gentleman by the name of David Grange and-- David Grange, the elder, not the younger.

[00:04:17.67] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:04:18.14] KEITH KELLOGG: And-- because people ask me, I didn't know you worked for David Grange. No, I worked for his dad. And he reported in the day afterwards. And, of course, he was just another, at that time, a lieutenant colonel who had served in World War II and jumped with the 82nd. And I became his recon platoon leader.

[00:04:37.27] JOE GALLOWAY: You were his recon platoon leader.

[00:04:38.59] KEITH KELLOGG: I was his recon platoon because he asked me-- Joe, he asked me at the time, what do you want to do? I said I want to be a recon platoon leader. I didn't know any better. I was a dumb second lieutenant. And his point was, you realize that's a first lieutenant's job? I said, not really. And I said, but it sounds really kind of neat. And he actually put me through a rather arduous test to find out was I the right guy for it. And I was and I became his recon platoon leader.

[00:05:06.19] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you feel that the training you received before going to Vietnam was realistic or was useful?

[00:05:13.96] KEITH KELLOGG: The most realistic training I had at that time was really Ranger School. I mean, that was for the orders and the physical, the small unit tactics. The basic course was still not really-- I don't remember much about it. If somebody said to me if you prioritize, what do you remember about your initial training when you went into the Army?

[00:05:33.97] The first, of course, is Ranger School. I remember that, then your airborne training. And then IOBC was kind of like-- it was kind of a country club. You were there. But Benning at the time, because it had ramped up so much, was really-- where OCS was going strong and the basic training was going strong. It was really a buzz of activity at that time.

[00:06:00.19] JOE GALLOWAY: What year did you go to Vietnam? How did you get there and where did you land?

[00:06:06.79] KEITH KELLOGG: We-- remember I told you what happened with Colonel Mallory and telling us. And then we got in the 101st. And we went over and we deployed an operation called Eagle Thrust. And they picked up what-- the two brigades because we had one

brigade forward. The 1st Brigade of the 101st was already in country The two brigades were picked up by C-141, the strat-- air lifters.

[00:06:26.59] And we moved by air, the whole division from Fort Campbell, Kentucky. I remember going from Fort Campbell to Travis, Travis to Wake, Wake to the Philippines, Philippines into Bien Hoa and got on the ground in Bien Hoa all through the strat lift. We got there by 141s.

[00:06:47.65] And I remember getting on the ground in Bien Hoa, put our heads down before we went up to Phuoc Vinh. And my-- all of my NCOs, my platoon sergeant and my squad leaders, were all Vietnam veterans. And every time that night when the artillery was going on and they kept reminding me, sir, that's outgoing. You will know when it's incoming. I remember it quite well.

[00:07:07.03] JOE GALLOWAY: What were your first impressions on landing?

[00:07:11.53] KEITH KELLOGG: Probably the first one was what have I got myself into. I think it was kind of-- it was kind of exciting because we'd gotten there on the ground and we knew we were going up to Phuoc Vinh. And even though we had really trained for it-- because for the six months prior, really five months prior to going because we knew the AO we were going into. And we really studied it. And we really trained for it.

[00:07:38.05] And we found out with the order of battle, we were really-- I was very, very comfortable in the leadership and so were the troops because we knew what we were getting into. It wasn't like where are you going into. We knew where we were going to be at Phuoc Vinh. We knew the area.

[00:07:50.81] We knew that we were going into a War Zone D, the Iron Triangle area. We knew everything about that. We knew the opposing force. We knew who the enemy was going to be out there in the order of battle. So we felt pretty good about it. I felt pretty comfortable. It was like to me I-- Joe, I got to be honest with you. It was like an adventure.

[00:08:07.33] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:08:07.81] KEITH KELLOGG: That was that, by the way. That changes immediately after you're shot at the first time. It doesn't become an adventure anymore.

[00:08:19.33] JOE GALLOWAY: What responsibilities consume most of your time?

[00:08:24.32] KEITH KELLOGG: The tour there?

[00:08:25.73] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:08:26.03] KEITH KELLOGG: I was a recon platoon leader through the Tet offensive. And then after the Tet offensive, the rotational policy at the time was-- as you remember, was you were in position for six months. And then after six months, you rotated somewhere else whether

you like to or not, which would-- which in retrospect, was probably a pretty dumb policy because it's battalion commanders and everything else.

[00:08:52.07] So after being a recon platoon leader, I was sent down to become-- interview for all-- for General Barsanti, the commanding general of the 101st, to be his aide-de-camp. And I said, I don't want to do that. And David Grange came in and said, you do know that out of the four recon platoon leaders in the brigade, you're the only one still alive. No, but I hadn't really been thinking about that.

[00:09:15.65] So I went down to interview for Barsanti to be his aide and told him I didn't want the job. And he said OK. So I went outside. And a little bit later in comes Dave Grange. And he said, lieutenant, let me talk to you a little bit.

[00:09:28.68] JOE GALLOWAY: You want that job.

[00:09:29.67] KEITH KELLOGG: I want that job because he said if you come back, you can be basically scrubbing pots and pans. You clear? Wasn't that clear to you before? So I was there for just a couple of months. And then Barsanti left Vietnam. And he said what do you want to do before I do that? I said-- well, I said you're not going to send me back to a line battalion because all the positions are filled.

[00:09:49.26] So I went-- I became a-- the last several months, I became a pathfinder because at that time the division had moved up to Hue/Phu Bai. After that I went in Hue/Phu Bai area and became a pathfinder for the 101st. At that time combat aviation groups were--

[00:10:02.87] JOE GALLOWAY: Julius Becton had a battalion at that time.

[00:10:05.58] KEITH KELLOGG: He had the 2nd of the 17th Cavalry. And the reason I remembered General Becton-- and I tell him to this day-- we had gone through Tet. And when we moved up to Hue/Phu Bai, we had to dislodge the NVA and the VC from Hue, the citadel.

[00:10:21.03] And I was a pathfinder for pushing forces into the city and everything else. And I was on a command out of the aviation in the 2nd of the 17th. And to this day, I'll never forget him coming on the net because one of our units had said, we're out of-- we're out of ammo. We're going to withdraw. And we were told by the brigade commander that, no, you're going to stay there. And Becton's people said the same thing.

[00:10:45.27] We're shot out of our 2.75 rockets and our miniguns. And I remember him coming on the radio. He said, you will not abandon the infantry. You will stay there and just fly around and make them think you got ammo. I told him later, I said that was pretty impressive because basically he said, we're going to commit to the fight that was still going on. And he-- and he had the 2nd of the 17th Cav at the time with the 101st.

[00:11:08.45] A lot of people sometimes don't remember this. But most-- at that time, virtually the Army, the first tour was almost an all-volunteer Army. I mean, there were draftees coming in.

But there was a lot of-- you knew the regulars because we had our social-- our social-- not our social-- our service number started with RA, Regular Army.

[00:11:26.18] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:11:26.53] KEITH KELLOGG: And as opposed to OF, which meant you were not Regular Army. And all of us were regulars at the time. And we stayed-- we stayed close. I still see some of them occasionally. And it was a close-knit unit. And then they started to attrit down. I mean, we had officers killed. And we had them being replaced as we went out there. But we stayed as a unit based, for the most part, close for the first year that we were there.

[00:11:57.14] There was another thing that-- one of the misconceptions is the reason why we lost so many officers. On an average, you were in combat 240 days a year unlike World War II and unlike the following wars, which were situational at best. It was a close-in gunfight war. I was there where during the year of Tet, where we had the most casualties at any time, which was I think 18,000 were killed that year.

[00:12:25.19] In one month, I think it was January-- it was January, we lost over 2,000, killed. In one week, we had over 200 killed not in our unit but overall. And when you talk about people, it's almost they can't really comprehend. I said, you forget that way over 50,000 were killed in action.

[00:12:43.79] And it was a close-in gunfight war. You were not killed by artillery, not killed by E-- IEDs. You were killed by rifles in close-in combat. So we lost a lot of officers because the officers at that time, I believe, we're taught to lead from the front. I know we were in the Ranger's battalion.

[00:13:00.12] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you form friendships with men from different racial or social backgrounds during your time that you might not have had in civilian life?

[00:13:09.45] KEITH KELLOGG: I don't think you cared, Joe. I mean, honest to God, you came in and I think, again, historically it may be one of the misconceptions, perceptions that are there today. But back then, men-- you bled red and you wore green. And you were-- if somebody had asked me and they had put a million dollars on the table, what was the racial composition of your unit. I said, I can't tell you. I didn't care.

[00:13:32.73] The fact is-- and I had to think my way through it. You do over years. But John Metz was my company commander. He was an African-American and-- OK. Nobody cared and nobody really paid much attention to it. At least, I didn't.

[00:13:53.40] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:14:00.09] What were your living conditions like?

[00:14:02.37] KEITH KELLOGG: It sucked.

[00:14:03.18] JOE GALLOWAY: It sucked.

[00:14:05.61] KEITH KELLOGG: I lived in Phuoc Vinh. We lived in a-- I guess you'd call it a GP medium with roll-up sides and sandbags around it. Our showers consisted of actually cans with holes punched in it. And you'd stand under there with lousy water, but you didn't care.

[00:14:22.14] We ate B rations, which meant for those who didn't know, probably powdered eggs, which were somehow made into real eggs but not not real eggs. And you had spam. You had canned food. You ate C rations. I mean, it was like-- that's what you kind of expected. I can't really think of having a true hot egg except on Thanksgiving.

[00:14:44.75] JOE GALLOWAY: And what did you do for off-duty time or recreation time?

[00:14:49.64] KEITH KELLOGG: You're kidding.

[00:14:50.36] JOE GALLOWAY: I'm serious.

[00:14:51.98] KEITH KELLOGG: There-- I'd-- we had one R&R a year. That was it.

[00:14:56.54] JOE GALLOWAY: That was it.

[00:14:57.52] KEITH KELLOGG: And we had one in-country. People-- and there was also an in-country R&R program. And I remember because we had been shot up through Tet, because I had lost-- and during-- by the end of Tet, I lost one third of my platoon, either dead or wounded. I lost all of my squad leaders and the only one still around was my platoon sergeant and me.

[00:15:20.93] And I remember going to Vung Tau, in-country R&R with a guy by the name of Jeff Davis who was later-- who was the great, great, great grandson of Jefferson Davis, who was later severely injured because he was Paul Bucha's-- when Paul Bucha won the Medal of Honor--

[00:15:39.95] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:15:40.49] KEITH KELLOGG: he was one of this platoon leaders who was badly, badly wounded. And that was an in-country. And then you had an out-of-country R&R. And that was it. And the rest of the times-- I mean, you--

[00:15:54.20] JOE GALLOWAY: You were on it seven days a week.

[00:15:56.16] KEITH KELLOGG: Yeah, we were-- I mean, actually we were gone all the time. And somebody said, what you do? I don't remember. I said-- the only time I went to Saigon is when I came. But, I mean, when I left country because we didn't come in, we came into Tan Son Nhut when we flew in. We came into Bien Hoa when we came in. That was it.

[00:16:15.22] JOE GALLOWAY: That was it.

[00:16:20.48] Can you describe the quality of the leadership in your outfit?

[00:16:24.86] KEITH KELLOGG: Well, I think they were incredibly professional. And when I think back on Vietnam, I was-- I was actually in two wars. The first war I was in was 1968. And the Army at that time was an incredibly professional Army. The leaders were great. I mean, David Grange was my battalion commander. I mean, he became legendary after that.

[00:16:47.63] Our company commanders were all first or second-- most of them were in second tours. Our senior NCOs, all I commanded--- I commented earlier-- all of my NCOs were on their second tours. My platoon sergeant won the Silver Star on his first tour. It-- really, really, really professional.

[00:17:04.23] My second tour was a different Army. I came in and I said this isn't the Army that I came over with the first time. And it was through the-- because of either the draftees or the war-- actions against the war, whatever. But it was a different kind of Army than the first time there.

[00:17:20.62] JOE GALLOWAY: Something changed.

[00:17:21.63] KEITH KELLOGG: Some changed dramatically in the couple of years I was gone. But my first year, I will tell people I have never seen a more professional Army. And a lot of them were Korean-- our first sergeant had jumped with the 187th in Korea. He was incredibly professional. Grange fought in World War II.

[00:17:41.70] Every company commander were-- they were all really, really good. And the officers to me were really good because the 101st, again, was an airborne division. That was a volunteer division. You didn't get to the 101st just because you were assigned there. You had to ask to go.

[00:18:00.06] JOE GALLOWAY: What changed most drastically in your view between your two tours?

[00:18:07.59] KEITH KELLOGG: I think the Army-- I think standards started to break out. I think there were some actions taken by the Army that didn't help. I think they were called the shake and bake NCOs that came in, which were we made people non-commissioned officers who were really not prepared to be.

[00:18:26.70] JOE GALLOWAY: And had 90 days in the Army.

[00:18:29.04] KEITH KELLOGG: And the same with the officer corps. I remember coming back the second time, I found 18-year-old lieutenants that were there and NCOs who had been there less than three or four months who didn't understand what good order and discipline was. And it was already gone beyond that.

[00:18:47.92] I remember seeing at that time-- and I have to go fast forward-- the movie Platoon had come out in the '70s. And we'd gone to see it. And my wife asked at the time, was that what it was like in Vietnam? I said, no. I said they took every single bad thing that ever happened in the United States Army, put it one platoon in one week or whatever it was. And that's it.

[00:19:06.77] And that's when I came up with the two Armies. There was an Army that we came up with that you would never recognize. And then the Army that had those kind of issues. Later on, it was a leadership issue. The rotational issue came into effect.

[00:19:19.03] I mean, you were-- the six month rotations were still there. People were more concerned about staying alive than they were about fighting. In my first year there, we were more concerned about fighting and to stay-- staying alive came with good fight.

[00:19:32.62] JOE GALLOWAY: Can you describe significant actions that you witnessed or operations in which you participated?

[00:19:39.33] KEITH KELLOGG: Yeah, the first one was-- the first one was pre-Tet. And we got into-- we were actually patrolling north of Bien Hoa. And I was out there as a recon platoon leader. And Dave Grange-- what he used to do is he used to throw us out there. He says, just go find the bad guys. And we had a very, very bad habit of finding them. And it was a mid-January and we were put into it.

[00:20:07.95] And we went-- we went into an incredible firefight. And I remember-- and I said-- and I remember telling my platoon sergeant at the time, Wendell Coursey. And I said-- and I called back in to Grange. I said I don't know what we've got. We've got-- we're in one hell of a fight.

[00:20:24.56] And I said, we're going to have to pull back, get to an LZ because by that time I had lost-- I lost two of my three squad leaders that were killed or severely wounded. Well, actually one was blind and the other was killed. And we pulled back to it. And he piled in. And we piled in with the other rifle companies. And I couldn't figure out what had happened.

[00:20:46.66] I said, I don't know what's going on. But I said this was incredible. And we pushed back into the fight. Grange had said, OK, you've got a lot of casualties. Why don't you pull back? I said, no, we're going back in. And we went back in. I led the battalion back in, because I knew where we were going. And we found this enormous base camp. And they had by that time evacuated.

[00:21:06.00] So there's a connection here. So two, three weeks later, I get waking up in the middle of night, said pack your gear. I said this is Tet. We don't fight over Tet. At that time, people didn't realize, but there was actually a ceasefire over Tet. And we actually were involved in the Tet offensive, went in there.

[00:21:23.28] Well, fast forward, later I found out what happened is that first action, we had run into the flank of the Dong Nai Regiment. And the Dong Nai Regiment was in-- moving south to attack Bien Hoa and Saigon with her companies. And we had run smack into them. And they had-- their job was to break contact. And our job was to maintain contact. So they put on a full course to just drive us back.

[00:21:47.70] And then when we came in with the rest of them, they were basically gone. And I could never figure out why they didn't stay and fight. Of course, later I found out what happened

as they were-- we had a movement contact. We made contact. They were trying to break contact because they didn't want to get discovered going forward, put in there.

[00:22:04.27] So in the space of three weeks, we'd had the contact in War Zone D than Tet, which we had moved into-- at that time, we had-- we actually had to fight through our way to Bien Hoa Air Base. We'd been nearly overrun. And we fought there on the ground outside of Bien Hoa, which were pretty significant engagement.

[00:22:24.90] And then we just-- then at that time, the fights just continued because-- then we were fighting not rearguard actions, but they were there. We were there. We were trying to get them off the battlefield. But those were the-- if I had to pick two, those were the two that started to me the year of Tet when the casualties started increasing.

[00:22:43.38] And by the time Tet had finished, I didn't have one of my original squad leaders at all. Two had been killed, one blinded. My platoon sergeant and I were the only two still standing. And the other-- by that time, the other three platoon-- squad platoon leader, recon platoon leaders had been killed or wounded by that time.

[00:23:11.95] I think the one that-- probably the first contact we ever had was a kind of pretty brutal close-in gunfight because then it was no kidding and then you were close in with Chinese claymores going off in the close-in gunfight. And then later, the Tet offensive, which stands out in my mind-- it's something that you read from World War II. There's no atheists in a foxhole.

[00:23:40.95] And as soon as you start, we came out of the Bien Hoa fight and Grange pulled us offline. And we went back to the base camp. And we kind of sat down and looked around at how many-- what was left of us.

[00:23:52.38] And this is going to sound crazy, but to this day it strikes me. And I said-- you appreciate this. So a Catholic priest came by. And he said, do you want a service? And now I had a multi-denominational platoon. Every one of them went to church. Every one of them took Catholic communion.

[00:24:13.35] And I thought to myself-- I told people later. I said that old World War II axiom that you hear that there's no atheist in a foxhole, yeah, I saw it up close and personal. And it was very, very sobering to me that we realize how fragile life was in there and getting shot at and everything else, which it--

[00:24:30.12] And then-- and then what-- and this has nothing to do with Vietnam. But the most striking thing I remembered about Vietnam wasn't what happened in Vietnam, what happened after I came back from the Gulf War. And I marched in the victory parade here in Washington D.C. and in New York City.

[00:24:52.75] And the first thing I did-- I said, when we got on the airplane, which was a United Air flight coming back from Iraq, the airplane was decorated and treated as conquering heroes. We didn't see that in Vietnam. And you had to appreciate that. And then the appreciation of the

American people, which I think was directly representative of what they had seen or not seen 20 years before.

[00:25:26.32] Probably one of the best days was Thanksgiving day when I realized that the Army serves you real turkey and it came in things called marmite cans.

[00:25:36.58] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:25:37.00] KEITH KELLOGG: But they came out and we had hot turkeys.

[00:25:39.39] JOE GALLOWAY: And you were out in a boonies.

[00:25:40.69] KEITH KELLOGG: I was down in the middle of War Zone D, in the middle of a hill.

[00:25:43.45] JOE GALLOWAY: And these are hot turkeys.

[00:25:44.74] KEITH KELLOGG: And I had hot turkey. I said, I don't believe this. So that was probably-- if I had to pick, I'd say that was probably the best day. The rest of them the fact that-- it's funny. One thing I do remember was the CIB ceremony that Grange had. And now in retrospect, you don't think about it.

[00:26:03.46] But that was a big deal for everybody when we got our Combat Infantryman Badges just because at that time the regulation was-- the rules-- where you had to serve 30 days in combat. It wasn't just handed out from day one. You had to be in close-in gunfights, so much time.

[00:26:18.73] And he reminded us all the time CIBs are pretty important. Now it changed over time. But at that time, that was a pretty big event. And I remember the ceremony going on there, which by the way, was in conjunction with also a memorial ceremony at the same time with someone we lost.

[00:26:38.97] I think that first gunfight. And it was the worst day because seeing people you deployed with dead and, I mean, mangled, realizing that-- because at that time-- up until that time, we'd been in a couple of skirmishes. But that was the first time that it was when you realized that your people that you were with were dead.

[00:27:04.77] And it wasn't-- it was not only the worst. It was also probably the best day because at that time I said, boy, we're really pretty good. I mean, nobody folded. Nobody did something dumb. Everybody stood and fought. So it was the worst day in that we had lost people. But it was the best day because I saw the soul of the American infantry. And it was pretty cool in retrospect.

[00:27:31.23] And, by the way, to this day those from those platoon-- and we've stayed in contact-- remember that day. I've got a gentleman by the name of-- he was a Spec 4 named Russell who sends me Christmas cards every year. And he said-- and this day he remembers that.

[00:27:55.98] JOE GALLOWAY: How much contact if any, did you have with our allies, the Koreans, the Filipinos, the Aussies, New Zealanders?

[00:28:04.74] KEITH KELLOGG: In the second tour, because I was in Special Forces the second tour, we were-- we had worked there with-- we were a co-Special Forces unit with New Zealand SAS. So we worked with the SAS the second tour. And then we were located near a Korean army battalion.

[00:28:21.69] Now we didn't have very much work with the Koreans. But we worked with the New Zealand SAS. And they were pretty good at what they did. It was part of the-- yeah, they were. They're part of what they call the TAT, training assistance team but they were SAS.

[00:28:34.42] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:28:39.70] What were your impressions of the Vietnamese people, both civilian and military, that you had anything to do with?

[00:28:47.62] KEITH KELLOGG: Well, the first tour none., I mean, we didn't find them in the jungle. And we weren't out there. And the fact is, this is one of the things between tour one, tour two. The American Army as I said was a different Army. We treat everybody with great respect. You didn't see any of these things like the Zippo lighters and the burning of hooches. That was never done in the first tour.

[00:29:09.88] I mean, we were direct gun fighting. And when we were around towns people were very, very respectful of the people. That's when I learned my-- probably that one of the first lessons is you never pat anybody on the head. I remember that was-- that's a no-no in Vietnamese culture. I didn't realize. And things-- you get out there, but you were out there with your teams.

[00:29:30.59] So I never really had that. In the second tour, because we were in Special Forces, you did a little bit. But, I mean, I-- there were no issues. I mean, but again, Joe, I was never-- remember, I said the combat-- I was always on the combat areas. I was never in the cities or the towns. I would just pass through them.

[00:29:52.59] JOE GALLOWAY: How much contact did you have with your family back home?

[00:29:56.46] KEITH KELLOGG: Not much. It was by letters to include sending letters on C-ration boxes because you could actually put those by putting free in the corner. You could take a C-ration box. And you could write a letter, put free, and still have them.

[00:30:13.05] JOE GALLOWAY: And send them.

[00:30:13.95] KEITH KELLOGG: And the other one was later on, there was a thing called MARS, Military Affiliated Radio Station, where in my second tour. not my first tour because I had no phone calls at all. But the second tour we had a Military Affiliated Radio Station which was the shortwave and I guess it was longwave. And I talked to my parents at the time. And, how

are you? Over. And they couldn't get over the over and the out because you had to do it so the operator knew to switch it

[00:30:40.38] JOE GALLOWAY: To switch it.

[00:30:40.98] KEITH KELLOGG: But it was-- that was it.

[00:30:46.86] JOE GALLOWAY: How much news did you receive from home about the war, about the antiwar politics, and all that?

[00:30:53.73] KEITH KELLOGG: Well, in the first tour, nothing because the antiwar operations hadn't really kicked in. I mean, we were still pretty-- it wasn't until-- I remember I was there during-- as I said, I was there during Tet. And the Tet actually helped generate the antiwar movement later on. So you didn't see it going on. And you didn't have that day-to-day stuff. And I think my parents were also basically-- who were very, very pro-military. I didn't really pick up on what was happening back in the home.

[00:31:20.25] So we really didn't-- I was more surprised when I got home. I mean, I walked off the airplane. We wore a class B uniforms. So we came home. We landed at Travis Air Force Base. And I went to-- in my uniform, I went through San Francisco International. And it had just started to pick up.

[00:31:38.73] And nobody had said anything to me or anything bad. I got on my PSA jet, Pacific Southwest Airlines jet, flew home and everything was fine. It was only during subsequent that the years that followed the year that followed and everything else.

[00:31:51.67] But I do remember going and having-- when I was in San Francisco soon after that, having drinks with some college friends. And then I realized the depth of the antiwar movement. And I was in uniform and that's when one of my friends made a-- he wasn't a friend after that. But basically, he said, basically you know what are you guys doing. You're killing kids. You're killing everything else.

[00:32:14.91] I said, I don't know what you're talking about. What are you-- where are you getting this information from? I said, I spent a year there. We never did that, so-- and that's when it started up. So by the second tour, it was a different Army, a different story in going there, even though I'd volunteered for both it was a different environment.

[00:32:33.06] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:32:39.69] Now, you obviously remained in the Army after your second tour and served a full career. Did you have any difficulty readjusting to life after the war?

[00:32:53.50] KEITH KELLOGG: No, I tell people that is-- there's a lot of hogwash to that. I mean, the fact is a lot of my friends-- we didn't have trouble readjusting. I think it was-- a lot of us when we saw what was happening within the Army and there were issues.

[00:33:13.63] I mean, there was no doubt. By the time I finished my second tour, by the time I'd seen it, there were issues that were happening out there. And there's no doubt. And it was a lack of command and control and true good order and discipline. I got it.

[00:33:24.76] But a lot of us who had stayed in decided we're not going to abandon the ship. We're going to stay in this long term and make sure that works out pretty well. But as far as adjustment, I slept well at night, didn't have a problem. And I understand. Much like there is today, there's post-traumatic stress disorders or things like that was happening then.

[00:33:47.41] I think Hollywood played up on a lot of the veterans issues. And I think that frankly if you look at the statistics, I tell-- I challenge people. You can find the statistics about Vietnam pretty well documented. 98% of those who came out of the Vietnam War were pretty well adjusted. They came home. They did well, lived fine.

[00:34:11.56] But don't go watch the movie-- what was it, The Deer Hunter and movies like that?

[00:34:17.56] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:34:17.77] KEITH KELLOGG: I said don't-- and eventually Platoon. I said there were some pretty good movies that came out like the one you were involved with, We Were Soldiers Once-- and Young. I said that's the American Army I remember, that they fought for each other. They fought hard. And when they came home it was a different Army. But, I mean, people forget that. Like when they-- and it was so true that you saw things like the notification was actually done through taxicabs.

[00:34:43.61] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:34:44.32] KEITH KELLOGG: I mean, the people say, you're kidding me. I said no. But that was the Army that we grew up in.

[00:34:49.07] JOE GALLOWAY: That was the old Army. Have you kept in touch with fellow veterans of the 101st first overs the years.

[00:34:59.42] KEITH KELLOGG: Over the years, I have some with my platoon and especially this gentleman Russell because-- I'll say it fast so I don't get too emotional about it. But he basically said, I'll never forget those days. And then it's-- and your leadership and what you did and how close we were.

[00:35:19.07] And to this day, I-- he lives out in the wilds of Idaho with his wife. He doesn't quite look the same as I remember. But for those of us who have kept close, not real close, but the contacts are out there. And I stayed in much closer contact with some of the officers that I served with.

[00:35:44.74] JOE GALLOWAY: Did your experience in Vietnam affect the way you think about veterans coming home from combat today?

[00:35:51.28] KEITH KELLOGG: Oh, yeah, I mean, it was-- I mean, when you came off the airplane-- and I did the first tour at Travis Air Force Base, went-- it was, OK, thank you very much, Out. Gone. I got on my PSA jet, flew home. Thank you very much. Hi, mom and dad. How are you doing?

[00:36:07.63] And it was-- in the second tour, it was a little bit worse because of the second tour-- by the time the second tour was over, we were advised not even to wear our uniforms in Washington D.C., or anywhere else out there. And I'll never forget going to the Americana Hotel, since gone, in New York City and having a gentleman-- because I refused to not wear my uniform. And I wore my uniform and a gentleman came up to me and shook my hand, said thank you for all you've done.

[00:36:33.97] But there was a time when people just-- I think either Hollywood had taken over, the impressions had taken over-- and so there were people out there who said, that was really, really bad. And I said, I'm very, very proud of what I did. I said I've got no bad-- I don't sleep badly at night.

[00:36:53.78] So it was a different-- compared to today. I mean, today-- and I remember going to Atlanta airport in the start of the war, there was a young Soldier in front of me. And he was at Starbucks. I remember walking up to him and I said, told the lady behind-- the barista, said, his money's no good here. I said I want to do it.

[00:37:13.34] And that wasn't the only one. I've seen people applaud soldiers in airports and everything else. And the first time I came back was like, well, this was just a job. The second time I came back, it was-- you realized that nobody really cared about what you did. And so we just went back to being a Soldier.

[00:37:34.02] JOE GALLOWAY: How do you think the Vietnam War is remembered in our society today or is it?

[00:37:39.78] KEITH KELLOGG: Much differently. I think there's a few reasons I can say to that. One, there's a lot of people-- and there's a book-- there was a book that was written a few years ago. It's called Stolen Valor. There's a lot of people who now wished they had gone and put on the uniforms and say they'd been there and they really weren't there. That's one.

[00:38:01.32] The second is I think there's a recognition by a lot of older Americans that what they did is they did what they were supposed to do as Soldiers. And I've separated-- I separated the political from the Soldiers. Back then they didn't. So I think there's a lot of represent-- a lot of acknowledgment now that it was-- they had fought well.

[00:38:24.29] And I saw that happen as-- after the first Gulf War when there was this uprising of emotion. And I think a lot of that-- I really believe that a lot of that people said, well, I remember what we had done for veterans before and compared to now.

[00:38:42.08] And I think, as history is written, people actually think less about the Vietnam War. I mean, look, candidly, my son isn't sure where Vietnam was and what happened. So it's faded out. And I think a lot of it is faded out because it's over time. I was there.

[00:38:59.93] But that's what I remind people, remember, we had-- I know we talk about the current wars and trillions spent and 5,000 killed. We are over 54,000 killed, 40,000 wounded. In one year alone, we had 16,000 killed. In a month, we had 200 killed in a single month during '68. I remember those fights quite clearly, different war.

[00:39:24.08] JOE GALLOWAY: What lessons did you take from Vietnam that you would like to pass on to future generations?

[00:39:31.07] KEITH KELLOGG: Yeah, the lessons-- there's a couple lessons is-- on a military lesson is the value of good order and discipline of a unit, how important it is to make sure you do the right thing all of the time, know what right looks like and make sure they're out there. And I think that carried on.

[00:39:49.06] And that's the reason why the American Army became so good over time because those who had stayed in realized the value of good order and discipline. We weren't going to do that again. Probably the most iconic individual is Colin Powell when he had the Powell doctrine and the lessons he had from Vietnam transition to where he became the chairman.

[00:40:12.23] On the civilian side, it's-- and I think they do now, the appreciation of the military. The military has to be divorced and away from what happens on the political side. Those decisions are different decisions. Those are decisions the American people made. Those are decisions when you elect somebody. But don't push that back on the military. The military's doing the job they were trained to do and they were ordered to do.

[00:40:36.98] And the value of civilian control of the military-- you're not going to see somebody on a white horse and you're not going to see a mutiny. And you're not going to see somebody try to take over the government. And you hear that. That's never going to happen because the Army-- they're trained that way.

[00:40:50.90] So I'd tell people out there, appreciate the people who serve because it's less than 1%. And they're doing this today especially the days where they're volunteers. And they're doing what's right for the nation. And they're true heroes.

[00:41:10.14] The first time was pretty emotional because as you know that the people are racked and stacked on the wall by the day they died.

[00:41:22.44] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:41:23.04] KEITH KELLOGG: So you can find-- the first time I found my platoon there-- they were all together and--

[00:41:35.31] JOE GALLOWAY: That's stunning.

[00:41:36.85] KEITH KELLOGG: Yeah, over time it goes away. But the first time it's really hard.

[00:42:03.04] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:42:09.97] KEITH KELLOGG: I think it's really-- it's appropriate. And I think it's good and probably was overdue. And it happened. But I think it's really neat. And some of the events that are occurring are pretty good. And we had an event which was quite-- for example, in a Catholic mass three weeks ago, the priest called everybody up because he gave out the pins, which I've got on my jacket.

[00:42:31.60] JOE GALLOWAY: Ah, at the church.

[00:42:33.25] KEITH KELLOGG: At the church. And they came up and I was-- and he said, everybody who had served in Vietnam or the Vietnam time, come on up. And I was stunned. I mean, it was like, I said, OK, I'm going to show up with two or three others. And it was probably 20 showed up.

[00:42:47.65] I said, wow, this is-- and they were handed out by a member of the commemorative committee and the priest was there. And then he prayed over everybody, which was kind of neat. So it's coming along and I've seen it. So it's getting out there. It's probably-- Joe, it's probably-- it's the right time in the sense time has passed long enough to do it.

[00:43:09.19] But also, at the same time, it may be a few years too late because a lot of who we know who were in Vietnam or it's beyond their time, they're past where-- they're gone on. And everything has been blurred through Iraq and ISIS and Afghanistan and Syria and the first Gulf War.

[00:43:28.63] And you forget about what happened in the Vietnam War. And it was-- it was a tough war. It was a close-in gunfight war. 200-- on an average, 240 days of close-in combat. The numbers we lost there-- I mean, was staggering when you lose-- I mean--

[00:43:46.33] JOE GALLOWAY: We're killing each other 20 yards distance

[00:43:48.77] KEITH KELLOGG: Yeah, and the when you-- if somebody said today-- we lost 2,500 in a month in 1968. We lost over 200 in a-- 250 in a week. And I said, yeah, in one gunfight, I lost almost one third of my platoon. They look at you, they go, really? And I said, yeah, it was pretty tough.

[00:44:09.37] And in that regard, I think time has passed so much that a lot of them don't-- the appreciation level because of time has passed and the intervening events have passed that sometimes that appreciation isn't there. One of these days I wish the good stories have been written.

[00:44:33.14] And, again, that's where I-- candidly, the book that you and General Moore wrote and then the movie and I tell people that's the counterbalance to the tune. What you saw there

was LZ X-Ray. And what you saw in the movie Platoon, the Army I remember was the first-- that's the first one. That was the Army I was a part of.

[00:44:55.64] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah, thank you, General Kellogg.

[00:44:57.74] KEITH KELLOGG: Thank you, sir.