

James David Tuczak collection

AFC 2001/001/69450

Guides to the Collections in the Veterans History Project



**LIBRARY OF
CONGRESS**

**Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
March 2015**

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadvhp.vh016003>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lccn.loc.gov/2015655443>

Prepared by Aron Swan and Candace Milburn

Collection Summary

Title: James David Tuczak collection: Veterans History Project (U.S.)

Inclusive Dates: 1963-2009

Call No.: AFC 2001/001/69450

Creator: Tuczak, James David, 1945-2013

Extent (items): 379 items.

Extent (folders): 18 folders.

Extent (moving images): moving images: 1 videodisc (DVD-R) : digital, sound, color ; 4 3/4 in.

Extent (correspondence): correspondence: 174 letters

Extent (manuscripts): manuscripts: 21 military papers (78 pages)

Extent (manuscripts): manuscripts: 15 items.

Extent (graphic images): graphic images: 168 photographic prints : black and white, color ; various sizes.

Language: In English.

Repository: Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress , Washington, D.C. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.home>

Abstract: A collection of clippings, correspondence, creative works, maps, military papers, periodicals, printed matter, photographic prints, and a video oral history relating to James David Tuczak's service in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Packer, Daniel, interviewer.

Tuczak, James David, 1945-2013.

Organizations

American Folklife Center.

Plymouth Historical Society (Plymouth, Mich.), donor.

United States. Marine Corps. Marine Division, 1st.

United States. Marine Corps. Marine Division, 1st. Engineer Battalion, 9th.

Veterans History Project (U.S.), collector.

Subjects

Vietnam War, 1961-1975--Personal narratives, American.

Vietnam War, 1961-1975--Veterans--Michigan.

Form/Genre

Clippings.

Correspondence.

Filmed interviews.

Manuscripts.

Oral histories.

Photographs.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Arranged in three series: manuscripts, photographs, and recordings. Manuscripts are arranged alphabetically by type of material. Correspondence is divided into two parts: letters from Tuczak to his mother and other family members (MS02); and letters to Tuczak from his family and friends (MS03).

Acquisition

Accessioned, 2010.

Copyright Status

Duplication of collection materials may be restricted.

Access and Restrictions

Collection is open for research; access restrictions apply. To request collection materials, please contact the Veterans History Project at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.contact>

Preferred Citation

James David Tuzak Collection (AFC/2001/001/69450), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress.

Biographical Note

James David Tuzak was born November 1, 1945, in Detroit, Michigan, to Frank V. Tuzak and Julia (Milewski) Tuzak. He attended Frank Cody High School in Detroit, from 1961 to 1964, and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in February 1966. After completing recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Tuzak attended Combat Engineer School at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and served as a combat engineer in Vietnam with the 9th Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division. In February 1968, he transferred to the Marine Corps Reserve, and he was honorably discharged in 1972. Following his active duty service, he began a civilian career with the Ford Motor Company. Tuzak died on September 23, 2013.

Scope and Content

The John David Tuzak collection consists of clippings, correspondence, creative works, maps, military papers, periodicals, printed matter, photographs, and a video recording relating to Tuzak's service in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. The bulk of the collection consists of photographs depicting Tuzak and his fellow Marines on and off duty in Vietnam and letters exchanged between Tuzak and his family while he served overseas. Topics covered in the correspondence include the weather; thoughts of home; news of friends and family; job duties; learning of riots in Detroit; losing weight; guard duty; a friendly fire incident; thoughts about marriage.

The collection also includes a video oral history interview detailing the veteran's service.

Description of Series

Container

Series

Series I: Recordings

Series II: Manuscripts

Series III: Photographs

Oversize Material

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
	Series I: Recordings
BOX CD/DVD170	Interview with James David Tuczak, December 7, 2009, conducted by Daniel Packer. 1 optical disc ID: MV01 MV01
	Series II: Manuscripts
BOX-FOLDER MSS2618/1	Clippings, 1966-1968 1 folder MS01: A clipping that includes Tuczak receiving promotion in Chu Lai, Vietnam; article on 9th Engineer Battalion repairing bridge due to explosion which ripped bridge apart; article on Marines killing 100 Viet Cong in surprise attack.
BOX-FOLDER MSS2618/2-5	Correspondence, 1964-1967 4 folders MS02: One hundred and thirty-three letters written from Tuczak to his mother and family. Topics covered include: Weather conditions in Vietnam; thinking of home; inquiring about family back home; going to the gun range; sending pictures of himself and his service buddies; R&R; his unit supporting 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment; engineer duties; suffering from heat rash; reading "Stars and Stripes" and discovering news of riots in Detroit; going on patrols and ambushes; explaining torpedoes and mines; losing weight; frustration of girlfriend, Penny, not writing to him and moving and getting her own apartment; working in the company office; testifying in front of the Major regarding a Marine killed in a friendly fire incident during guard duty shift; and long guard duty shifts. <i>See also Oversize.</i>
BOX-FOLDER MSS2618/6-7	Correspondence, 1966-1968 2 folders MS03: Forty letters written from family and friends to Tuczak. Topics covered include: Family inquiring about Tuczak's health and well-being; weather conditions back home; his girlfriend Penny expressing her feelings about marriage; family being proud of Tuczak being a Marine; receiving pictures; family complimenting Tuczak's weight loss; family disappointed due to being unable to see Tuczak because of orders; questions about military training; expecting letters from Tuczak; and family updates.
BOX-FOLDER MSS2618/8	Creative Works, 1966-1968 1 folder MS04: Lyrics to a song entitled "The Counter Attack" which was dedicated to the men of the 1st Marine Division; poem entitled "What is a Marine?"
BOX-FOLDER OVZ248/1	Maps, 1966 1 folder MS05: A "Stars and Stripes" map of war area in Vietnam; also includes highlighted area of where Tuczak served in Chu Lai.
BOX-FOLDER MSS2618/9	Military Papers, 1963-1972 1 folder

Series II: Manuscripts

Container

Contents

- MS06: Registration certificate (11/20/1963); Marine Corps identification card (01/23/1972); Geneva conventions identification card; Marine Corps Reserve tag; notice of classification (03/25/1968); immunization certificate; Lance Corporal promotion (02/01/1967); Private First Class promotion (08/01/1966); Corporal promotion (09/01/1967); report of separation; veteran's application for program of education; discharge certificate; battalion special order (5 pp); release from active duty (02/20/1968); original orders (45 pp); travel voucher; letter addressed to 9th Engineer Battalion; division special order (01/16/1968) (7 pp).
- BOX-FOLDER** Periodicals, 1967
OVZ288/1-2
- 2 folders
- MS07: Entire issues of the "Sea Tiger." Issues include various articles on the III Marine Amphibious Force in Vietnam during the Vietnam War.
- BOX-FOLDER** Printed Matter, 1968-1970
MSS2618/10
- 1 folder
- MS08: A pamphlet of a Michigan road map.
- BOX-FOLDER** OVZ251/1 Printed Matter, 1968-1970
- 1 folder
- MS08: United Nations Association guide.

Series III: Photographs

- BOX-FOLDER** Original photographic prints, 1966-1970
MSS2619/1-2
- 2 folders
- PH01-PH167: Photographs include: Tuczak and service buddies throughout Vietnam; posing in full military uniform; holding rifles; standing near sandbags; standing on the beach; playing games for entertainment; Vietnamese locals; 8th Engineer Battalion at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; boot camp in San Diego; Tuczak on patrol in Chu Lai; rice patties; Chu Lai River; deceased Viet Cong; and aftermath of battle.

Oversize Material

- BOX-FOLDER** OVZ251/1 Correspondence, 1964-1967
- 1 folder
- MS02