Andrew Wilson
Provo, Utah
Specialist E5
Army
Helicopter Parts Specialist/Door Gunner/Guitar Player
“Escalation”

Interviewer
State your full name.

Andrew Wilson
I’m William Andrew Wilson.

Interviewer
And you said you were born in Washington D.C.?

Andrew Wilson
I was born in Washington D.C. on George Washington’s birthday in 1947.

Interviewer
You grew up in that area?

Andrew Wilson
I did. I grew up out in the Virginia dairy country. My dad was a World War II veteran, and he was terrified that Washington was going to be attacked by nuclear weapons and so he moved us way out into Fairfax County, where we would be safe from a nuclear attack.

Interviewer
And you were saying something earlier about what you grew up believing about the founding fathers.

Andrew Wilson
You know, I went to public schools in Virginia, and we were taught from the very first day that the founding fathers… Well, first of all, all the important ones were from Virginia, like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson and James Madison and, you know, the list goes on and on. Patrick Henry--"Give me Liberty or give me death." Well, anyhow, we grew up thinking that the founding fathers

were demigods put on the earth by God to bring about freedom. And so I was very proud, as a child, to be an American, to have a U.S. passport and to be a U.S. citizen.

Interviewer
So you grew up, and then you graduated high school there?

Andrew Wilson
No, actually, I didn't graduate from high school. I was an artist and a musician, and I hated school with a passion. I really went to an excellent high school; don't get me wrong, McLean High School in McLean, Virginia where we moved when I was in high school. It was a really great school. I just didn't wanna be there. I wanted to be out playing in my rock band and in my studio painting pictures. So I wrote a letter to the principal on the little Underwood typewriter: "Dear Mr. Evans, Andrew will not be attending class till further notice as he has developed tuberculosis. Signed George Wilson." And that worked for 45 school days--until Mr. Evans went to see my dad to have a prescription filled. "How's Andrew?" "Well, Andrew's fine. Why do you ask?" And the jig was up. So anyhow, I didn't get to graduate from high school, but I did get to play in a really great band.

Interviewer
What was the name, by the way?

Andrew Wilson
The band?

Interviewer
Yeah.

Andrew Wilson
The Fabulous Titans. The Fabulous Titans. And then they played in--well, in '66 before I got drafted, I'd played in a band in Georgetown, Washington D.C. in a place called The Crazy Horse, and that band was a psychedelic band called Elizabeth Faggots Revenge.

Interviewer
So you were doing all this and tell us about getting that draft notice.

Andrew Wilson
Well, I was deaf in my left ear, and so I thought I was like Jimmy Stewart in "It's a Wonderful Life"--you know, immune from military service. I'd always been told that I was immune from military service, and so it was no big deal for me to not to be in college or not to be in some form of draft deferment 'cause I thought I couldn't be taken. And I got my draft notice, and it was really quite a surprise. I called the draft board and I said, "I'm deaf in my left ear. How can you induct me?" And they said, "Well, they've changed the rules. You're in." And boy, I

was knocked over. I was really knocked over ‘cause footloose, fancy-free… I mean, I cared a lot about the Vietnam War. I did a lot of reading about the Vietnam War, and I thought that it was a huge mistake in American foreign policy and that it was just a big wealth transfer from the middle class to the richest two percent, as wars often are.

Interviewer
So you were not for the war.

Andrew Wilson
No, I was pretty dedicated against the war, and for the longest time, I thought that the reason that I was drafted is because the head of the draft board was a guy named General Hershey. And General Hersey made it a matter of public policy to get the war protesters off the street by drafting them, and I got swept up in that.

Interviewer
So you get your draft notice. Then what happened?

Andrew Wilson
Well, the people that I was associating with were pretty highly affiliated in the anti-war movement. They had a lot of money, and they offered me an all-expense paid trip to Canada, all-expense paid trip to Sweden, just anything to refuse to be inducted. And I just felt that my future lay in the United States, and that being a patriot, I wanted to help form public policy and not just run from it when it didn’t suit me. So I thought, "Boy, you know, if I come back from Vietnam, if I’m a decorated veteran, they’ll have to listen to me when I say that war’s the wrong thing." That was a big mistake. When I came back from Vietnam, nobody wanted to hear about it, and I mean nobody.

Interviewer
When did you actually go get on that bus? How did you get to the Army?

Andrew Wilson
Well, my report date was the fifth of July of 1967, and I was transported to Richmond, Virginia, where we did the induction physical. And again, I was telling everybody who would listen, "Hey, I’m deaf. I’m not supposed to be here." You know, "Step forward and raise your arm to the square. You're now a soldier."

And so then they flew us from Richmond to Columbia, Georgia where Fort Benning is. And I went through basic training at a place called Sand Hill. And it’s kind of ironic to me, looking back, that at the same time I was on Sand Hill getting my basic training, John Wayne was on the other side of Fort Benning shooting the movie "The Green Berets." Boy, that was pressing it in a way, because when I went to basic training, you can imagine that being the kind of kid that I was, that I was gonna be in trouble all the time and I was. I mean, I never got punished; I

never got what they call an Article 15, which says, "Hey, you did the wrong thing." I never did anything like that, but oh, I did well on the test and they said, "Well, why don't you go to OCS?" And I said, "Well, you know, I don't wanna." And they said, "Well, we have a quota." And I said, "No, I don't care."

So I spent a lot of time in the kitchen working with Sergeant Ramirez, and Sergeant Ramirez was a wonderful guy because he could have killed me. In Fort Benning in July, it's in the hundreds anyhow, and in the kitchen with the ovens going, cooking for 200 guys, it gets really pretty hot. Yeah, Sergeant Ramirez could've killed me, but he kept me alive to wash more dishes, and that was good. And after I'd been on KP five or six times, he says, "You know, Wilson, when you go to Vietnam--and you surely are gonna go to Vietnam, everybody here is going to Vietnam," he said, "Go to the non-commissioned officer in charge and tell him that you wanna go to Nha Trang." And I said, "Sergeant Ramirez, you've been a good friend to me. I'm gonna do it. I'm gonna do it. But what's Nha Trang?" And he said, "Oh, it's the most beautiful little French beach resort you've ever seen. It's got about 100,000 people and it's halfway between Saigon and the DMZ and the North Vietnamese Army uses it as an R&R center and since Dien Bien Phu in 1954, it's never been hit. Nha Trang has never been hit." I thought, "Oh, my god. I'm going to the beach."

And so I went to Vietnam, and I took a guitar 'cause I thought I was going to the beach. And I asked the NCOIC to go to Nha Trang, and man, he sent me to Nha Trang. And lo and behold, the only job that they had available in my specialty--and I had what they called a critical Military Occupation Specialty, a critical MOS, I was a helicopter repair parts specialist. It took a long time, and it was difficult to train a helicopter repair parts specialist 'cause there's so many parts, and some of them were really little, tiny little things, hard to keep track of. But you can't fly without it. So I became a helicopter repair parts specialist, and the only opening that there was in all of South Vietnam at that moment in Nha Trang for my job was flying for a company called the 281st Assault Helicopter Company. And the 281st Assault Helicopter Company was an entity unto itself. It was part of the 1st Aviation Brigade, technically, on paper. But in reality, it belonged lock, stock, and barreled to the 5th Special Forces. And so I went from Fort Benning where they were making a movie about Special Forces--you know, "The most gung-ho fighting soldiers from the sky, fearless men who jump and die." You know, the top three percent of everybody in the Army Special Forces. And boom, there I am, this hippie weirdo freak right in the middle of the Special Forces, and it was quite a culture shock. It was such a culture shock… Now I pretty much shut down. I just would continue to do everything that I was ordered to do, but it was like swimming through molasses every day. Nothing was real. The stress level was just through the roof. And when I had been in my company for about two week, it was January 30th…

Interviewer
Of what year?

Andrew Wilson

1968. January 30th 1968. I've been in the service for about six months. And there I was in Nha Trang that had never been hit in the middle of the Special Forces, and I was lying there in bed asleep and I woke up and I heard this sound... "Whrr, crunch." And I went, "I've never heard that sound before. That doesn't sound anything like a mortar." "Whrr, crunch." And I thought, "You know, I bet that's an incoming rocket." And then I heard a whole bunch more of these noises, and I thought, "Nah, it can't be rockets. If it was rockets, the sirens would be going off and they'd be calling an alert. And besides that, Nha Trang's never been hit." Well, the Viet Cong in Nha Trang got over-excited, and they launched the Tet Offensive in Nha Trang a day early. It was supposed to be a three-day truce for Buddha's birthday, the Chinese New Year. But three o'clock in the morning, we got hit and we got hit in a major way.

So that was probably… You know, I've done a lot of therapy for PTSD over the years, and I recently had a therapist who helped me identify that Tet Offensive was the worst day of my life. It's funny to tell the story looking back on it now. I had decided when I was in helicopter repair parts school that, since I was likely to go to Vietnam, I'd better learn how to shoot. And so I learned how to become an expert shot with an M-16. I mean, I thought M-16s were so cool, they're made of plastic, almost like Mattel. But I learned to be an expert shot with an M-16, and when I went to the 281st, the weapon that they usually gave to the supply guys was an M-14, which weighed 100 pounds and every time you fired, it was likely to take your cheek off. Well, I didn't like that weapon, so I asked the armorer: "Don't you have any M-16s?" He says, "Well, we've got this one old one that we got from the Special Forces, and you can have that if you want." I'm like, "Boy, are you insane?" 'Cause I didn't know that M-16s were no good.

And so he gave me this M-16 and a gigantic box of ammunition. And the ammunition was belts of bullets that were meant to run through what they call a mini-gun, which was a Gatling gun with rotating barrels and belted ammunition. God, those things were awesome. So anyhow, I unhooked the bullets from the belt and put them into these clips, a maximum of 16 rounds per clip 'cause if you put in 17, it would jam. And what I didn't know… See, in the belt, every fifth round was a tracer, so you could see where you were shooting. I thought, "Boy, this is gonna be cool. I'm gonna fire on full automatic, and I'm going to be able to see those tracers go." So anyhow when the sirens went off and the sergeants ran into the barracks area--what we called hooches--they said, "Get your helmets and get down to the flight line. We're under attack!" And so anyhow, we get this duffel bag full of bullets and clips and M-16, and I'm lugging it down to the flight line, and there's no bunkers anywhere. And there's no bunkers anywhere because Nha Trang has never been hit. And so they put us in these helicopter revetments, which was an L-shaped structure made out of perforated steel planking and sandbags to protect the helicopters from mortar rounds, etc. So we were standing there and the sergeants told us that there was a whole battalion of

North Vietnamese Army regulars out in the rice paddies directly across from our position.

Interviewer
How many men are in the battalion?

Andrew Wilson
I don't remember.

Interviewer
Several hundred?

Andrew Wilson
No, I think several thousand. Several thousand North Vietnamese Army regulars. And so anyhow, yeah, I was really scared and they kept firing these mercury sodium flares from a mortar that did go, "Thhwp." And then you'd have this glowing orange light that would gradually fall to the earth. And so there we were in the revetment with an eight-foot chain-link fence and a dirt road and a big ditch and then miles of rice paddies. And we thought that the NVA was out there in the rice paddies. And the sergeant said, "Now, we think they're out there, but we're not sure, so don't fire unless the guy up at the machine gun tower fires his 50-cal. And if he fires his 50-cal, then you fire where his tracers are going."

And so a little time went on, and I was looking out there in the rice paddies with this weird light, and it looked like there were dogs crawling. It looked like there were a lot of dogs crawling out there, and I thought, "Oh, that's bad. That's really bad." So anyhow, the 50 cal finally went off, and I picked up my M-16, and I went, "Pow, pow, pow, pow, pow." And I'm squeezing the trigger and pulling on the thing, and what I didn't realize and nobody told me was that you cannot put a tracer through an M-16. And what it did was it fused the… What do you call that thing that goes back? It fused the action to the… Well, anyhow, I turned my M-16 from a highly technological weapon into a club and went from the 20th century to the Stone Age in a heartbeat.

And I was sitting there and I was really upset. And I realized that most of the guys in the revetment hadn't fired when the machine gun went off, and they were just sitting there. And they were laughing at me. They were laughing at me because I was John Wayne, you know, with the M-16 that didn't work anymore. And I'm telling the sergeant, "Make this thing work. Oh, god. Oh, god." So anyhow, I sat through the Tet Offensive with what I thought was a battalion of North Vietnamese Army regulars on the other side of this chain link fence. And I knew that they were coming across that fence at any moment. I'm sitting there with a club. So I have all these fantasies about how I'm gonna knock the guy in front of me and steal his weapon and protect myself. Oh, god. It was a mess.

Interviewer

How long did this go on?

Andrew Wilson
It went on from three o'clock in the morning until dawn. And at dawn, they took us back to the company area and they fed us breakfast. And then we went to work. No day off; no half day off. We went to work. And well, you know, I think I need to tell you something about that Tet Offensive before I go on to the morning, because I discovered the power of airmobile. It was an assault helicopter company, and they used our 20--what they call slicks. The slicks were transport helicopters to move men and material. And they used those 20 helicopters to transport a lot of Montagnard mercenaries that worked with the Special Forces, they took them out in the rice paddies. And whoever was out there got driven to the sea. And on the other side of the airfield, we could watch the field hospital getting hit with rockets. That really upset me, watching the hospital get blown up. Those guys got no respect? You could see the gunships just…

Interviewer
So you were talking about the assault helicopter company and the Montagnards.

Andrew Wilson
So in the 281st Assault Helicopter Company, we had 20 helicopters, that were called slicks, and they carried 15, 17 men each or material--airmobile from one place to another. And we had ten, what they call C-model gunships, and the gunships had these Gatling guns on either side and rocket pods with 18 rockets on either side and a 40 millimeter cannon located up in the nose. And these helicopters were incredibly lethal. I mean, incredibly lethal. A single minigun will fire 9,000 rounds a minute; 9,000 rounds--that's a lot of bullets. And so the slicks were flying out into the rice paddies; the gunships were over on the other side of the airfield herding people all the time toward the ocean. And then I guess the helicopters got tired, 'cause they brought in these C-47, what we call a DC-3, what the soldiers call "Puff the Magic Dragon."

And on Puff the Magic Dragon, there were multiple miniguns. And as Puff the Magic Dragon would fly over the town of Nha Trang, the miniguns would all fire simultaneously and it sounded like a giant dragon burping and liquid fire would pour down out of the sky to the extent that in a three-second pass--one thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three--they covered an area the size of a football field and put a bullet in every square foot. Every square foot of the football field gets a bullet. Now I don't know how a human being can survive an onslaught like that. "Rwrrrrr..." And it would just go on and on and on and on and on and on. And when Puff one got tired, Puff two would come in behind him and continue to do the same thing. Holy mackerel. And while Puff the Magic Dragon and the gunships were firing, the sodium flares were illuminating this giant Buddha sitting up on the hill just watching everything. Just watching everything.

The next morning after we had gone to formation and had some food and had gone to work, I was standing outside the supply shack and a Green Beret major was walking across the flight line. And he was soot-smudged and dead tired. I mean it really looked like central casting Hollywood. And he says, "You got any smokes?" And I said, "Yes, sir. Here, take the whole pack." He says, "No, I just want one. I quit." And I said, "You look pretty tired. You been out there all night?" And he says, "Uh-huh." And I said, "What happened?" He said, "We killed all the VC." And I said, "All the VC? This is what, you know, for attribution? We're trying to impress somebody with the body count?" He says, "No, seriously. I bet you we pushed 10,000 people on the beach and mowed them down." I said, "10,000 people? What do you do with the bodies?" He says, "Well, let Navy pick them up and take them out to sea."

And... well, you know, I mentioned to you that I felt like I was in a different world when I went to Nha Trang in the midst of the Special Forces there, but I just think I went a little nuts right at that point. A friend of mine told me, he said, "The reason that they called you 'Ghost' in Vietnam is because you always acted like you were already dead and had nothing to lose." And as a consequence of having nothing to lose, I was very unmotivated to participate in the war effort, and I maintained my Private E-1 status for the longest time. I had more time in-grade as a Private E-1 than anybody I've ever heard of--anybody I've ever heard of.

I was in Vietnam for several months before I got promoted to E-2. And I got promoted to E-2 when my commanding officer, a guy named Don Roscoff – Colonel Don Roscoff. I love you, Colonel Roscoff – he came to me and he says, "Andrew, we've got to have a talk." And I was shocked because nobody had ever called me anything except for "butthole" and, you know, "loser." And he says, "What do you see over yonder?" And I said, "Well, there's four slicks and two gunships that aren't flying 'cause they don't have parts." And I thought, "Wow, you know, this is sand in the cog of the Army, I'm bringing these guys down." He says, "Andrew," he says, "I don't think you understand how important your job is to us." He says, "If we don't get the parts for those helicopters, the helicopters don't fly. I'm not going to put crewmen in a helicopter that's unsafe to fly. I'm just not going to do it. But when our guys out in the field call up on the radio and say, 'Help, help. I'm being repressed,' and we gotta go and get them, there's no helicopters to fly and go get them, our guys are likely to get killed." He says, "Andrew, is that what you want? You want our guys out in the field to get killed?" I said, "Holy Mackerel, sir. I'd never thought of it that way," and you know, my stomach was falling out from under me the same way when you go over a hill too quickly.

And so after I had that revelation, I realized that my life depended on those guys and that I had a responsibility not to the United States of America or not to the corrupt American government or not to the dangerous and bad war effort, but I

had a responsibility to my men to make certain that we always had the necessary helicopter parts.

So I went to the motor pool and I borrowed a big lowboy trailer, an 18-wheeler trailer. I'd never driven an 18-wheeler before. And I got this 18-wheeler and I'm going up to Cam Ranh Bay, and I came back with tail rotor hubs and main rotor blades and tail rotor blades. Stuff that was hard to get, I just stole it. And I got promoted to E-2 immediately. And then to Private First Class and then to Spec 4 and then to Spec 5, because I was getting the job done. Special Forces all the way up the hill.

Interviewer
How did you get those parts?

Andrew Wilson
I went to the replacement depot in Cam Ranh Bay that supplied oh, I don't know, probably 75 helicopter companies. And I went in through the motor pool gate and told them I need service on my 18-wheeler, and I just drove over to where the big parts were and borrowed a forklift and started loading.

Interviewer
And nobody asked anything?

Andrew Wilson
No. No, I think that even then I was developing a kind of a unique skill in Vietnam, in that I learned to become invisible. You know, they called me "Ghost" because whenever there was something nasty to be done, nobody could ever find me. I'd stand right in the middle of formation and they couldn't see me. They couldn't call on me to do something that I didn't wanna do.

Oh, I have one other really funny story about stealing parts, if you're interested in that. After being in Nha Trang, I discovered that part of being attached to the 5th Special Forces was that we went wherever the Special Forces went. And they were doing an operation A Shau Valley, and we had a forward operation base on a place called Tokyo FOB. It was a forward observation base, they called it the FOB. And we had, oh, a bunch of Montagnard missionaries and several dozen Special Forces guys and then 20 of our helicopters. And so the first sergeant came in, and he said, "Well, we think that there's a whole bunch of NVA that are going to try and come over our position in order to get into the A Shau Valley because the A Shau Valley has been interdicted up north, so they're bringing it in by sea in though Phu Bai. And so we have a good chance of being overrun. And this is not good."

So I buried my guitar. I took my guitar and I buried and put sandbags all over it and I thought, "Oh, man." I went to the Chief Warrant Officer who was in charge of maintenance there at the FOB, and I said, "You know, we've got a lot of

helicopters that need some important parts. I know a supply depot where we've never been before, it's called Red Beach near Qui Nhon, and we can fly there." And so the very next morning at dawn, we left the FOB that was in danger of being overrun and went to get helicopter parts.

And we went to Red Beach, and Red Beach was, for the most part, a Marine Corps resupply depot. And there was a lot of Air Force material there as well and a very tiny little Army resupply place. And the Army resupply place didn't have anything except for main rotor blades and avionics--you know, like altimeters and clocks and that sort of thing. So the Army was no good to us. But the Marine Corps, who had helicopters very similar to ours, had a whole CONEX--a box that was eight feet wide and eight feet high and twelve feet long. It was filled chest-deep with tail rotor hubs, which were like, hen's teeth in Vietnam. Hard, hard to get, because they only lasted for 25 hours of their time before you had to replace them.

And so my Chief Warrant Officer parked the helicopter way up at the end of the flight line, and I went to a guy in the Air Force. I said, "Hey, I need to borrow your forklift for a minute. Can I borrow your forklift?" And he let me borrow a forklift that's as big as a Caterpillar D9, it was enormous. And it would pick up one of these CONEX boxes, eight by eight by twelve. And so I went to pick up a CONEX box. Can you guess which one? And I drove those tail rotor hubs on this forklift all the way up to the end of the flight line and the Marine Corps. I didn't know where the Marine Corps is. But I tell the CW, I said, "We're gonna have to leave." And I'm loading tail rotor hubs into the helicopter two at a time. And I can see an MP with the rotating beacon all the way down there and he's coming our way. And so anyhow, I got 24 of those tail rotor hubs and we took off. And they sent a Marine helicopter after us. They sent a Marine gunship after us.

And my Chief Warrant Officer, I guess he'd been in the Army for 20, 25 years, he pretended that he couldn't understand them on the radio. "You're breaking up. I really can't understand what you're saying." "Take this thing back to base. Take this thing back to base. You've stolen all our tail rotor hubs." "No, repeat, please. I can't understand what you're saying." So anyhow, I was a big hero back at the 281st 'cause we had tail rotor hubs. That little bump of supply gave us sufficient supply of tail rotor hubs for the whole rest of the time I was there. Big hero.

Interviewer
Why did they follow you, by the way?

Andrew Wilson
Why did they follow us? I think that they decided not to follow us any further when I took the M-16 machine gun from the right side of the helicopter over to

the left side of the helicopter and pointed it at them, and then they peeled off. So it was a little…

Interviewer
That's interesting. So you're at this forward observation base. How long were you there?

Andrew Wilson
Oh, on and off, I was there three different times for four to six weeks at a shot.

Interviewer
And you're known as "Ghost" this whole time.

Andrew Wilson
Well, not the whole time. I didn't really deserve the name "Ghost" until I was really pretty short--you know, until I just had a short time left in country.

Interviewer
All right. Now tell everybody what "short" means.

Andrew Wilson
Everybody that I knew that was in Vietnam had what's called a short-timer calendar. You know, it started at 365, then went backwards 364, 363. And when you got down to where you had checked off all but 90 or less, you were considered to be a short-timer 'cause you only had a short time to go until you got to go home. And in a way, it was very stressful because, you know, it would be awful to go through ten months in Vietnam and then get shot. Oh, my god, that would be horrifying. Or 11 months, you know? The shorter I get it, the worse I feel, but the more excited I am on the other hand, so it's a pretty stressful time. That's what short means.

Interviewer
So you're politically aware. You're a musician, you're an artist. Were you aware what's going on back home?

Andrew Wilson
Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. As a matter of fact, I told you that we went wherever the Special Forces went. The Special Forces had this humongous operation in a place called Pleiku. And I was in Pleiku, and it was cold, cold, cold and the central highlands were way up high where the Montagnards lived. And the red dust is everywhere. I mean it's so red and so penetrating that my guitar is still red for Pleiku dust. Yeah, it's still red from Pleiku dust. And while I was there, the reason I mentioned Pleiku is because while I was there, Martin Luther King got killed. And not long after that, Bobby Kennedy got killed. And not long after that, there was the Chicago Republican Convention where the police were rioting. And I was on temporary duty in Saigon, and I heard this report on the

BBC that Washington D.C. was more dangerous. It was more dangerous on the streets of Washington D.C., the murder capital of the world, than on the streets of Saigon. This is crazy. What am I doing here? What am I doing here?

Interviewer
So when you heard about Martin Luther King and Kennedy, what was the reaction around where you were?

Andrew Wilson
It's hard to come up with a definitive answer to that question because in my company there were basically two classes of soldiers. There was the juicers and the heads. And the juicers were all alcoholics, and the heads were all pot smokers. And the pot smokers were very, very, very politically minded and talking about how, when we got back to the world, when we got back to the United States, we were gonna be active in the anti-war movement, etc., etc. And another group of people were just masking their feelings with alcohol, same as we were masking our feelings with marijuana. So the heads were all very political and the juicers were mostly apolitical--not interested in who's getting killed or why.

Interviewer
Did you have friends in both groups?

Andrew Wilson
Oh, yeah. Yeah. Well, it's not so many friends among the juicers because they held us potheads in contempt--pretty much like present day.

Interviewer
Tell me about when you finally left and the things that happened to you.

Andrew Wilson
Well, I thought that when I came home that I was going to be able to settle down into quote, unquote, normal life and be politically active and go back in the music business. And when I went back to reconnect with my former music business associates, I was shunned. They wanted nothing, nothing to do with me. And, in fact, they acted as if they were afraid of me. And it took me a long time to figure out that they were afraid of me with good reason because I had experienced things in Vietnam that made me come to realize that when somebody threatens me, when somebody starts shooting at me, I shoot back. I was a lot more in-your-face about it when I came back from Vietnam than I had ever been before going to Vietnam.

I remember standing in line to watch the movie "2001: Space Odyssey," and there were a bunch of hippies from Georgetown University or someplace standing in that line, and there were four skinhead soldiers who had just gotten out of basic training, apparently. And the hippies were really harassing these

kids and giving the soldiers a hard time about, you know, going over and being baby killers and so forth and so on. And I stepped out of line and I walked up to the hippies, and I said, "You have a choice right now. You can either apologize to these soldiers and go away--a very far piece away--or you can die because I'm gonna take you out right now, and which would you prefer?" And of course, I wasn't as fat then, I was buff. But they left. They left. And I've had a lot of people tell me over the years that I really can be scary when I lose my temper.

Interviewer
Yeah.

Andrew Wilson
It's amazing to me that I haven't been really in a lot of trouble. I've been very fortunate to be married to the women that I've been married to and to have understanding families. You know, so many Vietnam veterans weren't able to contain the aggression that they felt when they came home.

Interviewer
Were there any other times in country that you felt this big change in you? You talked about suddenly you were there and realized something was different.

Andrew Wilson
I don't think it's appropriate for this TV show to get terribly specific.

Interviewer
That's okay.

Andrew Wilson
To get terribly specific. But I will tell you that I came to the realization that just about anybody, myself included, will do just about anything if properly motivated. Just about anything. And I'm talking about… Well, let me tell you a story.

There's a young recruit, brand-new fresh in Vietnam. They call him the foolish new guy, FNG, you know what I mean? And the foolish new guy is on guard duty and walking toward the perimeter wire as there's a young Vietnamese boy carrying a brown paper sack. And he's walking toward us. And the sergeant says, "Don't let that kid reach the perimeter." And the young guy says, "Why not? He's just a kid. I've got a Hershey bar here for him." And the sergeant says, "Absolutely not. Do not let that kid near us." And kid continues to approach, and the sergeant says, "Put a round in front of that kid." The young guy won't do it. Sergeant takes the rifle, lays around between the kid's feet, and the kid keeps coming forward. And the sergeant basically ends the child's life. And the FNG is horrified. He's just horrified his sergeant has just brutally murdered a nine-year-old. And come to find out that inside the bag is a claymore mine and that the child had been recruited by the Viet Cong.

And what they would do is they would sweep into a village and they would take all of the women of childbearing age out into the jungle. And then they'd take all the children over here and say to the children, "Do you love your mommy? Do you wanna see your mommy again? This is what you have to do. You do this favor for us, and you'll be reunited with your mom." And then they'd send the kid into the wire with a claymore mine, tell the kid to drop the claymore mine and everything would be peachy. Of course, if the kid actually did then drop the claymore mine, it would kill the troops in front of the claymore, but it would also kill the kid. And that's just, you know, a nasty way to fight a war, but when you're trying to free your homeland, some people think that anything is acceptable. So anyhow, a lot of children got killed in Vietnam by a lot of soldiers who cringed whenever they heard the term "baby killer" because they felt so guilty.

Interviewer
So you had a guitar with you?

Andrew Wilson
Oh, I did. Not just any guitar, but a Martin D-28 Dreadnought--just the finest bluegrass guitar ever made.

Interviewer
And you've still got it?

Andrew Wilson
I do.

Interviewer
Maybe you'll bring it in and show us sometime.

Andrew Wilson
I'd be happy to. And you know, I can tell you an associated story about that D-28. Well, I'll tell you two. The first one, and then the other. The first one is that a group of my friends and I were sitting out on the end of the street where our company barracks were, and we were singing and playing. It was straight out of World War II, singing all of our favorite songs. And the C-130 flew over, spraying what I thought was bug spray. I said, "Oh, guys. Don't sweat it. I've been at the beach and, you know, the airplanes spray for mosquitoes all the time. They're just trying to keep us safe from malaria." "Well, oh, yeah. Oh, okay." Agent Orange. But anyhow, we were all sitting with no shirts on, and I was playing my guitar, and this Agent Orange settled on my guitar and it just melted the finish. I mean, the finish on my guitar turned to putty, and I was taking my thumbnail and carving designs into the plastic pick guard--of my guitar. I was afraid to touch the wood. But anyhow, those carvings in the pick guard of my guitar are still there. Yeah, I'll be happy to show you that.

But the other thing about having that Martin is, I was out on the flight line delivering some parts and I saw this guy walk across the flight line, and it was like a Hollywood caricature of a Vietnam soldier. The guy was wearing love beads and he had a flower in his pocket and his hair was real long, and he was wearing pink John Lennon glasses. And I walked up to him, and I said, "Who the hell are you, and what planet are you from?" And he told me that he was a Special Services volunteer and that he had been given permission from his commanding officer to participate in a Special Services program--a morale-building program--where they would put together bands of Army kids and send them to locations where Martha Raye would never go, where the USO troops would never go. Well, so anyhow, he gave me the phone number in Saigon and I called and I said, "Hey, I play guitar," and they said, "Bring your guitar and come to Saigon for an audition."

So I came to Saigon, and I passed the audition and was offered an opportunity for 90 days to be in a band with four other servicemen and we went to places that would curl your toes. I mean, we went to Camp Evans, for example, up where the 101st Airborne had their headquarters. I mean, it was… We went to Dong Ha. And Dong Ha was just like from here to downtown from the DMZ, and they were attacking Dong Ha every night--every night. So we took all of our amplifiers and pointed them toward North Vietnam and said, "We're playing this concert for you, you North Vietnamese guys. Don't hit us." And we played so loud we blew up one of the amplifiers. It was raining. Oh, it was raining so hard. And the U.S. soldiers were having such a good time, they were doing the crocodile in the mud. You know what the crocodile is, right?

Interviewer
Tell us.

Andrew Wilson
The crocodile is a dance where you get on your back and you just move like a crocodile through the mud. And they were hooting and hollering and getting muddy and drunk as skunks. Dong Ha did not get hit that night. They didn't hit it until the next morning. After we left, they blew up the ammo dump.

Interviewer
So you were in a rock band in Vietnam?

Andrew Wilson
I was. I was. I got an Army Commendation Medal for that as well. So anyhow, when I got back from that tour, I had about 90 days left, and that's when I became the "Ghost." That's when I really became the "Ghost."

Interviewer
So was there a cathartic thing about that guitar that helped you through it all?

Andrew Wilson
No. The guitar did not help me get through Vietnam. The guitar triggered a couple of really sad things that happened to me in Vietnam, but the guitar has really helped me a lot since I've been home from Vietnam. The guitar has been a symbol of quality that has just continued to mellow and get better and mellow and get better. You know, the thing about Martin guitars is that the older they get, the better they are, and this guitar is so sweet now.

But for an example, when I was out at Tokyo FOB, I was sitting up on top of the bunker one night and I was playing. And a Vietnamese fellow walked up, and he said, "That's a beautiful guitar--beautiful-sounding guitar." He says, "You know any Everly Brothers songs?" And I said, "Oh, yeah. I know a lot of Everly Brothers songs. I used to play in a band." He says, "Really? So did I." And it turned out he was a guitar player, too. So he went down to his area and he got his guitar, and we sat on top of that bunker. And he played my Martin and I played his plywood monster, and we played… He knew every Everly Brothers song that had ever been recorded. He knew them all--he knew all the words, he knew all the harmony parts. So we sat there singing Everly Brothers songs. And it got late, and we had to call it a night, but we made a date. We were going to get together again and play guitars again 'cause it was so much fun.

Well, it turns out this guy was an ARVN lieutenant--an Army of the Republic of Vietnam. He was a lieutenant who worked with the 5th Special Forces Delta teams, which were comprised of two ARVNs and two Special Forces and a dozen or so Montagnard mercenaries. And he told me about how his grandfather had died in the war fighting the Japanese and how his father had died fighting the French and his uncle had died and his brothers had died. He had two brothers that died, and he was the last of his clan from this one ville. And I joked with him, I said, "Well, you better take good care of yourself." And so he didn't come back to play that night, so I went down to look for him and he had unfortunately lost his life in the A Shau Valley on an operation that we had going there. So that kind of broke my heart. That's what I get for liking music.

Interviewer
What type of music did you play when you arrived, and what were you playing when you left?

Andrew Wilson
Oh, yeah. Good question. When I arrived, as I said, I'd been playing in a band, and I was playing everything from Top 40 to jazz to… You know, I really like Billie Holiday, for example. But The Beatles, The Rolling Stones--you know, all of the top groups--Jefferson Airplane. Well, anyhow, that list is kind of standard for the '60s, I guess. When I came back, I was writing a lot of my own songs and writing songs about Vietnam. I played in a band called All of the Above after I finally got my feet on the ground in the '70s, in about 1970, I joined this band called All of the Above, and we got a contract with Paramount Records to

record--you know, to record our original music. One of the songs that I had written was called "The War is Over," and it's a... pretty unhappy song. "The war is over/ Isn't the news I heard them say?/The toll has been taken/Well, we paid the price/but who can count the ways?" So I was gonna say something else, but I've lost my train of thought.

Interviewer
What were the troops listening to? Was there a conflict in music taste?

Andrew Wilson
Well, in the movie *Good Morning, Vietnam* the Armed Forces Radio and Television Network was playing a lot of Mantovani and the Ray Charles singers or…you know, stuff of that ilk--Lawrence Welk. But those of us with access to actual barracks where we weren't tromping through the bush like the infantry--like the ground-pounders--we would go down to the PX and buy these enormous Pioneer speakers and 250 watt amplifiers and reel-to-reel tape recorders, and we would literally listen to everything--anything. People would send us tapes from the States, and we'd have these mix tapes that would last for hours. I remember country music was really, really popular in our company, could hear country music all the time.

Interviewer
Who were the artists in country music?

Andrew Wilson
I was afraid you'd ask me that because the… I can remember Ray Charles singing country music, and I think that I remember listening to Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys and to Merle Haggard. "We don't smoke marijuana in Muskogee/we save it all for Vietnam." Yeah, Merle Haggard and Waylon Jennings. Buck Owens--really liked him. Really had a taste for Buck Owens.

Interviewer
Was there anybody listening to Elvis or anything like that?

Andrew Wilson
No. Nobody was listening to Elvis. Isn't that interesting? I can't remember ever hearing Elvis when I was in Vietnam. I can definitely remember hearing The Beatles. I was in a temporary duty station. We were going through a place, a military hospital in Da Nang where Bob Hope had put on his show, put on a big show there. And I walked into this enlisted men's club, a bar, and the jukebox was at full volume with John Lennon singing, "Say you want a revolution/Well, you know..." That was really heavy 'cause, of course, we all did want a revolution. We all wanted to change the world.

Interviewer
Did you go to any USO shows?

Andrew Wilson
No. No. Never went to a USO show, but we filled in for the USO in places where they were afraid to go.

Interviewer
Did you ever get to the beach?

Andrew Wilson
I did. I got to the beach, and I remember before I went to the beach, the first sergeant saying, "If you get a sunburn, I'm going to give you an Article 15." And I said, "Oh, man. I'm not gonna get a sunburn. I've been to the beach before." And I was at the beach for about an hour and a half, and my legs got so sunburned right here that the skin just peeled off, but I wasn't gonna tell anybody 'cause I didn't want that Article 15.

Interviewer
That's insane. You can't get a sunburn. All these other things could happen to you, and you're not allowed to get a sunburn.

Andrew Wilson
Yeah, really.

Interviewer
That's crazy.

Andrew Wilson
Yeah.

Interviewer
When your M-16 turned to a club and everybody was laughing at you and the seemly dogs that were crawling, they were actually North Vietnamese, right?

Andrew Wilson
I think so.

Interviewer
That's where I get lost. What happened after that?

Andrew Wilson
Well, what they told us later was that those dogs out there--the reason that they wouldn't let us fire willy-nilly is because the Montagnard mercenaries had gone out there and the Montagnard mercenaries are some of the most incredible fighting men imaginable. And a Montagnard mercenary with a knife was capable of killing a dozen regularly armed soldiers. I mean, they were just like, wraiths--very, very dangerous. And it was my understanding that all of the North

Vietnamese Army soldiers that had been in the rice paddy were killed--either killed there in the rice paddies or driven down to the beach where the gunships ate 'em.

Interviewer
Do you feel like you connected back then with your fellow comrades or the connection is happening today in a stronger way?

Andrew Wilson
The connection that I had with my comrades there in the 281st was like nothing that I've ever experienced before or since. It was a brotherhood that, the aftershocks of that brotherhood in Vietnam is, is that I can relate more closely to a veteran instinctually than I can communicate or relate to any of my cousins. I feel closer to any veteran than I feel to any of my cousins. Isn't that terrible? And I feel closer to veterans than I feel to most of my brothers. I mean, you know, my blood brothers. The shared sacrifice that we've experienced…

You know, I used to be really upset when I thought that Vietnam veterans were being treated like Kleenex soldiers--you know, let's just dispose of this guy, he's not fitting into society, he's anti-social or he's suicidal or depressed or anxious or violent. And I don't think that anybody was really prepared to deal with the psychological changes that wreaked havoc on so many of these fellows returning from Vietnam. I've asked myself or I've asked God, "Why is it that when I was trying to behave honorably and serve my nation, why is it that I've been cursed with the bottom falling out from under my life again and again and again?" I mean, I've had some really good experiences in my life, and it seems like whenever something starts going really, really, really well, the bottom sort of falls out.

It's like when I was doing mergers and acquisitions for a regional investment bank back in Baltimore, Maryland, we had the market crash of 1987 where the market lost 30 percent of its value in one day. And my career went "pfft." So I've asked myself, "What is that all about?" And I've come to feel recently that I've been held in reserve so that at this time, at this place, that I can work with other veterans to try and share a sense of recovery from mental wellness issues. And I'm not saying 'Nam vets are insane or crazy or anything like that, but I do know that the statistics are pretty clear and that veterans that serve a tour in Iraq or Afghanistan are…it's about a one in three chance that the veteran is gonna have PTSD or traumatic brain injury. And I think that same thing was true in Vietnam, but you know, you can't prove those numbers and who cares? The important thing is, is that our neuroscience has progressed so brilliantly in the last ten or fifteen years that we have learned that the same techniques that families and therapists will use to help a stroke victim recover the ability to speak or to read or to use the left side of their body, those same kinds of techniques of building new neural pathways, those same techniques can be used to recover from traumatic stress. And this is really profound because for 40 years folks have been telling

veterans, "Hey, you have PTSD. It's an incurable brain injury. The best that you can hope for is for coping skills. The best that you can hope for is to find a cocktail of drugs that's gonna help you not be too depressed and not to have too much anxiety. And oh, by the way, we're sorry if you can't sleep at night, but that's kind of the way it is."

So anyhow, we have a whole new generation of veterans that's coming along behind from Panama, Granada, Bosnia, Serbia--you know, the list goes on and on--Desert Storm, up to the current problems in Afghanistan and Iraq. And we know that, you know, upwards of 30 percent of these guys have these issues. We also know that less than half of 'em will even give the VA their name, you know? Hey, man. I don't wanna have anything to do with the VA. There is no way in the world I'm gonna be identified as suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder because it's gonna make it hard to get a license; it's gonna make it hard to buy insurance; it's gonna make it impossible to get life insurance; it's gonna make it harder to get a mortgage. You know, there's so much stigma involved in having mental wellness deficiencies. It's terrible.

So I feel that my experiences in Vietnam and my experiences in recovering from my own PTSD is preparing me to act as a facilitator or act as a catalyst so that I can share these best practices with the younger vets so that we can teach one another to recover. And what I mean by recovering is that if I have a stroke, there's gonna be an irreparable broken place in my brain. The wiring just goes "kerfloo," there's nothing that you can do about it except do this therapy. And every time you practice the therapy, you're forming new axons and dendrites, new wispy little neural pathways. But if you do it a thousand times or ten thousand times or a million times, those little, wispy neural pathways bind together in very strong cables of new brain tissue. The science shows that you can actually see a thickening of the cortex for people who are practicing these recovery techniques.

And I just want to tell any veteran that's watching this program that if they're experiencing difficulties in concentrating or difficulties in controlling their temper or they're not getting along with their wife or if they're in trouble with work or if they're having trouble with self-medication--all of these things--that it is possible to recover, that it is possible to go through a process of active conditioning of the mind and body that will result in the veteran reaching a point in their recovery where their symptoms become un-diagnosable. That's revolutionary thought. Vietnam veterans, you know, combat veterans, you're gonna be broken forever. It's in the media everywhere. But the reality is, is that science proves that by taking thought, by practicing reconditioning, that we can change--actually change--the physical wiring in our brains and that it's possible to recover.

And they say, "Well, that sounds pretty technical. What's it really mean?" Well, let me tell you that since I've been back from Vietnam, I've never been to a big concert, I don't go to football games or basketball games, and I said, "Jimmer

who?" I just don't like being in public places. I didn't even like to go grocery shopping. But I've been practicing some techniques that they taught me at the Sheridan Wyoming Veterans Administration Hospital, and those are the reprogramming techniques that I was referring to a moment ago. And I've been diligently practicing these techniques now for about ten months.

And guess where I was the Saturday before Christmas? Saturday before Christmas, I went and picked up a disabled veteran and I took him to Wal-Mart. I took him to Wal-Mart. I haven't been to Wal-Mart ever, especially when it's a zoo. And while I was standing there in Wal-Mart I was laughing. Laughing. Why was I laughing? I was laughing because I wasn't practicing any--not one of my coping skills. I didn't have to practice any coping skills because I was in Wal-Mart and I didn't care. I just didn't care. I was helping my friend and that was all that mattered. And so now anytime I want I can go to Wal-Mart. Am I cured of PTSD? Well, no, I don't think so. I think I'm still disabled from PTSD because I haven't been able to sleep for three days, thinking about doing this. I'll probably sleep well when I go home. But yeah, I still have PTSD. I have problems with my weight. I'm still a flawed individual, and I'm certainly not ready to take a 40-hour-a-week job.

But I know, without a shadow of a doubt, I agree with Dr. Steve Allen, who's the head of PTSD outpatient at the Salt Lake VA Hospital, when he says that it's possible for a veteran to diligently practice a sequential process of mental health recovery to the point where that process of recovery leaves the veterans where their symptoms are, and I quote, undiagnosable. So is a veteran cured from PTSD if his symptoms are undiagnosable? Well, I don't know. Does a tree that falls in the forest and nobody listens? I don't know. But what I do know is that as I teach recovery to veterans around the country, we are all moving toward mental wellness recovery and it's not where a particular individual is on the path to recovery.

You know, some people are a lot more developed than others; some people are brand-new in recovery. They're just learning that they've got some PTSD issues and that they need to pay attention to that. But it's not where they are on the path to recovery; it's what direction are they headed. Well, we're on the path to recovery, you know, and being on that path, oh, sure, you know, they still have flare-ups, but I'm really excited. I'm really excited that my service has prepared me to help so many young veterans who don't want to have anything to do with the VA. You know, like I said earlier, less than half of the people who qualify for VA services are registered with the VA, and of the 45 percent that are registered with the VA, only 20 percent actually seek services. And of the 20 percent that actually seek services, less than 20 percent of them actually are receiving care that's considered by the VA or any other organization that consider that to be adequate. So here's our opportunity as guys outside the VA to help one another to recover and to hold their families together, to bind their relationships with their wives in ways that they never dreamed possible, to really build relationships

based on these fundamental pillars of truth. You know, like you can always count on gravity. You can always count on it. It always works. You take your dirty laundry, you throw it at the hamper, it always go *(Andrew makes spinning noise)*. It never goes *(Andrew makes spinning noise)*. Now it always works. Well, we can teach these same fundamental principles of relationship.

You know, you can't have a relationship that's based on lies. You want a relationship? You gotta work on honesty. So I'm really excited that we can teach these fundamental principles of recovery and help so many vets to experience joy that… Well, the Chinese have a saying that a man waits a long time for roast duck to fly in mouth. Veterans are gonna wait a long time for the VA to cure their mental wellness issues, but a veteran who wants recovery--like an alcoholic who wants recovery--there are some principles that you can learn and it doesn't take a PhD to teach somebody how to do disciplined breathing, mindfulness breathing. In the VA, they call it mindfulness breathing, and it's one of the pillars of cognitive behavior therapy.

Let me just share it with you now. The steps are that we breathe in peace, we breathe out stress. When the lungs are empty, we relax our bodies, and when we relax with empty lungs, the iris in our mind's eye opens and we can think about what it is that we really want. What is my objective here? What's my goal here? For example, driving on the freeway this morning, one of those 16-ton four-wheel drive pickup trucks pass me on the right going about a hundred. Cut me off. Man, and in the past, my natural reaction was, "Why I ought to… Don't you know who I am? Boy, I'm gonna show you." Now what I can do is I can breathe in peace... breathe out stress, relax my body and remember that what I'm about is getting up to KUED and having an opportunity to visit with my friends. And then I'm saying to myself, "Boy, I'm glad I don't have to be in that big of a hurry. What an asshole."

Interviewer
Hey can I ask you a really quick question? You drew before you were in Vietnam. Did you do paintings or did you do drawings when you were there?

Andrew Wilson
Oh, God bless you. Thank you for asking me that question. Yes, I drew all the way through Vietnam. I really got interested in color photography while I was there. Kodachrome 64. You could buy a box of 36 for pennies. So yeah, I did a lot of photography and a lot of drawing. And when I came home from Vietnam, I always used my painting as a meditative practice to try to get control of my depression and my aggression. My PTSD, I act out basically kind of like a bipolar guy. I'm either way excited or I'm way depressed and I can use my art to try to find that middle path. And yes, I have quite a portfolio of paintings. I've done thousands of paintings since I'm home.

Interviewer

Anything interesting you did there that you'd like to share with us that you've painted or drew in Vietnam? Was it of your reality there?

Andrew Wilson
Oh, I was painting, yes, of stuff that occurred while I was there. Never been much of a great realist, but I loved industrial design. Like, for example, I would spend days and again and again and again trying to draw a tail rotor hub because the design of a tail rotor hub is so beautifully elegant. I don't think you could make a tail rotor hub more beautiful and elegant than a tail rotor hub. I know it sounds stupid, but that's the kind of stuff that I was interested in.

I was very interested also in painting things of a Vietnamese nature like the big Buddhas. I was really interested in Buddhism. I got interested in Buddhism when I was in Vietnam. To think that there's a religion that's older than Christianity and has very, very, very deep roots. So yeah, my art kind of followed my interests. Since I've been back, my art has turned almost exclusively to symbolic art. People say, "Where do you come up with them shapes, boy? I'd like to smoke what you're smoking." I'd say, "You couldn't handle it." But basically, I got these paintings based on Fibonacci curves and these great arching rhythmic shapes that is pretty non-representational. I've responded to requests from friends who they say, "Well, how about putting the Delicate Arch in one of them paintings?" "Oh, okay. I'll put the Delicate Arch in one of my paintings." And I'll put things in that I think people will like, but it's mostly just really bright, colorful, non-representational modern art.

Interviewer
Will you share your paintings with us?

Andrew Wilson
I'd love to.

Interviewer
Okay. Great. We'd love to have you bring your guitar and maybe play us a couple of things sometime?

Andrew Wilson
Oh, man. I'd love to play a song for you, or two. I don't think you'd want to broadcast it, but I'd love to play. A friend of mine just sent me an mp3 of the record that we had with Paramount Records.

Interviewer
No.

Andrew Wilson
Oh, yeah. I thought it was gone. I haven't even had a copy of it for years.

Interviewer
Who owns the copyright of that?

Andrew Wilson
Well, I do, I guess.

Interviewer
Did you have a publishing company?

Andrew Wilson
I signed with Famous Music, which was Paramount Studios' publishing arm.

Interviewer
Well, we might want to use that. I'm serious.

Andrew Wilson
Oh, that would be something.

Interviewer
That would be a wonderful thing for us to have.

Andrew Wilson
Well, you know, as it happens, I do have some CDs that I've made that I'd be happy for you to hear. You might be able to find something that you could use in the shows.

Interviewer
I bet we could.

Andrew Wilson
It's instrumental.

Interviewer
That's even better. Did you ever do covers of bands in any of your recordings?

Andrew Wilson
No.

Interviewer
Just sometimes it's easier to actually get a band doing a cover of a band than the actual song copyright-wise.

Andrew Wilson
Oh, no. There's no problem there. I mean, we could use… The copyright on "The War is Over" the song that we released through Paramount, that came out in 1974, so the copyright is long expired. And I'm sure that all of the people who

were in the band at that time would be willing to sign a release that you can use the music.

Interviewer
Perfect. With this being educational and all, it could be considered fair use.

Andrew Wilson
Yeah.

Interviewer
That DVD screws us up, doesn't it?

Andrew Wilson
What DVD?

Interviewer
When we do shows, we make a DVD and make it available to people for purchase of the show.

Andrew Wilson
Oh, yeah.

Interviewer
Once you do that, all bets are off as far as… Now you're pulling for the rights to use this music.

Andrew Wilson
As I said, I'm sure that if your lawyers…

Interviewer
We have no lawyers.

Andrew Wilson
Well, let me say this: I'm sure that we would have no problem getting our lawyers to write a release for you where you could use the music that we've recorded over the years for this.

Interviewer
Well, we have releases. The Agent Orange--is there any damage done to you?

Andrew Wilson
Oh, yes. Oh, yes. Yeah, I have some significant problems from the Agent Orange. I have skin problems where my skin has little blisters all over it, and you know, fortunately, it's not cancerous yet, but, you know. And then my pancreas is damaged, and you know, they're treating me for adult onset diabetes, but the

diabetes is directly related to the Agent Orange exposure. I'm the only person in my family that's ever had diabetes, so…

Interviewer
We'd like you to come back and play some things on your guitar. We'd like to see your art. Between now and then, we'll think of other things to talk about.

Andrew Wilson
Okay.

Interviewer
And certainly, anything you want us to talk about that you'd like to…