

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Gen. William Ward

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Ward, William E., 1949-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Gen. William Ward,
Dates:	July 25, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	10 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:34:38).
Abstract:	General Gen. William Ward (1949 -) Commander of the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division during Operation Restore Hope in Mogadishu, Somalia, Commander 25th Infantry Division, Commander of the Stabilization Force during Operation Joint Forge in Sarajevo, Bosnia, US Security Coordinator in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the inaugural Commander of U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany from 2007 to 2011. He currently serves as the President of SENTEL Corp. Ward was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 25, 2013, in Reston, Virginia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_180
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

U.S. Army General William E. Ward was born on June 3, 1949 in Baltimore, Maryland. He attended Morgan State University and graduated with his B.A. degree in Political Science in 1971. While there, he joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and as a Distinguished Military Graduate (DMG) was commissioned as an Infantry Second Lieutenant in 1971. In 1979, Ward received his M.A. degree in Political Science from the Pennsylvania State University. He then went on to attend the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

Ward's military service has included overseas tours in Korea, Egypt, Somalia, Bosnia, Israel, two tours in Germany, and a wide variety of assignments in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii. His command and troop assignments include: Commander of 5th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 2nd Brigade at Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Commander of the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York and during Operation Restore Hope in Mogadishu, Somalia; Assistant Division Commander of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Commanding General 25th Infantry Division and U.S. Army in Hawaii at the Schofield Barracks in Hawaii; Commander of the Stabilization Force during Operation Joint Forge in Sarajevo, Bosnia; and Deputy Commander U.S. European Command. His staff assignments include: Executive Officer to the Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army in Washington, D.C.; Deputy Director for Operations of the National Military Command Center in Washington, D.C.; Chief of the Office of Military Cooperation with Egypt in the American Embassy in Egypt; and Vice Director for Operations of the Joint Staff in Washington, D.C.

In 2005, Ward served as the Deputy Commanding General and Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, Europe and the Seventh Army. While in this capacity, he was selected by the Secretary of State to serve as the United States

Security Coordinator, Israel-Palestinian Authority where he served from March of 2005 through December of 2005. Ward served as the inaugural Commander of U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) Headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany from October 1, 2007 to March 8, 2011. Ward is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the 100 Black Men of America, and the National Society of Pershing Rifles. He is also an honorary member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy club and was awarded Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Morgan State University and Virginia State University.

Ward's military honors include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Defense Superior Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Legion of Merit with Three Oak Leaf Clusters), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with Six Oak Leaf Clusters), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (with three Oak Leaf Clusters); the Army Achievement Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Expert Infantryman's Badge, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Master Parachutist Badge.

Ward currently serves as the President and COO of SENTEL Corporation.

U.S. Army General William E. Ward was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 25, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Gen. William Ward was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 25, 2013, in Reston, Virginia, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files. General Gen. William Ward (1949 -) Commander of the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division during Operation Restore Hope in Mogadishu, Somalia, Commander 25th Infantry Division, Commander of the Stabilization Force during Operation Joint Forge in Sarajevo, Bosnia, US Security Coordinator in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the inaugural Commander of U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany from 2007 to 2011. He currently serves as the President of SENTEL Corp.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Ward, William E., 1949-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Ward, William E., 1949- --Interviews

African American generals--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

United States. Army.

Occupations:

General

HistoryMakers® Category:

MilitaryMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Gen. William Ward, July 25, 2013. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Gen. William Ward, Section A2013_180_001_001, TRT: 1:28:15 ?

Gen. William Ward describes his family's background. Ward's mother, Phyllis Mary Cashen Ward, was born in 1932 in Baltimore, Maryland, where she attended Douglass High School. Her father, Joseph Henry Cashen, was the minister at Falls Road AME Church, and her mother, Marie Cashen, was a Red Cross volunteer and a stay-at-home mother. She worked as administrative staff at the Social Security Administration. Ward's father, Richard Isiah Ward, was born in Bedford, Virginia, in 1924. After graduating from high school, he was drafted into World War II, and served as a combat engineer. Upon returning from the war, he attended trade school in Baltimore, and worked as an apartment maintenance supervisor. Ward describes how his parents met, their personalities, and his likeness to his father. He also talks about his younger sister, Christina Ward Young, his earliest childhood memory, and growing up in the Bare Hills community in Baltimore County.

African American families--Maryland--Baltimore.

African American mothers.

African American fathers.

Childhood--Maryland--Baltimore.

Baltimore (Md.)--Social life and customs.

Video Oral History Interview with Gen. William Ward, Section A2013_180_001_002, TRT: 2:28:25 ?

Gen. William Ward grew up around the old Falls Road community in Baltimore County, Maryland. In this section of the interview, he describes his childhood in Baltimore. Ward's father, Richard Isiah Ward, built their family home in the Bare Hills community, over the course of six years. Ward describes his father's dedication towards building their home, and recalls helping him with the construction. He also talks about the enormous interest in sports Baltimore and the significance of the doo wop style of music to Baltimore's African American community. In 1954, Ward attended first grade in a two-room segregated school in Falls Road. In 1955, following the Brown versus Board of Education ruling, he began attending the integrated Medfield Heights Elementary School. Ward describes his positive experience at the school, and attributes his self-confidence to his family.

African American fathers.

Baltimore (Md.)--Social life and customs.

Segregation in education--Maryland--Baltimore.

Sports--Maryland--Baltimore.

Doo-wop (Music).

Video Oral History Interview with Gen. William Ward, Section A2013_180_001_003, TRT:
3:28:40 ?

Gen. William Ward attended Medfield Heights Elementary School in Baltimore, Maryland until the sixth grade, when he moved to Rogers Forge Elementary School near Towson, Maryland. He recalls his experience in elementary school and his interest in reading. Ward was exposed to the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s through his family's subscription to prominent African American newspapers and magazines. Although he did not have any significant military influence in his upbringing, he recalls his interest in playground and team sports, YMCA programs, and toy soldiers and trucks. Ward attended Dunbarton Junior High School and later Towson Senior High School from 1964 to 1967. He describes his experience in high school, his employment, developing an aptitude for mathematics, and his interest in political science, playing football, and running track. In the absence of any college counseling in high school, Ward chose to attend college at Morgan State University.

Education, Elementary.

Education, Secondary.

High school athletes.

Civil rights movements--United States.

Morgan State University.

Video Oral History Interview with Gen. William Ward, Section A2013_180_001_004, TRT:
4:28:18 ?

In 1967, Gen. William Ward graduated from Towson Senior High School, and began his undergraduate studies in political science at Morgan State University. While there, he decided to pursue a career in law. With the goal of completing his college education without being drafted into the Vietnam War, Ward continued into the advanced ROTC program, which committed him to four years of duty in the U.S. Army immediately after graduation. Ward recalls his mentors at Morgan State - Professors Maxwell, Sandye Jean McIntyre, Robert Gill, Walker and Adair. He also talks about taking courses with historian Benjamin Quarles, and his views on the Vietnam War. In this section of the interview, Ward also recalls the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and talks about getting married in 1971, shortly before being commissioned into active duty in the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army.

Morgan State University.

United States. Army. Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

Vietnam War, 1961-1975.

Mentoring in education--Maryland.

Draft--United States--1960-1970.

Video Oral History Interview with Gen. William Ward, Section A2013_180_001_005, TRT:
5:28:46 ?

In 1971, Gen. William Ward received his first commission to the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army, where he became a platoon leader. He describes his experience at Fort Bragg, and talks about General Daniel "Chappie" James and General Benjamin Oliver Davis. He discusses the disciplinary challenges faced

within the Army during the Vietnam War, his experience as a lieutenant, and his brigade commander, General Roscoe Robinson. In 1974, Ward was assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, where he was promoted to captain. After his return to the U.S. in 1976, Ward completed his advanced infantry course, and went on to Pennsylvania State University, where he received his M.A. degree in political science in 1979. From 1979 to 1982, he served as an assistant professor of social sciences at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

United States. Air Force.

Fort Bragg (N.C.).

Military discipline--United States.

Pennsylvania State University.

United States. Army. Infantry Division, 2nd.

Video Oral History Interview with Gen. William Ward, Section A2013_180_001_006, TRT: 6:28:37 ?

In 1976, Gen. William Ward returned from his assignment in Korea. After completing the advanced infantry career course, Ward enrolled in graduate school at Pennsylvania State University, where he received his M.A. degree in political science in 1979. He was then appointed as an assistant professor of social sciences at West Point, and served there until 1982. In 1982, he attended Command General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, and was promoted to the rank of a major. Ward describes the challenges that he faced as an infantryman, and his circuitous route to becoming Commander of the 5th Battalion, 9th Infantry in the late 1980s. He also talks about his experience with the 5th Battalion, 9th Infantry in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, being selected for colonel, and becoming the brigade commander of the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division in 1992.

Pennsylvania State University.

Military education--New York (State)--West Point.

U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Fort Wainwright (Alaska).

United States. Army. Engineer Mountain Battalion, 126th.

Video Oral History Interview with Gen. William Ward, Section A2013_180_001_007, TRT: 7:30:00 ?

In 1992, Gen. William Ward became the brigade commander of the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division. He describes his brigade's experience during relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew. The same year, the brigade was deployed to Somalia as U.S. troops to the U.N. mission to help combat famine during the war. In 1994, Ward was appointed as the Executive Officer to the Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, and then as Deputy Director for Operations at the National Military Command Center. In 1996, he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. Ward describes the ceremony where he received his star. He was then appointed as the Assistant Division Commander of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, where he served for two years. In 1998, he was appointed as Chief of the Office of Military Cooperation in Cairo, Egypt.

United States. Army. Engineer Mountain Battalion, 126th.

Hurricane Andrew, 1992.

United States--Armed Forces--Somalia.

Fort Bragg (N.C.).

United States.--Army--Foreign service--Egypt.

Video Oral History Interview with Gen. William Ward, Section A2013_180_001_008, TRT: 8:29:42 ?

In 1999, Gen. William Ward was assigned as Commander of the 25th Infantry Division, the Tropic Lightning Division, in Hawaii. In 2000, he returned to the Pentagon as Vice Director for Operations on the Joint Staff. Ward was working in the Pentagon during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and describes the aftermath of the attacks, and discusses the government's response. In 2002, Ward was promoted to become a lieutenant general, and appointed as Commander of the NATO Force in Bosnia. In 2005, he was appointed as Deputy Commanding General and Chief of Staff in the U.S. Army in Europe, and served as the U.S. Security Coordinator between the Israeli and Palestinian authorities. In 2006, Ward was promoted to four-star general, and assigned as Deputy Commander of the U.S. European Command (EUCOM). From 2007 to 2011, Ward served as the inaugural commander of the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM).

United States--Armed Forces--Hawaii.

Pentagon (Va.).

September 11 Terrorist Attacks, 2001.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

United States. Army. European Command.

United States. Africa Command.

Video Oral History Interview with Gen. William Ward, Section A2013_180_001_009, TRT: 9:28:10 ?

From 2007 to 2011, Gen. William Ward served as the inaugural commander of the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM). In this section of the interview, Ward describes his experience with AFRICOM, and the highlights of his service. He also discusses the initial apprehension about AFRICOM, and his appointment as its commander. In 2010, Ward received the Black Engineer of the Year Award, for his leadership as a commanding general in the U.S. Army.

United States. Africa Command.

Engineering--Awards--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Gen. William Ward, Section A2013_180_001_010, TRT: 10:15:45 ?

In this final section of the interview, Gen. William Ward discusses his retirement from the U.S. Army in 2011, following forty years of service. He reflects upon his life, career and legacy. Ward also talks about his family and his life after retirement. He talks about his hopes and concerns for the African American community and how he would like to be remembered. Ward closes the interview by describing his photographs.

Reminiscing.

Photographs.