

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Clifford Stanley

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## Overview of the Collection

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| <b>Repository:</b>           | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616<br>info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com  |
| <b>Creator:</b>              | Stanley, Clifford  |
| <b>Title:</b>                | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Clifford Stanley,   |
| <b>Dates:</b>                | August 6, 2013   |
| <b>Bulk Dates:</b>           | 2013   |
| <b>Physical Description:</b> | 10 uncompressed MOV video files (4:29:57).   |
| <b>Abstract:</b>             | Major general Clifford Stanley (1947 - ) was assigned as commanding officer of the 1st Marine Regiment, Camp Pendleton, California from 1993 to 1994, making him the first African American to command a U.S. Marine Corps Infantry Regiment. Stanley was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 6, 2013, in Washington, D.C., District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| <b>Identification:</b>       | A2013_178  |
| <b>Language:</b>             | The interview and records are in English.  |

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

U.S. Marine Corps MajGen. Clifford L. Stanley was born on March 31, 1947 in Washington, D.C. After graduating from Theodore Roosevelt High School in 1965, Stanley enrolled in South Carolina State University and graduated with his B.S. degree in psychology in 1969. He went on to graduate with honors from Johns Hopkins University with his M.S. degree in counseling in 1977. In 2005, Stanley received his Ed.D. degree in education from the University of Pennsylvania. Stanley's military education includes the Amphibious Warfare School (1978), the Naval War College (1983), the Marine Corps Command and Staff College (1984), and the National War College (1988).

Throughout his thirty-three year career, Stanley has served in numerous command and staff positions in the U.S. Marine Corps, including as commanding officer of M Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines, commanding officer of Headquarters Company of the 4th Marines; commanding general of Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) Twentynine Palms, California; and commanding general of the Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia. In 1993 Stanley assumed command of the 1st Marine Regiment, Camp Pendleton, California, making him the first African American to command a U.S. Marine Corps Infantry Regiment. Stanley has also served in various assignments outside of the Fleet Marine Forces, including as psychology and leadership instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy; executive officer at the Marine Corps Institute; special assistant and Marine Corps aide for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy; and as a desk officer in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia and the Pacific Region in the Pentagon. In 2002, Stanley retired from the U.S. Marine Corps at the rank of Major General. He went on to serve as executive vice president of the University of Pennsylvania, and then as president of Scholarship America, Inc. Stanley was sworn in as the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness on February 16, 2010.

Stanley is a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., the South Carolina State University Alumni Association, the National Naval Officers Association, and the White House Fellow's Foundation and Association.

He also serves as a member of the Board of Deacons at Grace Baptist Church of Germantown in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Stanley's military honors include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal. His civilian awards include receiving the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (N.A.A.C.P.) Meritorious Service Award, the N.A.A.C.P. Roy Wilkins Award, and the American Legion Award for Inspirational Leadership. Stanley also received Honorary Doctorate of Laws Degrees from Spalding University and South Carolina State University, and the Doctor of Science, honoris causa from the Medical University of South Carolina.

Stanley and his wife, Rosalyn Hill Stanley, have one daughter: U.S. Navy Commander Angela Yvonne Stanley.

U.S. Marine Corps MajGen. Clifford Lee Stanley was interviewed by 'The HistoryMakers' on August 6, 2013.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Clifford Stanley was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 6, 2013, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV video files. Major general Clifford Stanley (1947 - ) was assigned as commanding officer of the 1st Marine Regiment, Camp Pendleton, California from 1993 to 1994, making him the first African American to command a U.S. Marine Corps Infantry Regiment.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

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

### Persons:

Stanley, Clifford

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews

Stanley, Clifford--Interviews

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United States--Armed Forces--African American Generals--Interviews.

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### **Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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United States. Army.

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### **HistoryMakers® Category:**

MilitaryMakers

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## **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 Clifford Stanley, August 6, 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 11/19/2013 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## **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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage, August 6, 2013

Video Oral History Interview with Clifford Stanley, Section A2013\_178\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:46  
2013/08/06

Clifford Stanley describes his family's history. Stanley's mother, Ellen Elnora Stanley, was born in October of 1922, in Moneta, Virginia. His father, Joseph Franklin Stanley, was born in October of 1920, in Conway, South Carolina. Stanley describes his close-knit maternal family, and their quiet and peaceful life as farmers in Virginia. His mother migrated to Washington, D.C., where she initially worked as a housemaid. She then trained as a licensed practical nurse and went to work at Walter Reed Medical Center in D.C. before retiring. Stanley describes his mother's personality, and his parents' dignified response to racial discrimination and segregation in the South. In this section of the interview, Stanley also describes the targeting of his family by a sniper in 1975, an incident where his paternal uncle, Connie, was killed and his wife, Rosalyn, was paralyzed.

African American families.

African American mothers--Virginia.

Migration, Internal--United States

Race discrimination--United States.

Hate crimes.

Violent crime.

Video Oral History Interview with Clifford Stanley, Section A2013\_178\_001\_002, TRT: 2:31:24  
2013/08/06

Clifford Stanley's parents met in Washington, D.C. before his father was drafted into World War II and deployed to France. After his father's return to the United States, his parents married and settled in D.C. Stanley's father worked as a photographer for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Stanley and his brother, Michael, grew up with close ties to their relatives who lived in the D.C. area and in neighboring states. He describes his parents' personalities and his likeness to them, talks about his brother, and discusses his happy childhood. In this section of the interview, Stanley also describes the details and impact of the racially motivated sniper attack on his family in April of 1975.

Marriage.

World War, 1939-1945.

African American mothers.

African American fathers.

Childhood--Washington (D.C.)

Hate crimes.

Video Oral History Interview with Clifford Stanley, Section A2013\_178\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:01  
2013/08/06

Clifford Stanley attended Garfield Elementary School, and then the integrated Keene Elementary School in Washington, D.C. He describes his childhood, his

leadership in the Youth Civic Association, his experience in school, and the challenges he faced in a newly integrated school system. Stanley later attended McFarland Junior High School and Roosevelt High School. He talks about the teachers who influenced him in school, and at South Carolina State University, his passion for reading, his struggle with mathematics, and his limited interest in television. Stanley also talks about the Civil Rights Movement, and his own involvement as a student in Orangeburg, South Carolina in the 1960s. He recalls President John F. Kennedy's election, his parents' interest in the president, and his assassination in 1963. As a teenager, Stanley was exposed to African Americans military servicemen and aspired to join the U.S. Navy Reserves after graduating from high school in 1965.

Education--Washington (D.C.).

Segregation in education--Washington (D.C.).

Mentoring in education.

South Carolina State University.

Civil rights movements--United States.

Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963.

Video Oral History Interview with Clifford Stanley, Section A2013\_178\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:19  
2013/08/06

Clifford Stanley attended Roosevelt High School in Washington, D.C., where he became involved in the U.S. Army's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). As a high school student, Stanley wanted to become a lawyer. He talks about the poor high school counseling he received and his decision to attend South Carolina State University. This is where his uncle and his favorite cousin attended school. In this section of the interview, Stanley describes his summer before starting college, his academic, extracurricular and leadership activities at South Carolina State, and his involvement with the South Carolina State Student Legislative Branch. He also recalls the resignation of President B.C. Turner, and reflects upon the Orangeburg Massacre of 1968.

Education, Secondary--Washington (D.C.).

United States. Army. Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

South Carolina State University.

College choice--United States.

Orangeburg Massacre, Orangeburg, S.C., 1968.

Video Oral History Interview with Clifford Stanley, Section A2013\_178\_001\_005, TRT: 5:28:26  
2013/08/06

In 1969, Clifford Stanley graduated from South Carolina State University with a B.S. degree in psychology. He then joined the U.S. Marine Corps, attended Basic Training School and Supply Officer School, and served on two tours as a supply officer - at Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, in Okinawa, Japan from 1970 to 1971, and at the Marine Corps Combat Development Command in Quantico, Virginia in 1971. In 1972, he applied to become an infantry platoon commander, and was assigned as a platoon commander in the Officer Candidate School. From 1973 to 1974, Stanley served as an infantry company commander in the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He was then assigned as an instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy, until 1977. Stanley talks about meeting the governor of South Carolina after the Orangeburg Massacre, the NAACP attorney, Matthew Perry, his brother's service in the Vietnam War, leadership qualities of U.S. Marines, and the wars in Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq.

South Carolina State University.  
United States. Marine Corps.  
Okinawa Island (Japan)  
Marine Corps Base Quantico (Va.)  
United States--Armed Forces--African American officers.

Video Oral History Interview with Clifford Stanley, Section A2013\_178\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:05  
2013/08/06

In 1977, Clifford Stanley earned his master's degree in counseling at Johns Hopkins University. He then attended the Amphibious Warfare School, and describes his experience there. From 1978 to 1979, Stanley served as an Infantry Company Commander in the 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa, Japan. Stanley discusses his frequent moves in the U.S. Marine Corps, including his assignments as Officer in Charge of the Infantry Writer Unit, Ceremonial Parade Commander, Marine Barracks 8th and I; Marine Corps Aide in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy; at Command and Staff College in the 2nd Marine Division in Camp Lejeune; as Battalion Commander at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island. In 1987, Stanley graduated from the National War College, and participated in the White House Fellows Program. He also reflects upon his philosophy of command, the challenges that he faced as he rose through the ranks, and his views on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Johns Hopkins University.  
United States--Armed Forces--African American officers.  
Okinawa Island (Japan)  
National War College (U.S.)  
United States. Army--Promotions.  
Federal government--Study and teaching (Internship)

Video Oral History Interview with Clifford Stanley, Section A2013\_178\_001\_007, TRT: 7:28:16  
2013/08/06

In 1989, following his service as a White House Fellow in the Office of the FBI Director, Clifford Stanley was appointed as the advisor for POW/MIA affairs and the assistant for Australia and New Zealand in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. In 1991, he was named the head of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command Battle Assessment Team at Quantico and in Saudi Arabia, where he served during the Gulf War. In 1993, Stanley was assigned as the Infantry Regimental Commander in the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, and then reassigned as a Fleet Marine Officer of USS Mount Whitney in Norfolk. In 1994, Stanley was also appointed as an assistant deputy chief of staff at the Marine Corps headquarters, and in 1996, he became the director of Public Affairs. Stanley discusses his experience on these assignments, his rise to become a brigadier general, the challenges that he faced as he rose in rank and seniority, and the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that was signed into law in 1993.

Federal government--Study and teaching (Internship)  
United States. Department of Defense--Officials and employees.  
Persian Gulf War, 1991.  
Camp Pendleton (Calif.)  
Marine Corps Base Quantico (Va.)  
United States. Army--Promotions.

Video Oral History Interview with Clifford Stanley, Section A2013\_178\_001\_008, TRT: 8:29:56  
2013/08/06

In 1998, Clifford Stanley served as the Commanding General of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, California, and describes his experience there. He was then appointed as the deputy commanding general of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command at Quantico, Virginia, and also held an office in the Pentagon. Stanley talks about the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. In 2002, after thirty-three years of service, he retired from the U.S. Marine Corps as a major general. He then went on to serve as the executive vice president of the University of Pennsylvania for a year and as the president of Scholarship America for five years. In 2005, Stanley received his doctoral degree in education from the University of Pennsylvania. In 2009, he was appointed as the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. He discusses the challenges that were faced by his office when he assumed the role, and describes his experiences.

Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (U.S.)

Marine Corps Base Quantico (Va.)

Pentagon (Va.)

September 11 Terrorist Attacks, 2001.

University of Pennsylvania.

United States. Department of Defense.

Video Oral History Interview with Clifford Stanley, Section A2013\_178\_001\_009, TRT: 9:29:10  
2013/08/06

In 2011, Clifford Stanley resigned from his position as Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. He describes the circumstances underlying his decision to leave the position, and the subtleties of being treated differently than his peers when making executive decisions in the Marine Corps as well as in the Pentagon. He also reflects upon the closure of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington, D.C. in 2011. In this section of the interview, Stanley discusses his involvement with the National Naval Officers Association and in the Baptist Church, his activities following retirement as Under Secretary, and his goals for the future. He also reflects upon his legacy as a U.S. Marine, talks about being a Marine, and describes his hopes and concerns for the U.S. Marine Corps and for the African American community.

United States. Department of Defense.

Discrimination in employment--United States.

Religion--United States--Baptist.

United States. Marine Corps.

Reminiscing.

Video Oral History Interview with Clifford Stanley, Section A2013\_178\_001\_010, TRT: 10:06:34  
2013/08/06

In this closing section of the interview, Clifford Stanley talks about his daughter, Angela Stanley, reflects upon his life's choices, his religious faith, and how he would like to be remembered.

Reminiscing.

Fathers and daughters.