

EXHIBIT 9E

CBS NEWS - 60 MINUTES WEEKNIGHT

"BUSH GUARD"

INTERVIEW WITH COL. HACKWORTH

CORRESPONDENT: DAN RATHER

PRODUCER: MAPES

01:05:22:22

(REFERENCE TONE)

01:26:17:29

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

DAN RATHER:

01:01:14:24

First of all thank you for taking time to do this.

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:01:16:24

My pleasure.

DAN RATHER:

01:01:18:03

Tell me how you see this story as it's unfolding.

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:01:22:17

Well I have been in exactly this kind of situation that the good Colonel who's given us these memo for records has been in. When I returned from Vietnam on my first tour I ended up in the Pentagon. Here's a good

infantry lieutenant colonel running the--
Army input system for people who are going
to take basic training.

01:01:44:16

So as a result my phone was constantly
ringing Dan of senators, of members of the
House of Representatives, of generals
saying, "We want Willy not to go to the
umpty-ump infantry division. We want him to
go to Alaska or to some-- lifeguard job in
Hawaii." And of course I told 'em all to go
to hell. But I can understand in many cases
I ended up writing memorandas (SIC) for
record to cover my own butt when I got into
a firefight with the top brass. So this--
this colonel who-- obviously in the same
kind of pickle that I found myself in in
1967-68 in the Pentagon.

DAN RATHER:

01:02:26:23

Well when you read through these memorandum
you think he was writing this in a cover-
your-backside fashion. Say, "Okay I'm

getting this pressure. I've gotta put a record down of what's happening."

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:02:36:29

Oh no question about it that what he was about was-- the file appropriately called the CYA Cover Your Butt. And bottom line is-- is-- he wanted to make sure that-- he had a record that could prevent him from getting yelled at 'cause he obviously knew. And even young-- George Bush now President Bush said-- "Hey look. There'll be some pressure from upstairs." Well this is-- a big significant message from a second lieutenant to a seasons combat veteran lieutenant colonel in the Air Force.

DAN RATHER:

01:03:10:29

Right. Now is there any doubt in your mind that these documents are real? We've had handwriting experts and other people but anything you see here that trips your trigger that says, "Wait a minute. These may not be on the level."

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:03:22:11

Having been down that road before I would say that these are genuine documents.

DAN RATHER:

01:03:27:10

Now you said you ran across at the Pentagon all the time some senator or representative of a senator or congressman or--

01:03:33:27

(OVERTALK)

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:03:34:04

Or a general.

DAN RATHER:

01:03:35:03

Or a general calling saying, 'I need X to go to Y unit instead.' But get him outta the fire. Was that good or--

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:03:43:18

Oh bottom line was to get them in a safe billet. And the safe billet was as far away from Vietnam as possible.

DAN RATHER:

01:03:51:07

But will you expect that kind of pressure to be felt right down to the squadron level with a place like Ellington Air Force Base

in Houston?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:03:57:22

Yes. When I commanded a battalion-- at Fort Lewis-- (PH) between tours in Vietnam after that Pentagon tour I got the same kind of treatment and the battalion I had there was a-- was an infantry battalion that was specially trained for Vietnam. They were headed to Vietnam. And the phone rang the same way. We want-- Robert Smith to be reassigned to a non-combat MOS. So it's very common.

DAN RATHER:

01:04:26:10

Gotta let me pause and say I don't think anybody's surprised that political pressure in a few cases can result in someone not having to go to the war being transferred. But-- at the same time I thought the army was-- the ultimate artillery service so well disciplined and so dedicated to run a m-- a meritocracy that this kinda thing happened as an exception. You're telling me it was

very common.

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:04:55:01

I think for those who had political clout it was very common. For-- 99.9 percent of-- of-- American lads that did go to Vietnam that didn't have connections-- they went and faced the fire. And I have to say that regarding the guard, the air guard I've been in many a firefight when a guy was burnin' down on the deck puttin' fire right in front of my battalion and it was a National Guard pilot. So they were there doing their duty. But in this case somebody was AWOL.

DAN RATHER:

01:05:27:18

Somebody was AWOL?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:05:29:00

Looks like President-- Bush was AWOL in this case.

DAN RATHER:

01:05:33:15

AWOL is something people understand: Absent Without Leave. In--

(OVERTALK)

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:05:37:24

When you read the documents unless you're the village idiot that's the way they come out Dan. When you're AWOL there's punishment. There's a price to pay for that. That's a very serious offense in the military because for good reason the military depends on discipline.

01:05:54:29

You can't have people just wandering off as they like whether you're in a combat infantry unit or in a National Guard tank battalion. So what I'm having difficulty doing is okay. You say he was AWOL. That's what it looks like to you coming out of these documents.

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:06:10:17

Coming out of these documents. You're dead right.

DAN RATHER:

01:06:13:03

Dead right. You think it's clear coming outta these documents that he was off

somewhere he wasn't supposed to be without permission.

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:06:19:03

And because of the connections that he obviously had-- he was able to-- to escape-- the punishment that the average, unconnected trooper would-- would get and that would be-- either a dishonorable discharge, a court martial. But he wouldn't have wa-- the average kid would not have walked away-- unspanked-- in this case.

DAN RATHER:

01:06:45:05

Are you tellin' me or not that if Jim Jones from West Texas in an infantry unit in the National Guard had done this that he might very well have been out of the service with a less than honorable discharge?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:07:00:25

Absolutely. And that was in 1967-68-69 when all this went down and that's applicable today in-- where our National Guard is serving us so valiantly in places like Af--

Afghanistan an Iraq.

DAN RATHER:

01:07:15:27

I think a lot of people have difficulty-- understanding that the National Guard and our reserve units do serve active combat duty you said in Vietnam. Air National Guard people were flying right over, getting right on the deck to cover your people on the ground. But there's some units who don't go.

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:07:34:28

That's right. And-- And it obviously in this particular case this particular unit-- kn-- known as I think the Champagne Squadron simply didn't deploy and it was filled with people who had incredible connections.

DAN RATHER:

01:07:49:12

Let me ask you this Colonel. When you were in the Pentagon and this political pressure was coming down on you you said that, you know, you resisted them. You told 'em, "Hell no." But did you or did you not

think, "This is unconscionable." I mean some people would've thought that.

01:08:03:28

I don't wanna put words in your mouth but when somebody calls you in the Pentagon you've been to Vietnam. You know what a hell it is. You know the price is being paid by our sons and daughters. And somebody says, "You know what? I don't want Senator so-and-so or Congressman so-and-so's son to go." What did you think?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:08:20:08

Well I-- I came from, you know, an old-- Kentucky hillbilly family whose attitude was, "Hey! All men are created equal. When it's time to serve the country you don't have connections. You go." And so my-- my position was very simple w-- you are going and you-- no influence, no general calling me-- in his office and saying to me and pointing the finger and doing all of the threatening stuff. Had no bearing-- on my-

final decision on what kind of training that soldier took.

DAN RATHER:

01:08:53:11

Colonel let's go through these-- papers one by one. Now on fourth of May 1972.

Memorandum about First Lieutenant George W. Bush. Subject: Annual Physical Examination Co-flight. Now this is a memorandum for First Lieutenant George W. Bush. It says, "You are ordered to report to the commander of 111th Ellington Air Force Base Flight Squadron not later than 14th of May to conduct annual physical examination." Ordered. Now that word is not used lightly in the military.

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:09:33:07

Yes and to-- for a commander to have to put it in writing is very rare. Now they'd get on the horn and say, "George get your butt in here to take your annual physical." So this colonel was so concerned that he put it in writing and made it in a memorandum for

record so he had something to protect his rear end if the flack did s-- explode. Q

DAN RATHER:

01:09:55:22

There is never any record of First Lieutenant George W. Bush taking this physical. Indeed the overwhelming evidence and testimony up to this time is he didn't take that physical. Now for people who don't take the physical when they're ordered to do so what generally happens to them?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:10:15:13

In the Air Force they're taken immediately off flight status. In the Army we-- we don't have that requirement for non-rated aviators. But-- he would be a ground pounder and probably as-- assigned to an Air Force ground pounding outfit which could find its way-- in Vietnam where thousands of Air Force people serve valiantly.

DAN RATHER:

01:10:35:29

W-- With officers in the Air Force as well

as the Army and every part of the military isn't there a yearly assessment of their efficiency?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:10:44:24

Yes. There's an annual efficiency report or when your boss changes jobs or you change jobs. And at that point in time the boss does a report card on you indicating what kind of performance-- you perf-- perform well under that command.

DAN RATHER:

01:11:02:28

Well no such report exists for George W. Bush or at least the last year that he was in the National Guard. What am I to make of that?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:11:12:21

Well that's where when I look over these documents where I come up with the AWOL word. The man wasn't present for duty. Where was he? There have been folks who have offered-- thousands of dollars for anyone that-- that served with President

Bush during this time frame to come forward and they could collect the bounty. Guess what Dan? Nobody takers.

DAN RATHER:

01:11:35:25

Period we're talking about here is after he left Houston to go to Alabama to work in a political campaign. But let's move onto 19th of May, 1972. Memo to file. This again is from Colonel Killian (PH). "Phone call from Bush."

01:11:53:17

He took a call from the Lieutenant.

"Discussed options of how Bush can get out of coming to drill from now through November." I have to stop right there. A war's on. How do you get out of drills to take part in a political campaign?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:12:09:23

That's right. You know from your military experience. I certainly know from mine. And a subordinate would call me and say, "Hey boss. I'm not comin' to the party,"

would find himself-- with a melded phone in his hand 'cause he'd be in a world of hurt. And when you look down at the end of this thing the thing that really bothered me was that-- that he-- he says he could be transferred but he's talking to someone upstairs. Well I wonder who that person was that-- that was upstairs?

DAN RATHER:

01:12:38:02

Well we know that there was a General Stout (PH) and Colonel Hodges upstairs. And General Stout was well connected-- to the Bush family and politicians in Houston in general. But I don't-- I-- I-- almost desperately do not want to jump to any conclusions here.

01:12:53:01

Want you to tell me what these papers say to you. And I wanna go on here. You said you had phone call from Bush. Discuss options of how I can get out of coming to drill from now through November. There's no

explanation point there. But mentally there's an explanation point. You agree or disa--

01:13:08:24

(OVERTALK)

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:13:08:25

Well I-- no I agree completely.

DAN RATHER:

01:13:10:19

Said, "I told him that he could do ET for three months or transfer. Says he wants to transfer to Alabama to any unit he can get into. Says that he's working on another campaign for his dad. Now if you're a colonel commanding a international guard unit if somebody says, "I wanna take time off to campaign for my dad," what do you or most other colonels say?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:13:35:02

Well I think that some colonels would say, "Roger that wouldn't (UNINTEL) help your dad." But most colonels that I've known from that time period would say, "Get your butt in here as-- sonny. You're gonna be--

reporting for duty ASAP."

DAN RATHER:

01:13:50:28

You said what bothered you most was the Colonel says, "I told him I had to have written acceptance before he would be transferred. By the way there's no record of any written acceptance. But think he's also talking to someone upstairs."

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:14:07:28

So th-- this is a clear indication that the guy has other irons in the fire and can bring about political pressure. And I think this is what the-- the-- why we have-- Colonel Killian, the write of his memorandum for record wrote it in the first place as a document to cover himself.

DAN RATHER:

01:14:27:10

Right. I wanna move onto first of August 1972. Memorandum for Record. Subject Bush, George W., First Lieutenant. Suspension of flight status. On this date I ordered that First Lieutenant Bush be suspended from

flight status due to failure to perform to US Air Force and Air National Guard standards." What does that mean? Failure to perform to standards?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:14:57:10

He didn't perform as-- as required by-- a National Guard Aviator at that time. He was below the standard and-- in the Air Force and in the aviation game in general you've gotta be able to equip yourself to a certain standard. So he was below the standard. And-- he was asked to-- to come in and thus finally removed from flight status for failure.

DAN RATHER:

01:15:26:12

And it says, "And failure to meet annual physical examination."

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:15:30:19

So he didn't show up for the physical--

DAN RATHER:

01:15:32:14

As ordered.

01:15:33:28

(OVERTALK)

DAN RATHER:

01:15:34:01

As ordered.

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:15:35:08

He either blatantly refused an order-- or he-- refused it by omission, by-- and it simp-- it seems to me like it was omission by just not reporting to-- to conduct that. If this would've been an unconnected Lieutenant-- Second Lieutenant in the US Army-US Air Force, Marine Corps, whatever-- he would've been talkin' to his colonel-- with his heels locked in front of his desk-- for being insubordinate and not following orders.

DAN RATHER:

01:16:08:24

Number two on this memorandum from first of August '72. Colonel Killian says, "I conveyed my verbal orders to commander with requests for orders for suspension." Now in the plainest of English the colonel is saying, "I think he oughtta be suspended.

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:16:29:02

And he went to his boss and asked that that be done to the group commander.

DAN RATHER:

01:16:33:20

Suppose you know it wasn't done. I don't-- I don't know.

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:16:37:06

Well I can't find any-- anyplace where it indicates who submitted it. But for the purposes here he's clearly asked that the be suspended. Because he was below flight status, failure to perform to standards and he hadn't followed orders to get a physical examination.

DAN RATHER:

01:16:55:05

Yeah. He was not qualified to fly that bird of which the taxpayer had spent millions of dollars to train him.

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:17:04:09

Well let's talk about that for a moment. Because there is an argument that goes along these lines. Look. Yeah. The Vietnam War

was on. But George W. Bush might very well have concluded, "They're never gonna send me to the war."

01:17:17:00

And he got tired of the whole thing, wasn't keeping himself up to standards so what's the big deal? He faded away. What's the big deal?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:17:25:01

The big deal is if everyone in the United States military at that point in time faded away our country would've been in a very big problem. The whole military structure is-- is based on order and is based on discipline and one person k-- just can't do their own thing. In the Army, even though that was during a period of-- where a lot of-- where a lot of people did their own thing. But not in uniform.

DAN RATHER:

01:17:50:18

What was his commitment? What was his contract with the US Air Force, the Air

National Guard and for that matter the people of the United States when he goes into flight training. You said it costs tens of thousands of dollars. What was his commitment?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:18:05:09

I believe the commitment was the total reserve commitment was-- about six years. And that meant that he had to stay proficient, stay qualified-- on that flying machine for that period of time to be available for not only Vietnam but if you'll remember back then we were lookin' hard at the Russians. And-- a lot of the-- a lot of the air activity. A lot of the--

01:18:32:06

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:18:45:12

Not only were we involved in Vietnam w-- with a lot of air power but we were involved in the very long running cold war where aviation was a key player. And he was part of that mechanism.

DAN RATHER:

01:19:01:05

Well I know for one (UNINTEL) of the reasons that the Combat Infantryman badge you wear on your label you're a ground soldier. But whether you're a ground soldier or an aviator if you have a commitment to the military whether it's for four years or six years and aviators have a longer period of commitment because there's such an investment in them. Is it absolutely imperative that you fulfill that commitment until and unless you're released from it by the military?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:19:27:26

Or-- That's right. Or you don't have a military organization that has the requisite discipline to fight and win wars. You have a mob. You have people that are out doing their own thing rather than following orders.

DAN RATHER:

01:19:41:24

Well (UNINTEL) goin' down to the-- and we're

almost near the end of this group of papers here. He said, "I recommended transfer of this officer, George W. Bush, to Air Reserve Squadron in May and forward his form-- to Group Headquarters. The transfer was not allowed. The officer, George W. Bush, has made no attempt to meet his training certification or flight physical." "He has made no attempt to meet his training certification of a flight physical." What does this tell us?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:20:14:20

That for some reason even though as-- as an early cadet pilot-- when he was going through his training period hi-- his performance was exceptional. But there-- something happened during this period, guess you're gonna have to ask George Bush what, that changed his mindset-- regarding-- his-- obligation to his country and to the United States Air Force.

DAN RATHER:

01:20:41:23

Well according to Colonel Killian he told him what the other thing he wanted to do was go to Alabama and campaign for his father. Not in his father's campaign but a friend of his father who was running for office there. Colonel I-- I'm sorry but help me. Did this go on all the time in the-- in the Vietnam War? People just taking off to go campaign or open watermelon stands or whatever they wanna do?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:21:04:09

This is the first time I've ever heard of anything like this. I-- as I mentioned I've heard of people tryin' to use connections to get out of going to a particular theater. But-- to get off of military duty after this expensive training to become part of a political apparatus-- would've been unheard of.

01:21:23:04

At least the United States Army. And that

the United States Air Force has bloody high standards. I can't believe this went on.

DAN RATHER:

01:21:31:01

I wanna come back to you said-- the Air Force and the people of the United States had an investment in Lieutenant Bush 'cause they had trained him to fly. Let's talk a little more about that. And what his obligations were after the taxpayers had made that investment.

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:21:45:21

Well first of all he was required to pass a series of examinations-- to see if he was qualified for flight school. And then put through extensive training to become an aviator-- which cost-- the taxpayer a fair amount of money. And at the same time-- he bumped somebody else who may have been as qualified or more motivated from that slot. So end result was this was all of this money and all of these training hours were lost where we could've trained someone else who

could've gotten into a cockpit and headed towards the east and provided some napalm and 500-pound bombs in front of my battalion when they were in a firefight.

DAN RATHER:

01:22:30:10

Colonel I wanna ask you about getting in something like the Air National Guard. The state Air National Guard. Where your chances of goin' to Vietnam were to say the least less than most people's and in some cases virtually no chance.

01:22:44:06

Now in authorized biographies and other ways the President has indicated he said, "Well look. There were a couple of slots in this what became known as the Champagne Squad. A couple o' slots." And said, "I just happened to get one." Did people just happen to get one of those slots?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:22:59:28

I don't think so. W-- without the powerful political-- connections that he obviously

had and from the perusal of these documents--
- that-- that were used by him or others to
ensure that-- he did end up in that slot--
flying-- a-- a jet fighter.

DAN RATHER:

01:23:25:27

Again so many people weren't alive during
the Vietnam War or not of memory age. They
weren't drawings for these slots. It wasn't
like a draft lottery. They weren't official
drawings for these slots.

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:23:36:21

No they were critical slots. And-- there
were probably-- I-- I-- I can't speak that I
know exactly the number of slots. But I
know in Army aviation which I was involved
in-- in the input to that too later in the
Pentagon-- you-- you took the best person
that you had 'cause you were going to use a
very valuable-- training slot to-- to
prepare somebody for the battlefield in
Vietnam.

DAN RATHER:

01:24:04:24

I wanna go-- this was the last graph. It says-- "On the recommendation of Colonel (UNINTEL) I would suggest that we fill this critical billet with a more seasoned pilot from the list of qualified Vietnam pilots that have rotated. Recommendations were received but not confirmed." Translate that for me.

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:24:24:26

What the Commander was saying was, "I want somebody that's-- preferably a combat experienced officer just back from Vietnam in the slot." And-- that he passed this onto his chain of command and never got any kind of a response.

DAN RATHER:

01:24:42:28

I wanna go back to the President and his authorized biographer saying that he just happened to get two slots. The President has said-- that, "I completed my service." On the basis of what you know from these

documents and elsewhere did he complete his service?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:24:59:21

Looks to me l-- like I said earlier he was AWOL for a whole bunch of his service. And these documents are the things that have convinced me-- that-- that this is true.

DAN RATHER:

01:25:13:06

How does such a thing get quieted down for this long with a public person such as George W. Bush?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:25:20:13

Well y-- you understand that the Guard is a political animal for openers. And there we are in Texas and subsequently we have the Governor of Texas-- being-- the-- the now-President. That it was very easy for records to be cleaned up and-- and kinda sanitized so there wouldn't be these kind of terrible memorandums come out. Believe me these would've not been part of the records that were-- initially given to the press.

DAN RATHER:

01:25:51:19

There are other records that are missing. And the Defense Department says, "Well," they, "--don't know what happened to 'em," that, "--they're lost. May have burned up in fires." What do you make of that explanation? Believable? Credible?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:26:02:16

Well there had been a lot of files and-- and records lost in the history of our veterans. But for someone of the status of the President of the United States I would really doubt that-- that-- that that would happen. I-- I find it almost alm-- almost on the incredible side.

DAN RATHER:

01:26:19:22

Yeah. What about other people having records or memorandum to the file? Is it likely that there are other people who have some records? Or do you think we've pretty much seen it?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:26:29:27

I think as long as this goes on there'll be more and more people especially veterans who are very angry about being vetted-- one veteran against the other and used this kind of political pawns in this gut-- gutter politics. And a lot of-- a lot of guys-- that are telling me that they're angry over this and I think that those people who have such things in their little CYA file are gonna be diggin' 'em out.

DAN RATHER:

01:26:57:26

You've read these documents, read 'em over several times. Are they significant?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:27:04:28

Well I-- I-- I think that-- they are the-- the clearest indication that the President of the United States was AWOL-- at a particular time. When he-- he and his handlers are saying, "No he was present for duty." But where is there evidence that he was? Where is one person to come forward

and say, "I was with him on duty in Alabama."

DAN RATHER:

01:27:31:25

Colonel you know that you're likely to fetch hell about this.

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:27:35:02

That's the story of my life Dan.

DAN RATHER:

01:27:37:09

There will be people who say, "Well, you know, the colonel he must be-- virulently anti-Bush, anti-Republican, anti-President administration." You know that that's gonna come. Are those things true? Are you anti-Bush? Anti-administration? Anti-Republican?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:27:51:03

No. What I am-- is an American who's concerned about my country and concerned about the national security of my country and when I see things like this-- I have no problem if-- if it was Bill Clinton or-- George Bush-- being the fellow at fault to--

blow the whistle or to sound off about it.
And I reckon that's every Americans
responsibility if we're going to enjoy what
we have. And that's freedom.

DAN RATHER:

01:28:19:21

When you read these documents and you think
about your own Vietnam service and the
service of those who served under you
including those who paid the ultimate price,
made the ultimate sacrifice what do you
think? What do you think about?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:28:36:04

Well I think about the-- the bottom line
here is-- is the abuse of power. It's-- how
people up at the top can-- can-- lean on the
little people and the little people that are
not strong and stand up and fight this kind
of thing-- capitulate and end result is you
have these kind of abuses.

DAN RATHER:

01:28:56:24

Based on what you've read and what you know
about this case too strong or not to say

there's an ethical question involved here?
Set aside the matter of duty,
responsibility, discipline. Is there or not
an ethical question involved?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:29:10:24

According to my interpretation of these
documents prepared by Colonel Kerry designed
to--

DAN RATHER:

01:29:18:11

Colonel Killian.

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:29:19:02

Or Colonel Killian. Designed by Colonel
Killian-- written by-- according to my
interpretation of these documents written by
Colonel Killian these bottom line is that--
if Killian-- put all of this in writing as--
as he did-- then-- then it's absolutely
true.

DAN RATHER:

01:29:39:28

Anything else you wanna say about this--

(OVERTALK)

DAN RATHER:

01:29:41:21

--Colonel Hackworth? I know you care a lot about the-- about the military, the integrity of the military. Anything else you wanna say about th--

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:29:47:19

Well that's what the military's all based on. It's based on honor. It's based on duty. It's based on duty. It's based on country. That's-- what's imprinted on every ring of the c-- cadets that graduate from West Point. And that's what-- Douglas Mac Arthur was about and every one of our great leaders was duty, honor and country. In this case-- it looks like all three have been kind of violated.

DAN RATHER:

01:30:11:20

I can't resist asking you this. George W. Bush's father was a bona fide hero during World War II. Went down in a plane in the Pacific. I-- Can you imagine that he knew what was going on here?

COLONEL HACKWORTH:

01:30:30:20

Well many of the people that were ringing my office, Dan-- when I sat in the Pentagon asking for favors from-- for their sons or nephews or-- or friends also had distinguished combat records. We have to view things at that time that Vietnam was a bad war and they were tryin' to protect their own. But without realizing at the same time that they were the ones that were instrumental in the development of the policy that was sending thousands of thousands of young men into battle and into death.

DAN RATHER:

01:31:08:18

Let's pull right there. We're just at the end of the tape.

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

* * *END OF TRANSCRIPT* * *