

Joseph D. Hutchison: In order to break up the mess, well, I was the first one there. So I was first one called into the office and they said, “Well, you’re going to be transferred; you got your choice, which one do you want - the eastern technical training command, or the western technical training command. And I said, “Well, I’ve been out west here for a long time; the eastern looks like it might be a good choice.” But, then I thought, “Oh, Scott Field Illinois is in the eastern technical training command and I dislike that real bad too.”

Janis Kozlowski: [Laugh]

Joseph D. Hutchison: So I had to decide. Anyway I came to the decision, “Well, I’ll try it and see it if I can get away with it.” Well I didn’t; I went back to Scott Field.... And then they, you know, were sending me back to the same radio school I had just graduated from. And I wasn’t happy about that. But before I could get too upset about it; pretty soon the arrival of a whole big gang of tech sergeants and staff sergeants that were all chosen as eastern training technical command. So Scott Field couldn’t handle it either; they had to be nicer for a change. So me being the first one again, they called me in first. And they said, “OK, you got your choice, which do you want?” And I said, “Well, the eastern technical training command, I guess.” And they said, “Well, OK, get your bags and march over to the permanent party area; [Laugh] just walk across the field.”

So anyway, I go there and they said, “Well, what job do you want?” And I said, “Well what jobs do you got?” And so they gave me a whole list of them. I looked on the list and the thing that looked best to me was, a mail clerk. And I said, “OK, I’ll take, mail clerk.” So they sent me over to replace a sergeant. And he was the nicest guy; he was regular army, and he tried and tried to get signed for overseas, and they wouldn’t let him. And he had just gotten married, bought a car [Laugh] and I show up and tell him, I am replacing him. So I felt real bad about that, but somebody was going to do it, anyway. So....

But, anyway then, they had a, I was there for awhile, and it got to be old home week. And they had two more tech sergeants [that] showed up. I got there first, so I was still the boss; I was running the mailroom, and they didn’t care anyway, ‘cause they’d rather pass the mail out at the windows. So, even though they out ranked me, well, I was running it.

And pretty soon, they changed the officers for the mail section. And a WAC lieutenant shows up. And [Chuckle] she liked me. And she gave me a hard time. I tried to keep away from her, ‘cause I knew it was trouble. Anyway ... at Christmas they had a big officer’s, had-to-go-to affair. And my captain came in the mailroom and he wanted to know, [of] anybody that’s not going home, or anything, at the time of this party. And I said, “Well, I was; what do you want?” He said, “Well, I’m desperate, I’ve tried everything I can find and I’ve run and run out of gas; I need somebody to babysit at my house for the evening.” He said, “The baby will be asleep, you won’t ever hear a cry. And you help yourself to the refrigerator; anything you want.” And I said, “Well, I don’t want to do that.” Anyway, he finally prevailed and I agreed to go over there. Well in the middle of it, there is a knock at the door. And I go answer the door and it’s her. She’s still chasing me. And I better do something about this. So, I was posting notices on the bulletin board at the mailroom the next day, or shortly afterwards. And I see this one, where you can sign up for ... the transport command. But, it would entail another tour of duty. So I volunteered for that.