THE INTERVIEWER

COL Calvin J. Landau (USA Retired) served on active duty in the Infantry and Field Artillery. His last assignment was as Chief of Staff, First Army, at Fort Meade, MD (1974-78). After retiring in March 1978, Landau went to work for the General Development Corporation, a developer of communities in Florida. In 1983, he became assistant vice president, Environmental Plans and Programs.

While a student at the U.S. Army War College in 1971, Colonel Landau conducted this interview under the auspices of the Military Research Collection at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. The interview spanned seven sessions between January and March 1971. The interview was conducted with two goals in mind: (1) To provide valuable insights and lessons learned to officers and commanders in the immediate future; and (2) To assemble an important collection of tapes and a transcript for the benefit of historians and scholars. Trudeau's philosophy of life is examined to provide the thread which holds the story together. Personality, motivation, and attitudes which set him apart from others are investigated. Emphasis is placed on key crises and decisions and the people who influenced his life, his style, and his philosophy.

INTERVIEWEE'S INTRODUCTION

Even being known as a rather frank and direct person, my associates still seem puzzled when I state: During the decade of the 1950s three senior members of the Army General Staff got fired; I was one of them and replaced the other two!

Such a declaration deserves a brief explanation. The Korean War was winding down in November 1953 when I was suddenly brought back to the Pentagon to replace General Dick Partridge as Chief of Army Intelligence. Partridge had failed to impress Senator Joe McCarthy that he sufficiently recognized the dangers of Communism. Two years later, in August 1955, I myself made a sudden departure from Washington. I went back to the Far East after the Central Intelligence Agency, with State Department support, objected to my concern about Soviet penetration of General Gehlen's West German intelligence agency. Something over two years later, in January 1958, I was brought back to the Pentagon again to replace General Jim Gavin as Army Chief of Research and Development at the beginning of the Space Age.

In the following interview, which was refined from an Army War College transcript of some 25-30 hours of tape, recorded during the winter and spring of 1971 by Colonel Calvin J. Landau, I tell these and other stories from my Army career, a highly diversified and satisfying one to me. While edited, the interview remains in simple conversational form. As I make no claim to fame either from deeds performed, seniority attained, or courtesy from the press and media, I have repeatedly declined to prepare it for publication. However, having now achieved true senior citizen status by virtue of passing my octogenarian milestone, I have succumbed to the wishes of others and have released this little story transcribed more than a decade ago.

Arthur G. Trudeau