

2014-16-07 PT. 2

Mark Hamilton

October 1, 2015

Fairbanks, Alaska

Jeanne Phillips, interviewer

Leslie McCartney, videographer

Series: University of Alaska 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary tapes

Mark Hamilton talks about taking a sabbatical in Alaska. He was working for about five or six weeks and he got a call from the chief. He was asked to go to Somalia. He had a set of orders which were special assignment including his transportation form. He went to Somalia in 1992. He described Somalia military activity at the time. He said the city of Kismayo was occupied by Omar Jass. There were about 6000 troops there. Outside the city Hershey Morgan who was Adid's son-in-law who had a reputation. He talked with Morgan about the situation. He sat down to talk about peace. In negotiations he had to represent being powerless. He described the environment. Hamilton said Omar Jass controlled the town and said one night that Morgan invaded the town. He said the war lords never lied to him. Hamilton talked about negotiating with them. He said they got the sultans together, they were armed and the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division went home. He was then told to go to Brussels to speak with Shalikashvili, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe. He traveled to Brussels and spent time there and then went to Geneva. He was then assigned to work for Shalikashvili. He talked about back briefs. He said ABC news covered his story in Somalia. He was finally promoted to general. They were transferred to Hawaii with seventeen days notice. He said he has had wonderful opportunities and jobs in the Army. He ended up being the commander of the United States recruiting.

Phillips asked him about his children. Hamilton said his son, Douglas lives in Virginia and has four children. Clay is a fireman in Anchorage and the founder of Crossfit and has two children. Kathy was adopted at the age of four and works as the children's pastor at church. They have four children. Daniel is an automotive mechanic. Hamilton talked about adoption and their adoption process. Kathy was about four when she was adopted and Daniel was about 18 months old when he was adopted. He said they had to give them birth dates. Kathy and Daniel were biological siblings. Their son recognized them from their photos and immediately went to them the first time they met.

Hamilton talked about diversity in the Army and promotions. He said it isn't that way in academia.