

## “Flying Arrows:” Avoiding SAMs

Joe Schaedel joined the Navy in 1955. He was a Naval Aviator and flew the AD1 Skyraider and the A-4 Skyhawk. Joe made two deployments to Vietnam with his squadron, VA-93. He first deployed with the aircraft carrier USS *Ranger* in 1964, and then on USS *Enterprise* in 1966.

Watch Joe’s oral history to learn about his experiences in Vietnam. In this video, Joe describes leading a group of six planes during a mission over North Vietnam. During this mission, the enemy soldiers shoot surface-to-air missiles, very dangerous weapons, at his plane. He discusses his reaction to that experience. The video is available on YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/JoeSchaedel> or you can click directly on this QR code from your smartphone or tablet (using either a QR reader app or your phone’s camera).



### Questions to consider:

1. What is the importance of oral histories? Why do we spend the time to speak with veterans about their experiences?
2. Is this oral history a primary source or secondary source? Why?
3. How does Joe react to the missiles? If you were in command of the other planes, would you have made the same decision as he did?
4. How does Joe describe the Surface-to-Air Missile?
5. How would you feel about seeing a missile coming up at you from the ground, knowing that it could destroy your airplane?
6. What medal did Joe receive for this mission? What does that mean for how Joe handled the mission?
7. How would you feel about going to war, being in danger?