

***Vietnam on Tape excerpt (01:48)***

**Narrator:** This audio excerpt contains strong language and scenes of violence heard as they unfold. It may not be appropriate for some listeners.

[Helicopter chatter]

**James Kearney:** I was kneeling in the helicopter right guiding this cable down from the still. And that's when I saw the guy shooting up diagonally from the ground, straight at us with a machine gun.

[Machine gun sounds. Intercom: "Kearney's been hit! Something hit me — I don't know what the fuck it was. Oh, God damn." Machine gun sounds. "We're takin' hits. Kearney got hit. I'm hit in the foot, and in the right upper leg." Machine gun sounds]

I was hit in three places, and my gunner was also hit. But he had on his armor plating, which saved his life.

So there was a lot of confusion. And then the pilot is not able to see the situation, and he's having to control the helicopter and try too figure out what's going on. But he obviously hears the rounds tearing into the helicopter.

He tells us to be calm, and he starts trying to get the helicopter out of the hole before we take a round that'll bring the helicopter down.

[Intercom: "Climb, Dave, climb — I'm gonna take a look at these guys... I ain't bleeding too bad I don't think, but I'm hit in the arm, the leg, and the foot... How bad are you hurt, partner? I don't know. I might live, I might not. If I don't, tell my parents I love 'em.... I always wondered what it's like to get shot; now I know. It hurts like hell]

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