

# Old Men

Michael Casey

from being just one college kid  
among many I was sent  
where I was the college kid  
among high school graduates  
a military police unit  
there were age and size requirements  
for selection eighteen and a half  
five foot nine  
and it's considered a good job  
in a military occupation  
our unit gave out speeding tickets in Vietnam  
on highway one  
it might be fun on highway one  
but I say Chu Lai sucks  
but Quang Ngai was a genuine city  
somewhat near Chu Lai  
with an Esso gas station  
and a genuine hamburger stand  
manned by draft dodgers  
that didn't make it to Canada  
at the MACV compound  
and it was just a little way  
outside our patrol area  
maybe twenty miles  
and we went there often  
once a group of us MPs

traveling to Quang Ngai  
were waiting in line  
when some warrant officers  
showed up chopper pilots  
in flight suits and we  
MPs were old men by comparison  
they looked sixteen seventeen  
like they never shaved  
and they were laughing shouting  
punching each other  
acting like  
they were never going to die  
babysans forever

Stanley Kunitz selected **Michael Casey's** first book *Obscenities* in the Yale Younger Poet Series in 1972. Poet Gary Metras' Adastra Press published Casey's second book *Millrat* in 1999.