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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,629

We are recording the interview Vince Taylor. This interview is being conducted at

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00:00:03,629 --> 00:00:07,609

Wright State from the Wright State
University Veterans Voices Project. The

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00:00:07,609 --> 00:00:12,269

interview's being reported at Wright State
University in Dayton, Ohio it's 3 p.m. on

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00:00:12,269 --> 00:00:14,540

July 10, 2014.

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00:00:14,540 --> 00:00:24,550

Alright Vince, uh, let's see...what is your full name? My full name is Vern
Vincent Taylor. Ok, and your date of birth?

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00:00:24,550 --> 00:00:31,529

Uh, January 18, 1973. And your branch of service? U.S. Army. Ok.

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00:00:31,529 --> 00:00:37,190

Your highest rank obtained or current rank? Captain. Captain, okay. War or conflict or conflicts you

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00:00:37,190 --> 00:00:47,039

served in? Operation Enduring Freedom
2007, 2008. In Afghanistan? Iraq. Oh, okay, and was that the

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00:00:47,039 --> 00:00:54,059

only one then, just the one deployment? That's it. Okay. Just one deployment. Alright. We're going to kind of go back
to um,

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00:00:54,059 --> 00:01:01,420

your early days in the service and uh, just kind of go from
there, so what were your first days in

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00:01:01,420 --> 00:01:06,900

the military like, basic training you
know what was it like for you? Um well I went to basic

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00:01:06,900 --> 00:01:09,530

training in 2005,

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00:01:09,530 --> 00:01:16,240

you know I enlisted in 2005 went to basic training I was 31 years old so I was one of the older ones

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00:01:16,240 --> 00:01:22,600

and my platoon so obviously they stuck me
in the responsibilities of like squad leader

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00:01:22,600 --> 00:01:33,750

stuff like that so it was good though. I had a good time in basic training, it was alright, you know I mean, they keep
you busy. Okay. Were you doing

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00:01:33,750 --> 00:01:40,780

OCS immediately after that or, 'cause you're an Officer. Right, right, right, after that I went to OCS at

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00:01:40,780 --> 00:01:44,220

Fort Benning, Georgia at Officer Candidate School there,

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00:01:44,220 --> 00:01:50,650

and then graduated from there in 2006 and
Commissioned. Ok was that the plan all along then, like when you went in? but

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00:01:50,650 --> 00:01:58,370

when you went in you were planning on doing the
OCS immediately after...? Right, right I, I wanted to OCS, that's why I enlisted. Ok.

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00:01:58,370 --> 00:02:07,460

Yes. Let's see.... any other stories anything
memorable that you can remember from basic that you know kind of

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00:02:07,460 --> 00:02:13,730

stuck with you know, I'm sure you got plenty. Yeah, I mean I don't know, it's just basic

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00:02:13,730 --> 00:02:16,950

training. I mean you get [inaudible] of time to eat,

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00:02:16,950 --> 00:02:20,530

you know so if your food was hot you wanted to get as much in you as you could

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00:02:20,530 --> 00:02:24,320

so you poured water on it to eat it real quick and 'cause you'd have to shovel it in

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00:02:24,320 --> 00:02:31,040

pretty fast, 'cause they'd make you leave after I think we had 10 minutes. Uh, the first day we got there we did

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00:02:31,040 --> 00:02:39,070

the lift over the head with the duffle bags and one guy passed out, and that was kind of interesting, they didn't know he was passed out until they couldn't wake him up

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00:02:39,070 --> 00:02:46,680

so they just came and got him, the medics did and carted him off like litter. Those, those are probably the most two distinctive

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00:02:46,680 --> 00:02:52,250

memories about basic training I mean it's just basic training, you do all kinds of crazy stuff in

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00:02:52,250 --> 00:02:59,660

basic training so...Yeah. Okay, let me step back here do some biographical information that I missed um, when

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00:02:59,660 --> 00:03:01,360

and where were you born?

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00:03:01,360 --> 00:03:04,650

Findlay, Ohio. Ok, and you'd already said your birthday.

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00:03:04,650 --> 00:03:10,230

What were your parents occupations?

Uh, teachers. They were both teachers? Yes. Ok.

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00:03:10,230 --> 00:03:17,829

Were either of them in the military? No. Any family in a military besides you? Uh, my dad's brother was briefly in, uh, my mom's sister's

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00:03:17,829 --> 00:03:22,329

husband was in the Army, and

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00:03:22,329 --> 00:03:32,180

her cousin was in the Air Force, my dad's cousin was in the Air Force, my dad's uncle was in the Air Force, my dad's dad was in the Air, Army Air Service

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00:03:32,180 --> 00:03:43,950

I guess was under the Army back in World War II. Okay. My grandpa served in World War II, uh but my dad never did.

Ok. My grandpa did. Your grandpa did but your dad didn't, ok.

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00:03:43,950 --> 00:03:52,200

What about your siblings? Do you, did you have any siblings? Yeah, two sisters. Two sisters, ok. What were their names?

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00:03:52,200 --> 00:04:02,859

Anna and Christie. Anna and Christie, ok. And so you were 31 when you got in, what were you doing prior to that? Well I went to college and I

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00:04:02,859 --> 00:04:03,930

left college, and then

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00:04:03,930 --> 00:04:11,189

went, got my first job in Fayetteville, North Carolina where Fort Bragg is, and I worked in a tire plant there

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00:04:11,189 --> 00:04:13,590

in quality control

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00:04:13,590 --> 00:04:21,970

and I worked there for over five years and I, 9/11 happened so I got a little patriotic and decided to join

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00:04:21,970 --> 00:04:32,729

the Army, so I resigned at the factory and joined enlisted in the US Army. Ok, and uh, you said you went to school, where did you go? I graduated college,

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00:04:32,729 --> 00:04:45,729

Pensacola Christian College in Florida, Pensacola, Florida. Ok, and what was your major? History. Okay. With a minor in Mathematics. Okay, let's see....And you uh, so you enlisted and

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00:04:45,729 --> 00:04:53,270

then you went to OCS right after, right? Basic training and OCS, absolutely, both, had to do both. Ok so when you sign up that you

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00:04:53,270 --> 00:04:59,510

do you technically enlist then? Yeah, you enlist and you know if you don't make it through Basic, or Basic Career IT

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00:04:59,510 --> 00:05:05,139

then you know you're I don't know I guess you couldn't go to OCS but I

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00:05:05,139 --> 00:05:11,669

I signed up with the OCS options so after Basic I went to OCS. So, do you know what would have happened if you wouldn't you

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00:05:11,669 --> 00:05:18,729

have gone through OCS? I would have been enlisted for another three or four years. Till my contra, see initially they

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00:05:18,729 --> 00:05:23,930

give you a four contract as an enlisted person and then when you go to OCS if you

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00:05:23,930 --> 00:05:29,400

graduate, they actually basically do away with that enlistment and give you

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00:05:29,400 --> 00:05:33,970

a newa, a new enlistment basically a new contract which is actually three years.

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00:05:33,970 --> 00:05:44,830

Ok for the Officer. For the Officer side, yes. Ok, um, ok. What was a OCS like then? Uh, it was, actually I thought Basic was a

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00:05:44,830 --> 00:05:50,249

little bit more fundamentally better

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00:05:50,249 --> 00:05:56,459

than, than OCS. OCS, I mean, we did a lot of crazy things, it was more kind of a rites of passage in my

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00:05:56,459 --> 00:06:05,929

opinion. Oh, ok. You know, we did have some academic, you know test that we had to take, as far as like military history uh, you know and like

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00:06:05,929 --> 00:06:11,879

basic infantry skills and stuff like that but they were very easy it was more just kind

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00:06:11,879 --> 00:06:21,779

of like just putting up with just you know, kind of crazy things like you know. You had do chin-ups before you

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00:06:21,779 --> 00:06:26,919

ate, you had to do facing movements, you had to answer you know trivial things

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00:06:26,919 --> 00:06:33,089
about the Army you know, or else you would get tours or more pushups or whatever if you didn't

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00:06:33,089 --> 00:06:37,019
answer right or go back of the line, which those things that they ask you , the trivial

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00:06:37,019 --> 00:06:45,659
stuff, I've never even really had to know since then you know, it was just kind of crazy things like, name the Five Star Generals of World War

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00:06:45,659 --> 00:06:52,759
Two or something crazy like that you know. So they were always like just just basically testing you to

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00:06:52,759 --> 00:07:00,399
see how you react to things really. I mean a lot of it in my opinion I, I felt what we learned in Basic

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00:07:00,399 --> 00:07:05,149
Training a lot more useful than what you really learn in OCS and OCS was

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00:07:05,149 --> 00:07:06,329
twice as long

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00:07:06,329 --> 00:07:17,349
so, well almost, so it's just kinda like a twice as long Basic Training basically and you, and they don't cover, basically, like at least in Basic Training like you

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00:07:17,349 --> 00:07:27,419
get to learn how to you know throw a grenades, you know, shoot weapons, you know shoot AT-4's and stuff like that. Well OCS they, I guess they expect you

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00:07:27,419 --> 00:07:31,740
to know all that since you've already been through the most of you, most of them

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00:07:31,740 --> 00:07:38,130
through, you know some sort of enlistment or Basic Training, so they just do more kind of just

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00:07:38,130 --> 00:07:46,740
weird you know, like walk on a certain side of the pavement, you know do this do that, you know maybe do

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00:07:46,740 --> 00:07:54,710

lunges around the building just crazy things like that, just weird stuff, you know, just weird rules. Yeah. Sing the Army

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00:07:54,710 --> 00:08:01,530

song every night saw before you go to bed and stuff like that. Bizarre things. Ok, so you don't feel like you got a lot out of

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00:08:01,530 --> 00:08:06,669

OCS though? Well I mean it's it was mandatory for me to get a commission and

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00:08:06,669 --> 00:08:12,780

obviously OCS has been around longer than I've been alive so it must work, you know for

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00:08:12,780 --> 00:08:21,270

them but right, I just felt like that, I don't know, it didn't really have a whole lot to do with preparing you

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00:08:21,270 --> 00:08:25,550

actually to be an officer, it was just kind of like a rite of passage, that's my opinion.

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00:08:25,550 --> 00:08:34,240

This is all my opinion, you know what I mean. You know obviously the Army knows what they're doing, they've been doing OCS like we've been exist 1776 or

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00:08:34,240 --> 00:08:37,329

whatever whatever but so, but that's just my opinion.

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00:08:37,329 --> 00:08:44,790

Ok, um...let's see...

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00:08:44,790 --> 00:08:47,830

Why did you choose the Army?

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00:08:47,830 --> 00:08:57,580

Uh, well actually it was kind of weird, I actually put in paperwork for the Air Force and and actually

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00:08:57,580 --> 00:09:05,860

had talked to the Navy first as well and they were all actually, the recruiters were all actually in the same building. And

the day I went

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00:09:05,860 --> 00:09:11,660

to check on my paperwork for the Air Force I walked by the Army guy and he was just standing

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00:09:11,660 --> 00:09:17,080

outside his door and he just started, he goes hey, you know, are you thinking about the service? I was like right I just

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00:09:17,080 --> 00:09:22,210

stopped in to see where they were with my paperwork I submitted to go in to enlist in the Air Force. And he was like

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00:09:22,210 --> 00:09:28,790

what were you interested in? Just started talking to me you know and brought me into his office and then basically

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00:09:28,790 --> 00:09:35,790

it was he got me into the Army quicker than the Air Force got me into the Air Force, that's, that's how it happened. Really, so

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00:09:35,790 --> 00:09:47,150

that's how it happened. Yeah. I got into the Army quicker than I did in the Air Force. Well, yeah, well it works I guess. In the Navy I was too old. They like guys under 28 years old, so

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00:09:47,150 --> 00:09:58,650

they didn't even really entertain me. Oh, okay. They basically didn't want anything to do with me. Navy they were just like you know, I was kind of, they weren't as interested because you

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00:09:58,650 --> 00:10:02,570

know the only part of the Navy I was ever really interested in was the SEA 01. They

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00:10:02,570 --> 00:10:08,960

can't guarantee that because it's really a very grueling you know, route to go and not

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00:10:08,960 --> 00:10:17,939

everybody makes that so you know unless you want to be on the ship or aircraft carrier you know the Navy was kind of not really as appealing to me

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00:10:17,939 --> 00:10:22,929

or a submarine... Yeah. which I wasn't, I wasn't too sure that I wanted to do that. Right. You know so...

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00:10:22,929 --> 00:10:33,139

Ok, um so let's see, how did you um, how did you adapt to that lifestyle, I mean you go from you know,

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00:10:33,139 --> 00:10:38,039

being the civilian to having to go through

Basic and all that stuff, I mean that's gotta be, that's gotta be tough

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00:10:38,039 --> 00:10:46,099

what was that, what was that experience? Did you deal with it well? Yeah I think Basic was good. Um, actually I got along really good with my Drill Sergeants, I guess

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00:10:46,099 --> 00:10:52,470

not everybody probably has that experience. Uh, OCS was a little tougher just because, but I think it

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00:10:52,470 --> 00:10:56,909

was probably tougher on everybody you know. They make it that way on purpose I'm sure.

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00:10:56,909 --> 00:11:02,299

Uh, it was actually a lot more tougher, like

I said I always said I'd be willing to go through Basic

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00:11:02,299 --> 00:11:12,199

again before I would OCS. Ok. Uh, but I don't know you just do it you. You just adapt I mean

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00:11:12,199 --> 00:11:22,029

it's not, you just adapt. Right. And if you don't you don't make it. Yeah. It's okay, yeah. Too many people don't make it.

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00:11:22,029 --> 00:11:28,239

Through OCS? Is there a lot of....Yeah, OCS was a bigger loss rate than Basic Training. Of course there were some that

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00:11:28,239 --> 00:11:35,599

didn't make it at Basic either, but OCS, yeah they a lot of people are weeded out or had to recycle. Okay. Did

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00:11:35,599 --> 00:11:38,199

you feel like you said you got along with your Drill Sergeants fairly well, do you think

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00:11:38,199 --> 00:11:42,169

that was because you' were older you think

and then they were dealing with a bunch of 18 year olds, it was nice to have someone a little

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00:11:42,169 --> 00:11:46,030

bit older, or....? Uh, could be, I don't know, I really don't know, I just

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00:11:46,030 --> 00:11:51,640

some people just go along with better than others. It's like any other job that you go to. I mean there are some people that you get

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00:11:51,640 --> 00:12:00,790

along with that you work with, others you don't. Fortunately, for me I got along with my Drill Sergeants really well so you know, well as well as you can get along with a Drill Sergeant, you know. Yeah,

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00:12:00,790 --> 00:12:08,290

alright, um well let's see, after OCS then you did what right after OCS?

Well, you know, they they sent me

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00:12:08,290 --> 00:12:19,270

orders back to Fort Sill and so then I uh went to Fort Sill and I, oh, the orders had me go to Fort Sill for the, back then they

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00:12:19,270 --> 00:12:24,430

called it FAOBC for Field Artillery Officer Basic Course now its called BOLC. And so I had to do

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00:12:24,430 --> 00:12:30,930

that. It's a school for about six months...how long....teach you more about artillery

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00:12:30,930 --> 00:12:37,020

as the Officer side of the house of artillery. Ok 'cause that's your that was your that was your specific job then was an Artillery Officer?

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00:12:37,020 --> 00:12:40,190

Yeah, yeah, I got commissioned they sent me

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00:12:40,190 --> 00:12:51,000

orders to become an Artillery Officer. Ok. Um, so yeah, I became an Artillery Officer and then my first unit I went to was

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00:12:51,000 --> 00:13:00,530

the a well was a MRS unit, Multiple Rockets Systems unit and, I was I was, initially served as a platoon leader of

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00:13:00,530 --> 00:13:09,970

a platoon of about 32 soldiers, uh, there's like usually four platoons to make a battery, there's about 120

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00:13:09,970 --> 00:13:17,300

soldiers and there's so there's a platoon leader for each platoon so there's usually ideally there's four Lieutenants and when I

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00:13:17,300 --> 00:13:22,310

first got there I think we only had two other Lieutenants and then we got

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00:13:22,310 --> 00:13:23,570

another one and then

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00:13:23,570 --> 00:13:27,220

so we did some training for about a year and then

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00:13:27,220 --> 00:13:37,240

in 2007 we we got orders to go to Iraq and shoot rockets in Iraq so but they

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00:13:37,240 --> 00:13:42,560

didn't take our whole battery they only took basically about a platoon and a half well

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00:13:42,560 --> 00:13:56,360

basically two platoons and so they they out of the four, um, four, there was four of us Lieutenants so they they only took like

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00:13:56,360 --> 00:14:01,959

two of us so I was one of the ones they chose, the Commander and First Sergeant chose to take.

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00:14:01,959 --> 00:14:12,470

They said because I was older and more mature is what they said, I don't know if that's really true but that was their excuse so me and another Lieutenant

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00:14:12,470 --> 00:14:19,660

we went and it was a detachment. OK. And, basically were to provide fire support

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00:14:19,660 --> 00:14:27,199

for well the maneuver elements in Iraq. OK. Now so you were in Iraq. You guys made it over there

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00:14:27,199 --> 00:14:32,519

We flew over there in a C-5 with our launchers underneath us. Oh, ok, so you guys didn't do any

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00:14:32,519 --> 00:14:40,430

civilian flights on the way it was all military? Yeah, on the way it was all military. Okay so where, what part of Iraq were you guys in?

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00:14:40,430 --> 00:14:51,189

We were all over. Oh, okay so you guys moved around a lot then. Yeah, because we were providing fire support to whoever whoever needed us. I mean we started out started out outside of Baqubah, then we went kind of outside

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00:14:51,189 --> 00:14:59,580

of uh, Baghdad for awhile, and then we went kind of outside of Tikrit a little while, went up to Mosul, outside of Mosul a

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00:14:59,580 --> 00:15:05,030

while, we were all over. Ok. How did you guys get around there then?

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00:15:05,030 --> 00:15:11,870

Um. Well they we, they usually convoyed our equipment with a security element. I flew on a chopper a lot.

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00:15:11,870 --> 00:15:22,440

Oh, okay. Uh, the doctors, I would like to say we generally flew in the choppers most of the time. Ok. Uh, where you know there are equipment they had to drive because they couldn't lift them up

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00:15:22,440 --> 00:15:29,170

with a chopper. Right. You said, how many guys, I don't know if I missed it, how many guys did you say came over from your battery?

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00:15:29,170 --> 00:15:30,100

Detachment.

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00:15:30,100 --> 00:15:36,970

Uh, it was about two platoons worth. I don't remember an exact number. Ok, so around 60 or 80 somewhere in there? Yeah, maybe

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00:15:36,970 --> 00:15:50,290

not even quite that much. No, ok, ok. Closer to high 40's or 50's, like 48 or 50. Oh really, ok ok. I'm not really sure so I don't want to tell you anything wrong. No, no, no, just a rough estimate, that's fine. Um, so you guys the officers flew

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00:15:50,290 --> 00:15:55,780

to the locations you guys were ordered to go, um, in-country, now you said your equipment

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00:15:55,780 --> 00:16:01,110

was driven, was that by your guys or did you guys have separate convoys that took them or

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00:16:01,110 --> 00:16:06,350
how did that work? Um, both. Both, ok. You guys have like security elements that brought your guys stuff? Yeah they would

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00:16:06,350 --> 00:16:08,310
like task out security elements

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00:16:08,310 --> 00:16:12,860
for our security so you know to pro, for our protection because we don't have enough

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00:16:12,860 --> 00:16:18,200
to man all of the gun, the turrets on top....Right on top of the convoy. Convoys...

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00:16:18,200 --> 00:16:26,040
yeah. Ok. So we always had a...Ok, um any memorable experiences that particularly stick with

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00:16:26,040 --> 00:16:32,650
you still or? Far as what, as far as the Iraq thing? Yeah, yeah for the deployment. Yeah. I mean

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00:16:32,650 --> 00:16:41,230
we did a lot of cool missions. Uh, we, we we blew up, I mean we did a lot of where the maneuver elements

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00:16:41,230 --> 00:16:45,010
would call for fire-forced blowout, they would come across, they'd search counter-cross a lot of homes

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00:16:45,010 --> 00:16:48,310
booby-trapped with explosives

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00:16:48,310 --> 00:16:57,040
so what they would do they cordon area off within maybe about a 50-100 meters away, make sure nobody, people were there and then they would

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00:16:57,040 --> 00:17:04,480
lay you know laze the target for the grid location elevation did send that to us to me.

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00:17:04,480 --> 00:17:11,170
I was the head of the fire direction center, meaning that I got the missions from higher, where the, which originated from

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00:17:11,170 --> 00:17:17,020

the forward observer you know who is working for the maneuver commander and he would send

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00:17:17,020 --> 00:17:25,569

that those that grid location and elevation to us and we would process that in my fire direction center

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00:17:25,569 --> 00:17:31,940

using computers and then send it to the launcher and the launcher would shoot the rockets at the targets and

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00:17:31,940 --> 00:17:41,840

we we blew up some cool stuff, uh, I know one time we had a, we we always checked out what we're hitting with a uh, with a computer program, and I don't

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00:17:41,840 --> 00:17:47,750

think I'll name it in case I'm not supposed to name it, but that particular program used UAV and satellite type

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00:17:47,750 --> 00:17:53,070

footage and so we'd enter the grid location in there it could give us the aerial view of what we're

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00:17:53,070 --> 00:17:54,919

going to shoot at. Oh ok.

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00:17:54,919 --> 00:17:59,879

And, one time we, our our the observer sent us a mission where it was a

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00:17:59,879 --> 00:18:08,379

mosque and you know that needs a corps or a division approval so uh my Corporal though was

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00:18:08,379 --> 00:18:20,269

running that program says hey sir come over and look at this. I went over and looked at it. He goes it looks like a mosque and I was like yeah it does so I basically called our headquarters and I say hey look I don't know if they know this but

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00:18:20,269 --> 00:18:25,179

that's a mosque and we need to have you know like basically a General to approve that

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00:18:25,179 --> 00:18:32,669

and so the headquarters said standby. They talked to the maneuver commander and he just

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00:18:32,669 --> 00:18:38,039

the maneuver commander said to that he was going to try to send in a couple of squads in to root out the

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00:18:38,039 --> 00:18:44,909

terrorists in this church and stuff you know this mosque so blow it up. So he did that but anyway he got a couple, there was a couple of guys killed

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00:18:44,909 --> 00:18:49,759

so that but what they did they ended up pushing most of the a insurgents into wing

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00:18:49,759 --> 00:18:55,759

of the mosque so we ended up getting the approval because some soldiers were killed

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00:18:55,759 --> 00:19:00,989

and I think actually the, I don't know how many, I don't want to tell any wrong information, uh but I think

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00:19:00,989 --> 00:19:09,169

some of them were actually even Iraqi Army soldiers but uh because they were intermingled with some of our American. The ones that were

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00:19:09,169 --> 00:19:18,669

killed? Yeah, in the, in the mosque, you know when he send uh, the squads in and so anyway, they were they authorized

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00:19:18,669 --> 00:19:25,679

us to blow up that wing and so we did. We sent two rockets in we blew the the wing up and we got all the insurgents so

175

00:19:25,679 --> 00:19:41,559

they didn't get, they hadn't noticed, the observer said for the shooting, you did, it blew up what it was supposed to blow up and quelled the you know no more insurgents were alive so to about to harrass them or shoot at them. Yeah did did that

176

00:19:41,559 --> 00:19:49,320

happen a lot where you guys ran into mosques where they, 'cause they knew they could probably have better chance.... No that was only one time. Uh, uh, there was, there there was one incident

177

00:19:49,320 --> 00:19:58,489

where we're we a shot fire mission a with a some, this this is another interesting story. We had one bomb making

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00:19:58,489 --> 00:20:04,489

factory and it was in Baghdad and it, the insurgents actually but it near a hospital so they had some

179

00:20:04,489 --> 00:20:11,590

I guess theoretically some collateral damage the hospital, and what was funny is like CNN came out and said that we had bombed

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00:20:11,590 --> 00:20:18,749

the hospital so the uh, their the Army had to go investigate

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00:20:18,749 --> 00:20:25,409

you know the, and ensure that what we shot at was the right thing the bomb-making facility

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00:20:25,409 --> 00:20:29,749

and they did the investigation and they found that we we hit what we're supposed to

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00:20:29,749 --> 00:20:34,909

hit, uh there was some minor collateral damage to the hospital but it wasn't like what

184

00:20:34,909 --> 00:20:37,739

CNN made it out to be or

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00:20:37,739 --> 00:20:47,749

Al-Jazeera, Al-Jazeera made it sound like we were trying to blow up hospitals and stuff like that which was it that was erroneous, but but that

186

00:20:47,749 --> 00:20:52,029

was that you know they did make it close to there and and they, we found that they

187

00:20:52,029 --> 00:20:58,090

would do that from time to time put it close to like a school or a mosque or you know, but not as many as you think. Those are

188

00:20:58,090 --> 00:21:03,599

probably the only two significant ones I remember really. The rest were pretty much you know

189

00:21:03,599 --> 00:21:12,539

single buildings and easy to blow up and things. We did some IED stuff where you know insurgents we'd

190

00:21:12,539 --> 00:21:22,239

the UAV, we worked up near Tikrit. We worked a lot with the UAV a flying people. Um hum. And well we had a liaison that we worked

191
00:21:22,239 --> 00:21:24,600
with, the UAV uh

192
00:21:24,600 --> 00:21:33,210
people on. We did a couple of missions were um, insurgent, we'd they they would
grid locate using the

193
00:21:33,210 --> 00:21:38,490
UAV, the vehicle that the insurgents were using to bring the supplies to an intersection

194
00:21:38,490 --> 00:21:42,480
where they put IEDs they like to put IEDs in intersections. They like to do it like at

195
00:21:42,480 --> 00:21:48,980
midnight or so and so whenever that was
happening when we were up near Tikrit we're working

196
00:21:48,980 --> 00:21:54,530
closely with some of the UAV liaison uh
operator, you know

197
00:21:54,530 --> 00:22:01,400
liaisons they would give us those grids and we'd blow up the vehicle so they couldn't then place the IEDs and blow

198
00:22:01,400 --> 00:22:06,460
up the insurgents that were trying to plant the IED. Ok, and just to clarify could you tell for

199
00:22:06,460 --> 00:22:17,540
the video could you say what an UAV is? UAV un, unmanned aerial aircraft, unmanned aircraft, you know it's like the
drones...um hum ok...basically and an IED is

200
00:22:17,540 --> 00:22:26,800
improvised explosive device, and then also we did that with VBIEDs which are vehicle born improvised explosive
devices. Ok, and uh so

201
00:22:26,800 --> 00:22:33,000
so you guys were firing rockets, now how far away were you firing these from, did you guys go out there or were you
firing from the base? Oh,

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00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:40,060

we we had to set up a firing point off the post because the gases from the rockets are are

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00:22:40,060 --> 00:22:48,780

poisonous and can kill people so obviously we're not going to shoot 'em on the forward operating bases. So usually close to the operating,

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00:22:48,780 --> 00:22:56,030

right off the operating bases usually where we like to set up. Ok, so did you have to go up and set up a little kind of

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00:22:56,030 --> 00:23:06,300

area out there or...? Yeah a lot of times we were able to find just a abandoned Iraqi buildings that were already there that we used most of the time, the majority of the time, and we, we could

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00:23:06,300 --> 00:23:11,570

set up tents and stuff but generally we usually all the time I remember

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00:23:11,570 --> 00:23:16,810

we had abandoned buildings or buildings that we could use. Ok, so you just do your fire mission and then head

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00:23:16,810 --> 00:23:26,890

back to the FOB? Right. Ok. Well actually I we kept crews out there manning that. Oh, ok. Yeah at 24/7. Oh, ok. We had to have a crew and a launcher

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00:23:26,890 --> 00:23:32,940

ready to fire 24/7 so they were all usually we always had crews rotating out there.

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00:23:32,940 --> 00:23:49,820

Oh, ok, so you guys just had so, so, my God, sleep plans something like that? Right, we did shifts, we did shifts...Ok..and the Officers all except the, the uh, the Commander and the First Sergeant, the rest of them worked shifts, everybody else

211

00:23:49,820 --> 00:23:58,390

worked shifts, including the Lieutenants, the platoon Sergeants, and then the crew on you know all the other soldiers, all worked shifts. Ok. Because

212

00:23:58,390 --> 00:24:12,840

we had to have 24/7, you know operation. Ok. 'Cause you don't know, like we shot even rockets on Christmas Day and we put like Merry Chris, Merry Christmas Saddam on the rockets and stuff like that so although I think that by, by that time he was

213

00:24:12,840 --> 00:24:22,060

actually captured but we still wrote it. Yeah, alright um, did you ever experience any combat like you guys

214

00:24:22,060 --> 00:24:27,700

getting attacked or anything like that during that on your little on your outposts that you guys set up or anything like that? For um, or in you know on the

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00:24:27,700 --> 00:24:36,680

way or anything? Um-hum. No I personally didn't. I mean I knew some guys that had. We didn't we didn't lose any soldiers in my detachment that went

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00:24:36,680 --> 00:24:45,190

over there. Ok. Now, you know, we worked with some you know and come across you know quite a few soldiers that ended up

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00:24:45,190 --> 00:24:46,970

getting attacked and some

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00:24:46,970 --> 00:24:51,039

died, whatnot or got wounded. Um-hum. But none of mine did

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00:24:51,039 --> 00:24:57,970

from my detachment. Um, the only time I remember coming under anything was like I was actually flying in a Blackhawk

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00:24:57,970 --> 00:25:02,780

and I'm right sitting right by the door gunner and I feel something hitting me in the

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00:25:02,780 --> 00:25:03,659

face

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00:25:03,659 --> 00:25:12,419

and I look down and it's like the casings of this uh 240 that he's shooting so he's shooting something so I'm assuming he was shooting at

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00:25:12,419 --> 00:25:17,750

something you know that was shooting at us but I you know that's the only, that's about the

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00:25:17,750 --> 00:25:23,940

closest thing I got to you know and then another time I took a picture of the, uh we heard an

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00:25:23,940 --> 00:25:31,320

explosion and I was like right outside one of our FOBs you know heading to the firing point important and we we I heard an explosion and I

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00:25:31,320 --> 00:25:38,289

looked over and it was like about a quarter of a mile there's a you know a big cloud of the dust where I guess

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00:25:38,289 --> 00:25:42,270

something one off I don't know if it was an IED or whatever or even the engineers were

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00:25:42,270 --> 00:25:48,500

detonating something or other but that was about as close as I came to really anything being you

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00:25:48,500 --> 00:25:48,860

know

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00:25:48,860 --> 00:25:54,119

dangerously shot or fortunately, and I'm glad, you know it's better than being maimed

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00:25:54,119 --> 00:26:04,689

and you know coming back maimed. Yeah, definitely definitely. So did you, did that affect you at all I know I know you saw, you guys blew up a lot of stuff when you

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00:26:04,689 --> 00:26:08,879

guys were out there with your artillery, I mean did that that affect you at all witnessing you know what what you guys were

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00:26:08,879 --> 00:26:20,019

capable of there or to see any of that destruction or? Not really. Well, I, remember that was, we were shooting rockets and with that I mean we shot them miles away so we we couldn't even really the our

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00:26:20,019 --> 00:26:27,309

battle damage assessments were were taken usually by an observer or another like investigations

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00:26:27,309 --> 00:26:36,299

BDA investigative assigned crew to that incident and so we we we'd get 'em later on and they

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00:26:36,299 --> 00:26:42,969

were just pictures. So basically what, the aftermath of what I saw, you know I wasn't physically right there when

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00:26:42,969 --> 00:26:48,949

those rockets came in blown up because I was you know shooting 'em for, or authorizing, processing the missions

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00:26:48,949 --> 00:26:54,369

a couple of miles away. So, all, all I saw was basically no more than somebody would see like

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00:26:54,369 --> 00:27:00,549

watching a war movie on TV but it was on you know a screen of the damage that was taken after

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00:27:00,549 --> 00:27:08,589

we'd just blown it up. So it wasn't that bad for us in my opinion. Now I'm sure defered observers but then again a

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00:27:08,589 --> 00:27:15,599

lot of what the beauty about these new munitions we use, we used multiple launch rocket systems that were GPS guided so

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00:27:15,599 --> 00:27:22,690

their pinpoint accuracy and with that I mean basically when you're blew stuff up even if there were bad guys in there I mean

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00:27:22,690 --> 00:27:30,410

it just basically you know just you know incinerator just blown so you really

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00:27:30,410 --> 00:27:36,730

couldn't even really tell that much, a lot of, there wasn't much left put it that way. I mean there, there was some and they were

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00:27:36,730 --> 00:27:41,290

report it, you know maybe some limbs that they saw or something of the insurgents or whatever

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00:27:41,290 --> 00:27:47,420

but it was really, it's really it's such a powerful explosion usually you know

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00:27:47,420 --> 00:27:52,720

it really, there wasn't much left just a lot of rubble and stuff like that. And again that wasn't my job

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00:27:52,720 --> 00:27:58,490

so I don't have to worry about, you know my job was getting that rocket there on target, blowing it up and

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00:27:58,490 --> 00:28:07,820

that's what we did for shot I believe over 200 rockets, I mean I don't know the exact numbers around that anyway. Okay. You know and

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00:28:07,820 --> 00:28:16,940

I'm sure that that number might be classified whatever anyway so I you know I don't really know the exact number. Okay...you know. Yeah, did, did you want to make any good friendships while

251

00:28:16,940 --> 00:28:26,480

you were over there? With Iraqis or our own guys? Any, anybody....yeah, anybody with the your guys, with the Iraqis, anything? Uh, the Iraqis um, they were kind of interesting we used to like bribe them

252

00:28:26,480 --> 00:28:34,190

with like Coca Cola and they love Mountain Dew but we couldn't hardly ever get it. But for some reason some how we could get cases of

253

00:28:34,190 --> 00:28:38,340

Coca Cola so whenever, one one particular firing

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00:28:38,340 --> 00:28:42,310

firing point some Iraqi guys would they'd always come by and

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00:28:42,310 --> 00:28:48,810

and what we'd do is we'd give 'em coke Coca Cola or soft, soda American soda pop and they

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00:28:48,810 --> 00:28:55,350

would tell us you know just about what's going on far as you know the roads you know like

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00:28:55,350 --> 00:29:00,830

for example this is just an example you know, where the hot spots and MSR Tampa where you know

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00:29:00,830 --> 00:29:05,550

which is Main Supply Route Tampa or whatever because they were giving us what we'd

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00:29:05,550 --> 00:29:11,310

like to think and tell of you know hey what road do we spread the word to not to work and

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00:29:11,310 --> 00:29:16,740

go to because there might be an ambush or anything like that. So they'd just give us, you know, little tidbits

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00:29:16,740 --> 00:29:22,770

of what's going on out, throughout the country there, on the different routes, you know, and

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00:29:22,770 --> 00:29:30,450

in return we'd give them like soda pop, some you know, American like candy and stuff like that, they thought that was pretty cool so.... Yeah

263

00:29:30,450 --> 00:29:36,400

They liked that. Are these locals or were they kids, were they adults, I mean was it a combination? Adults. Okay mostly adults then?

264

00:29:36,400 --> 00:29:42,470

Yeah, I mean you'd see kids but they didn't really, they were usually really shy. Okay. They might, sometimes they'd ask you for candy and

265

00:29:42,470 --> 00:29:49,220

stuff like that but the kids really you couldn't really rely on them to tell you anything. The guys that were we

266

00:29:49,220 --> 00:30:00,300

kind of actually liked to talk to were adult, adult males usually generally speaking. Okay. What about the guys you know

267

00:30:00,300 --> 00:30:06,060

about other soldiers or other....oh that I'm close friends with, keep in contact with, that I follow? Mm, hmm.

268

00:30:06,060 --> 00:30:16,190

Uh, not really I mean one of my other fellow platoon leader he did email me after

269

00:30:16,190 --> 00:30:19,920

that when I was back in Ohio

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00:30:19,920 --> 00:30:25,420

serving as a Commander and for the military police, you know I left active duty in

271

00:30:25,420 --> 00:30:30,080

2000 well it was around December 08

272

00:30:30,080 --> 00:30:38,649

and joined the reserves 2009 around sometime in spring, maybe March 2009, I'm just kind of guess, I don't know the exact right off

273
00:30:38,649 --> 00:30:45,070
and then I joined a military police unit so
I became Commander and then I yeah, my one of my former

274
00:30:45,070 --> 00:30:51,450
fellow platoon leaders, you know I got a couple of emails from him and we kind of respond that

275
00:30:51,450 --> 00:30:58,960
way. He's still active duty as far as I know, um, but that's about it. Um the other guys not really I think

276
00:30:58,960 --> 00:31:03,480
some of them we're getting out, some of them stayed in, but they kind of went, we all went our

277
00:31:03,480 --> 00:31:05,860
separate ways.

278
00:31:05,860 --> 00:31:16,220
Some of them reclass, some of them went on to different assignments and
stuff like that, um,yeah. Did um...

279
00:31:16,220 --> 00:31:24,140
did you, you said that you got out in the winter or December of 08, that you went you came

280
00:31:24,140 --> 00:31:33,250
into the National Guard? No, Reserves. Reserves, in 09? Yeah it was just like, I'm gonna say maybe March, April 09?
Now did you so

281
00:31:33,250 --> 00:31:37,070
did you get out and then later on
decided to go to the Reserve or did you..

282
00:31:37,070 --> 00:31:46,860
No I, well when I got out just, you get out your still basically for
you can get out like since I was

283
00:31:46,860 --> 00:31:54,059
OCS when I, when they basically tore up my contract
for the you know enlisted side of the house and

284
00:31:54,059 --> 00:32:01,080
gave me this new Commissioned Officer contract it was a three-year deal, and then but it's

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00:32:01,080 --> 00:32:04,950

it's actually an eight-year deal but you can get out after three years you just

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00:32:04,950 --> 00:32:11,010

go on what they call the IRR, Inactive Reserve, okay so basically around about December 08

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00:32:11,010 --> 00:32:19,530

was automatically in, got out into the, went into the IRR, and then around and I don't remember

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00:32:19,530 --> 00:32:26,980

exact month, March/April time frame of '09, I decided, I got, kept getting calls about a

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00:32:26,980 --> 00:32:33,270

local a local retention NCO for a local reserve unit would peruse through

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00:32:33,270 --> 00:32:37,630

these, IRR listings and

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00:32:37,630 --> 00:32:44,310

and you'd call 'em because they were short on officers and so he called me up and asked me if I wanted to join, be

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00:32:44,310 --> 00:32:51,710

a reserve officer. I kind of blew him off at first but then I told him I take a look and want to

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00:32:51,710 --> 00:32:56,470

meet the battalion commander and S3 of that battalion, it was a military police battalion, I met 'em and

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00:32:56,470 --> 00:32:59,440

the battalion commander after talking with me goes,

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00:32:59,440 --> 00:33:06,080

hey man, I want you to come to be my company commander even though I was full artillery and had no experience as a military policeman he

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00:33:06,080 --> 00:33:10,360

wanted me to be his company commander through one of his companies in his

297

00:33:10,360 --> 00:33:21,800

battalion so, I accepted because that's a big deal to get a company command, so I accepted it and became a company commander around you know, I don't know maybe, it was around '09

298

00:33:21,800 --> 00:33:29,740

sometime maybe May...are you still doing that? No, I did that a little over two years

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00:33:29,740 --> 00:33:42,179

company commands so around 2000, from about '09 to probably two thousand

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00:33:42,179 --> 00:33:50,480

ten or eleven I was a commander. Then, uh, I had over two years usually they like you to do it no more than two years

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00:33:50,480 --> 00:33:57,110

so once I got my two years, my battalion commander, who was a different guy by then, my original battalion commander that

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00:33:57,110 --> 00:34:02,249

hired me as the company commander he had already gone on up to Brigade, became

303

00:34:02,249 --> 00:34:06,260

a Brigade Commander so I a new battalion commander

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00:34:06,260 --> 00:34:11,810

and he was like hey have you got any staff time? I was like no, and I go it's all been you know command

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00:34:11,810 --> 00:34:25,350

time. He's like well you need to get staff time. He goes, I tell you what, I'm going to have a new company commander come in, we we'll make the transition and we we'll get you a staff um position. Well so I started drilling with

306

00:34:25,350 --> 00:34:37,040

some different reserve units to be a staff officer, you know 'cause you got for, as a captain you gotta have company command time and you've gotta have staff officer time as well, work for battalion staff or

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00:34:37,040 --> 00:34:47,889

Brigade staff. So I drilled with like, I drilled a couple of times with Civil Affairs Unit, I drilled a couple of times with PYSOP Unit. While I was drilling with the

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00:34:47,889 --> 00:35:00,390

PYSOP Unit and then a couple of times with a uh, a 643rd something Brigade element isn't, all Army Reserve, while I was drilling one weekend I ran into a guy

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00:35:00,390 --> 00:35:10,370

at uh, went to grab lunch with a uh uh a Chinese place outside of the DSCC and ran into a guy that was in the

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00:35:10,370 --> 00:35:15,900
19th Group Special Forces, he was a Chief Warrant and so I ate lunch with him

311
00:35:15,900 --> 00:35:21,270
and I started asking him about you know being special forces and where he was out of, and he says yeah they got a guard

312
00:35:21,270 --> 00:35:26,680
19th Guard Special Forces Unit there in Columbus, Ohio there at Rickenbacker. He goes you ought to check us out. So he gave me his

313
00:35:26,680 --> 00:35:33,570
Commander's email and name and stuff so I emailed this Commander, told him that I'd finished Command and

314
00:35:33,570 --> 00:35:41,560
was interested in that and so then the his
Commander, who was a Major said ok you know we

315
00:35:41,560 --> 00:35:48,140
were getting a training platoon together and you're welcome to come and join us for the training and you know you make it

316
00:35:48,140 --> 00:35:55,510
through that we'll send you to selection. So I started drilling with them, this 19th Group Special Forces unit, and

317
00:35:55,510 --> 00:36:03,400
doing training with them and they, I guess they, seems like they liked what they saw so then the head person was

318
00:36:03,400 --> 00:36:21,110
operating that, a Master Sergeant, says hey look in October, I think this was about October 2012'ish, says I think I'm gonna submit you to go to selection in October, and this was around August '12, 2012, I said okay cool.

319
00:36:21,110 --> 00:36:31,320
It was right after a drill, well I had a motorcycle, had a motorcycle for fourteen years so I finished drill on that weekend, that Sunday I took a, you know I was taking a ride

320
00:36:31,320 --> 00:36:39,780
on a beautiful Sunday afternoon after drill in August and I got hit on my motorcycle so then it's

321
00:36:39,780 --> 00:36:46,910
it smashed my leg pretty good so I have a screw a bio screw on my leg now and I had to get a a basically reconstructive

322

00:36:46,910 --> 00:36:57,410

knee surgery on that too, I fractured my heel, so then I had to tell the, the SF Cadbury, hey I can't do that 'cause I just got hit by a car. Mmm, hum....

323

00:36:57,410 --> 00:37:05,450

So then I needed a home because I could no longer do, go to selection for the Special Forces so I

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00:37:05,450 --> 00:37:12,650

knew right, the building right next door to the Special Forces was a 437th MP and I got the their

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00:37:12,650 --> 00:37:17,720

Commanders name and email, I shot him an email and said hey i'm looking for a home you know I

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00:37:17,720 --> 00:37:23,470

have experience as a Commander in an MP Company, uh you know do you have any slots

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00:37:23,470 --> 00:37:31,270

and at that time, that battalion Commander who was getting ready to retire says hey yeah you can have this slot so I when I

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00:37:31,270 --> 00:37:32,300

got

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00:37:32,300 --> 00:37:39,540

done with my surgery I reported for drill at, you know at that MP Unit and that's, I've been there every since. They made about

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00:37:39,540 --> 00:37:48,590

six months after that seven months after that, they made me a an S4 there so now I'm a logistics officer in

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00:37:48,590 --> 00:38:00,790

a Military Police Battalion. Okay. And that's what I'm doing now at you know in Columbus, Ohio. Oh, okay. Alright um, so so you came home, when you came home from coming back from

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00:38:00,790 --> 00:38:08,440

Iraq. That was yeah that was about around, I came home around May or June of '08. Okay, so then you did what another year and a half before you got out then or

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00:38:08,440 --> 00:38:14,900

there was that a... No, it was the same...same year that you got out? Yeah it was the same year. Ok same year as you got out so you did about a half a year and that was...yeah...okay, where was your home station then in when

334

00:38:14,900 --> 00:38:23,640

you were in...Fort Sill. At Fort Sill...Okay. Yep. Um...how did you, just going back to Iraq just for a second, how did you stay in touch with family

335

00:38:23,640 --> 00:38:36,200

when you were over there? Uh, yeah, good question. Um, well on these FOBs they they are you had access to email on the FOB. So whenever I went on

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00:38:36,200 --> 00:38:39,119

the FOB to eat or whatever, get supplies or whatever then

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00:38:39,119 --> 00:38:46,999

or if I was staying on a FOB, you know, I would stop by they usually had these trailers were you know they had you know

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00:38:46,999 --> 00:38:57,769

computers hooked up, internet and so I could send them emails that way, you know if I wasn't out at the firing point or FD FDC, Fire Direction Center. Um, that

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00:38:57,769 --> 00:39:09,220

was one way, um, you, I think we can mail letters too. Yeah, I'm almost sure we did that was went through the Army

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00:39:09,220 --> 00:39:15,549

you know obviously was an Army thing where you you'd you know. I can't remember if we had to take them

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00:39:15,549 --> 00:39:21,700

to the FOB to mail 'em or if we had our own little mail guy that took 'em for us, I don't remember

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00:39:21,700 --> 00:39:29,069

that part. But we you could mail to write and mail. I didn't do a whole lot writing I think I mainly did emails if

343

00:39:29,069 --> 00:39:41,079

I remember right. Okay, just email mail and mail then? Yeah, that's it. No phone, no Skype or anything like that you guys didn't have anything like that? No. Okay. No none of that. Okay. Um. Yeah, well, they wouldn't let us bring our cell phones. No. Was there reception

344

00:39:41,079 --> 00:39:43,980

out there or? That, I think a lot of things,

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00:39:43,980 --> 00:39:48,839

security issues and then you know a lot of those insurgents, insurgents use cell phones to activate

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00:39:48,839 --> 00:39:57,450

detonate IEDs and stuff. Didn't want you leaving any around? Yeah. Um, okay. So what did you guys do um, you got to talk to your family some, a little bit via

347

00:39:57,450 --> 00:40:02,359

email and mail, but did what did you guys do besides that for your for your off time?

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00:40:02,359 --> 00:40:09,319

Well see I was over there a little more than a year so I mean half way through they let you go on IR so you could, they'd fly you back

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00:40:09,319 --> 00:40:19,200

via like a chartered civilian type aircraft. Mm hmm. Would you'd do they'd put you on like a C1-30 at some FOB and you'd fly

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00:40:19,200 --> 00:40:20,349

to Kuwait and

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00:40:20,349 --> 00:40:26,029

then you'd get on this, the Air Force would run you through this kind of shake down where you had to go

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00:40:26,029 --> 00:40:30,589

through all these metal detectors and make sure you're not taking anything you weren't supposed to take

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00:40:30,589 --> 00:40:33,700

out and you they'd have like a chartered

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00:40:33,700 --> 00:40:42,680

civilian aircraft, but it was all soldiers, but it was like a regular looking you know, aircraft, civilian aircraft you'd get on and

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00:40:42,680 --> 00:40:54,789

fly, I think we flew into like Atlanta or somewhere then I had to, then from there once you got off that chartered aircraft, I think and hoping I remember this right, then you fly into like

356

00:40:54,789 --> 00:40:58,859

Atlanta or somewhere and then you get on a regular civilian and that's where do you kind of go your

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00:40:58,859 --> 00:41:03,720

separate ways. Okay. 'cause you know, I had to fly into Columbus Ohio. So this was during your

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00:41:03,720 --> 00:41:13,880

leave time then? Yeah, IRR. You get like two weeks in the middle of your deployment like we, me, my I was deployed for like 13 months so like right in the middle of it I got like IRR. Okay.

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00:41:13,880 --> 00:41:20,890

Yeah. Okay, um, let's see um, so you when you get home what was that like, when you guys came home, do you guys fly

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00:41:20,890 --> 00:41:31,769

same way, like you came through Atlanta? I think so, I think that's where we came through Atlanta if I remember right. Did you guys have to go back to Fort Sill first when you got home? No, no you fly directly like I think

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00:41:31,769 --> 00:41:38,210

we just flew into Atlanta and then we got on a plane, like I got on a plane that flew me to like, Columbus or something like that. Okay.

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00:41:38,210 --> 00:41:41,130

So you got some time off right after the deployment then?

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00:41:41,130 --> 00:41:50,359

Yeah. Okay, how much, a couple of weeks or....oh you mean after my deployment? Yeah, I'm talking about the end of the deployment, yeah. Oh yeah. Yeah, I think we did, yeah we

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00:41:50,359 --> 00:41:56,849

did they give you a couple of weeks off and really they have you go through these classes but actually when

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00:41:56,849 --> 00:42:02,470

you when we came, I uh, I kind of ran from the IR into the

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00:42:02,470 --> 00:42:07,730

coming back from deployment. When you come back from deployment actually you can't go home

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00:42:07,730 --> 00:42:13,400

right away you gotta go you gotta go to Fort Sill and you do the de-processing

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00:42:13,400 --> 00:42:19,839

or whatever it is, so you basically they make you take classes there about coping with everything. Right. So you do

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00:42:19,839 --> 00:42:24,000

that for like yeah a couple weeks and then they let you go home. Oh, okay, and it was all your family

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00:42:24,000 --> 00:42:33,200

did you have any family out there with you at Fort Sill or? No, I was was not married and don't have kids so I mean....Okay. Yeah, no, I, I just did that

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00:42:33,200 --> 00:42:39,140

two weeks or whatever were that you gotta go and you know, do those classes and then then once

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00:42:39,140 --> 00:42:46,230

that's done then you take leave and I could fly back to Ohio and visit like Mom and Dad..oh okay. And siblings.

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00:42:46,230 --> 00:42:50,839

Yeah. Okay. So, so what was it, I mean what was it like when you actually got to go home and see your family and stuff I

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00:42:50,839 --> 00:43:00,190

mean you hadn't seen them in like six months at least, right? Yeah it's good, it was good to be back. Um, yeah, that was real good, yeah it was good.

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00:43:00,190 --> 00:43:14,349

Did they have any like homecoming party for you or ...No, not really. Yeah it was funny because I got into the Columbus airport and I like had to call 'em they didn't even, they weren't even there waiting for me. I had to like, go to like a, I didn't even have my cell phone because they wouldn't let us take them to Iraq so I had to call 'em on like a

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00:43:14,349 --> 00:43:15,390

pay phone

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00:43:15,390 --> 00:43:31,000

and say hey come and get me, you know, I'm here. So that was it, so I think, I forget even it was mom or dad one of them came and got me. Okay. Um, now that, you're still in I know that, as a

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00:43:31,000 --> 00:43:36,970

your in the Guard...National Guard...Yeah I mean but most of the time you're doing civilian stuff or you're working here at

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00:43:36,970 --> 00:43:43,410

Yeah, I'm working here...at the ROTC, is that, was it hard adjusting the from like deployment and military life to come and

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00:43:43,410 --> 00:43:49,220

to getting off active duty, or it was a pretty easy transition for you? Oh it was easy for me. Okay. Yeah I had

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00:43:49,220 --> 00:43:55,289

no problems, I mean some guys do. Some guys suffer with that PTSD or whatever whatever they went through

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00:43:55,289 --> 00:44:11,690

in Iraq and you know, I didn't, you know I didn't really get blown up so you know I, it wasn't that big of a deal for me you know. Um, you know I, I just, we just kind of processed

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00:44:11,690 --> 00:44:17,519

missions to shoot rockets and that was pretty much it and we're shooting from pretty far away so

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00:44:17,519 --> 00:44:31,180

it wasn't, wasn't any adjustment at all, it was pretty easy. Okay. Um, are you a member of any veteran organizations now? Like VFW, the Amvets or anything? Yeah when I came

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00:44:31,180 --> 00:44:38,299

back they they gave me a free membership to the VFW, and I still get the emails and stuff and I think, they

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00:44:38,299 --> 00:44:44,240

seem to pay it every year for me but so I guess I'm still a member I don't know they haven't told me not to and I still get

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00:44:44,240 --> 00:44:46,260

their emails of everything their doing

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00:44:46,260 --> 00:44:53,050

so I guess I can claim that. I mean I don't go to any of their things, I kind of got to

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00:44:53,050 --> 00:44:58,140

me I went to a couple when I first you know left active duty when I was back here you know just

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00:44:58,140 --> 00:45:02,930

because you know I thought that's what you do and it was so boring to me that I mean

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00:45:02,930 --> 00:45:07,370

it's a great thing because they do a lot of things that wouldn't normally get

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00:45:07,370 --> 00:45:14,970

done by other people like they usually
have like a funeral detail that you can hire out like my grandma when my grandpa died

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00:45:14,970 --> 00:45:20,840

you know she get a higher the the VFW to
come in and do the funeral, 21 gun salute or whatever

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00:45:20,840 --> 00:45:25,780

it is, you know so they did get some good
stuff and they do a lot of like good

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00:45:25,780 --> 00:45:36,050

things, its just that it was too low, or what's the word I'm looking for, it was just
like, too low key like too inact, it was just

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00:45:36,050 --> 00:45:44,020

it just wasn't active enough for me. I just, you know, I just want to just, and plus it felt it was, for me it was

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00:45:44,020 --> 00:45:47,500

more for the guys that really couldn't serve and I was still in the

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00:45:47,500 --> 00:45:54,550

reserves and still in the National Guard so I can still serve so you know, I'll probably not even

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00:45:54,550 --> 00:45:59,760

worried about something like until I can't any longer serve in like the National

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00:45:59,760 --> 00:46:00,640

Guard or the reserves.

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00:46:00,640 --> 00:46:10,130

Okay. Alright, so so I know you haven't separated from the military yet 'cause you're still in the Guard, so what I mean

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00:46:10,130 --> 00:46:15,010

after after you got off active duty orders, what what did you start doing for your civilian

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00:46:15,010 --> 00:46:30,289

job. Ah, I put resumes, and applied for jobs like a ton, a bunch. It was, honestly it was really hard for me to get a job,
really, well a
decent job. I got offers but most of the jobs were like the

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00:46:30,289 --> 00:46:36,109

reason why you're getting offers is because
nobody really wanted to do them because they weren't, didn't really pay that good. Oh, okay. And actually

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00:46:36,109 --> 00:46:43,950

I did before I got this job, I was doing well, the job I had wasn't really I mean you really couldn't live on it. I mean, I was

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00:46:43,950 --> 00:46:49,849

I was doing it but you know I could make, I could survive because I'm single you know but I mean

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00:46:49,849 --> 00:46:55,690

but you couldn't have a family and doing what, before I got this job. So it was tough and I feel sorry for a lot of veterans that

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00:46:55,690 --> 00:47:01,599

come back you know I mean, sometimes the job force the job markets tough out there you

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00:47:01,599 --> 00:47:06,150

know, especially if you wanna good job. Now you know it's easy if you're willing to work for like

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00:47:06,150 --> 00:47:11,559

minimum wage or just a little bit higher you know around ten bucks an hour, but if you want really a job

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00:47:11,559 --> 00:47:17,799

that's gonna like pay for family or buy a
house or something, that those are tougher to get you

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00:47:17,799 --> 00:47:25,619

pretty much really gotta have so much education where somebody needs you or else you know how have a skill

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00:47:25,619 --> 00:47:27,380

that's marketable.

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00:47:27,380 --> 00:47:28,430

You know, whether its in

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00:47:28,430 --> 00:47:35,940

in computers, whether its like, in some sort of like maybe mechanics skill, electrical skill, you know a trade you

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00:47:35,940 --> 00:47:38,190

know or in some type of engineering

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00:47:38,190 --> 00:47:45,460

or something like that, and even some of the engineering is tough to get a job so it was pretty tough, it is pretty tough to get a

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00:47:45,460 --> 00:47:53,890

decent job. I got a job it just wasn't that good of pay, you know. And when did you get this job here at Wright State ROTC?

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00:47:53,890 --> 00:48:03,220

Uh, spring of 2012. April 2012, so I've been here about two years now, a little over two years. And how, how did you get this job did you put in a

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00:48:03,220 --> 00:48:13,510

resume for it or...? Yeah, yeah, um, I did. I you know, in my, I was constantly I actually before this I worked

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00:48:13,510 --> 00:48:20,800

for AutoZone a little while and bless 'em they hired me but you know I was hired

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00:48:20,800 --> 00:48:25,430

in at such a you know parts counter guy they do not make a whole very much ,

423

00:48:25,430 --> 00:48:34,240

money, you know. But they did hire me so I had a job so I was still, even while I was still working there also put in because I knew I wanted

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00:48:34,240 --> 00:48:41,770

a better job you know so um, what I did is I put numerous resumes and

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00:48:41,770 --> 00:48:49,840

applications out all over, you know, USA Jobs, uh, you know, anywhere. And I actually had, I got this job

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00:48:49,840 --> 00:49:01,680

because I actually put a resume out to Comtech which is part of L-3 which is a government contracting firm, okay, I think it's

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00:49:01,680 --> 00:49:05,140

now called L-3. When I applied I

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00:49:05,140 --> 00:49:13,250

sent my application in it was called Comtech and I just applied, um, basically it was an application you know to

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00:49:13,250 --> 00:49:20,430

work in an ROTC 'cause I felt like well hey I've been in the Army why not work in the ROTC or whatever. Actually I was just trying to get a

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00:49:20,430 --> 00:49:29,290

job basically. So, lo and behold it wasn't till about a year later that I got a call from

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00:49:29,290 --> 00:49:31,650

one of their

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00:49:31,650 --> 00:49:36,980

regional offices which is in Columbus, Ohio one of the guys, uh regional guys

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00:49:36,980 --> 00:49:48,680

said hey this is so-and-so, uh I have a, there's an opening at Wright State and so then I called them back and then

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00:49:48,680 --> 00:49:50,980

they sent me an email or something

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00:49:50,980 --> 00:49:59,160

and I, I didn't kind of believe him so he sent me an email explaining it and so I then emailed him back I was just, they asked me if I was interested, and I was like well Dayton's

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00:49:59,160 --> 00:50:05,640

pretty close to Columbus, I was living in Columbus at the time, so I was like sure I'm interested you know because I wanted to see what

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00:50:05,640 --> 00:50:11,859

it was about it, I didn't really know, I didn't know necessarily believe what was going on was legit, because you know you get a lot

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00:50:11,859 --> 00:50:17,140

of weird stuff online, 'cause everything was done either telephone or online and you know

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00:50:17,140 --> 00:50:27,609

it's it's easier now to identify legit things but you know two years, two or three years ago it was a little bit you know, you didn't know really when you get

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00:50:27,609 --> 00:50:37,550

these emails you know if it's a believable thing or not, so I just kind of picked their brains and stuff and finally I visited here and

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00:50:37,550 --> 00:50:46,119

discovered it was like a real job here that was opened up so I took it. Oh, okay. Yeah. But I did come here before you

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00:50:46,119 --> 00:50:51,520

know I actually did report here to see if it was like, more than anything to see if okay is this a

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00:50:51,520 --> 00:50:58,720

legitimate real position in a real job, am I really going to get paid if I, you know, come, report here.

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00:50:58,720 --> 00:51:01,200

Yeah. So and I did, I walked in, met

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00:51:01,200 --> 00:51:13,560

Colonel Reed (?), met uh, the guy I replaced, uh, Armisen(?), Mr. Armisen. It, it was real. So,

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00:51:13,560 --> 00:51:24,990

Okay, so I took it. Okay. How is um, so how was your like war time in Iraq and your military experience affected your life do you think?

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00:51:24,990 --> 00:51:28,300

Well I work here, I mean, uh..

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00:51:28,300 --> 00:51:36,829

Its got you your job? I can yeah I mean it got me out of the factory. I mean before I went in, enlisted in the Army in 2000 whatever

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00:51:36,829 --> 00:51:48,490

it was 5, 4, um, yeah, I was a factory guy so you know, it's kind of nice to get out of the factory. But it wasn't, I did quality

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00:51:48,490 --> 00:51:59,430

control in the factory so it wasn't too bad of a factory job but it was nice to get out of that. Okay. Um, but, it's been alright, it's been good. I can say I serve my country which is what I want

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00:51:59,430 --> 00:52:10,220

to do, its why I signed up so I did it and I'm still doing it. I plan, I want to do Army Reserves at least till I can retire which is at least 20 years minimum and maybe longer

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00:52:10,220 --> 00:52:22,150

if they let me. Yeah, so, I'm pretty satisfied with that. Okay, is that, um are you feeling like gotten any personal like your work ethic or anything like that from the

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00:52:22,150 --> 00:52:31,640

military that's helped you? Anything like that or? No not really, I, I will say this that I can thank them for I think they

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00:52:31,640 --> 00:52:43,020

kind of expedited me getting into the internet more than....oh really, I would have if I hadn't of been in the military, but then again I mean, the way things are

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00:52:43,020 --> 00:52:48,180

that might be as a result of things just changing anyway, you know, 'cause the world is

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00:52:48,180 --> 00:52:51,790

getting more involved you know on, online than

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00:52:51,790 --> 00:53:01,240

it ever has and, and the military has done that too, so maybe it's not as big an impact as what I think but as far as

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00:53:01,240 --> 00:53:10,160

work ethic, not , you know a lot of I think, I, for me not really because I I uh, joined at such an

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00:53:10,160 --> 00:53:15,230

older age, I would say it would affect more that 18 year old coming out

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00:53:15,230 --> 00:53:16,710

of high school

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00:53:16,710 --> 00:53:21,950

you know than, than it would me, really, as far as work ethic, far as

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00:53:21,950 --> 00:53:29,220

learning things from the military. So you said you were 31 when you went in? Yeah, 30, 31 something like that. Okay.

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00:53:29,220 --> 00:53:41,250

Right around that age, 30 or 31. I was at least over 30 I know that, remember that... so that's pretty old like usually you know, kids would enlist around 18, so that's a big

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00:53:41,250 --> 00:53:48,860
difference and you know a lot a lot of kids
you know, you know, they can you know that stay in the

465
00:53:48,860 --> 00:53:53,180
military they can say oh yeah the military
made me responsible, they made me get up

466
00:53:53,180 --> 00:53:57,580
in the morning and work hard, they made
me have a good work ethic and stuff, well

467
00:53:57,580 --> 00:54:01,190
that's just because you know they were
just kids until they joined the military.

468
00:54:01,190 --> 00:54:09,130
Me I'd already been out, I'd already gone to college, I'd already been out in the
workforce, had a civilian job for many years so

469
00:54:09,130 --> 00:54:16,870
it was not a big you know impact as far as you know
changing my life for the better so to speak

470
00:54:16,870 --> 00:54:22,880
far as work ethic and stuff like that. It, that
really didn't, it was not any much different really.

471
00:54:22,880 --> 00:54:31,069
So I can't you know thank the military for that or anything. Okay. I, what I mean I can thank the military for is just
letting me do it you know, because it's what I

472
00:54:31,069 --> 00:54:35,200
want to do, you know, when 9/11 happened I wanted to join,

473
00:54:35,200 --> 00:54:44,039
serve in the military, so they let me do it, so that's what, yeah, yeah. So I was able to do it so that's cool. Some people
they can't. They might have a

474
00:54:44,039 --> 00:54:45,940
a health problem that

475
00:54:45,940 --> 00:54:54,049

doesn't allow them to serve, they might have you know some legal issues you know, or some, you know some, some

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00:54:54,049 --> 00:55:02,980

some kind of thing you know that doesn't
allow them to serve you know, legal, um, criminal or you know just

477

00:55:02,980 --> 00:55:11,230

health issues or injuries or whatever that don't allow them to serve but fortunately I was able to do that. Yeah, alright.
Um, any other um,

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00:55:11,230 --> 00:55:15,470

any other message you'd want to leave for future
generations

479

00:55:15,470 --> 00:55:26,490

watching this video? Um, no not really, I mean, if you want to serve you, I'd go ahead and follow your heart, and if you
want to do it, and if you
are going to do it do it you know if you

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00:55:26,490 --> 00:55:38,900

don't then no big deal, you don't have to, that's the beauty of America it's not like we make you I guess unless we
implement a draft and go to a big war but hasn't been since Viet Nam so
you know, but

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00:55:38,900 --> 00:55:48,250

yeah, it's what I want to do, I did it, and I got the opportunity so that's good. Okay. Anything else that you feel like we
haven't discussed that you wanted to

482

00:55:48,250 --> 00:55:58,490

add to the interview? No not really. I think, it's, it's good. Alright, well, cool. Well, thank you Vince then...thank you.
And thank you for your service. Yep.