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00:00:00,580 --> 00:00:03,879

We are recording the interview of Jeffrey King. The interview is being conducted by

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00:00:03,879 --> 00:00:08,220

Adrian Hill from the Wright State University Veterans Voices Project. The interview is

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00:00:08,220 --> 00:00:12,540

being recorded at the Wright State University Veteran and Military Center in Dayton, Ohio.

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00:00:12,540 --> 00:00:18,100

It is 2:00pm on February 11, 2014. Alright Jeffrey. When and where, when and where were

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00:00:18,100 --> 00:00:24,090

you born? I was born in Bellefontaine, Ohio, March 9, 1969. Okay, who were your parents

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00:00:24,090 --> 00:00:31,590

and what were their occupations? My father is Thomas King, he is, or he was a machines

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00:00:31,590 --> 00:00:39,170

tradesman. He was machine repair for Rockwell Corporation. And, my mother was Barbara King,

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00:00:39,170 --> 00:00:46,460

and she was a homemaker, stayed home. Okay. So did you have any siblings? I did. How many?

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00:00:46,460 --> 00:00:50,100

I do. I have a brother and two sisters. Okay. Did any of them serve in the military? No

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00:00:50,100 --> 00:00:55,340

they did not. No. Okay, so you were the only one out of your immediate family. Immediate

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00:00:55,340 --> 00:01:01,070

family, yes. Your parents didn't? My father went, he was drafted into the Air Force, I

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00:01:01,070 --> 00:01:07,330
guess, but he had medical issues that precluded him from service. They sent him home. Okay.

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00:01:07,330 --> 00:01:12,870
But he tried. Yeah, okay. So what were you doing before you entered the service? Immediately

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00:01:12,870 --> 00:01:19,610
before the service, I worked in an automotive repair shop. So just working on cars, and

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00:01:19,610 --> 00:01:24,810
I did some heating and cooling, air conditioning work for a local business, too. So that was

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00:01:24,810 --> 00:01:32,740
the extent of my pre-military career. Okay, um, so you chose what branch? Air Force. And

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00:01:32,740 --> 00:01:39,420
why the Air Force? Um, at the time it was the quickest way to leave. I wanted to go

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00:01:39,420 --> 00:01:46,240
into the military. And, I made a decision. I choose the Air Force over everything else

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00:01:46,240 --> 00:01:51,180
basically because they, at the time being 18 years old, not knowing what I wanted to

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00:01:51,180 --> 00:01:57,390
do with my life. That's what, the opportunity came up and I left. So, they were the quickest

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00:01:57,390 --> 00:02:05,750
one to get me to leave. And you enlisted? I did. In what year? 1987. 1987. Okay. So,

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00:02:05,750 --> 00:02:11,670
going in, in 87, the Cold War was kind of
still there. Yes. Um, was that in the back

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00:02:11,670 --> 00:02:16,860
of your mind or anything when you joined?
No, not at all. I was from a small community,

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00:02:16,860 --> 00:02:23,730
with very limited application to the world,
if you will. Small. Back then media wasn't

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00:02:23,730 --> 00:02:29,060
like it is today. So my knowledge of military
wasn't very, you know, just, I thought I

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00:02:29,060 --> 00:02:33,940
had a cousin, a second cousin who was in the
Air Force. An uncle, a great uncle who was

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00:02:33,940 --> 00:02:38,780
in the Air Force. But other than that's,
I didn't know much about it. The Cold War

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00:02:38,780 --> 00:02:44,209
was not even a thought at the time. Oh. Okay.
So just kind of going in blind. Yeah, pretty

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00:02:44,209 --> 00:02:48,390
much. Just not knowing what been wanting to
do. Going to go college, but it didn't happen

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00:02:48,390 --> 00:02:54,530
at the time. So, joined the military to do
it. So, okay, um. So could you describe maybe,

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00:02:54,530 --> 00:02:58,180
leaving for Basic? You know, what was kind
of going through your mind or anything like

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00:02:58,180 --> 00:03:07,910
that. Leaving for Basic was, intimidating
at first, but also exciting. I was, I always

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00:03:07,910 --> 00:03:12,470
prided myself for being fairly independent.
When I turned 18, even before I graduated

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00:03:12,470 --> 00:03:18,870
from high school, I moved out on my own to
live. I didn't want to be a burden to my

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00:03:18,870 --> 00:03:22,220
parents, you know, type thing. I've always
been kind of prideful with that. So as soon

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00:03:22,220 --> 00:03:29,410
as I turned 18, I moved out, in March of 87.
I went out there, and that's what, I was

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00:03:29,410 --> 00:03:33,860
always excited to move on to new chapters
and try new things. So when I went to basic

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00:03:33,860 --> 00:03:41,180
training, I was very excited. I was somewhat
intimidated. I didn't look at it as being

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00:03:41,180 --> 00:03:47,489
hard. So that's what, I was really, just
the new, the unknown, is somewhat intimidating,

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00:03:47,489 --> 00:03:54,989
but at the time I wasn't that worried about
it. Okay, what about when you got to Basic?

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00:03:54,989 --> 00:04:01,280
When I got to Basic, obviously, the psychological
portion, that they try to do to you. At typical

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00:04:01,280 --> 00:04:05,569
basic training, back, you know, 20, now maybe

almost 28 years ago. It was different than

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00:04:05,569 --> 00:04:12,879

now days, I would assume. Drive you around on a bus for a long time, but you start realizing

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00:04:12,879 --> 00:04:17,249

they just are driving you in circles. I mean, it seemed like, at the time, you were on the

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00:04:17,249 --> 00:04:22,460

base for, after leaving the airport, I know when we came to the base it was, they literally,

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00:04:22,460 --> 00:04:25,860

I think on purpose, drove us around in circles to try to confuse you where you're at and

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00:04:25,860 --> 00:04:30,330

what you are doing. That type of thing. When you get off the bus the typical yelling at

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00:04:30,330 --> 00:04:36,050

you, trying to break you down. Pick the bags up, put the bags down. Picking on all the

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00:04:36,050 --> 00:04:40,279

guys who had short hair cuts already or having the duffel bags with their brother's name

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00:04:40,279 --> 00:04:49,900

on it. I pretty much stayed quiet. I just did what I was told. At that time, I didn't

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00:04:49,900 --> 00:04:56,240

have any issues. So far, at that time, it wasn't that bad. Yeah. What was, um, where

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00:04:56,240 --> 00:05:01,059

did you got to Basic? Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. Okay. [inaudible]. So, did you fly

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00:05:01,059 --> 00:05:08,009
from Dayton down there? I did, um, or Columbus.
Actually Columbus. We left out of MEPS station.

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00:05:08,009 --> 00:05:12,879
They put us up in a hotel and the processed
us out of MEPS. Got on a bus to the airport

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00:05:12,879 --> 00:05:20,860
in Columbus, ticket in hand. I think we changed
planes in St. Louis, and landed in San Antonio.

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00:05:20,860 --> 00:05:28,249
Okay, um. September 19, 1987. Okay. Well you
never forget it. No. As much as youâ€™d like

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00:05:28,249 --> 00:05:34,300
to. It wasnâ€™t that bad, at the time, so.
Okay, so, can you talk about basic training

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00:05:34,300 --> 00:05:39,860
a little bit, maybe adjusting. How did you
adjust to physical, mental, food, everything?

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00:05:39,860 --> 00:05:45,819
Well physically at the time with wasnâ€™t
as intimidating as I had expected. The Air

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00:05:45,819 --> 00:05:52,550
Force, you know. The physical fitness criteria
at the time for basic training was not that

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00:05:52,550 --> 00:05:58,360
bad. So, that, uh, I was very fortunate that,
I may not look it now, but at the time I was

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00:05:58,360 --> 00:06:03,589
fresh out of high school playing sports and
things. So I was fairly decentâ€¦ I was 155

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00:06:03,589 --> 00:06:10,539

pounds then and fairly athletic. I thought.
So it wasn't that challenging. Really just

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00:06:10,539 --> 00:06:16,449
running was the extent of anything. Calisthenics
wise it was very simple, very basic stuff.

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00:06:16,449 --> 00:06:21,210
So, physically it wasn't an issue at all,
so. How about, you know, I know you talked

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00:06:21,210 --> 00:06:25,180
a little bit about the psychological aspect
of it, but was that hard for you to adjust

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00:06:25,180 --> 00:06:30,559
to that? It was not. My problem was not
so much the adjustment. Like I said I

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00:06:30,559 --> 00:06:34,979
never been a person to, I don't know if
I'm cold or what, but... I didn't really

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00:06:34,979 --> 00:06:41,879
miss people that much. I was, I was more excited
about the change. Kind of, you know, I was

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00:06:41,879 --> 00:06:46,539
more excited for that and kind of overcame
the thought me missing somebody, I guess.

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00:06:46,539 --> 00:06:51,449
I just knew that in a couple of months I would
see everybody, so it's not that big of a

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00:06:51,449 --> 00:06:55,189
deal to me. But the physiological aspect of,
the biggest problem was dealing with other

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00:06:55,189 --> 00:07:00,189
people that was there. There were a lot of
people just, at the time, for me it was like

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00:07:00,189 --> 00:07:04,009
struggling with the fact that these people
areâ€|seemed miserable. Iâ€™m like, this isnâ€™t

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00:07:04,009 --> 00:07:08,509
this bad. What am I, if I, am I not doing
something right? Or not paying attention enough

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00:07:08,509 --> 00:07:14,629
to make it as bad as it should be? At the
time there was peopleâ€|But that was my first

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00:07:14,629 --> 00:07:21,159
real application to understanding the dynamics
of different people, and personalities, and

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00:07:21,159 --> 00:07:29,539
how people do things differently, you know.
Yeah. That was the biggest thing was in basic.

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00:07:29,539 --> 00:07:30,849
A lot of people. Getting along with everybody.
Getting with other people and just watching

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00:07:30,849 --> 00:07:37,399
the stress levels from them. Because, itâ€™s,
itâ€™s, stress for me was not the training

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00:07:37,399 --> 00:07:42,789
or the basic training, that was challenging.
But exciting. That was fun. But then to just

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00:07:42,789 --> 00:07:47,919
see everybody else just struggling with no
being with their families. But some of them

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00:07:47,919 --> 00:07:53,770
were different, because I didnâ€™t have a
wife, but some of them did. So, that was some

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00:07:53,770 --> 00:08:01,499
of it, so. Okay. Uh, do you recall any of
your instructors, from basic? Yep, Tech Sergeant

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00:08:01,499 --> 00:08:09,369
Aguero, I cannot remember his first name.
And then there was a Staff Sergeant, Bernard

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00:08:09,369 --> 00:08:16,199
Ducket. I still remember him. And, uh, those
were my two primary instructors from then,

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00:08:16,199 --> 00:08:19,740
basic training. I still remember them to this
day. Do have any, like, you know, specific

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00:08:19,740 --> 00:08:24,809
incidences you think of when you think of
them? Yes, Sergeant Aguero, I remember riding,

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00:08:24,809 --> 00:08:30,529
itâ€™s weird, but we had to do linen exchange,
and there was no military vehicle available.

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00:08:30,529 --> 00:08:35,310
Sergeant Aguero made myself and another individual
gather up all the linens because we was on

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00:08:35,310 --> 00:08:39,140
that linen detail that day. We put it in the
trunk of his car and rode in the back seat

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00:08:39,140 --> 00:08:45,930
of his car to linen exchange and listened
to the music. It was like a change because

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00:08:45,930 --> 00:08:49,010
you hadnâ€™t hear music, we did have music
or anything. We were listening to a local

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00:08:49,010 --> 00:08:53,820
radio station in San Antonio, which he was

of Hispanic descent, so he was listen to a

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00:08:53,820 --> 00:08:58,720

Hispanic channel, so it was interesting. And me being from a small town and never heard

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00:08:58,720 --> 00:09:03,920

that before. So, I thought that was just neat. And that what happened then. Sergeant Ducket,

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00:09:03,920 --> 00:09:11,510

um, I always remember him as a He was a consumer professional, just he was always

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00:09:11,510 --> 00:09:17,820

perfect. I mean, his uniform, when he walked, he was always just, he was the, from a military

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00:09:17,820 --> 00:09:24,940

barring standpoint he was what you want to try to be. Very stern. I just remember, mail

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00:09:24,940 --> 00:09:32,220

call, he could, phew, back then, no emails or nothing. He could flip and envelop. He

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00:09:32,220 --> 00:09:38,700

loved flipping envelopes towards people. So that's what I remember of him. Okay. So,

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00:09:38,700 --> 00:09:42,650

you get done with basic and then where do you go? I got done with basic training and

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00:09:42,650 --> 00:09:46,060

I moved approximately 3 quarters of a mile to the other side of the base to the United

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00:09:46,060 --> 00:09:50,370

State Air Force. Back then it was called Security Police Academy. So now days it's called

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00:09:50,370 --> 00:09:56,440

Security Forces. I went to the Lackland Air Force Base to the other side to the Air Force

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00:09:56,440 --> 00:10:00,010

Security Police Academy. And what was your training like for that? Training for that

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00:10:00,010 --> 00:10:06,330

was a lot more in depth. I, back in then, the Air Force was split up into three groups,

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00:10:06,330 --> 00:10:10,650

Combat Arms, Law Enforcement, and Security Specialist. I went the Security Specialist

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00:10:10,650 --> 00:10:15,880

route. And Security Specialist primary focus was on, it was almost typically like an infantry

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00:10:15,880 --> 00:10:20,070

type thing from the Army. And matter of fact after that training at Air Force Base, I went

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00:10:20,070 --> 00:10:24,490

to Fort Dix, New Jersey for Air, you know, advance infantry training through the Army.

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00:10:24,490 --> 00:10:33,670

The training there for that was typically every morning PT, a lot more in depth obviously,

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00:10:33,670 --> 00:10:38,160

then previously basic training. It was more specialized at that point. A lot more running,

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00:10:38,160 --> 00:10:44,120

a lot more PT with your gear, weapons, stuff like that all the time. Um, just learning

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00:10:44,120 --> 00:10:51,450

how to, squad tactics, movements, it was basic security functions, guarding aircraft, nuclear

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00:10:51,450 --> 00:10:57,440

weapons systems security. Um, how to guard, you know, weapons, weapons storage areas for

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00:10:57,440 --> 00:11:01,180

nuclear weapons. We learned security for those. Convoy procedures, while, you know, driving

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00:11:01,180 --> 00:11:07,740

in convoys, armored vehicles, um just, just teamwork for, you know, for providing security,

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00:11:07,740 --> 00:11:12,600

for working in fire teams, squads, in that type of environment. We learned all of that.

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00:11:12,600 --> 00:11:16,270

Then handcuffing, searching, because of the law enforcement aspects were part of it too.

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00:11:16,270 --> 00:11:20,370

So, because, if you had to apprehend or detain somebody that walked in a restricted area

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00:11:20,370 --> 00:11:25,150

or something like that you had to learn how to respond to that, so. Yeah. Okay. How long

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00:11:25,150 --> 00:11:30,050

were you there for, for that? That portion of it was seven, I think, seven or eight weeks.

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00:11:30,050 --> 00:11:33,820

Okay. And then what? And then, from there we went to Fort Dix, New Jersey for a little

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00:11:33,820 --> 00:11:39,400

over a month. The five weeks I think, for um, what the call, air base, air base defense

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00:11:39,400 --> 00:11:43,700

course, or advanced infantry training for, back then it was called, air base ground defense.

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00:11:43,700 --> 00:11:50,530

So basically, that was just infantry school. Oh, okay. So basically, you know, um, just

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00:11:50,530 --> 00:11:55,760

learn how to be eleven bravos, they called it. But that was the Air Force. We had, because

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00:11:55,760 --> 00:11:59,500

that's what the Air Force does during a wartime environment. The Air Force Security

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00:11:59,500 --> 00:12:06,430

Forces are the actual infantry, if you will. So we do the same things as an eleven bravo

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00:12:06,430 --> 00:12:12,640

typically. Or in a, or a military police slash infantry for the Air Force. Okay, what was

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00:12:12,640 --> 00:12:17,020

your like, um, your number designation for that, I don't know, your MOS or Tech Number.

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00:12:17,020 --> 00:12:23,360

Back then it was 81150, or 811x0, for that. But when I retired, they transitioned the

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00:12:23,360 --> 00:12:30,740

Air Force, to what they call the Air Force specialty code, was a 3POX1. Oh, okay. So,

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00:12:30,740 --> 00:12:37,250

3PO, was what was the identifier for Security Forces. Got you. Okay, so after that month

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00:12:37,250 --> 00:12:44,430
at Dix, then what? Then I went off to Malmstrom
Air Force Base in Great Falls, Montana. Okay.

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00:12:44,430 --> 00:12:49,410
To work nuclear weapons systems security.
Okay, so you just did pretty much [inaudible]

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00:12:49,410 --> 00:12:55,730
security on. Yep, um, I did convoys. We did
convoy security for the airframe for the missiles

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00:12:55,730 --> 00:13:00,710
and the nuclear warheads themselves. Um, but
when the nuclear war heads traveled, obviously

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00:13:00,710 --> 00:13:05,480
you always had to have what they called a
15 and 5, a 15 minute, or a, 15 man response

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00:13:05,480 --> 00:13:11,160
within 5 minutes. Or with those then you had,
then you also had convoy people right with

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00:13:11,160 --> 00:13:15,400
it. So you always had security personnel armed,
peace keepers they called them. They were

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00:13:15,400 --> 00:13:22,070
kind of like, um, armored vehicle year ago.
That we would travel, then also had helicopter

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00:13:22,070 --> 00:13:27,520
with Mark 19 grenade launcher in it to provide
cover in case it was attacked. So. Okay. So,

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00:13:27,520 --> 00:13:33,530
how old were you at this time then? You were
20. 19. 19, 20. Whatâ€™s that, what was that

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00:13:33,530 --> 00:13:37,810
like, maybe, probably did understand the full.

No I didn't, the breath of it at the time.

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00:13:37,810 --> 00:13:42,650

Um, even at the time, it was during the um,
I came in obviously, Ronald Reagan was still

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00:13:42,650 --> 00:13:49,240

president. George Bush the 1st, 41 came into
office, and the he actually did the, there

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00:13:49,240 --> 00:13:52,110

was a treaty going on at the time. I can't
remember if it was the START, the Strategic

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00:13:52,110 --> 00:13:56,930

Arms Reduction Treaty. Um, but we were actually,
we had Soviet military officers come to our

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00:13:56,930 --> 00:14:02,500

base to inspect missile silos and do those
types of things. Um, so I was present for

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00:14:02,500 --> 00:14:08,279

one, when a nuclear, or um, one of the nuclear
officers for the Soviet Union, back then it

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00:14:08,279 --> 00:14:13,690

was really weird to see a Soviet officer standing
on a United States Air Force missile site.

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00:14:13,690 --> 00:14:18,060

So. Especially at the time. At the time. Now
days, you look back, it's not a big deal,

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00:14:18,060 --> 00:14:21,850

but it was a part of the treaty. We got to
go inspect each others places, and they came

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00:14:21,850 --> 00:14:26,250

to your base and I was, happened to be a part
of that. Not that I, was, you know right there,

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00:14:26,250 --> 00:14:30,540

but I was on that site when it happened. So, it was interesting to see. So. Where they,

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00:14:30,540 --> 00:14:34,220

where there any like precautions that they had you guys take as Security Forces for that?

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00:14:34,220 --> 00:14:43,670

Absolutely. We, we did a little extra training. Um, they typicallyâ€¦ Weâ€¦ They handpicked

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00:14:43,670 --> 00:14:48,160

a few, quite a few people that were a little bit more level headed I guess. That hadnâ€™t

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00:14:48,160 --> 00:14:51,600

been in any trouble or something, so. At the time, I was young enough to not know how to

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00:14:51,600 --> 00:14:56,490

get into trouble. So, thatâ€™s probably why I was, helped, got on the Security Team, to

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00:14:56,490 --> 00:15:03,160

be on that. But, that, typically we just did some rules of engagement type things, like

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00:15:03,160 --> 00:15:07,170

donâ€™t talk to them, donâ€™t look at them, just try to be their but donâ€™t kind of let

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00:15:07,170 --> 00:15:13,630

the military officer and the attachÃ© people that are all Department of State people, all

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00:15:13,630 --> 00:15:18,480

there, you know, they pretty much just had to deal with them. We just kind of stood off

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00:15:18,480 --> 00:15:24,400

in the background, blended, out of sight.
Okay, um, so how long were you there for?

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00:15:24,400 --> 00:15:30,220

I was, I was at Malmstrom Air Force Base for,
for three year, then went to Korea for a year,

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00:15:30,220 --> 00:15:34,970

and then came back to Malmstrom again. So,
I was, um, at Malmstrom for almost 7 years.

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00:15:34,970 --> 00:15:40,110

Okay, now, where were you um, when it was
kind of announce that the Berlin Wall fell?

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00:15:40,110 --> 00:15:46,800

Or that the Soviet, kind of regime had fallen?
I donâ€™t recall where I was, I canâ€™t even

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00:15:46,800 --> 00:15:54,040

remember when it happened. But I do know that
I was working, it was 1990, um, right about

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00:15:54,040 --> 00:16:03,200

October of 1990. When President Bush, put
an order to safe all the nuclear missiles.

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00:16:03,200 --> 00:16:08,680

We had to basically put them on safe mode.
Um, as kind of a strategic, um partnership

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00:16:08,680 --> 00:16:13,990

thing with the Soviet Union. Whatever it was
at the time. I was working at a place called

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00:16:13,990 --> 00:16:19,140

the Keys and Codes Control Center at that
point. And, um we processed all the classified

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00:16:19,140 --> 00:16:23,570

materials to go out in the missile field to
have access to the nuclear weapon and such.

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00:16:23,570 --> 00:16:28,839

And we, or the office worked in, at the time,
I had an office job for a while, and, um,

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00:16:28,839 --> 00:16:33,330

I was on working, it was a weekend, and we
got a message to literally within 24 hours

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00:16:33,330 --> 00:16:37,240

we had to send security and maintenance teams
out to all of the missile sites. And at the

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00:16:37,240 --> 00:16:42,660

time, Montana, Great Falls, there was 200
of them. We had 23,000 square miles of missile

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00:16:42,660 --> 00:16:46,850

field and within 24 hours we had to have all
of the missiles safed. So they recalled all

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00:16:46,850 --> 00:16:50,560

the maintenance personnel, all the security
personnel, to basically access and penetrate

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00:16:50,560 --> 00:16:55,560

all of the sites, to get, to go downstairs
and do something. I don't, I have no idea

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00:16:55,560 --> 00:17:00,670

from the technical standpoint what that meant,
but I did know that we, the process is, let

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00:17:00,670 --> 00:17:06,009

me think if I can say what I can say, but
the process is, to put people out there on

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00:17:06,009 --> 00:17:10,459

those fields, uh, there was a process in place
that I, that I was part of. The processing

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00:17:10,459 --> 00:17:15,879
classified stuff to do that stuff. It was
the dispatching people to get out to do those

189
00:17:15,879 --> 00:17:20,649
things, so. It was interesting to say the
least, so. Yeah, definitely. Okay, so, what

190
00:17:20,649 --> 00:17:26,720
about after, so you go to Korea for a yearâ€|
Korea for a year. Anything of note there,

191
00:17:26,720 --> 00:17:34,649
or? Um, got to go, uh, work with, uh, what
the, its, uh, I canâ€™t remember the name

192
00:17:34,649 --> 00:17:43,950
of the operation. They do it every year. Itâ€™s,
um, not Team Spirit. Itâ€™s a big multi, itâ€™s

193
00:17:43,950 --> 00:17:47,320
mainly for the Air Force, couple other people,
I believe. A big joint exercise. But, I got

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00:17:47,320 --> 00:17:51,820
to participate in that. I was a heavy weapons
instructor while I was assigned over there.

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00:17:51,820 --> 00:17:55,950
I worked at the combat arms section. So, I
was a primary instructor on the 50 caliber

196
00:17:55,950 --> 00:18:02,519
machine gun, Mark 19. And then I helped with
the mortar, the um, the 81 mm mortar. I did

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00:18:02,519 --> 00:18:07,470
the fire direction control training for that
too. Taught people how to calculate and use

198
00:18:07,470 --> 00:18:13,360
the M16 plotting board, they called it, how

to calculate grid, 8 digit, or um, 8 to 10

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00:18:13,360 --> 00:18:18,759

digit grids into azimuth, into mils, so we can send out fire munitions for the mortar.

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00:18:18,759 --> 00:18:22,720

So, I did that as well, for most of the time. I worked some security while I was there,

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00:18:22,720 --> 00:18:27,690

but once they found that I had what they call an SCI, a special identifier for special weapons,

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00:18:27,690 --> 00:18:34,190

I got kicked over to the combat arms section to work. To help with them, train, so. Okay.

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00:18:34,190 --> 00:18:38,419

So then you said you came back and then umâ€¦ Came back to Montana, for a year, for almost

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00:18:38,419 --> 00:18:42,899

two years, then I separated. I got out. Not sure what I wanted to do with my life. So

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00:18:42,899 --> 00:18:49,580

I went back, moved back to Ohio. Um, spent two years in the Army National Guard. So where,

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00:18:49,580 --> 00:18:54,200

some, sometime I served as a recruiter for a little bit with the Army Guard and then

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00:18:54,200 --> 00:18:58,970

I transitioned right back into the Air Force. National Guard over in Springfield. Okay.

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00:18:58,970 --> 00:19:03,570

And then within, less than a year I became active duty again with the Guard. So, I was

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00:19:03,570 --> 00:19:09,279

active duty again at that point so. How long of a break was that? Between active duty timesâ€¦

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00:19:09,279 --> 00:19:15,649

Um, close to, letâ€™s see 90â€¦ Three years. I was a Reserve, they say I was a Reservist

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00:19:15,649 --> 00:19:19,100

for about 3 years. So why did you pick Army in there at all? Because there was no Air

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00:19:19,100 --> 00:19:24,240

Force available. And myâ€¦ Okay. My Air Force AFSC, the specialty code, I didnâ€™t have

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00:19:24,240 --> 00:19:28,820

to go back to training. I was already qualified. I could go right in the Army. I already had

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00:19:28,820 --> 00:19:34,980

the Army MOS compared to the Army because Iâ€™d been to their schools. Okay. Um, okay.

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00:19:34,980 --> 00:19:37,830

So, then you get back into active duty, then where did you go? I was at Springfield Air

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00:19:37,830 --> 00:19:41,139

National Guard Base. Uh, but from there, I went TDY a lot. You know, different assignments.

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00:19:41,139 --> 00:19:48,179

So, you knowâ€¦ So you were AGR then? I was AGR. Yes, I was Active Guard Reserve. So,

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00:19:48,179 --> 00:19:57,919

I was AGR, I did Title 10 stints at different, many different places. Plus, um, you know,

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00:19:57,919 --> 00:20:03,909

obviously, pre 9/11. Didn't do too much, um, other than just work base security. I

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00:20:03,909 --> 00:20:10,629
deployed to United Arab Emirates once, overseas for operations, I think it was, Operation

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00:20:10,629 --> 00:20:15,129
North Watch or Southern Watch. I think it was Northern Watch. We went over, it was still,

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00:20:15,129 --> 00:20:21,899
you know, still watching Iraq, from, basically the first Gulf War. We deployed to United

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00:20:21,899 --> 00:20:26,720
Emirates for a while, couple of local deployments here and there doing different things. But,

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00:20:26,720 --> 00:20:31,590
um, mainly just worked base security and trained. Did a lot of training. I was unit deployment

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00:20:31,590 --> 00:20:38,220
manager, I was a training manager, for a while, at a, during those times as well, so. For

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00:20:38,220 --> 00:20:44,369
the organization? Okay, so, um, think you, can you maybe talk about your... How many,

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00:20:44,369 --> 00:20:51,090
how many deployments did you do after you got back in? When you go back on active duty?

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00:20:51,090 --> 00:20:57,970
Actual deployment overseas, I did, I think five. And they were at the United Arab Emirates?

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00:20:57,970 --> 00:21:05,279
Yep. Where else? Um, Iraq. All the other ones were Iraq? Yes, and other places, but we,

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00:21:05,279 --> 00:21:09,399

Iâ€| Some of the missions wereâ€| I donâ€™t
what the status is of them at this time. Oh,

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00:21:09,399 --> 00:21:14,559

okay, got you. Yeah. It wasnâ€™t nothing important,
it just wasnâ€™t, you knowâ€| I really canâ€™t,

232

00:21:14,559 --> 00:21:20,830

I donâ€™t remember if I canâ€| Yeah, no, no,
I understand. Um, whereâ€| How long were you

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00:21:20,830 --> 00:21:28,769

deployments to Iraq? Um, the one deployment
in 2006, um, I think we were in country for

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00:21:28,769 --> 00:21:34,690

204 days, but we had pre-deployment training
prior to that, at Creech Air Force Base. What

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00:21:34,690 --> 00:21:39,850

they called the Desert Warfare Center, Desert
Warfare Training Center. So front to back

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00:21:39,850 --> 00:21:43,139

it was about, close to 8 months, I think,
somewhere around there. Okay. And then the

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00:21:43,139 --> 00:21:48,539

second deployment, I saidâ€| Pre-deployment
training that time was at Fort Bliss, or um,

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00:21:48,539 --> 00:21:54,200

Fort Bliss, Texas, down in El Paso. So we
spent, at um, did training there for almost,

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00:21:54,200 --> 00:21:59,519

I think, 3 weeks. Four weeks before we went.
And then, um, just a little over 6 months.

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00:21:59,519 --> 00:22:05,249
Left in January 2nd and got back August 3rd.
Of what year? 2011. Okay, and thenâ€¦ 2000,

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00:22:05,249 --> 00:22:11,679
2011, yeah. Okay, and then that what it? That
was it. That was my last one for, my last

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00:22:11,679 --> 00:22:16,389
for Iraq. But umâ€¦ Can you um, is there any
kind of details, or anything, that you can

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00:22:16,389 --> 00:22:20,190
talk about that you did in a either of your
deployments? What was your main job over there?

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00:22:20,190 --> 00:22:24,450
Um, the first time, my first deployment to
Iraq, in 2006, I was the Assistant Flight

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00:22:24,450 --> 00:22:31,539
Sargent. Um, for what they called Gator Sector.
I was responsible for, um, the perimeter of

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00:22:31,539 --> 00:22:36,440
what they called Fobvoyeur, Fort Operative
Base Voyeur, we basically protecting the Army.

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00:22:36,440 --> 00:22:40,200
They did like it, but the Air Force was in
charge of security for the installation. It

248
00:22:40,200 --> 00:22:44,869
was a joint base with Iraqis, United States
Army, and the United States Air Force. It

249
00:22:44,869 --> 00:22:50,039
was a regional Air Base as well. With the
Army air assets and the Air Force installation.

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00:22:50,039 --> 00:22:54,470
There was no actual Air Force assets assigned,

but a, it was all Army. But we provided the

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00:22:54,470 --> 00:23:01,019
security for the infrastructure. Um, our sector
was responsible for a lot of perimeter, mobile

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00:23:01,019 --> 00:23:04,899
patrols, kind of footprint offsite to deal
with. A little bit of what the call, a little

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00:23:04,899 --> 00:23:10,029
bit of SAM and IDF footprint. SAM being Surface
to Air Missiles and IDF being indirect fire.

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00:23:10,029 --> 00:23:14,440
We basically just uh presences patrols to
deter anybody for setting up stuff or trying

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00:23:14,440 --> 00:23:21,129
to fire. Just outside the perimeter. Um, two
gates. We had a coalition gate, where just

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00:23:21,129 --> 00:23:25,590
coalition forces come in and out. We provided,
we provided security for that. And escorted

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00:23:25,590 --> 00:23:30,009
people on and off the installation. Going
of base for patrols and stuff like that. Then

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00:23:30,009 --> 00:23:34,669
we had another commercial gate where anybody
that came on the base used that. So personnel

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00:23:34,669 --> 00:23:40,830
searches, rapid scans, electronic monitoring
for people. [Inaudible] body things they would

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00:23:40,830 --> 00:23:44,480
have. All the controversy they are having
in the airports right now, we were using those

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00:23:44,480 --> 00:23:51,590
almost 10 years ago in Iraq when people would
come on the base. So basically all that. I

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00:23:51,590 --> 00:23:58,970
was responsible for sectors. Like I had approximately,
I don't know, we had like 60, 70 people

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00:23:58,970 --> 00:24:06,220
working. The time, that we, that I was worked
with. It was multiple things, patrols, static

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00:24:06,220 --> 00:24:13,619
patrols, posts, over watches, the pits. The
search pits. MVACs was part of our responsibilities

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00:24:13,619 --> 00:24:19,379
too. Which was called the mobile vehicle and
cargo inspection. It was essentially a big

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00:24:19,379 --> 00:24:23,529
truck with a big arm [inaudible] it had a
cobalt head in it for radiation. It basically

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00:24:23,529 --> 00:24:28,299
scanned vehicles. It gave you that trace scan
of any vehicle that came on and off the base.

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00:24:28,299 --> 00:24:34,580
So we had a section, we were responsible for
that those people doing that as well. Little

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00:24:34,580 --> 00:24:39,289
bit of everything, patrols, responses, and
escorts. I can go on and on about all different

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00:24:39,289 --> 00:24:41,889
kinds of things. Was it the same thing with
your other Iraq deployment? No. That was a

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00:24:41,889 --> 00:24:47,080

little bit different. What was that one like?
That was base security, but we were also responsible

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00:24:47,080 --> 00:24:53,489
for, um even though we were on the base, on
the Sadr Air Base, I was part of the Victory

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00:24:53,489 --> 00:24:57,210
Base Complex, Camp Victory. So basically we
would have to leave our base and we would

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00:24:57,210 --> 00:25:03,019
do [inaudible] patrols. Patrol the, um, Bagdad
International Airport perimeter. Essentially

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00:25:03,019 --> 00:25:08,899
we had an open perimeter, uh, technically
because the air field for the Air Force and

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00:25:08,899 --> 00:25:14,019
the International Airport at that time would
be, um, operational again for civilians, so

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00:25:14,019 --> 00:25:22,690
civilians had it. So the Iraqi Aviation Authority,
IAA. And, uh, they contracted with another

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00:25:22,690 --> 00:25:28,320
agency that provides security, so it was all
rough at times because there was no fences

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00:25:28,320 --> 00:25:32,440
nothing, it was just us. We were the deterrent.
So we had mobile patrols, different types,

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00:25:32,440 --> 00:25:38,549
all types of gun trucks, Harden Humvees, and
few things. I did a few off base convoys,

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00:25:38,549 --> 00:25:42,970
you know I remember one time there was
a convoy, I was a convoy leader for taking

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00:25:42,970 --> 00:25:50,529

logistic people over to help the Iraqi load some things to ship back to Canada. Their

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00:25:50,529 --> 00:25:54,869

air conditioning, I don't know, it had something to do with the infrastructure, for their civil

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00:25:54,869 --> 00:25:59,539

infrastructure, and did a few things like that. But there, I was the actual Flight Sargent

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00:25:59,539 --> 00:26:03,779

for that day. I was a little bit more people, plus I had international forces, I was responsible

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00:26:03,779 --> 00:26:10,659

for. We had a lot of I think, where were they from? What country? It was an African

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00:26:10,659 --> 00:26:19,249

country. I'm drawing a blank, but, um, we had, they were They worked for a private

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00:26:19,249 --> 00:26:23,799

security agency, but the reported to us. It was kind of really weird. It's They

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00:26:23,799 --> 00:26:27,549

were Ugandan. They were all from Uganda. So we had a bunch of Ugandan Forces that They

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00:26:27,549 --> 00:26:32,090

were civilian They were military, but they were assigned to a civilian government. [Inaudible].

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00:26:32,090 --> 00:26:36,710

It was a weird program, I am not sure how it happened, but They were all private

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00:26:36,710 --> 00:26:41,519
security, if you will. But most of them were
Ugandan soldiers working for this agency.

293
00:26:41,519 --> 00:26:48,379
So, and um, but they wereâ€¦ I had, oh man,
probably 20, 30 of them working for me there.

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00:26:48,379 --> 00:26:53,389
How was that? Did you have trouble with that?
No, actually we did not. We worked very well

295
00:26:53,389 --> 00:26:58,389
with them. We had a great working relationship.
They were great people, umâ€¦ Did they speak

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00:26:58,389 --> 00:27:04,109
English? Yes, very well. They all spoke English
very well. So, um, actually I think understood

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00:27:04,109 --> 00:27:10,869
some of them more than our people. But, um,
soâ€¦ It was it as unique there, very unique,

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00:27:10,869 --> 00:27:16,749
because we had another Iraqi Air Base too,
within that the Iraqis had C130s, some other

299
00:27:16,749 --> 00:27:23,269
aircraft, and different types of things that
we were all integrated with. We were also

300
00:27:23,269 --> 00:27:28,549
responsible for training the Iraqi. I donâ€™t
know how proud we are about it right about

301
00:27:28,549 --> 00:27:32,109
now. But, umâ€¦ One of our responsibilities
for some of the people that we were with from

302
00:27:32,109 --> 00:27:38,190
my base, we helped train the Iraqi security

forces. Taught them how to shot, shoot and

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00:27:38,190 --> 00:27:43,519

be kind of security, if you will. Security forces for the Iraqiâ€¦ We trained quite a

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00:27:43,519 --> 00:27:47,239

few of them. Um, I didnâ€™t do as much as a lot of other people, but Iâ€™d integrate

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00:27:47,239 --> 00:27:50,729

every once and a while just to see it. I went over and watched them at the firing range

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00:27:50,729 --> 00:27:55,299

and things of that nature. Because I wasâ€¦ My job was constantly supervising the day-to-day

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00:27:55,299 --> 00:28:00,529

operations of security for the installation at Sadr. What rank were you in your last deployment?

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00:28:00,529 --> 00:28:06,100

Master Sargent. Oh, okay. So you were, lot of, kind of, supervising role then. Yeah.

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00:28:06,100 --> 00:28:12,269

A lot of supervisor. I was, I was a Master Sargent, I just put Master Sargent on 1 August.

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00:28:12,269 --> 00:28:16,239

I put Master Sargent on three days before I deployed to Iraq the first time, soâ€¦

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00:28:16,239 --> 00:28:25,600

I put, I put Master Sargent on in 2006. So I worked and then the same thing I was Master

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00:28:25,600 --> 00:28:29,909

Sargent when I went to Iraq the second time as well, so. Okay. Okay. So while you were

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00:28:29,909 --> 00:28:36,570
overseas did you witness and combat or anything
like that? Yes. What kind? Um, sniper fire,

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00:28:36,570 --> 00:28:42,720
IEDs, um, most notably September 28th, 2006.
That was probably one of the worst ones I

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00:28:42,720 --> 00:28:49,850
was involved with. So, 750 pounds of explosives
in a vehicle [inaudible] on a convoy. Um,

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00:28:49,850 --> 00:28:57,739
they detonated it. We had two convoys, one
coming in and one going out, blew up. A bunch

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00:28:57,739 --> 00:29:06,139
of Iraqi police killed. Um, so, just itâ€™sâ€|
Chaos ensued because most of the Army personnel

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00:29:06,139 --> 00:29:12,619
were not, their mentality wasnâ€™t, you know,
their one of them were like just getting back

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00:29:12,619 --> 00:29:16,149
to base, another one was, ah, weâ€™re leaving
base, and then weâ€™re sitting there with

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00:29:16,149 --> 00:29:20,509
them trying to coordinate trying to get everything
out, moving things and doing stuff and it

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00:29:20,509 --> 00:29:26,210
blows. Nobody was prepared, so were just directing.
I just, you know people just didnâ€™t know

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00:29:26,210 --> 00:29:32,629
what to do. I ended up transporting wounded
myself, doing triage, separating bodies, people,

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00:29:32,629 --> 00:29:37,749

doing things, justâ€¦ I remember grabbing
an Army doctor when he got on scene and he

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00:29:37,749 --> 00:29:42,869
was in shock. He didnâ€™t know what to do.
Just kind of directing them in what to do.

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00:29:42,869 --> 00:29:44,429
Just transporting wounded on the Humvees.
I literally road on top of a Humvee all the

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00:29:44,429 --> 00:29:50,080
way back to the hospital. Soâ€¦ I remember
one time we had some many people packed in

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00:29:50,080 --> 00:29:59,450
it, wounded, soâ€¦ And it was one timeâ€¦
And it was random sniper fireâ€¦ Um, different

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00:29:59,450 --> 00:30:03,210
situations. We had a little village off base
one time, we was driving out thereâ€¦ You

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00:30:03,210 --> 00:30:08,570
know there was, just, celebratory fire, things
of that nature during weddings and things

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00:30:08,570 --> 00:30:16,359
of that nature. Dealing with different peopleâ€¦
So, um, mortar attacks. I was, several times,

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00:30:16,359 --> 00:30:23,019
I wasâ€¦ One time, literally, I think the
only reason we survived it was because itâ€¦

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00:30:23,019 --> 00:30:26,200
Most mortars, when the blow up, they blow
out. We fortunate to be close enough that

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00:30:26,200 --> 00:30:30,720
when it exploded it actually, a lot of it
blew over us and past us. Although, I didâ€¦

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00:30:30,720 --> 00:30:36,029

That's when I got hurt then. That's because I had two 250 pound guys dive into the same

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00:30:36,029 --> 00:30:42,549

bunker I did and smash me. So, I don't consider that a combat, even though a lot of injuries

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00:30:42,549 --> 00:30:47,999

It hurts me to this day most of the time. I don't consider that that bad, so. And

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00:30:47,999 --> 00:30:54,269

there was another time, a 107 millimeter rocket, I think it was 107, but, um, landed real close

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00:30:54,269 --> 00:30:59,599

to our Humvee, blew it. I remember the back wheels coming up, I was riding in it. I hit

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00:30:59,599 --> 00:31:03,629

my head on the ceiling. Didn't know it at the time, but that's I didn't get hurt

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00:31:03,629 --> 00:31:08,379

to my knowledge. I didn't think I was. I found out later that I bulged a bunch of discs

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00:31:08,379 --> 00:31:14,039

in my neck. I didn't realize it until years later. Yeah. So, but, um Just little things

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00:31:14,039 --> 00:31:20,330

like that. Those are those. And then that was between 2 6, 06 07, there's a lot more.

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00:31:20,330 --> 00:31:27,059

Back then there is a lot more hostilities in Northern Iraq, then so. But, um How

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00:31:27,059 --> 00:31:33,440
did that, um, maybe specifically an instance,
where you, you know, your hauling bodies backâ€|

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00:31:33,440 --> 00:31:39,090
How did that, kind of witnessing that, being
part of that, has that affected you in any

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00:31:39,090 --> 00:31:45,059
way, or? No. Okay. Nope. I donâ€™t understand
why. Okay. Like I said, I know friends, I

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00:31:45,059 --> 00:31:51,440
have people that were involved in the same
situation that has affected differently. Um,

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00:31:51,440 --> 00:31:55,509
I donâ€™t know what it is about me, maybe,
like I said, I donâ€™t know why, but Iâ€™veâ€|

349
00:31:55,509 --> 00:31:59,830
I am able to turn things on and off pretty
easy. Does it affect me? Yes, it does. Does

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00:31:59,830 --> 00:32:03,879
itâ€| Do I think about it all the time? No,
I donâ€™t. I can compartmentalize pretty good,

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00:32:03,879 --> 00:32:12,739
I guess. Iâ€™m not sure but, umâ€| There has
been times, you know, many times, just would

352
00:32:12,739 --> 00:32:16,809
dealingâ€| I mean that wasâ€| The second tour
was even different, more different, it affected

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00:32:16,809 --> 00:32:22,859
me worse because of part of our jobs was,
um, was what we called pitch out response.

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00:32:22,859 --> 00:32:29,179
[Inaudible]. We wereâ€| One of our primary

duties were to go off base and go, soon as

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00:32:29,179 --> 00:32:34,190

Army wounded, or Marine, Navy, whoever, Air Force, it doesn't matter any wounded was

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00:32:34,190 --> 00:32:38,580

coming back to the base it was one of our jobs to make sure that we expedited their

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00:32:38,580 --> 00:32:41,269

entry. We went out and escorted them on. We got, we picked up, we basically, we essentially

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00:32:41,269 --> 00:32:45,700

brought the wounded back to the CASH, the Combat Surgical Hospital, on Sadr Air Base.

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00:32:45,700 --> 00:32:51,669

It was the only one, level one trauma facility left in Iraq at the time because we were shutting

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00:32:51,669 --> 00:32:56,649

the bases. You know, shutting down, leaving the country so. All the critical wounded came

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00:32:56,649 --> 00:33:01,909

to our base. So, it was our job to make sure they got expedited to the, you know. We

362

00:33:01,909 --> 00:33:08,769

shut the roads down, went off base, rammed cars if we had to, moving people out of the

363

00:33:08,769 --> 00:33:13,899

way to get, get soldiers, sailor, or airmen, whoever, Marines, whoever was wounded back

364

00:33:13,899 --> 00:33:20,859

home to Sadr from around Victory Base Complex, so. Um, most times they came in, you know,

365

00:33:20,859 --> 00:33:24,049

most times, best case scenario was always
when they were choppered, we didn't do nothing

366

00:33:24,049 --> 00:33:28,460

other than shut down the air flight line,
block vehicles, we had, we had choke points

367

00:33:28,460 --> 00:33:33,479

we would set up, block traffic so no vehicle
traffic on the flight line. We would basically

368

00:33:33,479 --> 00:33:38,039

go out and expedite the, the um, wounded back
to the [inaudible] hospital because they had

369

00:33:38,039 --> 00:33:43,129

like a, usually it was a Gator, little small
UTV, John Deer Gator. They had one set up

370

00:33:43,129 --> 00:33:47,710

specifically to transport the wounded from
the helicopter to the hospital, so. That was

371

00:33:47,710 --> 00:33:55,109

couple hundred yards. Okay, um So what
kind of stuff did you do for, you know, for

372

00:33:55,109 --> 00:34:06,080

like, um, recreation while you were on deployments?
Uh, legally? Um, believe it or not I am not

373

00:34:06,080 --> 00:34:15,409

a video gamer, but for some reason in 2006
and 07, we lived in these things called mods,

374

00:34:15,409 --> 00:34:23,740

modular rooms. They were like big long buildings
with about 16 rooms, I think. And we basically

375

00:34:23,740 --> 00:34:28,860

ran, ah, cable from one room to another and we linked a bunch of Xboxes together. We played,

376

00:34:28,860 --> 00:34:34,190

what the heck's that game's name? Halo. We played Halo between all these, a bunch of guys. That

377

00:34:34,190 --> 00:34:41,550

was like the biggest recreation. Played football, umâ€¦ We had a push up club we called it,

378

00:34:41,550 --> 00:34:48,120

gator push up, or aâ€¦ It was Iâ€¦ There was a guy from New Hampshire Nation Guard named

379

00:34:48,120 --> 00:34:54,690

Donny Mulligan who was 40 some almost 50 years old and when 9-11 happened, he was a former

380

00:34:54,690 --> 00:34:59,150

marine, back in the 70s. He was actingâ€¦ He had a lot of stories. He was on a marine

381

00:34:59,150 --> 00:35:03,370

recon team. He was actually with the marines, with the marines going into Iran to rescue

382

00:35:03,370 --> 00:35:07,670

hostages, back in the 80s, you know 79. I think. Yeah. And, uh, when the plane crashed.

383

00:35:07,670 --> 00:35:13,430

He was with them, got out. After 9-11 felt compelled to go back into the military. The

384

00:35:13,430 --> 00:35:18,010

guy was almost 50 years old, but he was literally like Mr. New Hampshire. You know, body builder

385

00:35:18,010 --> 00:35:23,970

type guy. Um, he started a push up club and thatâ€™s one of the entertaining things we

386

00:35:23,970 --> 00:35:28,390

did. Seeing how many pushups we could do,
so. We had a lot, bunch of people in the 10,000s,

387

00:35:28,390 --> 00:35:34,040

20,000 pushup club, and then! Back in 2006,
[inaudible] New Year's Eve we had a pushup-a-thon

388

00:35:34,040 --> 00:35:40,400

where we did pushups for 24 hours. Started
at midnight on the 31st and went all the way

389

00:35:40,400 --> 00:35:44,550

to the, we broke in the new year doing pushups.
And, I don't remember how many thousands

390

00:35:44,550 --> 00:35:49,630

of pushups were done, but Donny Mulligan,
himself did like literally 24,000 pushups

391

00:35:49,630 --> 00:35:53,760

in the last 24 hours. I don't know what
was, the exact number, but I have an article

392

00:35:53,760 --> 00:35:58,260

about it. But we raised a lot of money for
the security police fund, security police

393

00:35:58,260 --> 00:36:04,410

foundation, and all this stuff. And then another
member, who we deployed with who, half way

394

00:36:04,410 --> 00:36:09,490

through his deployment, his son, ah, had cancer
they found out, so. We raised a bunch of money

395

00:36:09,490 --> 00:36:15,990

and donated it back over there so. Did a lot
of those things, ah, chased wildlife. There

396

00:36:15,990 --> 00:36:20,180
was mongoose everywhere so I took pictures,
I took a lot of picture too, so. I did a lot

397
00:36:20,180 --> 00:36:25,660
of picture taking, so, that was kind of my
thing. Uh, huh. So, but, also being a flight

398
00:36:25,660 --> 00:36:29,370
sergeant, I was also involved in everybody
else's business, so. Dealing with other

399
00:36:29,370 --> 00:36:35,100
people's crisis and problems and stuff.
So I didn't have a lot of time off. Yeah.

400
00:36:35,100 --> 00:36:40,770
Okay. What about keeping in touch with family?
Ah. The first time was a little more difficult

401
00:36:40,770 --> 00:36:47,080
because of technology, um, but just telephone
calls, morale calls. You know, a couple times

402
00:36:47,080 --> 00:36:51,050
a week. Email, I could email all the time
when I was, where I was. I was one of the

403
00:36:51,050 --> 00:36:56,060
fortunate ones being in a supervisor position,
I got access to the computer a lot more, so

404
00:36:56,060 --> 00:37:05,810
Um, the second, you know, for the second times,
or the second time in Iraq, 2011 was, um,

405
00:37:05,810 --> 00:37:11,230
Skype, um, you know, I even had a Magic Jack
literally a phone in my room. You know, plus

406
00:37:11,230 --> 00:37:18,060
I had, I two phones. I had my work phone.

I had a work phone in there an actual little

407

00:37:18,060 --> 00:37:24,020
line, that ah, a DSN line. I also had my Magic
Jack hooked to my computer. So communication

408

00:37:24,020 --> 00:37:31,450
was excellent, just like being somewhere else,
in the states. Okay, umâ€| Could you describe

409

00:37:31,450 --> 00:37:36,700
what the morale call was? Morale call was,
you got, ah, you got a certain amount of minutes

410

00:37:36,700 --> 00:37:42,620
per week to access to a DSN line. You get
an access code to be able to dial out, so.

411

00:37:42,620 --> 00:37:46,940
Um, they give you so many minutes, then we
have phone card were given to us. Everybody

412

00:37:46,940 --> 00:37:49,580
would buy phone cards. Then if you had one
of those, it was a lot easier. Cause then

413

00:37:49,580 --> 00:37:54,500
you could just dial a different number and
go out into the international phone lines

414

00:37:54,500 --> 00:38:00,020
and you would hit AT&T and dial it. You know,
all the different access numbers to get back

415

00:38:00,020 --> 00:38:04,560
home. To call home, with those cards, calling
cards. So, a lot of veteransâ€™ organizations,

416

00:38:04,560 --> 00:38:08,810
different people would donate them, so. They
had quite a few of them. But, typically, a

417

00:38:08,810 --> 00:38:13,020
morale call was an actual number where you
would call a DSN operator and they would transfer

418

00:38:13,020 --> 00:38:16,390
you back to like Wright Patterson. Then they
would dial you and they would transfer you

419

00:38:16,390 --> 00:38:22,390
out to a local number for 15 minutes. So,
that is what typically, a morale call was.

420

00:38:22,390 --> 00:38:27,340
Okay, um, So maybe coming home from any
of your deployments, how were you welcomed

421

00:38:27,340 --> 00:38:36,090
home from them? By family and friends, or
Um, yeah, family and friends, um, every time

422

00:38:36,090 --> 00:38:40,480
I would come back first, first one time, it
was the last of my, from Iraq, there has been

423

00:38:40,480 --> 00:38:46,860
many times when I come home. From post 9-11,
Iraqi deployments, were. First one, media,

424

00:38:46,860 --> 00:38:53,590
there was a little media there, a lot of base,
wing commanders, squadron commanders, supervisors,

425

00:38:53,590 --> 00:39:02,590
things of that nature. Um, we went over with
13 people the first time, um, but I think

426

00:39:02,590 --> 00:39:09,020
8 of the came back the day. We came be,
we were stuck in Qatar, and ah, we sent all

427

00:39:09,020 --> 00:39:13,850

the junior enlisted home. If you were like
8 5 and below. They, we sent them home the

428

00:39:13,850 --> 00:39:17,780
day before. Because, uh, itâ€™s just, ah,
you know, the military transport is not the

429

00:39:17,780 --> 00:39:22,940
best. So we shipped, we got all the younger
guys home first. The 4, 4 or 5 of us stayed

430

00:39:22,940 --> 00:39:28,070
back, E7, you know anybody pretty much above
E6 and above. We all stayed. And we had to

431

00:39:28,070 --> 00:39:32,630
wait and fight for a way back. I think there
was 5 of us, that made it back. So, but they

432

00:39:32,630 --> 00:39:35,380
all came out. A lot of people came out to
see us. It was mainly family members. Uh,

433

00:39:35,380 --> 00:39:44,240
uh. And that was Dayton Airport. In 2011 when
I came home I was in Columbus, thatâ€™s just

434

00:39:44,240 --> 00:39:49,420
mainly, we requested visitâ€™ We actually
requested not to have anybody, you know, media,

435

00:39:49,420 --> 00:39:55,020
nothing. We donâ€™t like any of that. Or,
I didnâ€™t personally. Three times, so. Okay,

436

00:39:55,020 --> 00:40:00,800
um, soâ€™ You get, get back from you last
deployment then how much longer did you have

437

00:40:00,800 --> 00:40:08,840
in? Um, I got back Augustâ€™ I retired in
October. Oh, okay, so not long at all. Well

438
00:40:08,840 --> 00:40:13,410
the following year. Oh, okay. So I got in
August, I was on terminal leave, till like

439
00:40:13,410 --> 00:40:18,430
almost October, not terminal, but I mean,
ahâ€¦ I was on leave when I got back from

440
00:40:18,430 --> 00:40:23,970
Iraq from August to just about middle, mid-October,
I was out for about 40 days before I came

441
00:40:23,970 --> 00:40:30,380
back. So maybe Septâ€¦ late September, but
regardless. I worked. I was an operations

442
00:40:30,380 --> 00:40:35,620
superintendent for my organization. So, I
stayed from August, or I mean, from about

443
00:40:35,620 --> 00:40:45,420
October of 11 till actually July 12th. Of
uh, July 12, 2012 was my last day in uniform.

444
00:40:45,420 --> 00:40:48,460
Because I went on terminal leave at that point,
I had enough, like 50 some days, or 60â€¦

445
00:40:48,460 --> 00:40:54,680
I donâ€™t know how many days left, plus they
give you permissive TDY for separation time

446
00:40:54,680 --> 00:41:02,050
and all that kind of stuff. So essentially
my last day of work was July 12, 2012. Okay,

447
00:41:02,050 --> 00:41:11,280
umâ€¦ So why did you choose to get out? Did
you retire out? I did retire. Okay. Why did

448

00:41:11,280 --> 00:41:16,610
you choose? I had a lot of physical issues.
Um, were you medically... No, thatâ€™s what

449
00:41:16,610 --> 00:41:23,240
I was avoiding so. I had some damage to my
shoulders like said, my first deployment.

450
00:41:23,240 --> 00:41:30,610
Um, technically, uh, my second deployment,
I probably shouldnâ€™t have went, but Iâ€™

451
00:41:30,610 --> 00:41:38,200
Because I had a pretty tore up ankle. I had
aâ€™ My ankle reconstructed, pretty in depth

452
00:41:38,200 --> 00:41:43,730
surgery. Actually by Wright State Orthopedic
Clinic, here at Miami Valley Hospital. But,

453
00:41:43,730 --> 00:41:50,440
um, I had a pretty bad ankle, my shoulder
wereâ€™ I had knee surgery, but I just, at

454
00:41:50,440 --> 00:41:55,120
the time I didnâ€™t want to give it up. You
know I felt, you know, I knew we were taking

455
00:41:55,120 --> 00:41:59,750
45 peopleâ€™ We were deploying from just my
organization alone we had 45 people going.

456
00:41:59,750 --> 00:42:06,170
Um, and I lead the team, I was the lead NCO,
they had a major and an officer go too. But

457
00:42:06,170 --> 00:42:11,340
I was the highest ranking enlisted going.
And, uh, so but I just wanted to go again.

458
00:42:11,340 --> 00:42:16,110
To make, you know, I had a lot of experience.

I just wanted to make sure, the guys, you

459

00:42:16,110 --> 00:42:22,490

know, went, I know itâ€™s weird. Itâ€™s hard to explain, but I just wanted to go. Make

460

00:42:22,490 --> 00:42:27,920

a difference. Be there for everybody else all the guys that worked for me. So, and ah,

461

00:42:27,920 --> 00:42:32,820

plus all the other people. Friends obviously I made hundreds and hundreds of people that

462

00:42:32,820 --> 00:42:36,260

you become friends with every time you are deployed. So, thatâ€™s why. And thenâ€¦| But

463

00:42:36,260 --> 00:42:45,640

when I got back I was tired, sore, I was physically I couldnâ€™t, you know, I couldnâ€™t maintain

464

00:42:45,640 --> 00:42:51,260

theâ€¦| It was harder to run, harder to my pushups, harder to do my sit ups. And justâ€¦|

465

00:42:51,260 --> 00:42:55,430

I was start toâ€¦| I did not want to get to the point where I became a burden. So I left

466

00:42:55,430 --> 00:43:04,760

the organization. So it was time for me to go. I just decided to go. Okay, umâ€¦| Do you

467

00:43:04,760 --> 00:43:06,800

remember the day you got out? You know the date correct? Yep, July 12th, that was my

468

00:43:06,800 --> 00:43:11,650

last day in uniform. Effective 1 October 2012 is when I retired. My official retirement

469

00:43:11,650 --> 00:43:17,660
date, so. But, I had August and September
of terminal leave and permissive TDY and stuff

470

00:43:17,660 --> 00:43:22,270
like that. Okay. Do you remember that day
at all? You know your last day in uniform.

471

00:43:22,270 --> 00:43:32,620
Yep. I do. Is it special in any way? Ah, I,
it was, I didnâ€™t want a lot of, because

472

00:43:32,620 --> 00:43:38,270
your close with people, I just didnâ€™t want,
you know, too much. I even told everybody.

473

00:43:38,270 --> 00:43:43,090
Everybody always makes a coming to work there
last day want to do something different or

474

00:43:43,090 --> 00:43:48,620
they want to make a strong statement when
they leave. We had guys who wanted to ride

475

00:43:48,620 --> 00:43:53,330
horses. You know, ride a horse off base when
they left or do something different. I thought

476

00:43:53,330 --> 00:43:57,400
about itâ€¦ I just didnâ€™t want to makeâ€¦
I didnâ€™t want it to be any different than

477

00:43:57,400 --> 00:44:01,460
any other day. I came in to work, checked
my email, because I had already cleaned my

478

00:44:01,460 --> 00:44:05,020
office out pretty good, loaded everything
up. I remember coming, I cleaned off, I burned

479

00:44:05,020 --> 00:44:13,790

a CD with a bunch of last minute stuff that I had, um.. Emails, walked aroundâ€¦ I did

480

00:44:13,790 --> 00:44:18,430
post checks that day because I was the superintendent still. So, I did post checks, went out checked

481

00:44:18,430 --> 00:44:21,780
the guys working the gate, some of the patrols. I rode around on one of the patrols, just

482

00:44:21,780 --> 00:44:28,060
checking the base. Stopped in to see a few people. Said goodbye. Um, walked around the

483

00:44:28,060 --> 00:44:31,810
squadron. Told everybody I was leaving. Yeah, because I didnâ€™t want it to be any different

484

00:44:31,810 --> 00:44:37,950
even though it was my last day, so. But, um, I just left like I normally would so that

485

00:44:37,950 --> 00:44:44,260
was it. Okay. So itâ€™s only been a few years, not even two, even three years yet. Three

486

00:44:44,260 --> 00:44:49,360
years in July. Yeah. So what have you done since then? Um, well, July 12th I left, July

487

00:44:49,360 --> 00:44:53,930
19th I started the current job Iâ€™m at now. Cornerstone Research Group. And what do you

488

00:44:53,930 --> 00:44:59,040
do there? Um, well I first started out a facilities security officers, ah, working different projects,

489

00:44:59,040 --> 00:45:03,460
mainly doing personnel security, physical security. Different types of things like that,

490

00:45:03,460 --> 00:45:08,760

some project management. Then within a year or so I made it to director. So I became a

491

00:45:08,760 --> 00:45:13,800

director, managing, some program management, some business development stuff. Also still

492

00:45:13,800 --> 00:45:17,760

supervising the security section. We had different security people. And reception desk as well,

493

00:45:17,760 --> 00:45:24,350

I took over that, supervising the receptions and things. And then, um, 1 October of last

494

00:45:24,350 --> 00:45:29,700

year, I was promoted to vice president. So, I am now a vice president with the organization

495

00:45:29,700 --> 00:45:34,770

for security and other things. I do quite a bit of different things for the company

496

00:45:34,770 --> 00:45:39,170

now, so. Is that out of Wright-Patt. Uh, itâ€™s not out of Wright-Patt. Itâ€™s over on in

497

00:45:39,170 --> 00:45:44,520

Beavercreek on Indian Ripple Road. Oh, okay. So, um, we have some subsidiary companies

498

00:45:44,520 --> 00:45:48,990

that workâ€™. We do R and D for everybody. You know, so. Good. So, was that, was that

499

00:45:48,990 --> 00:45:57,760

transition difficult for you at all out of the military? Ah, at first it was. But, um,

500

00:45:57,760 --> 00:46:05,280
the transition was better than what I expected
because I discovered that being veteran at

501
00:46:05,280 --> 00:46:12,710
the time I never knew what I had until
I, I was one of the few I think maybe that

502
00:46:12,710 --> 00:46:18,340
made the ah ha moment. You don't realize
until you get out the skill sets that I learned

503
00:46:18,340 --> 00:46:24,900
in the military. The discipline, the communication
skills, the writing, the All the things

504
00:46:24,900 --> 00:46:28,870
I used to fight and argue with and get upset
about that I had to do. I did not know how

505
00:46:28,870 --> 00:46:35,750
much a resource it would be on the outside.
Uh, so, I consider myself an under educated

506
00:46:35,750 --> 00:46:41,030
over achiever from the military. To transition
that skill set and to find that the companies

507
00:46:41,030 --> 00:46:44,730
want you and need that, but they don't know,
they don't know it. That's another thing

508
00:46:44,730 --> 00:46:48,790
too being a veteran is some companies don't
know that they need a veteran. So that's

509
00:46:48,790 --> 00:46:53,860
my opinion, but Yeah. But I found it huge,
huge, huge. I mean walked to the door and

510
00:46:53,860 --> 00:46:58,050
I'm like that simple, blah, blah, blah.

Ah, howâ€™d you do that? You know, Iâ€™m like

511

00:46:58,050 --> 00:47:02,250
thatâ€™s simple you know. Thatâ€™s something
I did day-to-day. Doing, you knowâ€| Superintendent

512

00:47:02,250 --> 00:47:08,030
of an organization, you know, controlling,
you know, scheduling, manpower, people, leave,

513

00:47:08,030 --> 00:47:12,660
vacations, civilian work force, reserve work
force. You know all the different things.

514

00:47:12,660 --> 00:47:17,060
Training and allocation. Things that I managed
and did as a superintendent in the military,

515

00:47:17,060 --> 00:47:23,630
you know, came into play when I started in
an organization. Simple stuff to me, but I

516

00:47:23,630 --> 00:47:28,000
had to learn in the military and I just built
that toolbox. Got that skill set and didnâ€™t

517

00:47:28,000 --> 00:47:31,750
even realize that when I walked out the doors
that I would open up and use it again but

518

00:47:31,750 --> 00:47:40,830
in a different fashion, so. Okay, um, soâ€|
How, how was, um, you know, maybe your experience

519

00:47:40,830 --> 00:47:47,010
in the military, your experience overseas,
um, you know how, how has that affected your

520

00:47:47,010 --> 00:47:55,570
life? Whew, lots of ways. Umâ€| Maybe give
me, give me, um, give me like three ways that

521

00:47:55,570 --> 00:48:04,030
you can pinpoint. Three ways, number 1, um,
taught me to be a better father. Um, I realized,

522

00:48:04,030 --> 00:48:11,670
you know, 15 years into my military career
that I was a better father to 100, you know,

523

00:48:11,670 --> 00:48:22,030
18 to 20 somethings then I was to my own children.
So it taught me to be a better father. So,

524

00:48:22,030 --> 00:48:27,350
[inaudible], my kids were young teenagers,
at the time, which they are all adults, young

525

00:48:27,350 --> 00:48:33,100
adults, in their early 20s now, butâ€¦ It
taught me to be a better father. It taught

526

00:48:33,100 --> 00:48:38,190
me a lot of compassion, grace. Dealing with
the circumstances of being gone. Understanding,

527

00:48:38,190 --> 00:48:45,630
you know, anytime I deployed, yeah even though
I was being subjected to things that were

528

00:48:45,630 --> 00:48:50,590
harmful at times or possibility. You always
canâ€™t forget that the family at home is

529

00:48:50,590 --> 00:48:54,030
sometimes going through things just as much,
you know. Sometimes harder, you know, because

530

00:48:54,030 --> 00:48:57,780
the spouse, those are the ones that really
go through a lot. They are alone taking care

531

00:48:57,780 --> 00:49:02,320

of family members, kids, children and your deployed and you have all your buddies, your

532

00:49:02,320 --> 00:49:09,200

pals, you know. You have a support structure when your deployed, so. Ah, but the third

533

00:49:09,200 --> 00:49:14,480

thing is stress management. That's the one thing I learned too, or the third thing, I

534

00:49:14,480 --> 00:49:20,020

guess. Dealing with stressful situations, you know, staying level headed. Understanding

535

00:49:20,020 --> 00:49:25,540

the fact that, um, emotions cannot be changed by physical acts. So you just got to learn

536

00:49:25,540 --> 00:49:39,050

how to be level headed and address things press on. Okay, um| So obviously, you, you

537

00:49:39,050 --> 00:49:47,730

learned a few things from being in the military, um| What about| What's your like maybe,

538

00:49:47,730 --> 00:49:51,550

not philosophical, what's your, what's your kind of view on the military and war

539

00:49:51,550 --> 00:49:56,550

in general now that you have been a part of it for so long? Well first of all I think

540

00:49:56,550 --> 00:50:03,230

it is a great career, number 1. Um, I am kind of torn, I used to, you know, used to think

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00:50:03,230 --> 00:50:07,850

years ago I used to think everybody should go to the military. You know, um| But the

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00:50:07,850 --> 00:50:13,600

older I got, I started realizing it is not for everybody. Granted it is a great opportunity

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00:50:13,600 --> 00:50:20,390

to give someone to provide them, if they so choose to accept it, you knowâ€¦ The, the

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00:50:20,390 --> 00:50:25,810

lifestyle, the education, the benefits, the just the comradery, the spirit of the corps,

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00:50:25,810 --> 00:50:31,200

everything behind it. If you accept it and move on with it, itâ€™s a great career. You

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00:50:31,200 --> 00:50:37,780

knowâ€¦ But to look back on it, it was a greatest thing I think I could ever done. If I would

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00:50:37,780 --> 00:50:41,590

have done it again, Iâ€™d do the same thing I did. Yeah. I wouldnâ€™t change anyâ€¦ Well,

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00:50:41,590 --> 00:50:45,140

I shouldnâ€™t say I wouldnâ€™t change a thing. Um, I probably would have got commissioned

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00:50:45,140 --> 00:50:49,420

earlier. Like, maybe become an officer because those, you know, officers typically have a

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00:50:49,420 --> 00:50:55,300

little better life, financially rewarding. You know, a little bit better. I am not regretful

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00:50:55,300 --> 00:50:58,990

of anything I have done in my career. Not at all. I mean itâ€™sâ€¦ Everything happened

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00:50:58,990 --> 00:51:07,790
for a reason. And, um, so, but itâ€™s just
the mindset that, that what it gives and to

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00:51:07,790 --> 00:51:18,060
me. I, Iâ€™| Call it old school, call it whatever,
but I would consider myself patriot, you knowâ€™|

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00:51:18,060 --> 00:51:24,720
Iâ€™m not what I call the new wiifmg generation.
Whatâ€™s in it for me generation? A lot of

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00:51:24,720 --> 00:51:28,370
people have that. You knowâ€™| Whatâ€™s in
it for me? But, I did it because I wanted

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00:51:28,370 --> 00:51:33,750
to serve my country and things of that nature.
And then, but I also made a great life, living

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00:51:33,750 --> 00:51:40,940
and developed me as a person, you knowâ€™|
As a senior NCO, I gradâ€™| I retired. I call

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00:51:40,940 --> 00:51:47,150
it graduating from life. Went on to my new
life. But it made me the person that I am.

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00:51:47,150 --> 00:51:50,890
Very proud of what I did. And, so I would
always do the same thing again. Iâ€™d recommend

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00:51:50,890 --> 00:51:57,840
to anyone to at least try it. But like I said
itâ€™s not for everybody. Okay, um, is there

561
00:51:57,840 --> 00:52:05,210
any message for anyone who might view this?
As in who? Well is going to be, going to be

562
00:52:05,210 --> 00:52:11,110
in the Library of Congress. It will be archived

so you never know who will be looking at it.

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00:52:11,110 --> 00:52:20,030

Um, just that you can't forget obviously what veterans do for this country. That's

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00:52:20,030 --> 00:52:26,320

the biggest thing. I know, it's, um, I'm the type that wants, I don't want recognition.

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00:52:26,320 --> 00:52:31,630

I don't want praise. I'm not those guys. I somewhat feel I feel very humbled and embarrassed

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00:52:31,630 --> 00:52:36,830

at times when I used to walk around in my uniform. Um, people always want to thank you.

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00:52:36,830 --> 00:52:42,390

You know, and I get it. But at the time too it was kind of humbling. It's kind of weird

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00:52:42,390 --> 00:52:49,220

and awkward. I didn't want that. What I want is people to appreciate it, not thank

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00:52:49,220 --> 00:52:53,660

us, but appreciate it by paying it forward, by doing the right thing, by maintaining patriot,

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00:52:53,660 --> 00:53:01,930

by doing the right thing for our country. Doing, um, you know, what's like I said.

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00:53:01,930 --> 00:53:07,050

You know. What's right, what's right in different people, but make the United States

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00:53:07,050 --> 00:53:10,570

what it is. What it always has been. And I just think a lot of it lays on the backs

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00:53:10,570 --> 00:53:16,530
of veterans and the blood that a lot of them
spilled. Never forget what they have done

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00:53:16,530 --> 00:53:19,360
and what we are going to continue to do. Okay.
So, that's the biggest thing. Is there anything

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00:53:19,360 --> 00:53:25,740
else that we didn't talk about that you
want to bring up at all? Not that I can think

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00:53:25,740 --> 00:53:31,630
of. Like I said I've | It's, it's so
hard to say. Yeah. At 25, 24 years and 8 months

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00:53:31,630 --> 00:53:36,160
and so many days and that. You know | Short
interview, but | It's been, it's been

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00:53:36,160 --> 00:53:41,060
challenging and interesting to all over for
both stateside deployments. I've done a

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00:53:41,060 --> 00:53:47,390
lot of things stateside. I never thought I
would work for NORAD. You know, that I would

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00:53:47,390 --> 00:53:51,890
do anti-terrorism stuff. I'm just | It's
unbelievable what they, what the military

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00:53:51,890 --> 00:53:56,500
given me, so. It's been a great, great,
great career, so. Okay. Well, the, I thank

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00:53:56,500 --> 00:53:59,160
you for doing the interview and thank you
for your service. No problem. Thank you.