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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,480
We're recording the interview of Floyd Taylor. This interview is being conducted

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00:00:03,480 --> 00:00:07,340
by Adrian Hill from the Wright State University's Veterans Voices project.

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00:00:07,340 --> 00:00:11,700
This interview being recorded at the Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

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00:00:11,710 --> 00:00:19,670
It is 3 p.m. on January 21st, 2015. When and where were you born?

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00:00:19,670 --> 00:00:27,140
I was born here in Dayton, Ohio the 25th of July, 1964.

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00:00:27,140 --> 00:00:28,960
Who were your parents and what were there occupations?

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00:00:28,960 --> 00:00:40,160
My mother was Doris Taylor and she was a waitress and my dad was Henry Taylor and he was kind of an ace of all trades and sort of a jack of all

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00:00:40,160 --> 00:00:47,460
trades. He was pretty good at all of them.
Mainly he did remodeling, home remodeling and construction.

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00:00:47,460 --> 00:00:50,660
Okay, did either of them
serving military at all?

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00:00:50,680 --> 00:00:55,820
No, my dad was in the national guard for I guess a couple months.
[laughing]

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00:00:55,820 --> 00:01:00,720
Oh okay. What about your siblings, did you have any siblings?

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00:01:00,720 --> 00:01:07,340

I have two brothers, Bill Taylor who's a retired master sergeant from the Air Force, retired.

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00:01:07,340 --> 00:01:15,189

He's one of the guys who locked the gate here at Chanut when they closed it down and her brother David was a marine, didn't

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00:01:15,189 --> 00:01:29,660

graduate tech school... basic. He got out for a family emergency with his wife and kids. And step brothers were Air Force

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00:01:29,660 --> 00:01:34,540

Okay, what were their names?

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00:01:34,540 --> 00:01:41,120

Jack Donald
Irvine, he was book sergeant stationed

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00:01:41,130 --> 00:01:51,030

in Germany. He did a tour in Thailand during the Vietnam War. And my stepdad was retired senior master sergeant and he

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00:01:51,030 --> 00:02:04,150

was actually in when it was still the Army Air Corps, when he signed up. And then he did twenty-two years. So he was a radio operator on the Berlin Airlift.

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00:02:04,150 --> 00:02:07,820

What were you doing before you entered the service

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00:02:07,820 --> 00:02:09,160

High school. [laughing]

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00:02:09,160 --> 00:02:11,160

Okay, so you joined right out of high school?

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00:02:11,160 --> 00:02:16,690

Yeah I actually did delayed enlistment when I was in high school, so my last year of high school I was

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00:02:16,690 --> 00:02:19,210
actually in the United Reserve.

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00:02:19,210 --> 00:02:20,730
Drilling on the weekends?

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00:02:20,730 --> 00:02:25,910
No, we had to do... once every two months we had to go in and talk to our recruiter,

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00:02:25,910 --> 00:02:31,230
make sure we weren't messing up you know, didn't go to jail or anything so.

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00:02:31,230 --> 00:02:33,230
So what were you interested in doing?

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00:02:33,230 --> 00:02:34,170
Air Force.

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00:02:34,170 --> 00:02:37,720
You did Air Force, okay. Ans you enlisted?

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00:02:37,720 --> 00:02:38,580
Umhmm

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00:02:38,580 --> 00:02:41,920
Okay, why did you choose the Air Force?

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00:02:41,920 --> 00:02:49,080
Well my stepdad had a big influence on that, you know.

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00:02:49,080 --> 00:02:56,080
And it was at the time, it was one of the most technical ones and I didn't see myself

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00:02:56,080 --> 00:03:04,460

being on a boat out in the middle of the Atlantic. So that was the only other option, because I wasn't going to in the Marine Corps for sure.

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00:03:04,460 --> 00:03:10,880

I was 112 pounds when I went in and I just didn't see myself in the Army, so.

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00:03:10,880 --> 00:03:21,760

Okay. So can you take me from like, say the time you enlisted to the

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00:03:21,760 --> 00:03:29,460

time got to basic? Like what that... how you felt when you enlisted, how you felt when you got to basic, what your expectations to reality was like?

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00:03:29,460 --> 00:03:43,760

Well my stepdad and my stepbrother kind of told me what to expect in basic. So I was nervous, but I was kind of mentally

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00:03:43,770 --> 00:03:53,460

prepared for it. So I had ten months after I graduated, well not ten months... four months after I graduated that I was just kind

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00:03:53,460 --> 00:04:01,240

kind of doing summer jobs. And then when I went in you know, I was 17

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00:04:01,240 --> 00:04:15,870

and so early 18, 18 by a few months and when you go in there's all shapes and sizes, ages of other guys and we're all standing around going "what do we get ourselves into?"

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00:04:15,870 --> 00:04:24,930

Then we got into basic and it was a lot of... it was it was physical but not like

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00:04:24,930 --> 00:04:35,440

Marine, Army physical. It was more mental. Can you handle stress? Can you be stood to be yelled at there for 10 minutes while everybody's

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00:04:35,440 --> 00:04:46,140

watching you. Can you pass the academics? Can you tell your left from your right? [laughing] You know, that kind of stuff. So I think I was more

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00:04:46,140 --> 00:04:52,130

prepared than some of the guys, because my step brother had only been out of the military for a little

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00:04:52,130 --> 00:04:57,690

while. My oldest brother Bill was in and he was kind of you know give me hints on

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00:04:57,690 --> 00:05:03,450

how to take the yelling and everything don't take it personally it's their job.

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00:05:03,450 --> 00:05:07,750

They want to make sure you can handle it, so.

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00:05:07,750 --> 00:05:17,940

Okay, so do you have any strong emotions going through your head when you first got there like "what am I doing? Did I make the right choice?" I mean is that..?

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00:05:17,940 --> 00:05:34,660

Yeah it was, the first night was that "oh what did I get myself into?" Before you get off the bus they're yelling at you. You're like "okay, I don't know what's going on now". Then you get out and they're yelling at you some more. The okay you get to

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00:05:34,660 --> 00:05:47,640

go eat. We're like "oh great, we haven't eaten all day" Spent the day flying around airports and you know, you get in there and you're like "oh I'm going to have some of that and some of that, oh that looks really good" and you sit down and you're about three

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00:05:47,640 --> 00:05:58,550

mouthfuls into it and they're like "okay you're done, let's go". "I don't want to... oh crap what am I doing?" And you know, you see that poor guy that stands up with a

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00:05:58,550 --> 00:06:10,490

drink in his hand and there's like, they descend on him and they just start... and everyone's like "oh, sit here and finish this really quick" you know. So that first night was an oh geez.

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00:06:10,490 --> 00:06:21,630

And then the next day was, you know you sleep a little bit later, because you don't get to bed until like 3, so they let you sleep a little bit later and doing the march, learn how to march

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00:06:21,630 --> 00:06:28,280

with all these guys that... you know. And then you go get your hair cut and then you get your

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00:06:28,280 --> 00:06:36,280

clothes and you get your basic training manual and they're marching you around, it's Texas in October so it's

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00:06:36,280 --> 00:06:44,880

humid. It's not hot but it's muggy as all get out.

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00:06:44,880 --> 00:06:46,760

I'm sorry, where in Texas were you for your basic training?

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00:06:46,760 --> 00:06:51,200

Lackland, San Antonio. So you've got the

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00:06:51,200 --> 00:06:57,470

humidity and you just look around and you're like "oh man" you know you can't look anywhere without

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00:06:57,470 --> 00:07:03,250

somebody being yelled at. So you begin to wonder "is this really what I'm supposed to do?"

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00:07:03,250 --> 00:07:04,980

Right.

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00:07:04,980 --> 00:07:09,620

It was kind of eye opening. I didn't

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00:07:09,630 --> 00:07:15,050

mind it too much, I was kind of ready for them to yell, you know.

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00:07:15,050 --> 00:07:23,280

Okay, do you recall any of your instructors specifically that wanted that... you know and I know they always say you never forget your drill instructors name

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00:07:23,280 --> 00:07:25,340

I don't remember their names. We went through four of them.

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00:07:25,340 --> 00:07:26,320

Oh okay.

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00:07:26,320 --> 00:07:29,320

Our first one I really liked,

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00:07:29,320 --> 00:07:36,730

he got transfer and we were his flight and we had a guy at our sister flight

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00:07:36,730 --> 00:07:45,240

complain that he was throwing mail. You're not allowed to throw the mail and it for us, was a lot of fun, because it was

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00:07:45,240 --> 00:07:52,090

like if you sat up front, your letter was going in the back, you know. So it was game and it was a time that we

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00:07:52,090 --> 00:07:57,910

all kind of relaxed. Well he tossed somebody's mail to the back and they got mad and reported

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00:07:57,910 --> 00:08:06,970

him and he was there the next day and then he was gone. So we didn't have him. Then we had a replacement

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00:08:06,970 --> 00:08:14,530

for him that he was there for a week and then he was gone and then we got this

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00:08:14,530 --> 00:08:20,920
one master tech sergeant, meanest
little Latina lady that I ever met in my life.

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00:08:20,920 --> 00:08:27,080
We had this guy really tall and she would get up you know, make him
bend down so they'd

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00:08:27,080 --> 00:08:35,040
be nose to nose and she was just yell at him and we had... I can
almost remember his name, but he was an E.O.D.

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00:08:35,040 --> 00:08:44,320
guy and he had had a scar that ran across his face where he had one
detonate on him and he's probably the one that was

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00:08:44,320 --> 00:08:46,690
the most

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00:08:46,690 --> 00:08:53,790
influential I guess, because he just laid it out. You're going into
these career fields and it's

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00:08:53,790 --> 00:09:03,520
all real and you know, he would talk about his experiences being in
his job and you know everybody would be like "woa, this is"... It's
not just

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00:09:03,520 --> 00:09:05,270
about oh I'm getting my money to go to school,

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00:09:05,270 --> 00:09:09,420
it's you're doing this because you're
serving your country and so he really

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00:09:09,420 --> 00:09:18,200
instilled a lot of pride in people, I think that we're
just "I'm just going for school". I wish I could remember his name.

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00:09:18,200 --> 00:09:23,160
That's alright. So what happened, what's after basic?

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00:09:23,160 --> 00:09:24,380
Tech school.

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00:09:24,380 --> 00:09:27,500
Okay, what was your..?

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00:09:27,500 --> 00:09:34,800
Digital subscriber terminal equipment repair or DUSTY
for short. It was nineteen sixties

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00:09:34,800 --> 00:09:45,630
technology that we still had a time. It
was for com centers, when they used to do the cards printouts. You
know the IBM cards? We had the card

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00:09:45,630 --> 00:09:53,860
punches for those, card readers. We had
paper tape, ASCII code punchers and readers, and

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00:09:53,860 --> 00:10:04,089
page printers. Instead of, right now you have a toner and it prints
out. This was a giant wheel about this big and it had every

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00:10:04,089 --> 00:10:10,430
letter of the alphabet in random places and I wish I could tell you
how many letters are

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00:10:10,430 --> 00:10:17,680
actually on it, but it would print entire
lines by striking it and just twitch

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00:10:17,680 --> 00:10:26,149
back and forth to get to the right realignment and that was your base
com center back then. Everything was printed out. Either it came in on
tape and they ran it

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00:10:26,149 --> 00:10:32,920
through the tape reader so it would print out or it
came straight into the page printer and that

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00:10:32,920 --> 00:10:42,480

was my first assignment. I had a hard time with com control unit so I got pushed back

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00:10:42,480 --> 00:10:49,690

three months waiting for the next class to catch up to where I was at. And then involved with that was

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00:10:49,690 --> 00:10:59,430

the crypto gear that we worked on for that particular equipment and we did more maintenance on that too. So that was a lot of fun.

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00:10:59,430 --> 00:11:09,220

Okay, so you know basic training and your tech school was probably kind of a shock going from whatever

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00:11:09,230 --> 00:11:13,550

you were doing before to this military lifestyle the regiment, that you know

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00:11:13,550 --> 00:11:21,590

living with a bunch of guys and food and the social life, everything all together. How did you adapt and adjust?

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00:11:21,590 --> 00:11:35,480

Oh wow. Well basic you either adapt or they get rid of you. Tech school was different because you had this giant building that held 500 people

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00:11:35,490 --> 00:11:46,170

But you were all broken down into rooms of two and I was there nine months altogether and I went through four roommates. So it was

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00:11:46,170 --> 00:11:51,899

kind of like having little brothers come in at different times. We'd have guys they would

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00:11:51,899 --> 00:12:03,419

come in for a two week class or there was a four month class or there was a three month guy that I had in there.

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00:12:03,420 --> 00:12:15,700

Of course the guy that was the old guy

when I came in, so. You just kind of learn to figure out what a person's like, you know just like

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00:12:15,709 --> 00:12:25,760

going into a job. Then of course socializing we're allowed to drink at 18 back then, so we all... you have a bad

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00:12:25,760 --> 00:12:37,800

day call somebody you know this whatever, you go to the bar and meet them "hey I'll buy you a drink just kind of smooth everything out over the [inaudible] club and you just kind of...

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00:12:37,800 --> 00:12:38,820

Is this after basic?

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00:12:38,820 --> 00:12:55,200

No yeah, it was after basic. And for basic you just shut-up and do what you're supposed to do and hope that it wasn't your day for the T.I. to yell at you. For me, tech school was like living with my brothers.

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00:12:55,209 --> 00:13:03,029

Right. Okay, so let's talk about your wartime service. Where did you serve?

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00:13:03,029 --> 00:13:24,100

in the AOR I was in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. I was assigned to the 5th combat com, working for the RSAF force on the Air Force command and

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00:13:24,100 --> 00:13:36,600

we were, it was RSAF building and then there was our antenna farm and then there was out little building that was just probably 400 years old

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00:13:36,600 --> 00:13:41,820

I mean it was old, it was really dilapidated and that's where we worked out of.

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00:13:41,820 --> 00:13:55,100

Where we lived at was way outside of Riyadh. It was actually built by the king

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00:13:55,110 --> 00:14:04,389
for their nomad tribes and they really liked until they found out they
couldn't their animals into the buildings. So the nomads said

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00:14:04,389 --> 00:14:06,839

"well thanks but no thanks"

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00:14:06,839 --> 00:14:16,339
and so they sat empty for a few years until
you know Kuwait got taken over. They put us up in there

119
00:14:16,339 --> 00:14:27,699
we had to shovel out sand and the civil engineer guys came in and made
sure all the wiring was good and I got the pump started

120
00:14:27,699 --> 00:14:35,110
so we could get water. So it was quite a feat
to see this place go from being

121
00:14:35,110 --> 00:14:41,110
literally sand covered buildings to
places that we can all be in.

122
00:14:41,120 --> 00:14:48,420
Alright, okay. So you were kind of going into one of your stories
there, but

123
00:14:48,420 --> 00:14:48,940
Sorry [laughing]

124
00:14:48,940 --> 00:14:54,580
It's alright, I was here listening. So when you were, you know...

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00:14:54,580 --> 00:14:59,140
let's talk about some memorable
experiences that you have from that from

126
00:14:59,150 --> 00:15:03,350
that time you spent, was strictly Saudi
Arabia for the Gulf War?

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00:15:03,350 --> 00:15:06,860
No I did, while I was it there, they sent me to

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00:15:06,860 --> 00:15:17,720
Qatar, the city of Doha. We had a flight line that was getting some interference and I worked with JEWC: Joint Electronic Warfare Center

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00:15:17,720 --> 00:15:34,250
and had their equipment and went down and had to check it all out and found out what the problem was and then I did my report and then they took care of it. But most of my time was

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00:15:34,250 --> 00:15:44,410
spent in Saudi. I did Riyadh and we drove all over. If there was a problem with any of the... because I did frequency management at

131
00:15:44,410 --> 00:15:50,060
the time and if the units were having problems, we would

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00:15:50,060 --> 00:15:54,460
coordinate with them and have the awacs planes see if they could triangulate

133
00:15:54,460 --> 00:16:03,390
the interference. You know, sometimes it was as simple as somebody's house had an antenna that was

134
00:16:03,390 --> 00:16:14,380
not grounded and you know, they could have been HAM operators or TV and they just have junk antennas and it would cause interference.

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00:16:14,380 --> 00:16:33,770
And then there was other times that you know, it wasn't and we would have to give our report and gave it to the right people and there wasn't anymore interference. So we had acquired quite a few... once the air war actually started,

136
00:16:33,770 --> 00:16:44,580
it was during Desert Shield. It was a lot of just random interference: radio stations, TV stations. Our antennas were too close to

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00:16:44,580 --> 00:16:51,630
civilian antennas, you that kind of stuff. And then once the air war
picked up, then we started getting

138
00:16:51,630 --> 00:17:06,860
intrusion and jamming. That's when it was probably the coolest part of
being a frequency manager. Typically it's a peacetime... you just say
okay you can use

139
00:17:06,870 --> 00:17:13,900
this frequency for your unit on this
base and you're going to go TDY, well you

140
00:17:13,900 --> 00:17:21,530
have to change your frequency to this after I call them to make sure
it's okay. But to see in real world,

141
00:17:21,530 --> 00:17:32,720
real-time application of hey, there's this jamming, there's this
intrusion, these are the things that we talk about that you don't
really see and

142
00:17:32,720 --> 00:17:41,270
then to actually see them and then to go "okay what was I supposed to
do?" and you start doing all the stuff that you trained for

143
00:17:41,270 --> 00:17:48,380
that you never thought you would do. It just kind of comes to you and
they called me MIJI man:

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00:17:48,380 --> 00:17:50,800
M-I-J-I, Making Intrusion Jamming Interference

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00:17:50,800 --> 00:18:01,120
And because I got all the reports and then I coordinated with a AWACS
and other units that were in that same area to

146
00:18:01,120 --> 00:18:10,830
see if they were getting it too. So I just
kind of got that little moniker, because I got all stacks of paperwork
that had to

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00:18:10,830 --> 00:18:16,410
go through and go "well that's junk and that's junk oh" It was pretty cool.

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00:18:16,410 --> 00:18:21,260
Okay, so you enjoyed doing that, you're deployment?

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00:18:21,260 --> 00:18:31,860
Yeah, it was that old saying it was the worst of times, it was the best of times and it's the worst possible thing

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00:18:31,870 --> 00:18:44,780
that you could be in you know, but at the same time it really shows what you are capable of doing and to know that the guy that was 112 pounds when he went in to the military

151
00:18:44,780 --> 00:18:52,300
was carrying a weapon and worrying about missiles coming in

152
00:18:52,300 --> 00:19:07,560
and actually watching missiles come in at him. To go from that 17 year old kid to that man at that point of my life was for me was really something. It made me feel like I had

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00:19:07,560 --> 00:19:14,600
hit that point in your life, you know this is the best that I can be at this point in time.

154
00:19:14,600 --> 00:19:26,700
Yeah, what... that's really good, that piece right there, but what year was this when you were over in Saudi?

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00:19:26,700 --> 00:19:30,820
Oh god when was it? '90?

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00:19:30,820 --> 00:19:33,420
Not many years to choose from for this.

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00:19:33,420 --> 00:19:41,440
Yeah it was... We did Desert Shield and I was there for three months of Desert Shield and three months of the air and the ground war.

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00:19:41,440 --> 00:20:00,159

So it would have been what, October '90 to March of '91? So we did build up, January started the air war

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00:20:00,159 --> 00:20:17,580

and then the day after they seized hostilities, my father in-law died and my wife at the time

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00:20:17,580 --> 00:20:23,049

freaked out and called Red Cross and Red Cross pulled me home for emergency.

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00:20:23,049 --> 00:20:29,049

Otherwise I would have spent probably another 4 or 5 weeks , a couple months there.

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00:20:29,049 --> 00:20:30,669

Yeah, just closing up.

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00:20:30,669 --> 00:20:31,260

Yeah.

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00:20:31,260 --> 00:20:33,200

Is that what your buddies did that you were there with?

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00:20:33,200 --> 00:20:39,080

Well they were there for a long time actually. Some of them were there for like six or seven more months.

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00:20:39,080 --> 00:20:41,100

Oh wow, for what?

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00:20:41,100 --> 00:20:46,960

Well we had the... we established bases over there so they were part of the setup crews,

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00:20:46,960 --> 00:20:56,080

taken the tent cities and turning them into the bases that were over there and the fifth combat com,

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00:20:56,080 --> 00:21:02,940

which I had been TDY 2 in previous, the ones who called me over, they rotated

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00:21:02,950 --> 00:21:13,050

in and out of there for probably a year I guess.

just to keep communications up, because we were doing at the time, we were doing HM still,

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00:21:13,050 --> 00:21:22,239

satellite, and then we doing trouble scatter, which I don't even know if they do that anymore, but we had reliability rates

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00:21:22,239 --> 00:21:44,570

for the trouble scatter, 98% which is unheard of. But you've got solid air you know that really never changes and you've got, you're in the desert so there's not a lot getting in the way, so it was

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00:21:44,570 --> 00:22:00,210

pretty labor intensive keeping it all up. You know, power fluctuations were the biggest problem. So there job was to make sure everything was running up until you got the solid, you know here's your base.

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00:22:00,210 --> 00:22:09,200

An you've got solid satellite communications the whole time, radio, telephone, all that. So when I was out, I was like "peace, I'm out".
[laughing]

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00:22:09,200 --> 00:22:21,179

I understand that. [laughing] So did you, you said you, did you witnessed missiles coming in and things like that, is there any other combat experience that you had. When I was in

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00:22:21,180 --> 00:22:37,419

Turkey, well when I was in Saudi, when I was in Qatar, we had scuds launched, so we had to scramble for those, which was really bazaar because they weren't even aimed at them.

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00:22:37,419 --> 00:22:48,480

They didn't know at the time when they picked up the launches. In Riyadh we got the all the time. We had one that

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00:22:48,480 --> 00:22:59,039

was aimed at the RSAF. We figured it was just, they were kind of point and shoot and they went there. Well the airport battery actually took it

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00:22:59,039 --> 00:23:03,440

out over top of us. We had gotten locked out of the bunkers so we were scrambling for

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00:23:03,440 --> 00:23:12,179

places to go. We heard the patriots go off and we heard the explosion and smoke, gas what ever fall into

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00:23:12,179 --> 00:23:15,269

the sky. I was in a

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00:23:15,269 --> 00:23:20,519

station in Turkey right after that, a guy was killed by a car bomb

183

00:23:20,519 --> 00:23:27,739

just like a block and a half from where we lived at. So that was... I remember that one.

184

00:23:27,739 --> 00:23:38,339

Yeah, so what was that like for you? You know, witnessing this and obviously you know, your friend died from something like that, was it like for you?

185

00:23:38,340 --> 00:23:44,300

The scuds were one thing. That was part of

186

00:23:44,309 --> 00:23:54,789

being at war, you know. It's what you signed up for sale. The thing in Turkey with him dying was just a random act.

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00:23:54,789 --> 00:24:03,259

I mean, we were told when we got there to always vary our routine. Don't go out in public in your uniform,

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00:24:03,259 --> 00:24:15,299

don't put Christmas trees up, don't put Halloween decorations up,
always check your car for you get in and

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00:24:15,299 --> 00:24:31,319

you know you do it, but you don't really, you know whatever. And I
guess he had made a routine. We vaired from 4 in the morning to 9 in
the morning

190

00:24:31,330 --> 00:24:43,410

going to work. So your off time varies along with it and we always
took a cab. We didn't have a car over there. SO he must have

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00:24:43,410 --> 00:25:01,480

gotten somebody's attention somehow and
he started his car and it was wired to the ignition so he died and
the explosion...

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00:25:01,480 --> 00:25:10,119

explosive material was under the seat, under the car in the car and
his wife was sitting next him and

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00:25:10,119 --> 00:25:35,690

so she took a brunt of the blast too but he had so many shrapnel
wounds, he died at the scene. It was kind of a holy shit thing. It was
not like war. I mean this was a guy that was just going to work, you
know.

194

00:25:35,690 --> 00:25:40,760

He was just doing what we all did everyday and

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00:25:40,760 --> 00:25:56,640

he was gone. We heard the boom you, we didn't think anything about it
because in Agra where I was stationed at, there was construction
everywhere. So there was always booms and

196

00:25:56,640 --> 00:26:07,330

bangs and clangs. We didn't think anything about it. I got into work
and I'd been at work twenty minutes and they told us that he'd been
killed and

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00:26:07,330 --> 00:26:22,050

It was just numbing. I mean, I knew people that had died when the Army
barracks got bombed in Saudi, I knew people, but it was different.

198

00:26:22,050 --> 00:26:30,810

It was, you know... and you're like "oh shit", but it's war, right?
Here's a guy that was just going to work.

199

00:26:30,810 --> 00:26:33,270

What were you in Turkey for?

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00:26:33,270 --> 00:26:48,460

I was the United States-Turkish logistics radio frequency manager. So every military air force frequency that was used by the United States Air Force went

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00:26:48,460 --> 00:27:10,970

across my desk. I either reviewed it or asked for new ones. I provided frequencies for... provided comfort when we were doing it for the Turkish immigrants coming up from Iraq or the Iraqi immigrants coming up into Turkey. I did ASAF communication for them

202

00:27:10,970 --> 00:27:17,850

anytime the a new unit was being deployed into Turkey. I had to check on my Turkish counterpart to see

203

00:27:17,850 --> 00:27:28,640

if it was okay to use those frequencies. I was there to make sure that we didn't step on there toes and got to work

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00:27:28,640 --> 00:27:32,120

with the Turks, which was kind of different.

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00:27:32,120 --> 00:27:40,300

My counterpart was a Kernel and I was a Staff Sergeant and he always saluted me before

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00:27:40,300 --> 00:27:49,740

Before I saw him, he would come in and salute. "Colonel, how are you doing?' You know, so it was interesting to see that

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00:27:49,750 --> 00:27:56,059

everything that technical was an officer when I was there. If you needed your phone

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00:27:56,059 --> 00:28:12,929

fixed this captain showed up you know, to work on the phone system. I would go over and visit the Turkish base in Aqra and all these guys that are actually doing the work are officers

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00:28:12,929 --> 00:28:26,811

and all the enlisted guys are driving cars or guarding the gate or you know. So it was kind of a weird culture clash I guess. So it was different.

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00:28:26,811 --> 00:28:28,671

Yeah.

211

00:28:28,671 --> 00:28:30,691

And hot. [laughing]

212

00:28:30,700 --> 00:28:38,940

Yeah I believe that. So what about friendships and camaraderie you made, not just in Saudi, but

213

00:28:38,950 --> 00:28:42,740

you know when you are in Turkey or just just being away from you know your

214

00:28:42,740 --> 00:28:48,140

natural environment, your family, and stuff like that. What kind of camaraderie and fellowships did you make?

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00:28:48,140 --> 00:28:53,160

I've got two friends. Both of them from when I was

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00:28:53,160 --> 00:29:07,220

stationed in Germany. Gosh, when was that? '85. We met in our NATO tech school and one was my roommate and the other was just in my class.

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00:29:07,220 --> 00:29:25,920

We're still friends today. I mean we talk every couple months. Another kid that I was stationed with at Chanute, we talk on the phone. He's actually a

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00:29:25,920 --> 00:29:34,200

nurse practitioner and this is a guy that you would have never thought would be anything but an admin guy. So it was

219

00:29:34,200 --> 00:29:40,400

kind of cool to see him. There was a staff sergeant that I was stationed that we're Facebook friends

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00:29:40,400 --> 00:29:51,610

you know and that's mainly just sending the goofy stuff back and forth. As far as people that I was in

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00:29:51,610 --> 00:30:02,820

Turkey with or Saudi with, it's like Facebook friends you know. Like, "oh I know them" "here's something funny, here's something funny".

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00:30:02,820 --> 00:30:13,179

Not a lot that way, but the people that I lived with at the bases, I'm friends with. My original NCOIC

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00:30:13,179 --> 00:30:20,299

from California, last year he passed away

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00:30:20,299 --> 00:30:37,659

and his wife sent me the information to let me know. So there's some that I keep up with. Saudi was just a bore at times, you know.

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00:30:37,660 --> 00:30:47,480

We had three people who did my job and we had three shifts and if you did your mid shift you worked six hours with the

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00:30:47,490 --> 00:30:56,500

morning guy, six hours with the afternoon guy and that was just always rotating and the

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00:30:56,500 --> 00:31:05,669

guys that we hung out with in the barracks that we had built, they weren't in my unit. They were guys that

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00:31:05,669 --> 00:31:13,149
got shoved into the building. So it was like, I have no idea where they all went to.

229
00:31:13,149 --> 00:31:20,180
Okay, well how did you stay in touch with family when you were in Saudi?

230
00:31:20,180 --> 00:31:38,260
Well they had phone calls. They had just - AT&T I guess - set up LAN lines to all the buildings through the military base, through the military switch and we could talk to them on the phone.

231
00:31:38,260 --> 00:31:44,880
And everybody talked about 10-15 minutes a day if they could, you know if they were off.

232
00:31:44,880 --> 00:31:54,060
A lot of letter writing. There was a gentleman that got any soldier mail that they sorted up

233
00:31:54,070 --> 00:31:59,090
back then. "Here everybody take a letter" you know.

234
00:31:59,090 --> 00:32:11,470
These people are wishing you well. You took a letter and "oh wow" you replied to it. Never met a guy. He lived in Texas and I would get a mail from him like

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00:32:11,470 --> 00:32:12,540
once a week.

236
00:32:12,540 --> 00:32:20,350
Family usually once a day. There would be days when I guess the mail would pile up and we would get it

237
00:32:20,350 --> 00:32:37,520
all once. It was usually, the majority of it was through the mail. The internet was not a thing, you know. The internet we had was a military. You know, now days

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00:32:37,520 --> 00:32:44,110

guys get on their phones and they can text from anywhere in the world, you know. We didn't have that.

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00:32:44,110 --> 00:32:56,330

We had you know, "I hope I get a letter today". Yeah [laughing]. It was a lot different than it is today. I mean people are able to stay in touch better now.

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00:32:56,330 --> 00:33:04,210

Okay, what about besides you know, making phones calls or writing letters, what else did you do in your off time for recreation.

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00:33:04,210 --> 00:33:08,310

I read a lot. We had...

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00:33:08,310 --> 00:33:22,020

People would donate books in just tons and tons of boxes and what was that name? The Destroyer Remo Williams. I probably read 10 or

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00:33:22,020 --> 00:33:41,919

15 of his books. [laughing] Learned how to make moonshine [laughing], which was not good. We had the AFRTS radio which was a box about big as this room and they had

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00:33:41,919 --> 00:33:44,940

probably 15 cassettes and

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00:33:44,940 --> 00:33:51,590

they played over and over and over. So a bunch of people said "hey, why don't we write

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00:33:51,590 --> 00:33:57,860

home and have them send us cassettes" you know, because you can only play the same songs so many times

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00:33:57,860 --> 00:34:09,300

before you go "I'm done, I can't do this anymore". Granted it was a low power radio. It was just enough to cover the compound, but still your like "come on man, something different",

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00:34:09,300 --> 00:34:16,380

because if they would play this song, then you knew what the next song was. So one of the guys organized to get some

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00:34:16,390 --> 00:34:32,870

cassettes. So we all wrote home and we brought this big box of just music to "here something different, just pick anything" you know. [laughing] And slept when you could.

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00:34:32,870 --> 00:34:46,460

That was usually a big thing. You go, they had a BX is what they called it, but it was basically stuff that the AV sent

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00:34:46,460 --> 00:34:58,700

and they had it in a room in the building and you just went in and it was all cash. Here's toothpaste for a quarter,

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00:34:58,700 --> 00:35:05,330

you know. Here's deodorant for a dollar. There was nothing really established until

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00:35:05,330 --> 00:35:11,620

probably four months in and then they started getting the actual "hey were going to be

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00:35:11,620 --> 00:35:20,400

here for a while". So they started bringing in the BX stuff and you could actually get like a twinkie you know or like a doughnut.

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00:35:20,400 --> 00:35:32,650

They brought in people for haircuts, the Filipinos. Best haircut I ever had in my life. The guy did it all scissors and he gave a head massage, a neck massage and the head

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00:35:32,650 --> 00:35:34,930

massage about put me asleep

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00:35:34,930 --> 00:35:44,450

and you know, guys who hadn't had a haircut in three months are going this is awesome and he's charging like 5 bucks and we're like

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00:35:44,450 --> 00:35:55,700

Hey a massage here, here's 10, just keep doing the massage part, I'll be fine. So if you weren't walking around doing that, listening to the

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00:35:55,700 --> 00:36:11,200

radio, or sitting outside and catching the sun, you were sleeping or reading. You know, you got a day off out of every six or seven days, you worked six and got one off and you worked twelve on and twelve off.

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00:36:11,200 --> 00:36:28,099

So it was a lot of sleep, it was catching up. Now the night that the air war started, I didn't see sleep for four days, I mean yeah there was this, but nobody went home, we were all

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00:36:28,099 --> 00:36:34,099

there, all at once and we just put out fires as they came along and

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00:36:34,099 --> 00:36:48,279

about the third day you start seeing some really... "did you see that?". There was nothing there, but it was like "really did you see that? I swear there was somebody standing right there". [laughing].

263

00:36:48,280 --> 00:36:54,280

Yeah, read, sleep, listen to music, stuff like that, yeah.

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00:36:54,280 --> 00:37:06,140

Okay, you said the day the war, the conflict was technically over was the day that you got called home, right?

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00:37:06,140 --> 00:37:20,940

Well the day after. When they said the hostility ceased, my father in-law passed away like two hours later and they called my ex-wife.

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00:37:20,940 --> 00:37:44,180

She kind of freaked out for about 12 hours, didn't know what to do, called the first sergeant and the first sergeant said "well call up the red cross so you can get him home". Kind of an iffy situation, but it was possible.

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00:37:44,180 --> 00:37:55,479

So the next day I got the phone call through the red cross, through their military switchboard and found out that he

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00:37:55,479 --> 00:38:07,859
had passed away and major said "well we
can let you go" he said "hostility is done".

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00:38:07,860 --> 00:38:16,920
so she gave the okay, Major Green form the 5th combat com. So I
started doing paperwork which was really

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00:38:16,920 --> 00:38:31,100
turn my mop Gary in and signing over my rifle and pistol. My room,
somebody sent me a dartboard, I don't remember who it was

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00:38:31,100 --> 00:38:42,620
I'm like "here keep it the house, you guys have fun with it, I'm out
of here". And I went, I had to get the final okay and I thought it was
from Major Green, well she was

272

00:38:42,630 --> 00:39:00,150
was home sleeping and it was the Colonle and he's like "I'm really not
okay with you leaving". I go "oh crap". so I'm like "well it's your
call, I mean you're the guy in charge".

273

00:39:00,150 --> 00:39:09,670
And he says "well you've already go all your stuff packed and you got
everything else done" he says I might as well send you home". "Just
have a good flight be careful". "Okay cool"

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00:39:09,670 --> 00:39:21,660
So I went to the airport in Riyadh and we flew to Dhahran and then we
picked up five or six guys that were literally off the field.

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00:39:21,660 --> 00:39:27,960
I mean they still had their gear on and they were walking in and they
were all going home for emergencies too.

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00:39:27,960 --> 00:39:47,920
And we flew form here to... Was it Spain or Germany first? We were in
a 141. Yeah I guess we landed in Ramstein,

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00:39:47,920 --> 00:39:54,580
because the heater was not working. So we were all very very close and
we all had our blankets out and

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00:39:54,580 --> 00:40:04,080

you know, we were like really close together sharing heat. Then we got... I think it was Ramstein and see we

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00:40:04,080 --> 00:40:13,300

changed planes there and then flew to McGuire and then from there they gave us all

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00:40:13,300 --> 00:40:29,800

individual domestic flights. It was too days in the air I guess. It was like three days after the air war started, I was back in Dayton.

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00:40:29,800 --> 00:40:33,460

So when you guys found out, you know they said conflicts had ceased, were you guys excited?

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00:40:33,460 --> 00:40:49,540

We weren't..... Sure. It wasn't like everything you see for the earlier conflicts. You know, there was a lot of hoopla.

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00:40:49,540 --> 00:41:04,599

This was just like they're done, you know. It was like are they done done or are they just saying they're done waiting to see what we do? So we were all excited and we were like "yeah" but

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00:41:04,599 --> 00:41:20,779

then there was that kind of a sneaky bastard, so we're not sure if he's done. So we were a little trepidicious, you know, worried about it.

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00:41:20,779 --> 00:41:25,419

Well so you flew home by plane, how were you received by your family?

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00:41:25,419 --> 00:41:49,339

Real well. They were all happy to see me. Of course the wife was ecstatic, my mom was really happy, and my dad was like really proud. Move on.

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00:41:49,340 --> 00:41:57,720

Okay. So you get back home, how long before you went to Turkey?

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00:41:57,720 --> 00:42:09,360

Let's see, I was home two weeks in Dayton and I went back to Vegas, went to Dallas and then we got here on Friday

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00:42:09,360 --> 00:42:14,480

and then they said "hey you're back, the base commander authorizes a two week leave".

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00:42:14,480 --> 00:42:22,920

Awesome. So here me now, I've got a month off now and then the next Monday I get a phone call.

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00:42:22,920 --> 00:42:34,320

"Hey you've got orders". "Cool, where am I going?" "Turkey". I'm like "ha ha ha that's funny, where am I going?" "You're going to Turkey". I'm like "no, I'm not going to Turkey". I said "you've got to be kidding me".

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00:42:34,320 --> 00:42:42,540

So I went to sign up for the orders and I went from there over to the base chaplain and talked to him, I said "you got to

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00:42:42,550 --> 00:42:46,119

get me out of this there's no way I could go to this These people were just trying

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00:42:46,119 --> 00:42:50,730

to kill me, there's no way I can go back over there". So he set me up an appointment with

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00:42:50,730 --> 00:43:01,260

a psychologists. So I talked to him and I told him you know, "this can't, I can't do this, there's no way". He's like "well, what do you mean?" I'm like "if I was to

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00:43:01,260 --> 00:43:08,480

walk out the door right now and I saw one, I would hit him with a car". I said "you can't send me there".

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00:43:08,480 --> 00:43:18,220

"Oh you just need to get over it, you'll be fine". So he put fit for duty. So awesome. Then I go for my initial out brief.

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00:43:18,230 --> 00:43:28,600

These are things you need to do before you go. They said "well you usually get six months, you have ninety days".

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00:43:28,600 --> 00:43:38,820

I'm like, "wait a minute, not only are you leave, you're telling me I have got three months to get everything ready to go over there?"
Awesome.

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00:43:38,820 --> 00:43:46,320

So my initial interview turned into here's your checklist of stuff you've got to get down and here's the

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00:43:46,320 --> 00:43:54,990

checklist of stuff your wife's got to get done. Here's a girl that's never been out of the states that got to go

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00:43:54,990 --> 00:44:02,680

and get a passport and she's got to get her shots and all her stuff and then I've got to do all my stuff.

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00:44:02,680 --> 00:44:06,880

That's supposed to take you know, four or five months to do

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00:44:06,880 --> 00:44:12,420

compressed into three months and still work at the same time and deal with the fact

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00:44:12,420 --> 00:44:22,760

that, okay how are you guys all sending me over here on top of all that? So it was a real

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00:44:22,760 --> 00:44:31,500

rough time. Trying to cope with the fact that I still had to go over there. I kind of felt betrayed.

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00:44:31,500 --> 00:44:33,540

Well how long were you in Turkey?

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00:44:33,540 --> 00:44:41,460

I got nine months, I was supposed to be there for two years. Clinton had just taken office and did the early outs.

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00:44:41,460 --> 00:44:42,140

Oh okay.

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00:44:42,140 --> 00:44:47,350

And I was like you know, a guy in my unit was killed by a

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00:44:47,350 --> 00:45:05,270

car bomb, our Air Force OSI is giving briefings on - since it was headquarters - getting briefings of we're watched for possible attack on the base. Because Ankara is,

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00:45:05,270 --> 00:45:13,420

I think it's like a mile around. maybe a half a mile. It's not very big. Ankara Air Base is a tiny little

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00:45:13,430 --> 00:45:23,150

place. They're telling us that there's possible terrorist attacks. To do everything I was talking about before: varying

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00:45:23,150 --> 00:45:32,220

your schedule and everything, to a here's a town hall meeting of everybody who's on the base: spouses, kids,

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00:45:32,220 --> 00:45:44,580

civilians, everybody. There's like 450 people in the theater and here's the OSI guy going "hey we just wanted to let you all know that we just stopped

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00:45:44,580 --> 00:45:57,440

last night, a terrorist attack on the base.

We caught 50 or 60 guys that were with the -- was it the Turkish Red Army or just the Red Army? I can't remember --

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00:45:57,440 --> 00:46:11,240

But it's a terrorist organization that's in Turkey and overseas and like all of the Mediterranean places. They had RPGs, they had an armored vehicle, they had

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00:46:11,240 --> 00:46:22,690

AK-47s, they had M-16s, they had rocket launchers and we're going "holy crap". You know between the Turkish Army, the American Army, and

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00:46:22,690 --> 00:46:28,310

the Air Force OSI and the Turkish Police they caught these guys early, hours before

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00:46:28,310 --> 00:46:44,690

they struck. So here I am going "oh you've got to be kidding me, I've got" you know "another year and a half of this" and the ex-wife just didn't get it know, it's like you've got to be quiet and you've got to try to blend in

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00:46:44,700 --> 00:46:55,720

with the people and I bring her out the states and it's like "oh my god this is awesome" "no, no, ssshhh be quiet. You're going to get me killed." So when he came up and said, hey you know

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00:46:55,720 --> 00:47:11,740

we'll give you \$2,000 for every year that you've been in, you've got me in this long and you've got to be in one of these emphases. I was like "well I'll apply". So there was two people in my career field

323

00:47:11,740 --> 00:47:16,170

allowed to get out, myself and

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00:47:16,170 --> 00:47:28,410

a guy who's station was in Las Vegas. He got out. I did the hundred and eighty days, whatever the

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00:47:28,410 --> 00:47:32,580

shortest amount of time was that you were... from the day they said okay to the time

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00:47:32,580 --> 00:47:34,940

that you could get out, I took the shortest amount of time,

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00:47:34,940 --> 00:47:38,940

because I was like there's no way that you guys are going to get a second chance to kill me.

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00:47:38,940 --> 00:47:39,480

Yeah?

329

00:47:39,480 --> 00:47:46,000

You know, here's you kill a guy in my unit that I knew and this guy's telling me that you stopped a terrorist attack?

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00:47:46,010 --> 00:47:55,170

Okay that's... I'm not giving you guys another chance, I've got get out of here. So I look back at it

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00:47:55,170 --> 00:48:03,079

and it was like, it was not that bad. I would like to go back to Turkey and look

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00:48:03,079 --> 00:48:07,670

at the stuff that I saw, but didn't appreciate it did appreciate when I was there, because I was

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00:48:07,670 --> 00:48:13,750

literally freaking out the entire time. Does that make any sense?

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00:48:13,750 --> 00:48:14,650

No, no, I get what you're saying.

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00:48:14,650 --> 00:48:15,400

I just kind of rambled there.

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00:48:15,400 --> 00:48:24,800

No, no, you're good , that was great. So you got out after your hundred and eighty days or whatever, then what did you do?

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00:48:24,800 --> 00:48:27,300

Cam back to Ohio

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00:48:27,300 --> 00:48:28,520

Which part?

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00:48:28,520 --> 00:48:30,740

Here in Dayton.

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00:48:30,740 --> 00:48:32,240
Were you stationed at Wright-Pat at anytime?

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00:48:32,240 --> 00:48:33,000
No, not at all.

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00:48:33,000 --> 00:48:33,880
So you're from Dayton?

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00:48:33,880 --> 00:48:46,580
Yeah I'm from Dayton. Wright-Pat is where you come to bring your career to an end. [laughing] Yeah, I was stationed at 7 bases in 10 years. So back in the 80's you

344
00:48:46,580 --> 00:48:54,260
didn't get comfortable. [laughing] Wherever they needed you, they sent you. But here, when I got home I, didn't have a job. I figured I should be able to get

345
00:48:54,270 --> 00:49:02,829
something. I did electronics for all the time
I was in military, I did computers. I actually got

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00:49:02,829 --> 00:49:21,079
hired by a company that was a contractor out here at the base and I did wiring for -- it was field service enhancement team. The internet was just coming

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00:49:21,079 --> 00:49:33,900
out and they were trying to wire everybody up. So we ran coaxial cable CAT 3, CAT 5, CAT 5, CAT 5E fiber to the desktops.

348
00:49:33,900 --> 00:49:42,140
Anything that they needed to wire in computers on the base, we did. There was probably

349
00:49:42,140 --> 00:49:49,920
three buildings that I hadn't been in on the base at the time. We did new construction, we did old construction, we pulled out old stuff,

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00:49:49,920 --> 00:49:56,860

put in new stuff, pulled the new stuff out, put in newer stuff. You know how it is in the military,

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00:49:56,860 --> 00:50:05,980

they have a cubicle farm and they get a new NCOIC and they're like "well we're going to change this all round". So we would go in with the furniture

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00:50:05,980 --> 00:50:08,360

guys as they were rearranging the cubes,

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00:50:08,360 --> 00:50:14,660

we would pull our cable out and then get everything set and then we have to rewire everything in.

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00:50:14,660 --> 00:50:25,920

We did servers, we did routers. Anything and everything. We designed, installed, maintained computer systems.

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00:50:25,920 --> 00:50:37,160

I did that for seven years and then there was a layoff. January 2nd, 2000. Welcome to the new Millennium, by the way you're fired.

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00:50:37,160 --> 00:50:46,960

Well you're not fired, just laid off. The ten man team they laid seven of us off. And then I discovered the wonderful world of retail.
[laughing]

357

00:50:46,960 --> 00:50:53,220

So that was the welcome to the new Millennium, hears a pay cut.
[laughing]

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00:50:53,220 --> 00:50:55,060

So did you ever get back into that field?

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00:50:55,060 --> 00:51:04,020

I dabbled in it little bit, but there was so much politics within the company,

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00:51:04,030 --> 00:51:12,980

they had lost the contract for what I did and another company took over and it was

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00:51:12,980 --> 00:51:18,120

just a really bizarre. I mean it was all these hoops to try to jump through to get back into doing

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00:51:18,120 --> 00:51:23,320

what I was doing and then they had a completely different company do it

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00:51:23,320 --> 00:51:29,070

and they tried having the civil engineer guys do it.

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00:51:29,070 --> 00:51:38,280

These guys don't know what a computer cable is table is. They'd pull an electrical cable so they tried pulling it like you pull electrical cable and that it didn't work. SO they

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00:51:38,280 --> 00:51:50,120

went back to you a private company and I never got back into it. I just started focusing on other things.

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00:51:50,120 --> 00:51:53,040

So now you're going to school for..?

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00:51:53,040 --> 00:51:55,680

Rehabilitation services.

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00:51:55,680 --> 00:52:01,720

I'm hoping to get through it and I get my Masters in Counseling.

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00:52:01,720 --> 00:52:03,280

And you're going on the GI bill right now?

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00:52:03,280 --> 00:52:14,600

No, you only have ten years to use the GI bill after you get out and I wasn't told that when I got out. So yeah. my benefits went away.

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00:52:14,600 --> 00:52:15,740

So you don't have anything?

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00:52:15,740 --> 00:52:18,060

No, just FASFA student loans.

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00:52:18,060 --> 00:52:30,940

Wow yeah. I'm going to talk to you about that after we we're done. So you members of any veteran s organizations?

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00:52:30,940 --> 00:52:37,960

I'm a member of American Legion in Illinois. I lived there for like six months with my brother and I

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00:52:37,960 --> 00:52:47,200

was actually their a bartender. So I joined the legion. I'm a lifetime member of VFW in

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00:52:47,200 --> 00:52:58,869

Las Vegas. When we first got out, because at the time it was only the one and they said "hey we will pay your

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00:52:58,869 --> 00:53:11,550

lifetime membership, just call this your home". Awesome. So I have my card, VFW vet. In Vegas I renew it every year. It's pretty cool.
area

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00:53:11,550 --> 00:53:13,250

Okay.

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00:53:13,250 --> 00:53:16,420

And then of course, here at school, the vet center.

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00:53:16,420 --> 00:53:26,820

Alright, okay. How did your wartime -- we're going into reflections now -- how did your wartime experience affect your life?

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00:53:26,820 --> 00:53:37,880

Initially when I came back from war and I was still working at Nellus,

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00:53:37,890 --> 00:53:47,210

I had a really hard time having that sense of urgency that I had before I went over, because it was... we were...

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00:53:47,210 --> 00:53:55,740

did a lot of training: red flag, green flag. It was just hard for me to go, just not

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00:53:55,740 --> 00:54:00,099

feeling it you know. Is there anybody going to die or is anybody going to get bombed if I

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00:54:00,099 --> 00:54:18,450

don't do this? You guys are playing a game. I really don't have that sense of urgency. Then I went to Turkey and I was just on edge all the time. It was never relaxing. Then I got out doing got out and

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00:54:18,450 --> 00:54:35,730

I don't know it was kind of a let down. You know, it sounds petty, but it was like there's the parades and all this and that you know, for the guys coming back and stuff and it was like

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00:54:35,730 --> 00:54:48,390

those of who came back first didn't have that and not that big recognition. Now the local communities we were at were all very proud of us and very cool about it.

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00:54:48,390 --> 00:54:56,100

And I felt a little bitter seeing the big parades for all the guys and it was like this is really dumb, we all did the

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00:54:56,109 --> 00:55:07,050

same thing, you know. I'm happy they made it home too. So I kind of got over that. Then I started having flashbacks in the night and waking

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00:55:07,050 --> 00:55:17,370

up with dreams and just sometimes things come back when you're not expecting them to. Sometimes it's a little hard to get through it all.

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00:55:17,370 --> 00:55:26,290

Has that affected your, that you know, how you react to these things and how that affected you, has that made... you kind of

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00:55:26,290 --> 00:55:29,460

put you on the path for this rehabilitation services at all?

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00:55:29,460 --> 00:55:37,520

I think so. I was in... I'm a licensed massage therapist and when I was in school for that and

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00:55:37,530 --> 00:55:49,050

was doing our internship helping people, I actually kind of healed myself almost. T helped me feel calmer.

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00:55:49,050 --> 00:55:59,810

And then I was nursing program and like my grades weren't enough to keep me in the nursing program here at Wright State.

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00:55:59,810 --> 00:56:11,670

So I was kind of heading that way. And then they're like what else can I do that helps people, because I just want to help people.

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00:56:11,670 --> 00:56:19,000

And then they said there's this rehab. I'm like what is that? And they're like "you can do this, this, and this" and I'm like "oh cool".

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00:56:19,010 --> 00:56:31,510

And then I was talking to one of the instructors and said that I was a vet and had certain issues and they're like "have you gone to the VA?"

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00:56:31,510 --> 00:56:38,450

"Not in twenty years, because they didn't do a whole lot when I first got out". Well they said "you should go". So I went and I

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00:56:38,450 --> 00:56:46,910

checked it out and you know, they helped me out and they said "well if you're in rehab services, we could use your help. You can do

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00:56:46,910 --> 00:56:52,410

vocational rehabilitation where you find jobs for the guys that are just getting out

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00:56:52,410 --> 00:56:56,390
to try to transfer their life skills

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00:56:56,390 --> 00:57:09,279
or you could do regular rehab services
counseling". You've got to a Masters for that, but and I'm like that's
kind of cool." And in one of my classes we had to

404
00:57:09,279 --> 00:57:19,819
do an internship. Well I went to the VA to do the internship for a
week and I had a couples of those ahah moments when I was working with
a

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00:57:19,819 --> 00:57:36,280
couple of the guys an I'm this is what I'm should be doing. You know,
I had a guy that was just mad at the world and I understood that, you
know.

406
00:57:36,280 --> 00:57:50,019
And I helped him out and he was kind of like "oh maybe not all you
guys are jerks" you know. And I told him "have a good day" and I was
honest, really have a good day

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00:57:50,019 --> 00:57:59,419
you know, whatever your issues are, try to get through it. And he
looked at me kind of surprised and said "thanks I really appreciate
that".

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00:57:59,420 --> 00:58:08,780
It was like somebody hadn't told him that in a long time. And then
there was a vet form Vietnam that had been homeless

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00:58:08,780 --> 00:58:23,400
and they were helping him get
readjusted and get a job and never worked on a computer. And he was
just you know, they said to go work on the computer and here's this
guy going "what do I do?"

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00:58:23,400 --> 00:58:32,660
You know, so I was like "you're looking confused, what do you need?" I
said this is how you do it" I said
you do it

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00:58:32,660 --> 00:58:43,780

"what are you looking for?" I said "okay" and we just walked through it for like three hours and he typed his resume up and we got him set up on the job

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00:58:43,780 --> 00:58:50,890

section that they require him to go into and he applied for three like jobs and he's like "oh I've got to type

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00:58:50,890 --> 00:59:01,210

all that resume all over again?" I said "no" I said "just hit that button right there" and he clicked on it and I said "your resume just went to them". "I don't have to type that all over again?"

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00:59:01,210 --> 00:59:09,000

It was like magic, you know. He was 65-70, had been homeless for like 15-20 years

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00:59:09,000 --> 00:59:23,380

and it was that kind of... I don't know, the feeling for me was awesome, but to see the look on his face was even better. It was like this is what I need to do, you know.

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00:59:23,400 --> 00:59:28,740

that's so when I graduate, that's where I want to work at, that's what I want to do.

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00:59:28,740 --> 00:59:36,260

Okay. So what about, how has the military impacted your feeling

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00:59:36,270 --> 00:59:44,650

about you know, war, the conflicts we've been in, ones we're in now? Just kind of a short little what do you think about that?

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00:59:44,650 --> 00:59:51,420

Well, you know when we were doing against Iraq

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00:59:51,430 --> 01:00:05,140

again, it was like you know if we could of just taken the head of the serpent when we were there, but there was that political agenda that had to be followed.

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01:00:05,140 --> 01:00:14,060

So that was kind of a... it was frustrating but having seen the things in... the atrocities in Kuwait and

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01:00:14,070 --> 01:00:19,030

the stuff that was being done. Yeah we need to be there.

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01:00:19,030 --> 01:00:23,830

Second time, we need to be there but,

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01:00:23,830 --> 01:00:35,850

we could have done it differently. Currently with Afghanistan and all that, all I look back you know the Russians threw their entire military at the same

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01:00:35,850 --> 01:00:42,160

people for what, ten - fifteen years and didn't get anything and we did the exact same thing.

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01:00:42,160 --> 01:00:50,160

Granted, the technologies has gotten better and we've managed to pull a few more off, but you're going against a doctrine

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01:00:50,160 --> 01:00:59,520

that goes back thousands of years and these people are radicals. You can't kill an idea and that's the problem. You know you, you can kill the people,

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01:00:59,520 --> 01:01:05,440

but they've already infected how many others with their philosophy.

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01:01:05,440 --> 01:01:09,560

So it's going to be something that's just not

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01:01:09,560 --> 01:01:10,580

going to go away.

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01:01:10,580 --> 01:01:12,620

Yeah.

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01:01:12,620 --> 01:01:18,040
There's just there's too many of
them and there are now too may sympathizers

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01:01:18,050 --> 01:01:25,950
around the world including, America.
They're helping them. You're just not going to get rid of it. There's
just no way,

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01:01:25,950 --> 01:01:37,080
unless you start to think outside the
box. It's no longer... it really isn't just war at this point. You
know, you're fighting

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01:01:37,080 --> 01:01:41,700
a doctrine. You're fighting extremists
don't care and

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01:01:41,700 --> 01:01:51,480
I don't have the answer. I mean, I'd like to be able to say yeah we
should just kill everyone of them, but you can't. It's not like you

437
01:01:51,480 --> 01:01:57,920
have a defined, everybody above the 33rd
parallel is a bad guy. No it doesn't wok that way anymore.

438
01:01:57,920 --> 01:02:05,150
They're everywhere, you know. You never know if there's one down the
street from you. I mean you've got people that

439
01:02:05,150 --> 01:02:12,069
are integrated into society for years now and they're suddenly

440
01:02:12,069 --> 01:02:27,660
shooting people in Paris and blowing shit up here. It's not like...
It's not a conventional war. It is literally guerrilla terrorist war
that there's not going to an end to it.

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01:02:27,660 --> 01:02:36,440

Okay, well is there anything else, like any kind of message you would want to leave for anybody else viewing this or future generations? Any kind of message?

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01:02:36,440 --> 01:02:45,559

Yeah, if you go into the military, go in for the right reasons. Don't go in for education. I mean that's part of it, but go in because

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01:02:45,559 --> 01:02:49,119

your heart tells you to and that you're trying to make a difference in the world,

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01:02:49,119 --> 01:02:59,079

either for yourself, your family, your country. Don't just say "oh I'm just doing it for an education" and not

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01:02:59,079 --> 01:03:09,919

put your heart into, because if you go in your hero. You've done more than 90% of the country's already done. So be proud of that fact.

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01:03:09,920 --> 01:03:13,800

Well Floyd, thank you for your service and thank you for the interview.

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01:03:13,800 --> 01:03:15,800

Your welcome, thank you.