

1
00:00:01,340 --> 00:00:05,879
Okay, we're recording the interview of Sanchez Le'Flore.

2
00:00:05,879 --> 00:00:13,119
This interview is being conducted by David Morse and Jeniffer Seavey from Wright State University's Veterans Voices project.

3
00:00:13,120 --> 00:00:23,560
This interview is being recorded at his home in Franklin, Ohio. It is 2:40 p.m. on the 23rd of July of 2014.

4
00:00:23,560 --> 00:00:25,180
'16

5
00:00:25,180 --> 00:00:30,280
... of 2016 not '14. Old paperwork

6
00:00:30,280 --> 00:00:37,840
Okay, starting off, let's go ahead and just start off with when and where you were born?

7
00:00:37,840 --> 00:00:42,800
I was born August 4th, 1979 in Cleveland, Ohio.

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00:00:42,800 --> 00:00:49,820
Okay, alright and your parents, what were their occupation at the time?

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00:00:49,820 --> 00:00:51,960
At the time I wasn't born, so I really don't know.

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00:00:51,960 --> 00:00:59,850
[laughing] Okay, what were their occupations throughout your youth and growing up?

11
00:00:59,850 --> 00:01:05,740
My father was primarily active duty Navy. When he got out he did some jet engine work

12
00:01:05,740 --> 00:01:06,320
Okay.

13
00:01:06,330 --> 00:01:15,140
And my mom was a homemaker and she did some light construction work. I don't even know.

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00:01:15,140 --> 00:01:17,520

Okay, did you have any siblings?

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00:01:17,520 --> 00:01:25,260

[laughing] Yeah, a crapload. I have three older siblings, three little sisters and three little brothers.

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00:01:25,260 --> 00:01:28,360

Alright and did they ever serve?

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00:01:28,360 --> 00:01:29,920

One of them is in the Navy now.

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00:01:29,920 --> 00:01:36,160

Good, awesome and so what were you doing before you entered the service?

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00:01:36,160 --> 00:01:49,660

Before I entered the service, you know the usual. I did jobs, I did some data entry stuff, but it kind of sucked. So I wanted to do something different.

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00:01:49,660 --> 00:01:50,620

Right, okay.

21

00:01:50,620 --> 00:01:57,460

My father was Navy. I figured I could out do my old man, I'd go to Army, because the Air Force wouldn't take me.

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00:01:57,460 --> 00:02:05,540

Air Force wouldn't take you. So what kind of led you to the Army recruiters?

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00:02:05,540 --> 00:02:14,440

Well nothing really led me so much to the army recruiters as it led me to an Air Force recruiter who wouldn't take me.

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00:02:14,440 --> 00:02:15,180

Okay.

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00:02:15,180 --> 00:02:23,040

Then led me to a Navy recruiter. Well initially when I tried tot join the Navy I was 17, so I needed a waiver from my mom who was like

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00:02:23,049 --> 00:02:35,840

"no, it's not going to happen". So you know, I was like okay, put it off for a few years. You know, did jobs, worked here and there, nothing special.

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00:02:35,840 --> 00:02:44,920

Then when I decided to join I called a Navy recruiter. By that time things had kind of went a little shaky.

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00:02:44,920 --> 00:02:49,540

So when they asked "hey, have you ever done marijuana?" I was like "yeah" They were like "once or twice because you didn't like it, right?"

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00:02:49,540 --> 00:02:52,959

I was like "no, every day for years, all the time".

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00:02:52,959 --> 00:03:02,799

He was like "well sorry, we can't help you". The Army reciter's like "hey, we can get you a waiver". [laughing] I was like "okay".

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00:03:02,799 --> 00:03:09,799

That's great. So what time was this exactly, when you were talking to recruiters?

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00:03:09,800 --> 00:03:13,420

Oh it was about 2000, late 2000

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00:03:13,420 --> 00:03:16,160

Late 2000, okay. So this was before September 11th?

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00:03:16,160 --> 00:03:16,860

Oh yeah.

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00:03:16,860 --> 00:03:24,580

Okay wow, so where were you at exactly when 9/11 happened, the attacks of 9/11?

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00:03:24,580 --> 00:03:26,340

Oh, actually on 9/11?

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00:03:26,340 --> 00:03:26,840

Yeah.

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00:03:26,840 --> 00:03:28,650

Fort E. Lewis at a war fighter.

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00:03:28,650 --> 00:03:29,520

Wow.

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00:03:29,520 --> 00:03:32,100
Yeah, I was E1...

41
00:03:32,100 --> 00:03:33,380
Wow.

42
00:03:33,380 --> 00:03:40,380
...surrounded by a bunch of generals and majors who were panicking that morning. They were like "it's hit the fan, it's hit the fan!"

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00:03:40,380 --> 00:03:46,200
I'm just like, I'm pretty calm. I'm just like "what's your thoughts Brock?" "I'm screwed". [laughing]

44
00:03:46,200 --> 00:03:50,960
Like I wrap my head around it already. Like I'm the low man on the totem pole.

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00:03:50,960 --> 00:04:08,360
Right, yeah, wow. Okay, so as far as joining the service, what did your parents think or your siblings or anything like that, when you decided to join the Army?

46
00:04:08,360 --> 00:04:16,380
My mother wasn't a big fan of it, because it's "oh you're going to go get killed". I was just like "damn, really? That's what's going to happen, huh?"

47
00:04:16,380 --> 00:04:23,160
I get it enlisted, I get shot just that same day" and my siblings thought I was nuts.

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00:04:23,160 --> 00:04:26,240
"I don't know why you want to join the Army". "I don't know why you don't?"

49
00:04:26,240 --> 00:04:26,910
Right.

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00:04:26,910 --> 00:04:32,430
"Like, that's crazy" I'm like "crazy is doing the same thing as everybody else, getting same results".

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00:04:32,430 --> 00:04:41,370
We didn't live in the best neighborhood, so I was like "hmm, I don't know what will happen if I join the Army, but I know what will happen if I stay here".

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00:04:41,370 --> 00:04:45,810

I'm either going to go to jail or be broke, the same as everybody else. I'm like "eh".

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00:04:45,810 --> 00:04:57,330

My father was just...that's pretty much his exact words were: "don't fuck it up". [laughing] Okay.

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00:04:57,330 --> 00:05:10,080

So where did you grow up or I mean grow and join the military around that time? I mean you mentioned that you know, there was some feedback

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00:05:10,080 --> 00:05:23,180

as far as you didn't want to do the same thing and end up in jail or anything like that, so what what kind of neighborhood are you describing as far as where you came from?

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00:05:23,180 --> 00:05:28,140

I guess the politically correct term would be public housing, but it was the projects.

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00:05:28,140 --> 00:05:28,640

Okay.

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00:05:28,640 --> 00:05:34,840

Like kind of like the stuff you see on TV, but worse and more fun.

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00:05:34,840 --> 00:05:37,800

[laughing] And more fun.

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00:05:37,800 --> 00:05:38,700

Yeah.

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00:05:38,700 --> 00:05:40,760

I got you.

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00:05:40,760 --> 00:05:49,600

Like it was one of those neighborhoods where if somebody ran passed you you didn't ask why they were running, you just started running.

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00:05:49,600 --> 00:05:54,640

And then when you got to a point where you stopped, that's when you asked "why were you running?" [laughing]

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00:05:54,640 --> 00:06:05,060

And like you know, people who didn't grow up like that, like "that's crazy". No, because if you don't run you'll get shot or maybe just get or maybe you just get beat hell up

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00:06:05,060 --> 00:06:13,300

or you just have to be faster than the slowest guy or make a fast guy trip. [laughing] Like, sweet.

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00:06:13,300 --> 00:06:19,630

Wow. Alright, man, so it was a good decision then to join the Army?

67

00:06:19,630 --> 00:06:21,580

Oh yeah.

68

00:06:21,580 --> 00:06:31,720

Alright, so let's talk about after you join the Army, what was basic training or boot camp like?

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00:06:31,720 --> 00:06:35,320

[laughing]

70

00:06:35,320 --> 00:06:46,120

There is no way to describe how bad it sucked. I went to Fort Leonard Wood in the wintertime, it was like January, January 9th.

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00:06:46,120 --> 00:06:51,580

I remember, because it was my little sister's birthday. It was as cold as crap. It was like 10 degrees.

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00:06:51,580 --> 00:07:01,220

I mean I'm from Cleveland, I'm used to cold, but it was different. It was like the cold was hungry and it was taking bite out of you and

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00:07:01,220 --> 00:07:09,980

pretty much our whole time there sucked. I'm in a bay for the guys and for some unknown reason we were like the only all-male unit there.

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00:07:09,980 --> 00:07:13,840

I guess they we're trying something new. I guess it didn't work, because everybody else had chicks.

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00:07:13,840 --> 00:07:14,720

[laughing]

76

00:07:14,720 --> 00:07:28,120

And it's different because you're meeting people from everywhere and this is like my my first time and like some people never people of other races

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00:07:28,120 --> 00:07:34,020

or you know, some people was just under the impression "oh, the Army's going to be easy" or "they're going to give us guns"

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00:07:34,030 --> 00:07:44,040

and was just like "look around, not everybody needs a gun". You don't want to give a firearm to everybody. [laughing]

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00:07:44,040 --> 00:07:49,600

And I mean overall it wasn't a bad experience, but I wouldn't do it again.

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00:07:49,600 --> 00:08:00,200

Right, I think that's felt pretty much throughout. I know basic training in the Air Force is fun, but I wouldn't do it again.

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00:08:00,200 --> 00:08:09,880

So any of the instructors that you had, drill instructors, do you remember any of them that you want to talk about?

82

00:08:09,880 --> 00:08:22,540

Not by name, but yes I remember them. [laughing]. Like we had one in particular who reminded me of Sergeant Carter from Gomer Pyle.

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00:08:22,540 --> 00:08:24,960

[laughing]

84

00:08:24,960 --> 00:08:31,180

He was short, kind of stocky, and always angry about everything, even on a good day.

85

00:08:31,180 --> 00:08:33,180

[laughing]

86

00:08:33,220 --> 00:08:43,140

And he'd just tell us stuff like "private, I hate you". [laughing] Someday you're going to finish basic, you're going to be in the real Army and I'm going to find you".

87

00:08:43,140 --> 00:08:44,740

[laughing]

88

00:08:44,740 --> 00:08:47,200

"Oh crap is really looking at our personnel records?"

89

00:08:47,200 --> 00:08:49,760

[laughing] Oh my goodness.

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00:08:49,760 --> 00:08:58,060

We had this one drill sergeant, think he was the scariest, because he'd never give. He never really got angry, but you could tell,

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00:08:58,060 --> 00:09:03,500

because he'd go from being like a normal tone to a whisper which scared the hell out of everybody.

92

00:09:03,500 --> 00:09:05,620

[laughing]

93

00:09:05,620 --> 00:09:16,600

"Private, I'm tired of talking to you. I want you to go run 6 miles". I was just like I don't know how far 6 miles is you know, without something to measure it,

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00:09:16,600 --> 00:09:25,080

but I'm running until you can't see me [laughing] and then I'll probably walk a little bit, because I assume you can't see me.

95

00:09:25,089 --> 00:09:38,820

But no, the dude had eyes like hawk. I mean it was like a scary kind of evil. Like it's one of those things like you'd wake in the middle of the night and you'd just look

96

00:09:38,820 --> 00:09:46,660

and he's standing the middle room. You're like how the hell long has he been there? He's watching us sleep, like that's creepy as crap.

97

00:09:46,660 --> 00:09:53,880

[laughing] Oh man that's funny.

98

00:09:53,880 --> 00:09:55,760

It's not funny now, it wasn't funny then.

99

00:09:55,760 --> 00:10:01,700

Yeah, no, no, I'm sure it wasn't funny then. [laughing] Oh man.

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00:10:01,740 --> 00:10:08,800

So moving past basic, what was your... what ended up being your MOS?

101

00:10:08,800 --> 00:10:13,540

My first MOS was 31 Romero.

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00:10:13,540 --> 00:10:16,540

Which is?

103

00:10:16,540 --> 00:10:27,000

It was like a radio guy. We rang up phone lines, we did like USG. It sucked. I didn't know that at the time,

104

00:10:27,000 --> 00:10:32,880

because you know, when you talk to a recruiters like "it's a good job". You're like "alright, I'm not going to push you, I'm going to trust you, because your a professional and

105

00:10:32,880 --> 00:10:35,900

this is what you do for a living". Damn, I was a sucker.

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00:10:35,900 --> 00:10:42,460

[laughing] I think every one of us has one of those stories.

107

00:10:42,460 --> 00:10:48,000

Yeah I mean, but my first job was kind of horrible, because you're putting up big antennas and everybody's like

108

00:10:48,010 --> 00:10:56,750

"careful, the antenna can fall on you and crush you, The radiation can make you sterile". Everything was like a horror story. Why the hell am I doing this?

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00:10:56,750 --> 00:10:57,360

[laughing]

110

00:10:57,360 --> 00:11:01,760

and this then like even the elder instructors, "yeah, this is the same equipment we used in 'Nam".

111

00:11:01,760 --> 00:11:03,000

[laughing]

112

00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:11,440

What the hell are we still using it now for? I'm just like are we trying to save money?

113

00:11:11,440 --> 00:11:20,400

[laughing] Oh my gosh. Okay so what was your first duty station?

114

00:11:20,400 --> 00:11:21,360

Fort Lewis.

115

00:11:21,360 --> 00:11:26,040

Fort Lewis, okay. Alright and what time did you arrive at Fort Lewis?

116

00:11:26,040 --> 00:11:29,700

I arrived at Fort Lewis in like June 2001.

117

00:11:29,700 --> 00:11:33,760

2001, okay, alright. Wow.

118

00:11:33,760 --> 00:11:37,620

You mentioned that was your first MOS, what was your other ones?

119

00:11:37,620 --> 00:11:46,080

Once I get MOS it's 25 Bravo: Information Systems Specialist. That's what I do now on the outside

120

00:11:46,080 --> 00:11:46,620

Okay.

121

00:11:46,620 --> 00:11:47,720

Yeah.

122

00:11:47,720 --> 00:11:53,160

Now that's... now the information specialist can you describe that little more?

123

00:11:53,160 --> 00:12:07,660

Oh that's freaking sweet. Like we build networks, software engineers, all kinds of... mainly just general IT stuff, building servers, it's nice.

124

00:12:07,660 --> 00:12:14,880

But I wanted a job where I wouldn't get my hands dirty. Also I knew that when I'd get out I'd have a job,

125

00:12:14,880 --> 00:12:22,600

because if I got out of my first MOS, really where was I going to work, a radio station and only if they've got stuff from Vietnam?

126

00:12:22,600 --> 00:12:24,540

[laughing]

127

00:12:24,540 --> 00:12:32,120

Like the second time I was like alright, I'm going to be a smarter about it. Like what do I want to do when I get out?

128

00:12:32,120 --> 00:12:33,140

Umhmm.

129

00:12:33,140 --> 00:12:37,740

And I'm like, I want to do IT, because I'll always have a job, because everybody needs IT.

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00:12:37,740 --> 00:12:38,520

Sure.

131

00:12:38,520 --> 00:12:41,080

And if you don't know what you're doing, nobody knows.

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00:12:41,080 --> 00:12:42,929

[laughing]

133

00:12:42,929 --> 00:12:51,400

You can makes stuff up or you tell them "hold on, I'm researching that" and you can google the crap out of it. 90% of it's on google anyway. Sweet.

134

00:12:51,400 --> 00:12:55,300

Tell somebody you're working on the flux capacitor. [laughing]

135

00:12:55,300 --> 00:13:08,220

Yeah, "I can't get to my email". "yeah sir, what happened was the relay went down in Kansas. They're working on it now" and just "what happened?"

136

00:13:08,220 --> 00:13:14,680

I don't know, I deleted his email" [laughing] "Crap, somebody help me get it back"

137

00:13:14,680 --> 00:13:18,400

[laughing]

138

00:13:18,400 --> 00:13:25,360

Alright, so how in the world did you transition from your old MOS to your new one?

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00:13:25,369 --> 00:13:34,209

Oh I had a break in service, got out you know, like met my wife, we got married, had our daughter and you know,

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00:13:34,209 --> 00:13:41,480

I was working regular jobs and I was juts like... me and my wife was talking and she was like "have you ever thought about going back in?"

141

00:13:41,480 --> 00:13:48,860

I was like "sure, why not?" You know, it was just one those things that float around and ironically enough, what made me change my mind,

142

00:13:48,860 --> 00:13:57,460

like get serious about it, was a movie: Hotel Rwanda and particular scene was was when they were at the Embassy

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00:13:57,460 --> 00:14:07,220

and Don Cheadle told the guy "don't get off the phone". He was like "let them know if you get off the phone" he was like "when you get off the phone you die".

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00:14:07,220 --> 00:14:13,280

I was just like "damn, nobody should have the beg for their life like that". I was like "that's a load of shit".

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00:14:13,280 --> 00:14:24,560

Dang, what time was this when you got out the first time? Just give me about the time frame, when you got out, got married, had a kid, and then reenlisted.

146

00:14:24,560 --> 00:14:31,920

Let's see, my wife and I got married in 2005, by a daughter was born in 2003.

147

00:14:31,920 --> 00:14:33,260

Okay.

148

00:14:33,260 --> 00:14:42,060

I really can't even remember when I got out first time, but it had to be early, because I was kind of a dumb ass, I stayed in trouble, like a lot of trouble.

149

00:14:42,060 --> 00:14:43,420

I was real defiant.

150

00:14:43,420 --> 00:14:44,320

Yeah.

151

00:14:44,320 --> 00:14:47,720

And it was one of things where I always had an answer for something

152

00:14:47,720 --> 00:14:49,540

Oh man, yeah.

153

00:14:49,540 --> 00:14:55,080

And it's like my drill sergeant told me in basic, but I didn't pay attention to him at the time: "stop being a dumb ass".

154

00:14:55,080 --> 00:15:02,320

And when he told me that my answer was "well, okay, what kind of ass would you like me to be?"

155

00:15:02,320 --> 00:15:06,820

And then he said "you're a smart ass" and I said "well, then it's better to be a smart ass than a dumb ass".

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00:15:06,820 --> 00:15:08,770

[laughing]

157

00:15:08,770 --> 00:15:16,450

I mean I ended up doing push-ups for like did days after that, but it was one of those things where you don't pick up on the lesson at the time.

158

00:15:16,450 --> 00:15:17,260

Right.

159

00:15:17,260 --> 00:15:22,510

I guess that's where I was the first time. The second time I learned shut the hell up.

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00:15:22,510 --> 00:15:23,430

[laughing]

161

00:15:23,430 --> 00:15:25,620

If you can't say anything, you can't say the wrong thing.

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00:15:25,620 --> 00:15:28,740

[laughing]

163

00:15:28,740 --> 00:15:38,740

That's a good lesson, it is. So just reflecting back on that, when you talk to the recruiter again was that a completely different conversation?

164

00:15:38,740 --> 00:15:44,920

Oh yeah, because when I talked to the recruiter and I told him the MOS that I wanted, because I was smarter this time,

165

00:15:44,920 --> 00:15:50,180

researched everything I wanted before I went in. He was like "no, we can't get you that, we'll get you this".

166

00:15:50,180 --> 00:15:55,140

I got up. He was like "where are you going?" "I'm not taking what you're offering me". He was like "why?"

167

00:15:55,140 --> 00:15:58,020

"Either I get what I want or I don't get anything at all".

168

00:15:58,020 --> 00:16:04,060

We talked a little bit more and I told him the truth. I was like "yeah, I want this job, but your need me more than I need you.

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00:16:04,060 --> 00:16:12,180

You need two guys a month. You need to bring in two people a month". I'm like "here's a person, either you can get me in or you can't?"

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00:16:12,180 --> 00:16:16,840

I was like "worst comes to worst, I have to wait a little bit longer, you're going to get your ass chewed by command".

171

00:16:16,840 --> 00:16:21,520

Meh, there's nobody chewing my ass for not joining.

172

00:16:21,520 --> 00:16:34,240

I love that, that's great. Alright, so we're back in the military. This is around what time again? This is the second time you're back in the Army?

173

00:16:34,240 --> 00:16:35,680

Oh I'm in Fort Hood, Texas.

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00:16:35,680 --> 00:16:42,700

You're in Fort Hood, Texas and so how long were you in Fort Hood, Texas exactly?

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00:16:42,700 --> 00:16:43,340

Three years.

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00:16:43,340 --> 00:16:46,400

Three years and this is the duration of what time frame?

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00:16:46,400 --> 00:16:48,840

2006 to 2009.

178

00:16:48,840 --> 00:17:03,860

2009, okay and during that time were you ever witness to the -- what was it? -- the For Hood Massacre or anything like that that happened out there?

179

00:17:03,860 --> 00:17:05,200

That happened a little bit after I got out.

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00:17:05,200 --> 00:17:06,520

Right after you got out?

181

00:17:06,520 --> 00:17:12,220

My was still... she worked on post on West Fort Hood and I worked right outside post.

182

00:17:12,220 --> 00:17:13,080

Okay.

183

00:17:13,080 --> 00:17:21,600

So and the irony is, like I got a job working at their main hospital like a few months after that.

184

00:17:21,600 --> 00:17:22,220

Wow.

185

00:17:22,220 --> 00:17:22,720

Yeah.

186

00:17:22,720 --> 00:17:23,720

Okay.

187

00:17:23,720 --> 00:17:30,520

So I knew a lot of people who worked on post, I knew a lot of people at the hospital, and I knew a guy who was actually there when the shooting happened.

188

00:17:30,520 --> 00:17:32,620

Yeah.

189

00:17:32,620 --> 00:17:44,520

But, it was one of them things that was like damn, this is surreal and it's one of them things where you're like this just happened,

190

00:17:44,520 --> 00:17:53,100

but it was also one of them things like, it could have been avoided, because most soldiers let you know they have issues before they do something stupid.

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00:17:53,110 --> 00:18:02,490

They're like "hey this is my problem this, this is my problem" and usually command is like "this is not really a problem,

you're just worried about nothing".

192

00:18:02,490 --> 00:18:10,670

And I'm like... and you know the people with the soldiers are just like "oh, so-and-so's about to snap. You need to pay attention to this".

193

00:18:10,670 --> 00:18:11,790

Yeah, yeah.

194

00:18:11,790 --> 00:18:17,390

But it's one of them things where it's brushed off, especially if it's a person who's never had a problem.

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00:18:17,390 --> 00:18:25,210

If you've been a problem, they tend to take you more seriously, because they're like "yeah, such and such is crazy as shit, he's going to do something".

196

00:18:25,210 --> 00:18:30,690

But if you've never had a problem they're just going to be like "meh, you're not going to do anything, you're just venting".

197

00:18:30,690 --> 00:18:33,110

No, that's not always the case.

198

00:18:33,110 --> 00:18:36,080

Right, yeah, you'd almost think it'd be the opposite.

199

00:18:36,090 --> 00:18:44,640

Yeah, if somebody's saying... I mean you've got a trouble sergeant that's like I'm doing this and that. "Alright, I'm going to watch you ass like a hawk".

200

00:18:44,640 --> 00:18:48,880

But if you get somebody who's never gotten trouble or say that, "no we're gonna get you some help".

201

00:18:48,880 --> 00:18:49,820

Right. [laughing]

202

00:18:49,820 --> 00:18:54,539

Because you're normal and if somethings with you, it's a real issue

203

00:18:54,539 --> 00:19:03,419

Yeah exactly, exactly, at least that's what I would think. Alright, so during your time in the service were you ever deployed?

204
00:19:03,419 --> 00:19:04,879
Umhmm.

205
00:19:04,880 --> 00:19:08,280
and what time were you... and during that time when were you deployed?

206
00:19:08,280 --> 00:19:11,560
I was deployed in 2007, went to Iraq.

207
00:19:11,560 --> 00:19:12,680
Went to Iraq?

208
00:19:12,680 --> 00:19:13,180
Umhmm.

209
00:19:13,180 --> 00:19:15,700
Okay, so this was..?

210
00:19:15,700 --> 00:19:27,380
It was like... I think we deployed in like April and they way our unit did it was we were... I was in a MI unit and it was like, they did split rotations.

211
00:19:27,380 --> 00:19:35,060
So some people go for like six months. Halfway through that six months they bring another set in.

212
00:19:35,060 --> 00:19:43,520
So when the first set finished their six months, they go back. So it was like you know that when deployed it was a six month stretch.

213
00:19:43,520 --> 00:19:48,700
90 days into your 6 month stretch they bring in another team, then you go out, then they bring in another team

214
00:19:48,700 --> 00:19:54,040
So it was like that, because they want to keep a constant rotation, because the type of unit we were in.

215
00:19:54,040 --> 00:20:00,420
Okay and how is it over there, during the time you were there?

216
00:20:00,420 --> 00:20:10,520
At first it wasn't bad, it was just look at the workload. Alright, we're doing IT stuff maybe 16 hours a day, seven days a

week

217

00:20:10,520 --> 00:20:22,620

It sucks, but once everything's set up it's smooth sailing. The the hospital detail kicked in, which for the most part wasn't too bad.

218

00:20:22,620 --> 00:20:29,020

It's 12 hours of just sitting there making sure nothing happens until they bring somebody in that something happens to.

219

00:20:29,020 --> 00:20:35,960

Like you get the cases where people have got shot or whatever. One particular case kind of freaked me out.

220

00:20:35,960 --> 00:20:42,500

A little girl came in, she has no arms; her arms got blown off. I was like "oh, shit", because she's like my daughter's age.

221

00:20:42,500 --> 00:20:43,500

Oh man.

222

00:20:43,500 --> 00:20:51,720

And I know the nurses are covering her and wrapping her up and it was just like after she came out of surgery and she bandages on her nubs

223

00:20:51,720 --> 00:21:00,260

and the nurse asked her "can I get you anything?" and I'm not thinking I'm saying this out, I'm thinking this in my head, I was like "you can't get her no fucking arms"

224

00:21:00,260 --> 00:21:07,140

[laughing] The nurse was like "what else?", I was like "that's the one thing she's really going to want right now.

225

00:21:07,140 --> 00:21:17,600

Yeah, exactly. Man, that's crazy. So I'm surprised, like what exactly were you... I mean I know you did a lot of IT,

226

00:21:17,600 --> 00:21:26,440

how much during deployment did your job roles or responsibilities change in deployments or during deployments?

227

00:21:26,440 --> 00:21:36,720

Where you.. I mean like you mentioned, you had to work at the hospital and when a crisis like what you just mentioned, happens there all of the sudden was activity.

228

00:21:36,720 --> 00:21:45,200

So I mean did it... was it different during deployments than it would be at Fort Hood?

229

00:21:45,200 --> 00:21:47,560

Yeah because Fort Hood you know,

230

00:21:47,570 --> 00:21:55,940

there's always going to be a bunch of people. So you know something happened -- okay -- because you're almost like alright, somebody will handle that so it doesn't concern me.

231

00:21:55,940 --> 00:22:02,240

There it's a smaller group, it's more tight knit. Something happens your like "oh shit".

232

00:22:02,240 --> 00:22:10,240

Case in point, one night it's like 2:00 in the morning, we're deployed. I'm talking to my wife on the phone,

233

00:22:10,240 --> 00:22:16,300

because that's really the only time I could talk where nobody's going to come into the office interrupt me.

234

00:22:16,300 --> 00:22:24,040

so we're talking and you hear the mortars: boom boom. No big deal. So we're talking and it's like boom!

235

00:22:24,040 --> 00:22:29,260

My wife was like "what's that?" I was like "I don't know, probably a mortar". She's like "sounds pretty loud, is it close?"

236

00:22:29,260 --> 00:22:37,980

Probably not, shit, that happens all the time. 5 minutes later my buddy comes running in. [heavy breathing]

237

00:22:37,980 --> 00:22:47,960

I'm like "what's the matter?" "Dude, we got hit". I'm talking to my wife on the phone, "yeah, I'm going to call you back". [laughing]

238

00:22:47,960 --> 00:22:52,799

So I hung up in it was just like a whole panic situation, because they were like "yeah, hit our barracks.

239

00:22:52,799 --> 00:23:01,419

So the first thing is, they want to cut lines of communications, because they they don't want anybody hearing about it back home, starting to panic.

240

00:23:01,420 --> 00:23:09,620

So in the heat of the moment we ran into the server room and unplugged every damn thing. Nothing was labeled, because nothing ever happens.

241

00:23:09,630 --> 00:23:11,950

At least that's the way it's been. So we just unplugged shit.

242

00:23:11,950 --> 00:23:12,820

Oh wow.

243

00:23:12,820 --> 00:23:22,060

Then we go back over to the unit, right and the room right across the hall from ours is completely shredded with a mortar in there that hasn't detonated.

244

00:23:22,060 --> 00:23:24,440

So it just came through, but hasn't exploded.

245

00:23:24,440 --> 00:23:24,940

Oh jeez.

246

00:23:24,940 --> 00:23:29,680

We're like "oh shit". So they're like "get everybody out and get a head count".

247

00:23:29,680 --> 00:23:34,620

so we're all formed up they're like "where's Neil?" Well this one guy, Neil didn't make it.

248

00:23:34,620 --> 00:23:40,980

Then they pulled Neil out, they're like "Neil got hurt, Neil got hurt". So you know, everybody rushed Niel to the hospital.

249

00:23:40,980 --> 00:23:49,160

We're all panicked and worried like "oh shit, is Neil going to be alright?" First Sergeant came back from the hospital all kinds of pissed off.

250

00:23:49,160 --> 00:23:54,520

Like "is Neil alright Top?" "That son of a bitch was drunk". We're like "what?"

251

00:23:54,520 --> 00:23:56,080

[laughing]

252

00:23:56,120 --> 00:24:01,780

And with the panic like we're all worried like somebody got hurt. No, he's passed out because he's drunk.

253

00:24:01,780 --> 00:24:03,580

[laughing]

254

00:24:03,580 --> 00:24:06,160

And the first thing, how the hell is he getting alcohol?

255

00:24:06,160 --> 00:24:07,320

[laughing] Yeah.

256

00:24:07,320 --> 00:24:16,840

His wife mailed him some. It was just like, really? And I was like - I kind of laughed. It was like "what's so funny Le'Flore?" I'm like this is just the irony,

257

00:24:16,840 --> 00:24:24,340

of out of any that he could have got drunk, it had to be the night that we got hit. I was like "who the hell has luck that bad?"

258

00:24:24,340 --> 00:24:25,220

[laughing]

259

00:24:25,220 --> 00:24:28,240

I was like, that's like the lottery of stupidity right there.

260

00:24:28,240 --> 00:24:29,800

[laughing]

261

00:24:29,800 --> 00:24:31,380

I'm like jackpot.

262

00:24:31,380 --> 00:24:32,600

[laughing]

263

00:24:32,600 --> 00:24:39,280

So of course after that happened they went through and they wanted to warm a health and welfare, make sure nobody had no alcohol. We didn't

264

00:24:39,280 --> 00:24:46,760

They also searched for other contraband that nobody should have had, which everybody did, which was adult movies.

265

00:24:46,760 --> 00:24:49,100

Some of the fools had them labeled.

266

00:24:49,100 --> 00:24:50,800

[laughing]

267

00:24:50,800 --> 00:24:56,060

And I just laughed, because I was just like really, you're going to label your porn as porn?

268

00:24:56,060 --> 00:24:57,000

[laughing]

269

00:24:57,000 --> 00:25:03,080

I was like it's not like they're going to ask you to play it. You just labeled it as porn.

270

00:25:03,120 --> 00:25:08,420

I was like it's like DA raiding your house and you've got piles of coke labeled: cocaine for sale.

271

00:25:08,420 --> 00:25:09,880

[laughing]

272

00:25:09,880 --> 00:25:16,920

I was like "you idiots". I was like "there's a right way to do something wrong and a wrong way to do something wrong, hide it".

273

00:25:16,920 --> 00:25:21,080

And they're like "where do you keep yours?" "On a hard-drive that's not labeled"

274

00:25:21,080 --> 00:25:27,700

I was like if I was going to have it on the DVD it'd be labeled the Smurfs" and they're like "why do you have a Smurfs DVD?"

275

00:25:27,700 --> 00:25:37,000

"My kids like the Smurfs, alright? Make sure they have the Smurfs when I get home". I was just like "you idiots labeled your porn as porn and wonder why it's a big deal".

276

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:40,360

I was like "We're not supposed to have it".

277

00:25:41,610 --> 00:25:49,040

Wow, that's funny. Alright, so leading off of that, you mentioned it a couple different ways through mail or talking on the phone,

278

00:25:49,040 --> 00:25:54,320

is there any other ways that you stayed in contact with your family or friends?

279

00:25:54,320 --> 00:25:55,600

Oh Skype.

280

00:25:55,600 --> 00:25:56,300

Skype, yeah.

281

00:25:56,300 --> 00:26:06,120

Skype was a big deal and it was a real big deal, because it was like new at the time, I suppose or least just getting popular

282

00:26:06,160 --> 00:26:18,420

and you would have people lined up to talk for like 10 minutes on Skype and you have people buying phone cards, spending hundreds of dollars to call home.

283

00:26:18,420 --> 00:26:29,620

And I was unfortunately guy, when I was gone nothing went wrong home, but you'd have people "my wife left me, my wife cleaned me out". Just damn.

284

00:26:29,620 --> 00:26:30,500

Oh man, yeah.

285

00:26:30,500 --> 00:26:37,180

We had this one guy in particular, we weren't surprised that his wife left him when he deployed, because he treated her like crap.

286

00:26:37,180 --> 00:26:46,300

We were surprised what she did when he deployed. She sold the card that he bought her, she sold his truck that his father left him when he died for twenty bucks.

287

00:26:46,300 --> 00:26:58,300

I was just like Damn, that's worse than giving it away and he left her general power of attorney and he never changed their bank account information, which she did.

288

00:26:58,300 --> 00:27:07,880

So she got all of his money every month and we were like "yeah dude, I expected her to leave you. That wouldn't been a shocker, but you're really getting screwed".

289

00:27:07,880 --> 00:27:10,580

Yeah, wow. [laughing]

290

00:27:10,580 --> 00:27:18,960

And I mean you have people who come back "oh, my wife got pregnant when I was gone". You just, hmm the math don't add up.

291

00:27:18,960 --> 00:27:26,880

I'm like "we've been over here two months, yet she's a month pregnant. How does that happen?"

292

00:27:26,880 --> 00:27:36,020

"Well the doctor said..." "What doctor? The doctor you spoke to or the doctor she told you she went to, because the math don't add up".

293

00:27:36,029 --> 00:27:47,440

I mean it's one of them things where at first they're your co-workers, they're just people you see every day. When you're deployed everybody's like brothers and sisters.

294

00:27:47,440 --> 00:27:52,769

You see them all the time, you hear their problems, you listen their problems, they listen to yours.

295

00:27:52,769 --> 00:28:02,309

I mean, you become real tight knit. So if something affects them, it affects you and it becomes one of things where right or wrong, you're going to be on their side.

296

00:28:02,309 --> 00:28:10,109

You back them no matter what, even if you don't like their decisions. It's like "dude, it's stupid, but hell I got you. Come on".

297

00:28:10,109 --> 00:28:23,680

Yeah, absolutely. So after you deployed you came back to Fort Hood and then you got out shortly or eventually after that point.

298

00:28:23,680 --> 00:28:26,980

What did you do once you got out of the military?

299

00:28:26,980 --> 00:28:28,980

[banging noise]

300

00:28:28,980 --> 00:28:31,480

Probably my daughter dropping something.

301

00:28:31,480 --> 00:28:34,259

What did you do after you got out of the military?

302

00:28:34,259 --> 00:28:43,019

Oh, when I got out I got a job, because I got a job doing IT, because when I was there, when everybody was like alright, there's nothing going on.

303

00:28:43,020 --> 00:28:51,500

When I had free time I was working on my resume. I would look at jobs to see what they were looking for before I got out, so when I got I wasn't scrambling.

304

00:28:51,500 --> 00:29:02,280

So I looked for cooperations, government jobs. I'm like well everybody seems to want this. So even when I was there I was applying for jobs and I interviewed for jobs,

305

00:29:02,280 --> 00:29:11,700

because I didn't care if I got the job. Hell, I had a couple years before I got out, but I wanted the experience and that's what I was telling everybody.

306

00:29:11,710 --> 00:29:16,580

I was like "don't wait to the last minute". There just like "Oh, the Army's going to hook me up when I get out".

307

00:29:16,580 --> 00:29:23,680

I'm like really, really, are you being your own recruiter now? Because your lying to yourself".

308

00:29:23,680 --> 00:29:24,180

[laughing]

309

00:29:24,180 --> 00:29:33,140

I'm like "dude," I'm like "nobody hands you anything". They were just like "yeah, but, bu they said..." I'm like "yeah, they said".

310

00:29:33,140 --> 00:29:35,140

Yeah, they said, right.

311

00:29:35,140 --> 00:29:45,240

They were just like "well, they have to take care of us". I'm like "no, they don't". I'm like "they kind of want to keep you ignorant so you stay in".

312

00:29:45,240 --> 00:29:52,100

That's when it's time for you to get out you hear a lot of people telling there ain't no jobs on the outside, you'll be right back in.

313

00:29:52,100 --> 00:30:00,960

Like damn, what is this, prison? I'll be back in. [laughing] I was like "crap".

314

00:30:00,960 --> 00:30:07,840

So like I got out like maybe a couple of months before a lot of my friends. So I let me know "alright, when you get out this is what they're looking for.

315

00:30:07,840 --> 00:30:18,740

Do this, do that, do this" and some people, they stayed in because the government you know, the Army would give you a reenlistment bonus. They offered me that.

316

00:30:18,740 --> 00:30:19,920

Sure.

317

00:30:19,920 --> 00:30:26,080

So what I asked for was something that I knew they couldn't get me and it was something simple. "Oh I want a cell phone"

318

00:30:26,080 --> 00:30:31,380

"The Army can't get you a cell phone" "Why not?" They was like "the Army can get you money, you can buy your own cell phone".

319

00:30:31,380 --> 00:30:38,920

"Why can't the Army just give me a cell phone?" "Th Army's not going to give you something that will cause you bills". Really, the Army's not going to give me something?"

320

00:30:38,920 --> 00:30:43,840

I'm like like "they give me crap all the time I don't want and then threatened to make me pay for it if I lose it."

321

00:30:43,840 --> 00:30:50,360

I was like "then they make me work for comm-sec and they're like if you lose this you'll go to jail. Now I'm getting threatened with jail time, but I can't get a cell phone.

322

00:30:50,400 --> 00:31:00,280

It's like I'm not the smartest guy in the world, but I'm like \$200, which I know you're not going to give me, me but it's something simple,

323

00:31:00,280 --> 00:31:04,360

but if you can't give me some simple, you're going to give me something complex".

324

00:31:04,360 --> 00:31:15,540

So I spent a lot of my time researching jobs and when I got out I think -- what? -- I was on leave, I had like 30 days of leave.

325

00:31:15,540 --> 00:31:20,040

So I had 30 days leave. I really didn't worry about it. Like, I'm not going to kill myself getting a job.

326

00:31:20,080 --> 00:31:23,260

That last week of leave I had a job. So I was lined up, sweet.

327

00:31:23,260 --> 00:31:37,140

Cool. So you would say that overall, I mean just within your military career, transitioning from that to civilian, you didn't have any real issues?

328

00:31:37,140 --> 00:31:42,820

It seemed to go pretty smoothly or..? I mean...

329

00:31:42,820 --> 00:31:48,480

Yeah it went pretty smooth, because the thing about being in the military is that you meet a lot of different people.

330

00:31:48,480 --> 00:31:52,300

You encounter a lot of different personalities, a lot of different thought processes.

331

00:31:52,300 --> 00:31:59,320

It helps you with your people skills when you talk to someone, because you have better lines of communication

332

00:31:59,320 --> 00:32:06,840

and I think a lot of the things that a lot of military people went wrong when they got out was they still use military Jargon

333

00:32:06,840 --> 00:32:10,220

They use abbreviations for things. "The hell is that?"

334

00:32:10,230 --> 00:32:11,530

Yeah, the acronyms.

335

00:32:11,530 --> 00:32:18,210

Yeah, you can say an acronym to a vet or to an active duty person, they know what you mean.

336

00:32:18,210 --> 00:32:25,920

You say it to a civilian, "the hell is..? Let me write that down". [laughing] Damn.

337

00:32:25,920 --> 00:32:34,440

Going into the civilian world were they pretty receptive of your service in Iraq and everything else? you didn't have any issues with that?

338

00:32:34,440 --> 00:32:44,020

Oh no, it was one of the things like when I got out I was in Texas so everybody loves a vet, because like everybody was a vet and there was no issue.

339

00:32:44,020 --> 00:32:51,040

The company I got out and started working with, they were real... like most of them were vets and it was a great company

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00:32:51,040 --> 00:32:57,780

So it was a good time and then I switched over to the Army hospital, because it was a \$14,000 raise.

341

00:32:57,780 --> 00:33:06,659

It was like damn, that's significant. Do I say no? I was like "you idiot, you're not going to say no"

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00:33:06,659 --> 00:33:14,819

So I took that job too and it was cool, because it was an Army Hospital, I was a civilian, I got to still work with a lot of active-duty people,

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00:33:14,820 --> 00:33:19,300

but I didn't have to do active duty stuff like "hey, we're doing a 6 mile run tomorrow".

344

00:33:19,300 --> 00:33:20,280

[laughing]

345

00:33:20,280 --> 00:33:24,620

"Sweet, I can see you do it", just "yeah, it sucks".

346

00:33:24,620 --> 00:33:25,840

That does suck.

347

00:33:25,840 --> 00:33:31,980

But it was cool, because I could understand their issues and it was nice to hang out.

348

00:33:31,980 --> 00:33:35,100

And what eventually brought you to Ohio?

349

00:33:35,100 --> 00:33:37,380

Oh, a job.

350

00:33:37,380 --> 00:33:38,480

A job, yeah.

351

00:33:38,480 --> 00:33:45,160

Yeah, because the hospital after a while, you know how it is. People quit people before they quit jobs.

352

00:33:45,160 --> 00:33:52,740

I liked the job, but some of the people started rubbing me the wrong way and you know it's usually people you can't do anything about like management.

353

00:33:52,740 --> 00:33:55,200

So it was just like no, there's other things out there.

354

00:33:55,200 --> 00:33:55,860

Sure.

355

00:33:55,860 --> 00:34:05,600

Then I got a call from a recruiter for a job working for DCMA in Columbus and he offered me pretty much what I was making

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00:34:05,600 --> 00:34:12,420

You know, that's no real incentive, so I was like "eh". Then he offered me a little bit more and I was like "okay, yeah I'll consider"

357

00:34:12,420 --> 00:34:15,240

and he was like "yeah, we'll pay you a moving bonus". "Done".

358

00:34:15,240 --> 00:34:16,340

Yeah, yeah, exactly.

359

00:34:16,340 --> 00:34:28,760

So I was like "sweet, you're going to pay for the move, I'll move". So moved up here and got a place in Columbus and the DCMA, everybody was real cool.

360

00:34:28,760 --> 00:34:44,460

Like, there were less vets than there were... I worked with less vets there than I did in Texas, but everybody seemed more friendly, ironically enough in the North.

361

00:34:44,460 --> 00:34:52,520

I guess, because a lot when there's a strong concentration of military they tend to still act like they're military.

362

00:34:52,520 --> 00:34:53,100

Right.

363

00:34:53,100 --> 00:35:01,420

Whereas, when I got the DCMA everybody was like, I'm like "hey, I need to go to the bathroom". "You don't need to tell us you're going to the bathroom, just go".

364

00:35:01,420 --> 00:35:03,400

[laughing]

365

00:35:03,400 --> 00:35:10,380

It was like you know, it was something like hey I need to go home for the day they was like "yeah, it's nice if you let somebody know". [laughing]

366

00:35:10,380 --> 00:35:15,700

I was like "that good to know", because even when I was civilian working at an Army hospital,

367

00:35:15,700 --> 00:35:20,740

"Where are you going?" "To the bathroom". "Have you told anybody, what if something happens?"

368

00:35:20,740 --> 00:35:24,740

If something happens in the bathroom I definitely don't want to tell nobody.

369

00:35:24,740 --> 00:35:29,320

[laughing]

370

00:35:29,320 --> 00:35:38,260

I mean it was real nice. Then I switch from DCMA into the job that I have now, which is with DISA

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00:35:38,260 --> 00:35:45,980

and biggest difference, with DISA I'm in a room where I can't have a phone, which kind of annoys me,

372

00:35:45,980 --> 00:35:53,020

because you know, every now and then I just want to send my wife a text message like "how ya doing?" Like, I can't. [laughing]

373

00:35:53,020 --> 00:36:20,760

Alright so I guess just kind of wrapping this up, the...how would you feel that your military experience helped you out in your... or at least your military experience,

374

00:36:20,760 --> 00:36:25,680

give you your perspective on life and everything else?

375

00:36:25,680 --> 00:36:33,340

It's real interesting. It's one of those things where people who haven't served don't really get it and growing up where I grew up,

376

00:36:33,340 --> 00:36:36,140

my siblings still don't get it because they haven't done it.

377

00:36:36,150 --> 00:36:46,920

It's like my mother gave us a lot of freedom when we were kids, so with that freedom she gave us consequences.

378

00:36:46,920 --> 00:36:52,940

She was like "I'm going to let you go out and do whatever you want, stay out as late as you want, but whatever happens when you're out, that's on you".

379

00:36:52,940 --> 00:36:57,500

She was "if the cops pick you up, you're doing that jail time. I'm not coming to save you from jail">

380

00:36:57,500 --> 00:37:06,540

So my mother wasn't about saving you from a consequence, but the same time there was no real discipline like "get your ass in here at this time".

381

00:37:06,540 --> 00:37:14,760

Her thing was stay out of trouble and make it to school. Okay, I can do that. I can come home at 5 in the morning, I've got to be at school at 7

382

00:37:14,760 --> 00:37:24,780

and it wasn't an issue oddly enough. And for me and my brothers, it was one of those things where you're either going to get in too much trouble

383

00:37:24,780 --> 00:37:31,500

or you weren't going to get into any or there's a fair amount. You knew where to draw a line, like yeah that's a red flag.

384

00:37:31,500 --> 00:37:38,080

Like, "let's stay out late and hang out". "Okay, let's do that" "Now let's go rob this store". [screching brake noise]

385

00:37:38,080 --> 00:37:49,120

"Y'all can do that, I'll wait over here". "you going to tell us if the police are coming?" "That would make me an accomplice, I can watch".

386

00:37:49,130 --> 00:37:55,010

I was like "hell, let me go one step better and advise you not to do it, but I'm not going to get involved".

387

00:37:55,010 --> 00:37:55,660

Right.

388

00:37:55,660 --> 00:38:01,400

And it was like when I joined the military, it was one of those things where I know I needed a foot in my ass.

389

00:38:01,400 --> 00:38:06,560

So I had to go find someone to put a foot in my ass and then the drill sergeant went a little to far with the foot in my ass.

390

00:38:06,560 --> 00:38:08,100

[laughing]

391

00:38:08,100 --> 00:38:11,180

I was like "hmm, let's dial it back". [laughing]

392

00:38:11,180 --> 00:38:12,380

That's a big foot.

393

00:38:12,380 --> 00:38:17,140

Yeah and it wasn't just his, it was like everybody with stripes had a foot in your ass.

394

00:38:17,140 --> 00:38:18,040

[laughing]

395

00:38:18,040 --> 00:38:29,260

Damn, this is real uncomfortable. So it's like... it changed my perspective, because I can see where people lack things and

396

00:38:29,260 --> 00:38:37,120

like I have a cousin that's in the Navy and the reason why he joined the Navy is cause his mother babied him

397

00:38:37,120 --> 00:38:45,100

He I guess what you call a millennial. One of those things like "well I want stuff, but I don't want to work for stuff".

398

00:38:45,100 --> 00:38:54,300

Like good luck with that. So when he turned 18 his mom was like "hey, can he come stay with you for a while?"

399

00:38:54,300 --> 00:39:01,820

I'm like "yeah sure, yeah he can stay with me for a while". I went to go get him, he was in Georgia, I'm in Texas, so this is like a 14 hour drive to his house

400

00:39:01,820 --> 00:39:08,320

So I drove to his house, picked him up, drove back, and he's just sitting on my couch playing video games.

401

00:39:08,320 --> 00:39:13,800

Alright, cool. Well about the third day I come out of my my room going to work and he's sitting on the couch playing

video games

402

00:39:13,800 --> 00:39:20,260

I just looked him dead in his eye, like "you've got to get the fuck out". [laughing] He's like "what?"

403

00:39:20,260 --> 00:39:25,120

I was like "dude, I can't lay on my couch this early and play video games, I'm not going to watch you do it".

404

00:39:25,120 --> 00:39:30,820

He was like "what am I supposed to do?" "Get a job". "I don't want to get a job" I was like "we're going to go see a recruiter".

405

00:39:30,820 --> 00:39:38,220

He was like "well my girlfriend wants to join the Navy when she graduates". His girlfriend's 17, she's got a whole 'nother year of school before she graduates.

406

00:39:38,220 --> 00:39:47,660

and she wasn't going to Air Force. I'm like "you're just going to sit around and wait for her?" "Uh, I thought I was going to hang out here". "bullshit". [laughing]

407

00:39:47,780 --> 00:39:56,000

"So I was like we're going to go see a Navy recruiter". "I don't want to see a Navy recruiter". I was like "what did the Air Force already tell you?"

408

00:39:56,000 --> 00:40:02,780

"They told me I have a weight problem" I was like "so you have two choices" I was like "I'm not going to take you to the Marines" I was like "you'll never make it".

409

00:40:02,780 --> 00:40:03,860

[laughing]

410

00:40:03,860 --> 00:40:07,360

I was like "I'll take you to either an Army recruiter or Airman". "I don't want to join the Army".

411

00:40:07,360 --> 00:40:15,660

I'm like, so we went to the Navy recruiter, alright and the Navy recruiter's... It's like the end of the month and the Navy recruiter's like "well, we've only got this list of jobs"

412

00:40:15,660 --> 00:40:22,960

He ain't taking that. He's like "well I think it's his decision". I was like "if I let him make a decision he's going to make the wrong one".

413

00:40:22,960 --> 00:40:30,340

So I was like I'm making this decision for him". So he's like "I don't want to go". I'm like "you better get your ass up and so something with your life".

414

00:40:30,340 --> 00:40:35,140

I was like "your mother acts like there's a magic grown-up the button, there ain't".

415

00:40:35,140 --> 00:40:40,240

I was like "I thought I could let you sit around my house, I can't. I wan to choke you already".

416

00:40:40,240 --> 00:40:41,760

[laughing]

417

00:40:41,760 --> 00:40:48,560

So we go to see the Navy recruiter and first it was just like dickning around with them. So I was like alright, I'm going to shop him around.

418

00:40:48,560 --> 00:40:56,100

So I took him to a Navy recruiter like a few... like maybe the next town over and his recruiter just happened to be there like "whoa, whoa, what are you doing?".

419

00:40:56,100 --> 00:41:01,760

I was like "ya'll bullshiting, I'm trying to going down, shopping around", He's like "we've got him, we've got him". I was like "then act like you've got him".

420

00:41:01,760 --> 00:41:02,500

Right.

421

00:41:02,500 --> 00:41:08,260

So they took him and he did the ASVAB and he scored high and he was just like "I don't know what job I want".

422

00:41:08,260 --> 00:41:15,760

I was like "you don't know what you want, what don't you want?" He was like "I don't want a manual labor job, I don't want to do this, I don't want to do that"

423

00:41:15,760 --> 00:41:28,580

So he narrowed it all the way down to like a nuclear tech or an IT professional. I was like "alright, google nuclear tech jobs".

424

00:41:28,580 --> 00:41:38,580

So he googles it and he's like "there's not a lot". "Google IT jobs". There was like 10,000 just where he lived. So he was like "alright that's what I'll go with".

425

00:41:38,580 --> 00:41:48,840

Okay fine, so like he said that he wanted to go home to see his mom. Granted, he's only been at my house for a week, but he misses his mom.

426

00:41:48,840 --> 00:41:56,520

So he went to go see his mom and he was like he ain't coming back. Fine, but the recruiter kind of lied to him and scared him

427

00:41:56,520 --> 00:42:03,360

like you signed the paperwork, you've got to go back or you go to jail". [laughing] And I'm laughing, because I know it's bullshit,

428

00:42:03,360 --> 00:42:08,960

but I'm not going to tell him that, you know. So he comes back and he's all in a panic.

429

00:42:08,960 --> 00:42:20,980

So the night he ships off to MEPS, now granted, this is the most un-athletic guy in the world. The dude doesn't even look like he can pick up a ball, let alone play basketball.

430

00:42:20,980 --> 00:42:31,440

So the night he's supposed to ship, he falls and knocks out his two front teeth. The recruiter called me and told me this and I'm talking to the recruiter like we both know he's lying.

431

00:42:31,440 --> 00:42:38,340

He was like "yeah, he knocked his teeth out, he knocked his teeth out so he wouldn't ship". The recruiter's like "yeah, he's going to have to come back and stay with you a while".

432

00:42:38,340 --> 00:42:43,900

I was like "bullshit". He was like "what do you mean?" I was like "Navy you get a [inaudible] right?" "Yeah"

433

00:42:43,900 --> 00:42:50,120

I was like "then ship his ass" I was like "ship his ass. He's a grown man, he want's to knock out his damn teeth, he's going to have to deal with it".

434

00:42:50,120 --> 00:43:00,740

So he shipped and you know, he probably hated my guts at the time, but hell, now he's on his second enlistment. He's been to Canada.

435

00:43:00,740 --> 00:43:05,720

The only place he hasn't been that he wants to really go is Japan. So he's trying to get Japan.

436

00:43:05,720 --> 00:43:06,220

Yeah.

437

00:43:06,220 --> 00:43:11,260

But he's been, this is like what his 5th or 6th year in.

438

00:43:11,260 --> 00:43:12,080

That is great.

439

00:43:12,080 --> 00:43:12,680

Yeah.

440

00:43:12,940 --> 00:43:13,340

That's awesome.

441

00:43:13,340 --> 00:43:18,680

You know what I mean? It's one of things like if I gave you the option, you wouldn't have done anything with your life.

442

00:43:18,700 --> 00:43:23,440

I was like I rather you hate me and make something of yourself, than love me and do nothing.

443

00:43:23,480 --> 00:43:29,200

So hat's kind of the perspective that the military has given me.

444

00:43:29,200 --> 00:43:38,300

I can make do a good job, but I can't make you want to do a good job. So yeah, I could've kicked his ass and made him go get a Walmart job. He wouldn't have held it.

445

00:43:38,300 --> 00:43:48,000

I was like "I wanted you to go someplace where you have to get up, you have to be responsible, you have to pay your bills on time and it's a job that you can't damn quit".

446

00:43:48,000 --> 00:43:51,440

You can't just "yo, I don't want to do this no more, I'm out". [laughing]

447

00:43:51,440 --> 00:43:51,960

Right.

448

00:43:51,960 --> 00:43:59,960

Yeah, you're out in three-and-a-half more years, damn it. [laughing] You better get your ass back in there and do you job.

449

00:43:59,960 --> 00:44:10,740

So I was like it doesn't give you the option of being a quitter. I mean what you do when you get out is on you, but while you're in there's no "yeah, I'm going to call in today".

450

00:44:10,760 --> 00:44:17,240

Hntmm. If you're going to be sick, you're going to have to show up and be like "[cough] look I'm throwing up in a bucket, I'm sick".

451

00:44:17,240 --> 00:44:21,720

The only time they excuse you from that is like explosive diarrhea, because nobody ever want's proof for that.

452

00:44:21,720 --> 00:44:22,220

[laughing]

453

00:44:22,220 --> 00:44:28,500

"I'll take your word, is it..?" "Yeah". "Okay, stay home"

454

00:44:28,500 --> 00:44:30,360

[laughing]

455

00:44:30,360 --> 00:44:38,240

Alright, so is there a message you'd like to leave for future generations?

456

00:44:38,240 --> 00:44:38,780

Yeah.

457

00:44:38,780 --> 00:44:42,060

This is going to the Library Congress and everything, so...

458

00:44:42,060 --> 00:44:49,220

Don't be scared you know, to serve your country. Everybody's not a patriot, everybody's not doing it for the love of their country,

459

00:44:49,220 --> 00:44:59,660

but you do love your family, you do love yourself and by taking care of yourself, you're taking care of your country and going with a plan

460

00:44:59,660 --> 00:45:06,240

I mean you could injure yourself and be out on the streets and I mean your country loves you, but nobody's going to feed you.

461

00:45:06,240 --> 00:45:21,100

I mean go in and work it like it's a plan. Have a goal. If your goal is in ten years I want to work at this company or I want to work for Google,

462

00:45:21,100 --> 00:45:30,560

the military can help you get there. They're not gonna "okay you're getting out, here's a job at Google", but there are steps to prepare you for that.

463

00:45:30,560 --> 00:45:42,060

And I mean you've got to be mindful. If you take care of yourself, inadvertently you're taking care of everybody around you.

464

00:45:42,060 --> 00:45:51,440

People think it's a selfish attitude to be like I'm looking out for number one. By you looking out for number one you're looking out for all the number one's around you.

465

00:45:51,440 --> 00:45:58,500

You're looking out for your buddy on your left and right, you're looking out for that vet, you're looking out for that future soldier

466

00:45:58,500 --> 00:46:05,000

and I mean yeah, you can keep that selfish attitude, but you just helped everybody out. Nobody has any complaints about that

467

00:46:05,000 --> 00:46:15,680

You're never going to say "oh, well my dad sacrifice helped me get into college or my drill sergeant being mean taught me discipline,

468

00:46:15,700 --> 00:46:26,740

which is why now I have a six-figure salary. You can always trace it back and I think that's what future generations need

469

00:46:26,740 --> 00:46:31,840

I mean, because if you give somebody an option they, always choose the wrong...

470

00:46:31,840 --> 00:46:39,580

If your drill sergeant gave you the option to sleep in late or get up early and go to PT and come make your uniform on Sunday and make sure everything is ready for the week,

471

00:46:39,620 --> 00:46:47,940

You'd be like "no, I'll sleep in late" and I don't want America to be one of those I'll sleep in late countries.

472

00:46:47,940 --> 00:46:55,620

Right, exactly. Alright is there anything else that you want to cover or that we haven't covered?

473

00:46:55,720 --> 00:46:56,980

I don't think there is

474

00:46:56,980 --> 00:47:00,180

Alright, well thank you very much and thank you for your service.

475

00:47:00,180 --> 00:47:03,020

Well thank you for your service.