

1
00:00:00,470 --> 00:00:03,530
We are recording the interview of
Colleen Schoonover.

2
00:00:03,530 --> 00:00:04,649
The interview is being conducted by

3
00:00:04,649 --> 00:00:08,370
John Granata and Adrian Hill from
Wright State University Veterans Voice

4
00:00:08,370 --> 00:00:09,680
Project.

5
00:00:09,680 --> 00:00:14,100
The interview is being recorded at VFW
Post 3283 in Huber Heights, Ohio.

6
00:00:14,100 --> 00:00:15,100
It is

7
00:00:15,100 --> 00:00:21,949
approximately 8:30 p.m. on July 1st 2014.

8
00:00:21,949 --> 00:00:26,939
Alright, where and when were you born?

9
00:00:26,939 --> 00:00:27,939
I was born

10
00:00:27,939 --> 00:00:29,369
in Ohio , oh, Iowa, sorry.

11
00:00:29,369 --> 00:00:36,030
I was born in Iowa in 1987.

12
00:00:36,030 --> 00:00:37,260
Who are your parents and what are

13
00:00:37,260 --> 00:00:38,890

their occupations?

14

00:00:38,890 --> 00:00:41,690

That's tricky.

15

00:00:41,690 --> 00:00:55,530

Um, my mom was Sharon Gay or Clark and my dad was Charles Clark and when?

16

00:00:55,530 --> 00:00:56,530

What did they do?

17

00:00:56,530 --> 00:00:57,530

I don't know.

18

00:00:57,530 --> 00:00:59,770

You don't know their occupations?

19

00:00:59,770 --> 00:01:01,620

Okay, that's cool.

20

00:01:01,620 --> 00:01:06,100

Who your siblings, names, and if any of them served in any of the military

21

00:01:06,100 --> 00:01:07,760

branches can you tell us about it?

22

00:01:07,760 --> 00:01:13,750

My little sister started in the Army, didn't pass AIT, What was her name?

23

00:01:13,750 --> 00:01:17,159

Her name was Tiffany Henderson, OK.

24

00:01:17,159 --> 00:01:18,900

My step brother, You said,

25

00:01:18,900 --> 00:01:22,570

oh before you go on you said she didn't make it out of AIT, so did she get out right after

26
00:01:22,570 --> 00:01:23,570
that?

27
00:01:23,570 --> 00:01:24,570
Or did she switch?

28
00:01:24,570 --> 00:01:26,120
She couldn't make it past AIT.

29
00:01:26,120 --> 00:01:28,570
So, she just got out then?

30
00:01:28,570 --> 00:01:35,540
So she was a word that I literally probably
should never put in this interview.

31
00:01:35,540 --> 00:01:37,870
She had knee issues.

32
00:01:37,870 --> 00:01:39,030
Ok, Ok.

33
00:01:39,030 --> 00:01:41,940
We'll put it at that.

34
00:01:41,940 --> 00:01:42,940
Okay.

35
00:01:42,940 --> 00:01:52,010
Uh, knee issues couldn't make it out of AIT,
my little brother was stationed in Colorado?

36
00:01:52,010 --> 00:01:54,070
What branch?

37
00:01:54,070 --> 00:01:55,100
Army.

38
00:01:55,100 --> 00:01:56,130
Army.

39

00:01:56,130 --> 00:01:58,260

Okay, do you know what base?

40

00:01:58,260 --> 00:02:01,060

I'm not sure what base but it was in Colorado.

41

00:02:01,060 --> 00:02:02,060

Okay, that's fine.

42

00:02:02,060 --> 00:02:04,200

And what was his name?

43

00:02:04,200 --> 00:02:06,210

Dustin Culver.

44

00:02:06,210 --> 00:02:07,210

Okay.

45

00:02:07,210 --> 00:02:08,740

Is that it?

46

00:02:08,740 --> 00:02:11,340

Yeah, I think that's it.

47

00:02:11,340 --> 00:02:14,490

Alright, what were you doing before you entered the service?

48

00:02:14,490 --> 00:02:17,620

I was working at Starbucks, yeah.

49

00:02:17,620 --> 00:02:19,710

Okay, yeah, really fascinating.

50

00:02:19,710 --> 00:02:23,880

I could make a latte like a boss.

51

00:02:23,880 --> 00:02:29,100

How old was you then when you joined, when you enlisted?

52

00:02:29,100 --> 00:02:32,260

Uhh, 20.

53

00:02:32,260 --> 00:02:36,230

So you waited a little bit after high school?

54

00:02:36,230 --> 00:02:37,500

Yes.

55

00:02:37,500 --> 00:02:38,770

Okay.

56

00:02:38,770 --> 00:02:41,610

Which branch of the military did you serve?

57

00:02:41,610 --> 00:02:43,099

Active duty, Army.

58

00:02:43,099 --> 00:02:44,099

Okay.

59

00:02:44,099 --> 00:02:46,730

When did you enlist?

60

00:02:46,730 --> 00:02:49,310

2008.

61

00:02:49,310 --> 00:02:51,031

Why did you choose to to to the Army?

62

00:02:51,031 --> 00:02:55,910

Because I couldn't pay for college?

63

00:02:55,910 --> 00:02:57,140

Okay.

64

00:02:57,140 --> 00:03:04,120

What happened when you departed from training camp and during your early days of training?

65

00:03:04,120 --> 00:03:08,520
Literally or mentally?

66
00:03:08,520 --> 00:03:09,990
Both.

67
00:03:09,990 --> 00:03:12,020
Literally I waited for a long time.

68
00:03:12,020 --> 00:03:16,660
It was about four or five days before I actually went to basic.

69
00:03:16,660 --> 00:03:18,950
Were you like in processing?

70
00:03:18,950 --> 00:03:24,600
Yes, I was in processing for a few days.

71
00:03:24,600 --> 00:03:26,200
Was it like the MEPS?

72
00:03:26,200 --> 00:03:29,790
Yeah, I was in MEPS.

73
00:03:29,790 --> 00:03:38,370
Mentally, it was honestly, like what the fuck did I do?

74
00:03:38,370 --> 00:03:39,370
Honestly.

75
00:03:39,370 --> 00:03:40,370
Okay.

76
00:03:40,370 --> 00:03:44,220
Do
you recall any of your instructors AIT

77
00:03:44,220 --> 00:03:48,650
is so what were they like?

78

00:03:48,650 --> 00:03:55,909

In AIT I remember the female actually because she had a diamond in her tooth and when she

79

00:03:55,909 --> 00:04:05,769

was smoking me it like glittered in the sun, yeah, that is like really messed up, but I

80

00:04:05,769 --> 00:04:08,050

remember that.

81

00:04:08,050 --> 00:04:09,190

Okay.

82

00:04:09,190 --> 00:04:11,870

Did you receive any specialized training so what?

83

00:04:11,870 --> 00:04:13,760

Um, other training?

84

00:04:13,760 --> 00:04:15,020

After AIT,

85

00:04:15,020 --> 00:04:16,650

like what was your MOS?

86

00:04:16,650 --> 00:04:17,980

I was a cook.

87

00:04:17,980 --> 00:04:18,980

Okay.

88

00:04:18,980 --> 00:04:20,810

So...What were you like...92 Gulf???

89

00:04:20,810 --> 00:04:23,340

anything about anything about your training it was like

90

00:04:23,340 --> 00:04:27,150

interesting that you, I mean?

91

00:04:27,150 --> 00:04:29,070

I learned how to make a cake.

92

00:04:29,070 --> 00:04:30,070

Yeah.

93

00:04:30,070 --> 00:04:31,070

That's awesome.

94

00:04:31,070 --> 00:04:33,800

I mean did you guys do anything...I turned
21 when I was making a cake.

95

00:04:33,800 --> 00:04:36,810

Yeah, did you guys do when you guys are there

96

00:04:36,810 --> 00:04:41,610

doing your training for cook for that MOS,
do you guys do like

97

00:04:41,610 --> 00:04:45,910

mass quantity type stuff, do you learn about
temperatures I mean what is it what is

98

00:04:45,910 --> 00:04:50,550

it that they teach you there I guess?

99

00:04:50,550 --> 00:04:54,690

You learn about everything when it comes to
like

100

00:04:54,690 --> 00:05:03,490

when it's acceptable to produce a food out
to the masses basically.

101

00:05:03,490 --> 00:05:05,430

Like what's acceptable?

102

00:05:05,430 --> 00:05:06,430

Yes.

103
00:05:06,430 --> 00:05:13,270
Like if you ever got served runny eggs it's
because it is going to cook on the table which

104
00:05:13,270 --> 00:05:15,090
is why we only served runny eggs.

105
00:05:15,090 --> 00:05:16,790
Because it's going to cook on the table?

106
00:05:16,790 --> 00:05:21,160
What do you mean...It's called a heating lamp
it's going to cook your food as you're sitting

107
00:05:21,160 --> 00:05:23,350
there, so you don't want to serve like fully
cooked food.

108
00:05:23,350 --> 00:05:25,220
Oh, okay I got you.

109
00:05:25,220 --> 00:05:28,400
How long was your training?

110
00:05:28,400 --> 00:05:29,400
Just for AIT.

111
00:05:29,400 --> 00:05:34,410
I think I want to say like 7 or 8 weeks.

112
00:05:34,410 --> 00:05:36,470
Okay and then basic was nine?

113
00:05:36,470 --> 00:05:37,560
Yeah.

114
00:05:37,560 --> 00:05:38,650
Okay.

115
00:05:38,650 --> 00:05:45,650

How was adapting to military life including the physical, the barracks life, food, and

116
00:05:45,650 --> 00:05:47,470
social?

117
00:05:47,470 --> 00:05:51,160
A lot easier than adapting life after high school.

118
00:05:51,160 --> 00:05:52,160
Really.

119
00:05:52,160 --> 00:05:53,160
Yeah.

120
00:05:53,160 --> 00:05:54,530
I believe definitely.

121
00:05:54,530 --> 00:06:01,310
Did the conformity, the kind of like you always have to be somewhere on time, what is that,

122
00:06:01,310 --> 00:06:04,500
like the structure, did you like that about it or was that

123
00:06:04,500 --> 00:06:10,000
kind of overbearing I mean.

124
00:06:10,000 --> 00:06:17,710
I'm kind of like, be on time, so I think it was an easier transition than it was for me

125
00:06:17,710 --> 00:06:18,710
than being a civilian.

126
00:06:18,710 --> 00:06:24,740
It was a lot harder for me to transition from civilian life to military life.

127
00:06:24,740 --> 00:06:33,120

What was the hardest part about that?

128

00:06:33,120 --> 00:06:34,400

Of military life?

129

00:06:34,400 --> 00:06:47,350

I think it was more I had to fold stuff a certain way.

130

00:06:47,350 --> 00:06:53,260

Honestly, it wasn't the time schedule because I'm fifteen minutes early for everything no

131

00:06:53,260 --> 00:06:54,990

matter what.

132

00:06:54,990 --> 00:06:57,710

So the like how they specifically want things done.

133

00:06:57,710 --> 00:06:58,710

Yes.

134

00:06:58,710 --> 00:07:01,610

It was getting used to having to do stuff a certain way.

135

00:07:01,610 --> 00:07:03,890

The attention to detail part of it.

136

00:07:03,890 --> 00:07:04,890

Yes.

137

00:07:04,890 --> 00:07:05,890

Yeah.

138

00:07:05,890 --> 00:07:06,890

Okay.

139

00:07:06,890 --> 00:07:11,360

Do you have anything a story you want to share from your actually Basic?

140
00:07:11,360 --> 00:07:17,889
I'm not sure those are appropriate.

141
00:07:17,889 --> 00:07:25,100
I mean you can tell 'em it's not you know,
you can go in depth about it, it's no big

142
00:07:25,100 --> 00:07:26,100
deal.

143
00:07:26,100 --> 00:07:29,240
I know I had an easy Basic, I know that.

144
00:07:29,240 --> 00:07:32,139
Where was your Basic at?

145
00:07:32,139 --> 00:07:33,300
Fort Jackson.

146
00:07:33,300 --> 00:07:34,300
Okay.

147
00:07:34,300 --> 00:07:40,710
I did have problems in Basic, obviously.

148
00:07:40,710 --> 00:07:47,539
Because you put women in power and their always,
not necessarily is the power for a good thing

149
00:07:47,539 --> 00:07:55,289
but uh, I had issues with this one chick that
tried to get me into trouble for something

150
00:07:55,289 --> 00:08:00,030
that she was doing she didn't want to admit
that she was doing it.

151
00:08:00,030 --> 00:08:12,980
But, I ended up being in power anyways so
I guess it didn't work out in her favor but...I

152

00:08:12,980 --> 00:08:18,720

honestly don't think that Basic Training should ever be co-ed, ever.

153

00:08:18,720 --> 00:08:20,650

I'm sorry Really?

154

00:08:20,650 --> 00:08:21,650

No!

155

00:08:21,650 --> 00:08:29,720

Because most of our problems dealt with bringing guys into the picture where chicks had like

156

00:08:29,720 --> 00:08:31,610

a thing for the guy and

157

00:08:31,610 --> 00:08:37,099

they tried to pin it on somebody else because they were a girl in power and it just...More

158

00:08:37,099 --> 00:08:38,099

conflict.

159

00:08:38,099 --> 00:08:39,099

Yes.

160

00:08:39,099 --> 00:08:40,099

Okay.

161

00:08:40,099 --> 00:08:41,099

It was conflict.

162

00:08:41,099 --> 00:08:47,899

Did you make any good friends that you still stay in contact with or...In Basic, no.

163

00:08:47,899 --> 00:08:48,899

Okay.

164

00:08:48,899 --> 00:08:52,350

I can fully admit in Basic absolutely not.

165

00:08:52,350 --> 00:08:53,350

They were crazy.

166

00:08:53,350 --> 00:08:55,790

Alright, now where did you serve?

167

00:08:55,790 --> 00:08:58,129

Home station and also abroad.

168

00:08:58,129 --> 00:09:11,619

I was with, it is actually JBLM in Washington State which is Joint Base Lewis-McChord and

169

00:09:11,619 --> 00:09:20,749

they just recently changed that but they were a joint base with Fort Lewis Washington and

170

00:09:20,749 --> 00:09:24,320

the Air Force Base which they just now converged.

171

00:09:24,320 --> 00:09:28,300

That's the C-17 base, correct?

172

00:09:28,300 --> 00:09:29,679

I'm pretty sure.

173

00:09:29,679 --> 00:09:33,679

Yeah, I'm pretty sure.

174

00:09:33,679 --> 00:09:39,839

And then abroad I was with 17 Fires 530 which was interesting.

175

00:09:39,839 --> 00:09:40,839

Okay.

176

00:09:40,839 --> 00:09:43,310

Which was an artillery.

177

00:09:43,310 --> 00:09:44,310

Alright.

178

00:09:44,310 --> 00:09:50,709

Overseas, what are some of the memories that you have of that experience?

179

00:09:50,709 --> 00:09:56,290

Um, it was different.

180

00:09:56,290 --> 00:09:59,989

Different than...Home life.

181

00:09:59,989 --> 00:10:02,310

Like military garrison life you mean?

182

00:10:02,310 --> 00:10:04,120

No just life in general.

183

00:10:04,120 --> 00:10:05,129

Okay.

184

00:10:05,129 --> 00:10:07,949

Because you were able to go to the store.

185

00:10:07,949 --> 00:10:13,860

If you wanted something there you had to wait if they didn't have it.

186

00:10:13,860 --> 00:10:19,639

You definitely had the more of an appreciation for everything you have here, being able to

187

00:10:19,639 --> 00:10:26,829

go to the store and picking up a pack of like anything you wanted basically, you didn't

188

00:10:26,829 --> 00:10:35,299

have that opportunity there so...How was it adapting to you know, the combat lifestyle?

189

00:10:35,299 --> 00:10:38,480

It was easier, I think.

190

00:10:38,480 --> 00:10:45,740

It was like back then, in Afghanistan you didn't have to worry about anything but like

191

00:10:45,740 --> 00:10:57,959

your major monetary items like for me it was like shampoo and conditioner.

192

00:10:57,959 --> 00:11:02,120

As long as you had like shower stuff you were good.

193

00:11:02,120 --> 00:11:06,389

Like here you have to worry about so much more so.

194

00:11:06,389 --> 00:11:07,389

Yeah

195

00:11:07,389 --> 00:11:11,759

Before you any further into your deployment experience where exactly did

196

00:11:11,759 --> 00:11:12,759

you serve?

197

00:11:12,759 --> 00:11:14,069

I don't know if we covered that beforehand.

198

00:11:14,069 --> 00:11:25,730

I know it was, specifics...Um, we were mostly stationed at Spin Boldak Afghanistan.

199

00:11:25,730 --> 00:11:29,429

Which is in what province?

200

00:11:29,429 --> 00:11:31,189

Kandahar province.

201

00:11:31,189 --> 00:11:37,249

But Spin Boldak is right on the Pakistan border.

202

00:11:37,249 --> 00:11:38,249

Okay.

203

00:11:38,249 --> 00:11:40,749

On the southern Pakistan border so.

204

00:11:40,749 --> 00:11:41,749

Yeah, okay.

205

00:11:41,749 --> 00:11:45,749

I just wanted to put that on there.

206

00:11:45,749 --> 00:11:51,360

At any time were you on the front lines,
any combat action, did you have to

207

00:11:51,360 --> 00:11:53,420

witness?

208

00:11:53,420 --> 00:11:55,490

Um.

209

00:11:55,490 --> 00:12:01,910

But did you, it's a little bit different for
this kind of I mean were you out on missions

210

00:12:01,910 --> 00:12:02,910

basically?

211

00:12:02,910 --> 00:12:03,910

Yeah.

212

00:12:03,910 --> 00:12:04,910

Where you just

213

00:12:04,910 --> 00:12:05,910

on the FOB or were you out on missions?

214

00:12:05,910 --> 00:12:07,769

Regularly I was out on missions, yes.

215

00:12:07,769 --> 00:12:08,769

Okay.

216

00:12:08,769 --> 00:12:10,929

Can you go into detail about that at all about what that was like?

217

00:12:10,929 --> 00:12:16,239

We were we basically searched for IEDs.

218

00:12:16,239 --> 00:12:22,779

So when we found the IEDs we called the EOD and they detonated the IED.

219

00:12:22,779 --> 00:12:24,399

So were the people that literally

220

00:12:24,399 --> 00:12:25,940

searched for the bombs.

221

00:12:25,940 --> 00:12:31,730

And, I drove the truck that searched for a bomb.

222

00:12:31,730 --> 00:12:34,040

So originally was that your...No.

223

00:12:34,040 --> 00:12:35,670

You knew that was your job going into it?

224

00:12:35,670 --> 00:12:36,670

No.

225

00:12:36,670 --> 00:12:37,670

Okay.

226

00:12:37,670 --> 00:12:38,670

So when you went overseas what did you

227

00:12:38,670 --> 00:12:39,790
like as you were in the process of getting
ready to go overseas would did you think your

228
00:12:39,790 --> 00:12:40,790
job

229
00:12:40,790 --> 00:12:41,790
was going to be?

230
00:12:41,790 --> 00:12:42,790
We didn't know.

231
00:12:42,790 --> 00:12:43,790
You didn't know.

232
00:12:43,790 --> 00:12:44,790
Honestly.

233
00:12:44,790 --> 00:12:45,790
Did your whole unit in general know?

234
00:12:45,790 --> 00:12:46,790
No.

235
00:12:46,790 --> 00:12:47,790
Okay.

236
00:12:47,790 --> 00:12:48,790
We had no idea.

237
00:12:48,790 --> 00:12:50,829
We trained for IED hunting

238
00:12:50,829 --> 00:12:54,240
when we got to Afghanistan.

239
00:12:54,240 --> 00:12:56,709
Oh, okay, wow.

240
00:12:56,709 --> 00:12:59,339

That's when we found out so... Yeah, and was that kind of a shock

241
00:12:59,339 --> 00:13:01,199
to you I mean because you joined the military

242
00:13:01,199 --> 00:13:04,429
going into a cook, nonetheless you probably hadn't thought that there was

243
00:13:04,429 --> 00:13:06,879
no way that you'd end up doing that over there.

244
00:13:06,879 --> 00:13:08,879
Shock, yes.

245
00:13:08,879 --> 00:13:13,380
Did I get used to it?

246
00:13:13,380 --> 00:13:14,600
Yes.

247
00:13:14,600 --> 00:13:20,369
It was definitely not what I expected.

248
00:13:20,369 --> 00:13:22,869
Am I regretting it?

249
00:13:22,869 --> 00:13:23,869
No.

250
00:13:23,869 --> 00:13:24,869
So.

251
00:13:24,869 --> 00:13:28,199
How did you feel, how did it make you feel when you found out you were going to be doing

252
00:13:28,199 --> 00:13:31,600
something completely different than what you were trained to do?

253
00:13:31,600 --> 00:13:34,619
Holy Shit.

254
00:13:34,619 --> 00:13:36,269
Were you mad about it or were you just

255
00:13:36,269 --> 00:13:44,040
kind of like well...I mean you join the Army
to do whatever they wanted so you just kinda,

256
00:13:44,040 --> 00:13:58,600
I guess we just kind of

257
00:13:58,600 --> 00:14:00,439
went with the flow.

258
00:14:00,439 --> 00:14:06,179
If you did see any combat how did you feel
if you witnessed or if you did witness any

259
00:14:06,179 --> 00:14:07,179
of the casualties or

260
00:14:07,179 --> 00:14:11,579
destruction at any point I'm I know you said
I'm sure you were there when the UOD

261
00:14:11,579 --> 00:14:18,079
detonations went off, how did that feel
experiencing in a wartime in actual in the

262
00:14:18,079 --> 00:14:27,059
AOR just even if it wasn't aimed toward
you you know still bombs going off?

263
00:14:27,059 --> 00:14:34,249
Honestly, like our platoon was pretty fortunate.

264
00:14:34,249 --> 00:14:40,360
We didn't have any major detonations.

265

00:14:40,360 --> 00:14:46,050

I mean we did have a couple of times where we called an EOD and they were able to detonate

266

00:14:46,050 --> 00:14:54,970

but we didn't have anything where we blew up people so we were pretty fortunate I would

267

00:14:54,970 --> 00:14:55,970

say.

268

00:14:55,970 --> 00:14:57,439

So you guys didn't have any hits on your vehicles then?

269

00:14:57,439 --> 00:15:05,489

I mean we had a couple initial but they were minor in comparison to everything else.

270

00:15:05,489 --> 00:15:06,489

Okay.

271

00:15:06,489 --> 00:15:10,009

So you were out there on mission then when some of your guys got hit then?

272

00:15:10,009 --> 00:15:11,009

Yeah.

273

00:15:11,009 --> 00:15:14,930

So how did that, the initial thought when you hear it go off then what you know.

274

00:15:14,930 --> 00:15:17,480

Were you scared were you worried?

275

00:15:17,480 --> 00:15:28,970

Were you sad, I mean just kind of go through how that felt for you.

276

00:15:28,970 --> 00:15:29,970

Shock.

277
00:15:29,970 --> 00:15:30,970
Does that count?

278
00:15:30,970 --> 00:15:31,970
Yeah.

279
00:15:31,970 --> 00:15:37,160
I mean you don't really, when stuff like that happens you don't really know how to think,

280
00:15:37,160 --> 00:15:38,160
really.

281
00:15:38,160 --> 00:15:41,689
What was the feeling when you came across your first IED?

282
00:15:41,689 --> 00:15:47,769
Holy shit, what do you do?

283
00:15:47,769 --> 00:15:50,410
Was the first one you guys came across a hit or did you guys find it?

284
00:15:50,410 --> 00:15:51,410
We found it.

285
00:15:51,410 --> 00:15:53,690
Okay, so you guys had to feel good then right?

286
00:15:53,690 --> 00:15:55,369
Well yeah.

287
00:15:55,369 --> 00:16:06,809
That no one got injured and that our trucks were intact but was probably four months in

288
00:16:06,809 --> 00:16:15,879
so it was kinda like, how long is this going to take to detonate this baby, so you know,

289

00:16:15,879 --> 00:16:18,459

I don't know.

290

00:16:18,459 --> 00:16:24,569

Does it feel rewarding though once you actually
you find it and you call

291

00:16:24,569 --> 00:16:27,629

EOD in and they do their job did you feel
at the same

292

00:16:27,629 --> 00:16:28,939

time you know cause now I did you

293

00:16:28,939 --> 00:16:35,679

possibly save your platoons life or the people
coming behind you but also I mean

294

00:16:35,679 --> 00:16:40,169

civilians in the Afghany population?

295

00:16:40,169 --> 00:16:44,499

I would say it was rewarding, yes.

296

00:16:44,499 --> 00:16:50,779

But at the same time it's so common over there
its

297

00:16:50,779 --> 00:16:53,379

just another day, so.

298

00:16:53,379 --> 00:16:56,040

After you got used to it, it was kinda like
enh.

299

00:16:56,040 --> 00:17:00,299

Yeah it was kinda like oh, we got to sit here
for four hours and watch the IED.

300

00:17:00,299 --> 00:17:03,699

So it was like when you found one after awhile
it was kinda like damn it we found another

301
00:17:03,699 --> 00:17:04,699
one.

302
00:17:04,699 --> 00:17:10,360
We got to clear this baby we're going to be
out for awhile so.

303
00:17:10,360 --> 00:17:20,839
Alright, what kinds of friendships and comraderie
did you form while serving and with whom?

304
00:17:20,839 --> 00:17:31,570
I actually married my not medic, he was not
a medic in my platoon, but uh, I think his

305
00:17:31,570 --> 00:17:36,019
exact words were he didn't feel comfortable
being my medic in the

306
00:17:36,019 --> 00:17:37,019
same platoon.

307
00:17:37,019 --> 00:17:38,250
That's what it was.

308
00:17:38,250 --> 00:17:39,730
Conflict of interest.

309
00:17:39,730 --> 00:17:41,770
Yes, so.

310
00:17:41,770 --> 00:17:44,320
He wasn't in your platoon he was in your...He
was in my company.

311
00:17:44,320 --> 00:17:48,039
Ok, which is a group of, how many platoons
were in your company?

312
00:17:48,039 --> 00:17:49,139
We had three.

313
00:17:49,139 --> 00:17:50,139
Okay.

314
00:17:50,139 --> 00:17:51,139
So....Okay.

315
00:17:51,139 --> 00:17:56,830
He was I want to say 3rd, 2nd platoon, 2nd
platoon.

316
00:17:56,830 --> 00:18:06,190
Um, but I made a lot of friends but I also
made a lot of people that I thought were friends

317
00:18:06,190 --> 00:18:07,850
that were not friends.

318
00:18:07,850 --> 00:18:11,150
It's a lot
different being a female in a combat environment,

319
00:18:11,150 --> 00:18:19,110
especially when there are only six of us and
only three of us went out on mission, that

320
00:18:19,110 --> 00:18:26,500
it just, you found a lot of

321
00:18:26,500 --> 00:18:29,490
people that you thought were friends that
weren't.

322
00:18:29,490 --> 00:18:33,990
And you didn't find out until after you got
back so.

323
00:18:33,990 --> 00:18:38,870
Did you meet your husband overseas or on station?

324
00:18:38,870 --> 00:18:41,850
On station before I went overseas so.

325

00:18:41,850 --> 00:18:43,590

Okay, awesome.

326

00:18:43,590 --> 00:18:48,100

Did you have a relationship before you left before you went overseas?

327

00:18:48,100 --> 00:18:49,100

Yes.

328

00:18:49,100 --> 00:18:55,279

We were really good friends, actually we were dating before we went overseas and then well

329

00:18:55,279 --> 00:19:00,960

you're overseas and stuff happens so hey we're still married.

330

00:19:00,960 --> 00:19:05,210

Well at least you got close to somebody, right.

331

00:19:05,210 --> 00:19:06,210

Yeah.

332

00:19:06,210 --> 00:19:07,240

That's awesome.

333

00:19:07,240 --> 00:19:11,080

How did you stay in touch with family and friends back home?

334

00:19:11,080 --> 00:19:21,940

Um, I would like to say care packages but that wasn't the case, my care packages was

335

00:19:21,940 --> 00:19:30,690

mostly from my now husband, um, I actually became less close with my

336

00:19:30,690 --> 00:19:31,690

family overseas.

337

00:19:31,690 --> 00:19:34,929

I don't talk to any of them now so.

338

00:19:34,929 --> 00:19:38,380

Well, mostly my mother so.

339

00:19:38,380 --> 00:19:43,639

Now you said your now husband sent you care packages overseas are you saying when he was

340

00:19:43,639 --> 00:19:49,250

on leave or...No, his mom and his grandma.

341

00:19:49,250 --> 00:19:50,250

Oh, okay.

342

00:19:50,250 --> 00:19:52,049

My husband's family now, sent me stuff.

343

00:19:52,049 --> 00:19:55,820

Okay so they knew of you before this point.

344

00:19:55,820 --> 00:19:56,820

Yes.

345

00:19:56,820 --> 00:19:57,820

Okay.

346

00:19:57,820 --> 00:19:58,820

Yes.

347

00:19:58,820 --> 00:19:59,820

Okay.

348

00:19:59,820 --> 00:20:03,570

What did you do for recreation or when you were off duty in your spare time?

349

00:20:03,570 --> 00:20:05,559

Worked out.

350
00:20:05,559 --> 00:20:06,559
Okay.

351
00:20:06,559 --> 00:20:12,529
Went to the gym a lot.

352
00:20:12,529 --> 00:20:18,510
I miss it, honestly, having the time to be able to unwind, go to the gym, it's a lot

353
00:20:18,510 --> 00:20:20,160
harder now but.

354
00:20:20,160 --> 00:20:27,600
Now other than the gym was there a place where that the base could go or... We had an active

355
00:20:27,600 --> 00:20:32,230
MWR, we played, I think it had like X-Box, computers where you could Skype and do all

356
00:20:32,230 --> 00:20:40,030
that stuff...um, Did it have a library or anything there with it?

357
00:20:40,030 --> 00:20:47,509
It had books in the MWR but it didn't, not much.

358
00:20:47,509 --> 00:20:48,509
Outdated books?

359
00:20:48,509 --> 00:20:54,270
Yeah, well I can't even remember one title that was in the MWR.

360
00:20:54,270 --> 00:21:02,950
Mostly you're like, oh my God an X-Box, this is awesome.

361
00:21:02,950 --> 00:21:03,950

Yeah.

362

00:21:03,950 --> 00:21:09,059

But, that was the biggest place for us cause
it was really, it was really small.

363

00:21:09,059 --> 00:21:17,980

The MWR was right next to the gym so you could
get done working out and go to the MWR and

364

00:21:17,980 --> 00:21:24,620

hang out, and chill and talk to people.

365

00:21:24,620 --> 00:21:31,590

Okay is there anything else about your time
in combat or overseas that you'd like to share,

366

00:21:31,590 --> 00:21:39,149

any stories or experiences that you would
like people to know?

367

00:21:39,149 --> 00:21:45,419

Are you being literal or are you being.....However
you interpret it.

368

00:21:45,419 --> 00:21:48,580

If you have anything you want to share about
it.

369

00:21:48,580 --> 00:22:05,590

Honestly, actually, it sucks being a woman
in a combat like environment, it did suck.

370

00:22:05,590 --> 00:22:09,840

Why's that?

371

00:22:09,840 --> 00:22:11,970

Fuck.

372

00:22:11,970 --> 00:22:13,340

We can take a short break.

373

00:22:13,340 --> 00:22:18,090

Alright we're back from a short break.

374

00:22:18,090 --> 00:22:25,340

Back to what we were asking you, what are some of the experiences that not only you

375

00:22:25,340 --> 00:22:30,169

experienced but you'd wish to share with to teach others to understand and see what you've

376

00:22:30,169 --> 00:22:32,799

been through?

377

00:22:32,799 --> 00:22:44,580

Um, I would say being a woman in a combat platoon sucked.

378

00:22:44,580 --> 00:22:54,059

And it sounds terrible, it really does and it has nothing to do with, no it has everything

379

00:22:54,059 --> 00:23:04,399

to do with a woman, it just, it was not, we had six total in our company, three went on,

380

00:23:04,399 --> 00:23:12,730

actual, I don't know if I mentioned this already (cannot decypher) and it sucked.

381

00:23:12,730 --> 00:23:15,820

It was terrible.

382

00:23:15,820 --> 00:23:22,130

I had more rumors than I can count.

383

00:23:22,130 --> 00:23:34,450

Started and it was.....

384

00:23:34,450 --> 00:23:37,450

I mean uh, rumors about you having relationships with other

385
00:23:37,450 --> 00:23:39,279
people is that your talking about?

386
00:23:39,279 --> 00:23:40,279
Yeah.

387
00:23:40,279 --> 00:23:43,909
Okay and that was obviously not
pleasing.

388
00:23:43,909 --> 00:23:45,360
Every one was false and it sucked.

389
00:23:45,360 --> 00:23:46,360
Yeah.

390
00:23:46,360 --> 00:23:47,360
Yeah.

391
00:23:47,360 --> 00:23:51,999
Okay, is there anything else you wanted to
add about that or

392
00:23:51,999 --> 00:23:58,240
Were there any good experiences that
you had where you know life memories

393
00:23:58,240 --> 00:24:02,009
will where you won't forget?

394
00:24:02,009 --> 00:24:16,860
I wouldn't change it, I wouldn't...but...I
mean,

395
00:24:16,860 --> 00:24:26,190
you can't change ideals and unfortunately
those were not the ideals at the time and...let

396
00:24:26,190 --> 00:24:34,240
me just say I had rumors that I slept with
more people than I can count and none of them

397
00:24:34,240 --> 00:24:35,779
were true so.

398
00:24:35,779 --> 00:24:40,429
Okay, you want to move on to after deployment?

399
00:24:40,429 --> 00:24:41,429
Yes.

400
00:24:41,429 --> 00:24:46,279
Coming home....so how did you guys, your did
your platoon return home?

401
00:24:46,279 --> 00:25:02,029
Was it you by yourself, was it, wait let's
start over...Are you trying to figure out

402
00:25:02,029 --> 00:25:05,789
my phone babe?

403
00:25:05,789 --> 00:25:09,539
Turn it off.

404
00:25:09,539 --> 00:25:10,789
Okay.

405
00:25:10,789 --> 00:25:12,039
Sorry.

406
00:25:12,039 --> 00:25:17,600
Alright....how did you return home, did you
come back by yourself, did you come back as

407
00:25:17,600 --> 00:25:20,759
a platoon, did you take an aircraft back?

408
00:25:20,759 --> 00:25:22,399
How did you get home?

409
00:25:22,399 --> 00:25:29,460
Uh, from Spin Boldak we ran Chinooks over

to Kandahar, which was awesome, at least most

410

00:25:29,460 --> 00:25:30,570

of us did.

411

00:25:30,570 --> 00:25:37,440

There was one platoon that actually had to drive which my husband was in that

412

00:25:37,440 --> 00:25:40,650

shitty platoon, they had to drive back.

413

00:25:40,650 --> 00:25:45,860

But we drove Chinooks which was pretty cool I would have to say.

414

00:25:45,860 --> 00:25:47,779

You got to fly in some?

415

00:25:47,779 --> 00:25:55,299

Yes, we got to fly in Chinooks with all the crap that we brought over there.

416

00:25:55,299 --> 00:26:05,200

Then we flew back in, I don't know, planes that were....You took a plane from KAF.

417

00:26:05,200 --> 00:26:11,399

Yes, we took a plane from KAF to uh....Kurdistan?

418

00:26:11,399 --> 00:26:12,610

Yes, Kurdistan.

419

00:26:12,610 --> 00:26:15,130

So Manas was the air force base there?

420

00:26:15,130 --> 00:26:16,130

Yes.

421

00:26:16,130 --> 00:26:19,700

And then from Manas you went to?

422
00:26:19,700 --> 00:26:21,139
America.

423
00:26:21,139 --> 00:26:24,029
You went straight from Manas to the United States?

424
00:26:24,029 --> 00:26:25,410
With the occasional field stop.

425
00:26:25,410 --> 00:26:26,410
Okay.

426
00:26:26,410 --> 00:26:28,539
Was it a military aircraft or was it a...?

427
00:26:28,539 --> 00:26:36,309
No, the military aircraft lasted until uh, Manas and then from Manas we went American

428
00:26:36,309 --> 00:26:37,309
well

429
00:26:37,309 --> 00:26:40,529
uh, international flight.

430
00:26:40,529 --> 00:26:43,929
I think it was like Ryan Air?

431
00:26:43,929 --> 00:26:49,270
I think, which by the way they have shitty food, by the way.

432
00:26:49,270 --> 00:26:52,559
Terrible food, like here take this spoiled chicken.

433
00:26:52,559 --> 00:26:53,789
Like eat this.

434
00:26:53,789 --> 00:26:54,789

Yeah.

435

00:26:54,789 --> 00:26:55,789

The worse.

436

00:26:55,789 --> 00:27:01,100

Before we move on from that what was that like you know you're leaving Afghanistan

437

00:27:01,100 --> 00:27:02,389

that initial military flight out...amazing....

438

00:27:02,389 --> 00:27:04,950

I mean you know you're out of this combat zone, you guys were

439

00:27:04,950 --> 00:27:06,399

alive, you made it?

440

00:27:06,399 --> 00:27:11,890

I honestly have more pictures from the flight back than I ever had anywhere else.

441

00:27:11,890 --> 00:27:12,890

Okay.

442

00:27:12,890 --> 00:27:15,650

Its your like oh my God we get to go home.

443

00:27:15,650 --> 00:27:16,650

Like its over.

444

00:27:16,650 --> 00:27:21,190

I can go to the gas station and get like a hot dog.

445

00:27:21,190 --> 00:27:24,370

Its like, its amazing.

446

00:27:24,370 --> 00:27:25,960

Good luck.

447
00:27:25,960 --> 00:27:30,019
How were you received by your family and

448
00:27:30,019 --> 00:27:31,019
friends and...?

449
00:27:31,019 --> 00:27:35,980
We're back from a short
technical difficulty again, go with the question.

450
00:27:35,980 --> 00:27:36,980
Alright what

451
00:27:36,980 --> 00:27:42,809
are some of the life lessons you learn
from your military service?

452
00:27:42,809 --> 00:27:49,990
That military is so much easier then civilian
life.

453
00:27:49,990 --> 00:27:51,270
Is that legit?

454
00:27:51,270 --> 00:27:53,490
Like for real.

455
00:27:53,490 --> 00:27:55,390
Can you elaborate a little bit?

456
00:27:55,390 --> 00:28:04,539
If I have a cold, I can go to sick call.

457
00:28:04,539 --> 00:28:08,809
When I'm a civilian I'm like, I have

458
00:28:08,809 --> 00:28:17,139
a cold I really don't want to go to the hospital
for it so let's just take some cough drops.

459
00:28:17,139 --> 00:28:18,149

Okay.

460

00:28:18,149 --> 00:28:19,169

Yeah.

461

00:28:19,169 --> 00:28:27,610

I mean how is it, has it affected your life
in any other how you see things I mean being

462

00:28:27,610 --> 00:28:31,749

over there, you know what I mean?

463

00:28:31,749 --> 00:28:36,091

Like being over there and coming back here
has that your view on United States or on

464

00:28:36,091 --> 00:28:37,509

reality or

465

00:28:37,509 --> 00:28:38,509

anything?

466

00:28:38,509 --> 00:28:47,299

I don't think we should be over there, at
all.

467

00:28:47,299 --> 00:28:48,299

Okay.

468

00:28:48,299 --> 00:28:50,780

Seriously, nobody wants us over there.

469

00:28:50,780 --> 00:28:52,640

We're dying.

470

00:28:52,640 --> 00:28:56,360

And it's pointless so.

471

00:28:56,360 --> 00:29:02,620

Why do you say it's pointless?

472

00:29:02,620 --> 00:29:09,490

We spent 12 months over there and not one person I think, well, maybe one, one person,

473

00:29:09,490 --> 00:29:15,750

while we were over there appreciated us being over there.

474

00:29:15,750 --> 00:29:17,399

As far as the local population you mean?

475

00:29:17,399 --> 00:29:19,610

Yes, so why are we there.

476

00:29:19,610 --> 00:29:20,660

Yeah.

477

00:29:20,660 --> 00:29:29,070

So we're dying over there and it's pointless.

478

00:29:29,070 --> 00:29:30,120

Okay.

479

00:29:30,120 --> 00:29:37,160

Alright, what message would you like to leave for future generations that will view or hear

480

00:29:37,160 --> 00:29:41,159

this interview?

481

00:29:41,159 --> 00:30:02,289

I guess I would say it is not a matter of who can do it, obviously cause everybody thought

482

00:30:02,289 --> 00:30:11,539

that a girl could do it and hey I survived so..uh, it's a matter of fighting for something

483

00:30:11,539 --> 00:30:18,059

that you believe in, and if you stop believing in it then it's not worth fighting for.

484

00:30:18,059 --> 00:30:19,059

What did you fight for?

485

00:30:19,059 --> 00:30:28,700

I thought I was fighting for my country and it's not the case.

486

00:30:28,700 --> 00:30:34,289

Know what you're fighting for, how about that?

487

00:30:34,289 --> 00:30:43,950

Because, yeah, after you're over there you don't really know.

488

00:30:43,950 --> 00:30:51,649

Is there anything that you feel like we haven't discussed or should be added to this interview?

489

00:30:51,649 --> 00:30:53,749

If so, what?

490

00:30:53,749 --> 00:30:54,749

P.S.

491

00:30:54,749 --> 00:30:59,059

Girls that fight on missions, it sucks to take a piss.

492

00:30:59,059 --> 00:31:02,500

Seriously that is a big deal . Can you go into detail?

493

00:31:02,500 --> 00:31:08,700

18 hours on a mission is really hard when you have to take a pee, that's a big deal.

494

00:31:08,700 --> 00:31:11,509

I didn't.... You couldn't stop to take a pee or anything?

495

00:31:11,509 --> 00:31:19,649

I mean you could but 35 guys watching you take a piss is not a good idea, so you just,

496
00:31:19,649 --> 00:31:23,580
I just held it for like 18 hours.

497
00:31:23,580 --> 00:31:26,840
Did they come up with anything for you guys
while you

498
00:31:26,840 --> 00:31:28,039
were there?

499
00:31:28,039 --> 00:31:33,080
Um, a month until we went home they finally
came up with this kind of weird

500
00:31:33,080 --> 00:31:49,889
like, it's almost like a funnel with a tube,
but that was a month until we went home and

501
00:31:49,889 --> 00:31:54,490
finally it was just like, I've been holding
it for like 18 hours a day so, a little funnel

502
00:31:54,490 --> 00:31:58,350
is not going to make a difference in my life.

503
00:31:58,350 --> 00:31:59,350
Right.

504
00:31:59,350 --> 00:32:00,350
But.

505
00:32:00,350 --> 00:32:03,029
Anything else you want to add?

506
00:32:03,029 --> 00:32:05,019
That's my legacy right there?

507
00:32:05,019 --> 00:32:07,679
Bitch you can't pee.

508

00:32:07,679 --> 00:32:13,980

Well, um, we'd all like to thank you for doing
this interview for us.

509

00:32:13,980 --> 00:32:17,969

Thank you for serving and we respect what
you did.