

IFIT-35-086 (Sgt. [REDACTED])

Q: All right. This Sergeant [REDACTED] with the 377th Theatre support command. I'm resuming the interview with Sergeant [REDACTED] -- ah -- Sergeant [REDACTED]. And, ah, all right. We just finished saying the prisoners were the holding area and they were going through in-processing, and they were sending cards out. b6-2

A: Right.

Q: And then, oh. The English speakers. Let me ask you something. I've heard there is ways to identify Fedayeen Ba'ath Party Members, and Republican Guard. Can you tell you what some of those means are? And...

A: OK. They're... Fay-- Fedayeen, first off, was, is the militia for basically Saddam Hussein's (inaudible), (inaudible). They're basically, like his little pet group or whatever. (inaudible) very popular. Uh, the ways you can best identify anybody (on this place?) was if you looked at them... a lot of times you'd look at them and you'd talk to 'em. What's this guy supposed to be, you know. And you look at -- they usually come in with capture tags which say, would say if they're soldiers, that'd be plain on there. If they're civilians, it'd say civilian on there, where they were captures, what they say they were doing, why they were taken to prison. A lot of times, you

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can put one and one together and you come up with three on this guy, you have an issue. Like, one guy came in and he's like, oh, no, I'm -- you know -- farmer, farmer. You have pretty good English, Mr. Farmer. How're you doing? You know? You're looking at him and you're sitting there, well -- like, we do searches. When you're sitting there and this guy tells you he's a farmer, and you look down at his hands and he's got hands, you know, that look like he's never done an honest day's work in his life, you know.

Q: Manicured, no calluses.

A: Yeah, manicured, no calluses. Looks like a politician. You know, nice hair, you know. No... nothing, no little cut, no real scars on the guy or anything. Feet are all soft and stuff.

Q: What about the clothes?

A: Well, the clothes you've got to be kind of careful of. A lot times, a lot times you'll see... some people would get to us and their uniforms would be a little tattered, would be the nice way of saying that. A lot times they'd end up with other clothes that, you know, stuff that had been given them after searching them or something. They try and be careful, but yeah, if you had somebody there with a \$300.00 pair of pants on, he's telling, you know, he's telling you no, no, I shoveled cow manure out of the back

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of the truck. Yeah. OK. You're right. We go talking to MI or something like that.

Q: And what was the procedure if you thought you identified someone who was Fedayeen, Al Qaeda, or...

A: If you thought that it was somebody a little out of the ordinary or something like that, normally we wouldn't do anything with that person there right away.

Q: All right.

A: We'd usually just keep a track of them. Send somebody over from military intelligence or there was a -- talk to whoever was over there that would -- you know, more important position than us, to pick out these people. Because it wasn't until basically in our last week working up there that told us what to look for at all. And, uh...

Q: (sigh.)

A: Yeah (laughter). It's kinda hard, huh? We got a lot cops, we got a lot cops, though, in our unit. A lot of jailers, a lot of people who work in law enforcement, stuff like that, so...

Q: About how -- percentage-wise. And just a guess, I'm not asking --

A: I'd say about 30% are in the law enforcement realm somewhere.

Q: And yourself?

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A: Myself? I'm a 28-year-old working on my bachelors degree still.

Q: All right. Good to know. Good for you.

A: Except I've been working on 32 credit hours for the last two years because of deployment (laughter).

Q: Let me ask you, did your college, when you left in the middle of it -- I'm assuming you did --

A: Mm-hmm.

Q: Did you get reimbursed or did they stiff you that?

A: I got reimbursed both times. So they treated me -- I got real lucky on that.

Q: Yeah.

A: I got -- they treated me real well.

Q: Let's give them a heads up. What college or university?

A: Ohio University.

Q: OK. Good. More universities should do that.

A: Yeah. Where are we at?

Q: All right. We were talking about identification. You hadn't received it for... until the last, 'til this last week, apparently.

A: No, no. Not this last week. The last week we worked up there. We transferred out of there.

Q: OK, then --

A: We worked up there for maybe... I want to say... a month.

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But that might be too long.

Q: Let's see. April 2nd. When did you start your new rotation?

A: Well, our first -- as soon as we got up here, we started that night. The night, April 2nd when we got here, I believe. Probably about a month up there, then. It wasn't until about the beginning of this month, or the beginning of last month.

Q: The beginning of May that --

A: April... yeah. It would have been about May when we started this one. And we worked to about the end.

Q: All right. So let's finish with this rotation.

A: OK. Anyway, we were up there, we'd do -- yeah, it's pretty much keep your eyes open, look at people, [REDACTED]. Sit there... pull something, you know, talk to another guard. If you're sitting there talking to a guard, saying... (inaudible) you look at 'em, and go, well, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] so they can just (inaudible) when they ask for them. You know.

Q: (laughter)

A: And you know, [REDACTED], you know. And they've been [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
Q: (laughter).

A: You know, you're like, OK. Hey, why don't talk to me for a minute. You know, it's different little [REDACTED], or something like that, or just, you know. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] You know, you say something like and every -- you know. They won't get fed until they get over to the compound. And then the next question comes out of them. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] You kind of picked up on little things like that. Just basic [REDACTED] that you know about. Smart ones probably got away with it, and we never probably caught them. You know, they played the game better, and then they'd also get MI to look at them on the way out.

Q: Well it seems like to me you're more likely to catch them coming in than going out, unless you have informers or something.

A: Well, they do have that. So I was saying, the MI catch them before they go out of our forwarding, the initial forwarding area. They, they'll talk to them to...

Q: OK.

A: They start that a little later.

Q: OK.

A: Yeah. But you given them a --

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Q: Actually, why was it you were told so late about looking for identifying features and --

A: A lot of our, our upper echelon just kept on railing away, going hey, we still haven't got anything on this. And so finally they go, oh, maybe we should let them know on this stuff. And they came back down.

Q: I mean, you know. I've only been here four days and I've been told that, you know, Fedayeen, look for an evil tattoo.

A: Tattoo.

Q: And...

A: That's not exactly like, let's get the (inaudible) to get tattoos.

Q: Oh, OK.

A: Yeah, so. You have some of them out there that don't have any.

Q: OK.

A: So, yeah. You look for tattoos, stuff like that. Prison tattoos, you might want to keep an eye on that guy 'cause there are some that come through here with the jailhouse tats on them.

Q: And what are the Iraqi jailhouse tats?

A: Letters and initials for the most part. You know, it's just, it's just like, you'll see -- it looks like just

inti-- somebody's initials or something. It's real -- not exactly quality craftsmanship that I'd put any money in.

Q: Right.

A: But, that would be something you look for. Just kept your eyes open. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Things like that.

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If anything looks suspicious then you as for MI or somebody to come over and take a look at the individual.

Q: And after the MI looked at them, they were out of your responsibility at that point? Or...

A: Kind of sort of.

Q: OK.

A: Best put. If MI came over and said, yeah, we want to talk to this individual for a while, we'd sign them out to whoever was there from MI. We'd take down their tag number or whatever and go, OK, you're signed for this guy. And MI would take them over to the Joint Forces and --

Q: Joint Interrogation Facility?

A: (JFET?). They take them over there and talk to them for a while. If they didn't want 'em anymore and they figured they got everything out of them or whatever, then they'd send, they'd bring them back here to us.

Q: Now, they'd bring them back. Would they do it? Or would they get an MP to do it, from a different company?

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A: To bring them here from (JFET?)

Q: Exactly.

A: They'd usually walk them over.

Q: OK.

A: We had -- they had -- for a while they had some of our company also on the (JFET?) just for security reasons as well. Sometimes they'd just -- it'd just vary, pretty much. Up in the air. It depends on basically who's running it, who wants to walk that day. But you get 'em... if they take them over, bring them back, you just take them back into (compilation?) Sometimes they take people out that they wanted to talk to or that were helping them out. And they'd want -- so that they weren't taking them out, so you'd kind of pulled them out of the crowd and take them off to the side, somehow get them away from the rest of the crowd before you send them over. And just... depending on the situation, what the use was for the individual. So you, those are just the things you look for when you have to fill out the card. And then you put them in groups of usually about ^{b2-3} to standing by to go down to the processing line. You have an RTO stand by to watch them over.

Q: Now, RTO?

A: Radio Telephone Operator.

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Q: OK.

A: Pretty much more radio operator. We didn't really have telephones.

Q: OK. I was thinking PA312s, so...

A: But you have your RTO that comms with battalion level. So if anything major happened or they needed information on somebody, they can get it. But she acted, or he or she acted like a guard. And you have another person with... stand there and actually -- their whole job is just to stand there and watch the prisoners, with the RTO as their backup. And when they're ready to move, have an escort come -- from down the processing tent -- come up, go, OK, they're ready for another eight, and their ready for another ten. And then two people would escort -- one from the tent would escort and another from the forwarding area would escort to take down the processing line. If they're British captures, then they've got to be processed by the British, and then once the British were done processing, they had to be processed by the Americans as well, so you had a double processing procedure there.

Q: And how long would that procedure take?

A: That's...once again, it's a -- it, it varied greatly. It depended on who your interpreters were. Because you had some interpreters who were better than others.

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Q: Now, could you choose who your interpreters were, or...

A: You... interpreters... that'd be about the worst thing.

Interpreters were the worst part of dealing with people out there. Just... I mean... they... I don't want to say... I would basically (inaudible) (inaudible). All right, you said... basically lazy, would be... it's not a work ethic that, that we would expect. They're mostly from like Kuwait or other areas, Arab nations and stuff. This, this, is their first language and English is second or whatever. And they really don't have what we would consider work ethic, where, you know, you stick with it. You keep on going, keep on doing the job, you know. OK, (inaudible) here's a big cup coffee, let's go. You know. They would pretty much, oh, I'm tired, I'm going to bed. They're contractors, so you... we really don't have an option on it. And we're military. You can order us to keep on going. They're civilians, basically. In fact, they're not even our civilians. You know, our national civilians, they're, you know, Kuwaiti, whatever. So you'd all be going in there and they'd just take off, or they'd go off on breaks, and just disappear on you all the time. And they'd, cause you problems like giving cigarettes out to the inmates, or the prisoners, and that was, kind of bother you a little bit every now and again.

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Q: Now how would that cause problems?

A: Because you just gave -- we'd be telling them, OK, no cigarettes until you get over to the other line.

Q: Oh, OK.

A: You know, or we would just try to be maintaining discipline or something. And the interpreters would walk up to them and talk to them. We have no idea what the interpreter's saying. These people are responding, and... it's not my nature to trust other people. I trust every soldier I serve with that are in my company, and especially my platoon. I, I trust them. I know that they're not going sit there and try to (inaudible) and stick a knife in my back. Whereas this guy I don't know from Adam. And he's sitting there talking to the VPW and handing, giving him a cigarette. Looks like a friend to me. I don't know. I mean, I know they're not friends and everything, and it's just being nice, but I... it just causes us problems and stuff. So you have that. Once you got -- you take them there, you take them down to the processing tent, they took them in, do their height, weight, all that stuff. Where they were captured, all, who they're captured by.

Q: And that was done by battalion (inaudible).

A: I think (inaudible)

Q: 320th MP. Just --

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A: (I believe so?) Just... did --

Q: Yeah, OK.

A: OK.

Q: I'll just have to say that's whoever gets this gets it on our record.

A: All right. Yeah.

Q: Whatever.

A: Take them there, then we take them out. And then MI, towards the end, MI set up a kind of quick interrogation check where they had, they all spoke -- the MI guys there spoke Arabic or whatever. They didn't have to rely on the interpreters (inaudible). MI guys, military intelligence guys would go, you know, would sit there and ask them some questions. Where are you from, what do you do, da, da, da. You know. And they'd ask them their version of it. You know, ferret out the Fedayeen, whatever you have. Republican Guard, whoever you'd gotten that day. After they cleared that, they'd continue on down, just a short -- it's all within ^{b2-3} [REDACTED] of leaving the tent. Talk to MI then you went to a medical and corpsman. And the corpsman would be like, have you had any problems, any medical emergencies, stuff like that. If they didn't have any problems, they went on down, and we stuck them in rows according to which part of the (inaudible) cage they were

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going to be stuck in. If they had medical problems, the medics treated them or gave them whatever medication they needed, and then they stuck in the rows. At that point, once you got enough people or the coor, the coordinators open up to where they could receive prisoners, because they only receive during (inaudible) and other times. Load them all in the back -- load as many as you can on the deuce and half, drive the deuce and a half over, drop them off -- our escort company, or our escort's attachment was down there, and that was where the IHA stop and the core started. Drop them off to there --

Q: I'm sorry, what's the IHA and the --

A: The IHA is the initial holding area.

Q: Thank you.

A: The whole process I just described is the first part of that. And then the corps cage, you know, is kind of a reversal. Like supposedly, the core cage acted like our... internment facility. The first part. Seeing, yeah, if I can remember the actual meaning behind the word there. But we were using the core cage as our internment facility for a while. And it's kind of, it basically was -- it is substandard. That's basically why they got rid of them. It was substandard. It was built for [REDACTED], we're holding [REDACTED] (inaudible). It just wasn't set up to hold that many

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and it was just set up wrong.

Q: Now. I -- let me ask -- the British set that part up, as I understand it.

A: Correct.

Q: OK. Because I was going to go into, you know, last Gulf War we caught 80,000, I think they were expecting that, and why weren't they expecting that, but OK. The British set it up, we have to ask them.

A: Yeah. Well that was also multiple pris-- the last one apparently was multiple prisons. Many more, you had many more surrenders. This one we didn't have quite as many. But, take them down there, and that ended the initial holding area's responsibility. So we dumped them on to -- usually we had, had a squad of about eight or nine guys down there from our company to do the escort mission. Which consisted of, get them off the truck, find out which compound, because there was about... I want to say 12 compounds down in that facility that you could put them in. You take them from the staging area -- where you just off-loaded from the truck -- you take them to the staging area and you put them in each of the compounds, get their numbers and everything for -- you know, their identification numbers. Stick them in there and come back. And then the other, that detachment down there was also in

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charge of the segregation units, which were basically (Connexes?), which on the front, they had taken wood and basically barricaded the front on it and made a grill out of the wood on the front and wrapped barbed wire and stuff around it so you couldn't really yank on it or anything.

Q: OK.

A: Put doors on it. And then if you had some troublemakers in the compound or... we had a guy with polio, we had a guy with smallpox -- not smallpox but chicken pox -- and a couple of other people with basically infectious, contagious diseases. You'd stick them somewhere so they're not with the general population. Put them in segregation unit so they're (inaudible). But they ran that.

Q: Now, if I understand, that's the one that has the signs over it?

A: What's that?

Q: The one that used to have the signs over it, I should say. Those signs are gone now I noticed (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

A: Clarksville (inaudible phrase.) Yeah.

Q: (inaudible), then Rikers.

A: Yeah, they used to -- some, some sense of humor to pass the hours along, yeah. Somebody -- unidentified individuals -- went (overlapping dialogue; inaudible.)

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Q: Don't need to know names.

A: Yeah. Well, I couldn't tell you.

Q: (laughter).

A: Wish I knew. No, but. Yeah, that was the segregation unit.

Q: And, now, you're company handled that as well?

A: Yeah.

Q: What was your company's procedure and what do you receive from higher up? Or did you receive anything from higher.

A: That was pretty much a pass-down (inaudible) (before).

It's pretty much -- I guess the army says that they don't believe in OJT, but boy, they put a lot of stock in it when it comes down to going in the field. On the job training in just about everything. We showed up, we got passed down from the (inaudible) the outgoing shift, and what's... how do we do this?

Q: OK. So they helped you.

A: And here's the logbook. Keep the numbers, which compound they came out of. If they're going back, which compound they're going to. If they're not going back, they're going to medical or something, where they're going. If they go to use the restroom. When you pull down the segregation unit and they're -- or you just want to take them out and let them get to stretch their legs or something, or if you want to let them wash, or whatever you want to do with

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them. You know, take -- write down the log. Here's the key. They'll bring you people if you need -- you don't have to go get anybody. They bring them to you. All that stuff.

Q: Yeah. How many would stay at the segregation again?

A: Varied. The first time I worked it, we started off, we probably had about 16 people.

Q: Wow. And how many segregation units did you have?

A: ^{b2-3} [REDACTED] It wasn't really, it wasn't like what you would think of as a cooler or an icebox -- you know. Solitary confinement cell block. It was more or less getting them out of the general population and sticking them where they could be supervised a lot more.

Q: And how many would you put in each -- so it wasn't like each had their own (connex) (inaudible).

A: No, no. We also kept the crazy guys there.

Q: Yeah.

A: You met them -- have you met [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]?)

Q: I don't know if that's the name. I was given the one --

[REDACTED] is the one that I know him by. Because that's the sign he was under, so... I heard that there four here. They were flown out by helicopter recently. I assume.

A: That's good. I hope so.

Q: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]? b6-4

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A: I hope, I hope those guys get out because they don't, you know, they're not. They're basically mentally ill. There's no sense having them here. They're just... either that or they faked up that really well. They're sick. But yeah. Usually those two occupied a cell -- well we only had two of the (inaudible) at the time. Those two, we, they had their own little cell, like I said. But, uh, we usually keep them, roughly, about four to a thing. My first day working there they had a small incident. (inaudible) got shot down there.

Q: At the segregation?

A: Not in the segregation. That was inside the core cage or holding area. The internment facility at that point. And basically the civilians were throwing rocks and that (to start out.) The military was going to do a hunger strike. The military guys decided they're going to do a hunger strike. They emphasized they wanted the civilians to do it as well. Well civilians...

Q: Didn't have that.

A: The civilians weren't going along with that -- the civilians were just as happy to eat. They, they had no problems with it. They were like, yeah, you guys do what you want to do. We're going to sit -- you have to segregate it out. You have the military on one side and you have the

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civilians on the other, you know. Keep the -- you always keep people segregated by, you know, rank or occupation or whatever. It was -- the lay guys didn't want to have anything to do with this hunger strike. The military guys said they were. And so you start getting, "Soldier, soldier! Move out of the way, move out the way." And this is, this is like, the military guys telling you that.

(inaudible) civilian guys. And you're sitting there, and getting these guys, and your sitting there looking. I go, what the h-- and all of a sudden, rocks. Wooshhh!

Wooshhh! They start chucking rocks back and forth. They sit there and they'd tell the soldiers, they'd be like, get out of the way, we're going to start chucking rocks. They had the courtesy to tell the soldiers. They didn't want to hit the soldiers. They figured if something happened to the soldiers, bad news is going to befall them, but they could sit there and wing rocks. You know, it's like, you know, you got like ^{b2-3} people here, people here. And they're all sitting out in front of their tents chucking rocks and stuff back and forth at each other.

Q: And one which is disciplined, and one which is undisciplined but criminals, probably.

A: Well, no. This is just the civilians they picked up, you know, that were suspicious. They had found weapons on them

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or whatever. At that point, we weren't really housing any criminals, although we probably had some in there. But for the most part, they were just regular civilians.

Q: Who just had weapons in their (inaudible).

A: Or something like that. Exactly. So you just got this breaking out where people are just chucking rocks back and forth at you. Then you have to go in (inaudible) and clear it up.

Q: How many of those were there?

A: How many? I don't -- I couldn't tell you, actually. In the whole history, I'd have no idea. I know they just about had one of those incidence every day that we worked down there. It was -- a lot of it was brought on by the fact that the British were a lot more lax in the way they handled things. They were pretty much a... not an appeasement, but, "They want it, we'll get it to them." I don't want to say "appease" (Hitler reference to the French?). That's not a good --

Q: (inaudible).

A: (laughter).

Q: Of peace in our time.

A: Yeah, but... you know, basically they'd give -- want more cigarettes, they'd get more cigarettes. (inaudible).
Americans rolled in, and Americans weren't going to play

that game. We were going to be like, nope, this is what you get. We'll riot. Go ahead. We'll come in, we'll stop it (laughter). So apparently that's what kept the little rock fights always going. So we had to act. They went to -- people were getting injured and stuff. When they saw that we were going go in and get the ring leaders out -- uh-uh. I was back by the segregation (inaudible). My job there wasn't going to be -- we weren't going to be escorting anybody because we're not going to --

Q: (inaudible).

A: We're not going to be going into that area and getting pelleted by rocks. You guys, you guys are in the right here. You go ahead and bring, bring'em on out here to us. We'll stay --

Q: Quick reaction force.

A: Yeah. So they bring them -- they go in, they --

Q: Now let me ask you. Quick reaction force. You guys provide soldiers for that or is that a different (inaudible).

A: Now or then?

Q: Then.

A: Then, no. That was... I'm not exactly sure how they had that organized. They had a QRF there but it wasn't exactly what I call a QRF. It was more like an extra company with

the rotational people. When they'd rotate people off the guard stations or something?

Q: Oh, OK.

A: Then they'd move them in. So it wasn't just designated that way.

Q: Interesting. That was pretty (inaudible) (inaudible) control as a quick reaction force as well. When they were rotated, were they all from the same unit or different units?

A: I think it was the same unit.

Q: OK.

A: The same (inaudible).

Q: So they had an established working relationship. It wasn't a bunch of (inaudible). That's what I was thinking.

A: Yeah, it wasn't just like, you know, here's one guy, here's a guy, here's a guy, here's a guy.

Q: Yeah, we're still, we're here.

M?: (inaudible) key to the door. You left the key to the door (inaudible).

Q: Oh, OK. Thank you, yeah. I'll give it to Sergeant

b6-2 [REDACTED]?)

M?: Not a problem. I mean, if you're in here working, that's fine, because you're (inaudible) leave the key in the door. We know (inaudible).

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Q: OK, cool. Thank you.

M?: We can do that, or (inaudible) (inaudible) doors.

(laughter).

Q: Thanks. Yeah, they're pretty good about their support here. I have to give them credit. Not everyone's been a (inaudible) about it so far.

A: (inaudible)

Q: All right, we were talking about the rock throw, the riots.

A: Yeah, so that's... I was... apparently that brought out the QRF. At that point they were going to go in and get the injured people and also extract the trouble makers or the ring leaders or whatever to get the situation calmed down. I wasn't, I don't personally have... I didn't, I wasn't at a vantage point, because I'm all the way back out by the segregation unit at this point. And I'm sitting there talking with the, the Alpha team leader, my counterpart. And I'm sitting there talking to him... and I hear something. That sounded like gunfire. He went, oh, no, no. That was just, that was just rocks on, on the shield. A second later I hear (gun burst sound). I was like, that was a burst. That was an M-16. That was gunfire. He's like, yup. I'm like, (inaudible). Then you hear, "Medic!" Medics go on in and they pulled out the first guy.

Q: (inaudible).

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A: First guy got hit. Entry wound. His arm.

Q: Now, the people wounded. Iraqis?

A: Iraqis. Yeah.

Q: Military or civilians? Or do you know.

A: I don't -- honestly I couldn't tell you. Because that would have been when they were doing the extraction, stuff like that. Like I said, I was down by the segregation unit. We weren't dealing with them, we were just... but they came back in the ambulances they had set up right next to the segregation unit. So the guy --

Q: OK.

A: So the guy -- the, the injured, they're bringing them over right next to us basically. And me and, me and Sarge (inaudible) are looking at him, going, ooo, cool. Entrance wound in the upper, upper arm, or above the elbow, exit wound below the elbow. He just lost the use of that elbow. Because you can see it all mangled and stuff. And then he had another wound in his leg. Got hit twice. And then we went down. Me and him went down to help carry out the second one. He just got hit in the leg. But that was what -- they cleared the compound of all the military at that point. Of all the Iraqi military. Got'em all out. Walked them down a nice long dirt road for a while, had them all sit down down there for a while. And then we started

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extracting the ring leaders. And I guess I was -- I told you normally there's about, you know, you might have [REDACTED] people in your segregation unit. At that point you had about, at least [REDACTED] at each, each of the connexes.

Q: And at that time there were [REDACTED].

A: The [REDACTED]?

Q: During the riots. When you first had the connex area, you said there was [REDACTED]....

A: [REDACTED] in each connex usually, not --

Q: Oh, OK.

A: There's four connex, there's four connex and we had usually [REDACTED] in each one.

Q: Right. And then with this you had four, but with [REDACTED] in each one.

A: Yeah. And they're --

Q: Now when did you, when were more connexes added?

A: That would have been towards the end of our stay down there.

Q: Good -- go with the story. Don't let me interrupt.

A: Oh, I guess that's -- I don't know. That was just about it. They were just yanking people and chucking them in the connexes. Searching them.

Q: And you really don't have to worry about anything because they're in segregation there. The connexes are secure.

b2-3

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A: Yeah, the connexes are a heck of a lot more secure than what we'd had down there where you had three strands of concertina wire to stop, you know... what, maybe [REDACTED] 62-3 people, just letting them run over the berm. Yeah. Yeah. Connexes were pretty good for security. But yeah, you got them doing that and just chucking -- the extraction team's just going in and grabbing people and pulling them out. And I think that's what actually calmed them down for a day or two. Normally, normally every night -- we live right down the bank (inaudible) where, right next to where it was at, and every night, you hear them up hooting and hollering, and they're all, you know. And everybody said they were always so, so much trouble. When that (ratch?) force went back in there that second time after the shooting and stuff, everybody's pretty much, pretty damn cooperative. They're pushing the ring leaders right out front to you (laughter). They were just throwing them at you. Then they grab them, take them down there, throw them into the segregation unit. But that was, that was about the worst of it I saw.

Q: Let me ask you about the shooting. And... why was it done, who was it done by -- but don't name names. I'm just asking, you know, was it U.S. forces they -- I'm assuming it's U.S. soldiers --

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A: Yes, U.S. forces.

Q: -- MPs. And did they feel threatened, or...

A: At that point I -- like I'm saying, I'm going -- this is all -- what I have to say is hearsay.

Q: All right.

A: So A) the truth is hearsay, and B) and this wasn't a court. Anyway.

Q: Exactly.

A: But what happened was, apparently they went in to extract a ring -- or one of the ring leaders, and they're advancing up. One line's advancing the right formation. At that point, the crowd turned hostile -- well, it was hostile, but they were keeping their distance. Somebody approached with either a tent pole or a pipe or something at that point, and that's when shots starting -- when people, when they started to attack the group, the MP. At that point, the MPs were authorized to use deadly force by a high-ranking individual, if I heard the story correctly. They said, go ahead and drop, you know, fire warning shots or fire to wound or whatever. (inaudible) hit the people, got the people out, and then kept on extracting after the ring leaders departed.

Q: And like you said, after that, there was no trouble getting the ring leaders.

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A: Yeah, cause that was pretty much... they were all pretty cooperative after that, from what I understand.

Q: Do you know how many people were wounded, or were any actually killed?

A: That day?

Q: That day.

A: That day there was two wounded.

Q: OK.

A: Well, two wounded by gunfire. There were multiple injuries from rocks being thrown, stuff like that.

Q: Naw, but you nailed it on the head. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

A: Two wounded by gunfire. One was -- got it, a shot in the arm and the leg, and the other guy just the leg.

Q: All right. So no one was killed then. Those MPs were in a dangerous situation there. I mean... how many MPs were... approximately how many would be in that line? I know you weren't --

A: For a QRF?

Q: A QRF.

A: Roughly?

Q: About how many?

A: They're probably going in, probably with a strength of to . That'd be rough.

014237

Q: And they're surrounded by [REDACTED] or so?

A: They were going into something about [REDACTED]. That would be your low end. Your high end would be [REDACTED] (inaudible). I never had the numbers for those compounds, so...

Q: Because at this point, the compound was about [REDACTED].

A: About [REDACTED] with about, [REDACTED] -- roughly [REDACTED] segregat-- there's [REDACTED] different holding facilities inside of it. So... [REDACTED] divided by [REDACTED], whatever you end up with. And then, mix and match. You know, you might end up with more in one and less in another. But, yeah. Yeah, nobody really died, nobody died that day.

Q: You know, I asked you how many were wounded, and you said, "that time," or something. So that kind of indicates there were other riots or other times.

A: Yeah. Well... yeah. Apparently they, a few days later, they had somebody rush a feed team. Feed teams are where they --

Q: Go ahead. I shouldn't say anything. I know what it is, but for the historical record.

A: The feed teams are basically, when it's time for breakfast or dinner -- they get two meals a day. When it's time for breakfast, they go to the kitchen, they get basically trash cans, and they load trash cans up with food, you know. Like one can all rice, one can all sauce, you know, one can

b2-3

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tea-- (inaudible) they bring tea out in jugs or whatever. It basically works like that. And they drive it over to the compound, they unload it, they put it on the -- inside the compound they usually have the inmates serving each other. Depends on the situation. Sometimes they have the inmates come outside the wire -- well, I don't think they did that down there, but outside the wire and serve one individual at a time and they go back in.

Q: OK.

A: Well, apparently they were doing that. They were having --

Q: Just, right here.

M: Oh, OK.

Q: Someone brought it in because -- what happened was I shut the door because I didn't want people coming in here because I don't know your place and I don't know who's authorized and who isn't. So I shut it, and then they said, hey, the key's on the outside. And I realized when I shut it, I (inaudible).

M: I'll be back.

Q: OK. Cool.

A: Anyway, so they bring in the feed teams. The feed teams go in and dish out -- they basically do it like an assembly line. Guy walks down with his plate or whatever, and they just scoop out whatever he gets for that -- or for that

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meal. And he goes back. And apparently, some guy rushed the feed teams with a pipe or a tent stake or something like that. And one of the MPs used deadly force to stop him. Thought the person he was using it -- the other -- he thought the other individual was in danger for his life from the inmate, and so he fired, and shot him, and he's no longer with us.

Q: Oh.

A: Actually buried out back somewhere.

Q: (inaudible).

A: But yeah, that's the only one I heard dying there by gunfire. That one.

Q: What about the Iraqis. I know during the Korean War, and you kind of touched on this -- except a different situation. During the Korean War, when we had Korean prisoners, there was an internal battle between those loyal to the communist government and then those who wanted nothing to do with it and even some who wanted to stay South. Is there something like that going on with the prisoners in this compound?

A: I wouldn't say that, because... they... for all intents and purposes, they could care less at that point about Saddam Hussein. They don't really love us. I'll give you that -- I mean, I guarantee that. They really just, they don't

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love us. Some of them tolerate us, some of them like, like us, or get along with us, or want our business after all this is over, but there's, there's not going to be a whole lot of love lost (inaudible). Most of them are happy that he's gone -- 99%, most of them are happy. The other few percent are like the Ba'ath Party people who are a decided minority. And then you have like the Republican Guard. We haven't got a whole lot of them that really like him either. They could care less about him being in. They're like, OK, he can't threaten my family anymore. Fine. I don't care about it really, to tell you the truth.

Q: Salary and good times are gone.

A: Yeah, so you don't really have that internal conflict.

Plus you keep the military separate from the civilians, and the officers are all completely separate, too, so. It kind of cuts down on anything like that. They're just worried about their next meal, pretty much, and getting out of here. They know this is not going to last very long, and they know that it's almost over, so they're pretty much just... they just want to go home. That's their main goal.

Q: Which group cause the most problems? Officers? Enlisted? Civilians? Criminals?

A: Officers have actually been really good. That's surprising, because the way we, the way we're taught is

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escape, you know. Your -- even if you're and EPW, your mission is to escape at that point. You know - you're supposed to leave that, you know, direct and everything like that. Their officers are just pretty much sitting down there, kicking back, relaxing, smoking a cigarette. They get more cigarettes than the enlisted.

Q: OK. They're just kicking back, smoking cigarettes, relaxing, chilling. They're like, you know... you have, you have to yell at them every now and again. But that's just enforcing compound rules. It'd be like, you know, they'd wander too close to the wire, you have to be three meters back. "Get back from the wire." You know, something like that. For the most part, they're like, "No, no, mister, mister, me not go to the wire, me not go to the wire. I go through the gate when you release me, I go..." 90% of the officers speak English. You know, pretty good English. So they're like, Oh, no, no, no. I'll wait until I go out the wire. I'm not taking my chances running over the berm and getting shot. I'll stand here and I, you know, I ain't going anywhere. What am I going to do? Go home? Go back to work? No. Army's gone. But yeah, they're good. The enlist-- the lower enlisted. Well, that's pretty much 90% of them. The lower enlisted. They really didn't cause too much trouble. They were used to...

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their leaderships, the leadership for the Iraqi army is a little different, you know. They pretty much follow orders from the officer, but they just do what they're told. You know. It's not a whole lot of questioning or else there's going to be a bullet in it for you, apparently. So they learn not to ask questions the easy way. They don't get shot. But, you know, they're like... you know, we tell them to do something, usually they do it. They're not real organized, they're not real clean, stuff like that. They're probably from some of the poorer towns and stuff like that, so there's not a real high level of education and all that stuff, but they really didn't give us too much trouble. Civilians, the civilians were pretty much a pain in the butt. And I can understand their whole point behind that. You know, I'm not a soldier, I'm not involved with the Iraqi government, I'm some Joe Schmuckatelli who owns an AK47 because everyone here owns an AK47 to shoot at each other. You know, because that guy's going to steal my cattle, you know. And the police don't really do anything, so I'm going to keep that here. And he got picked up in a dragnet or something, you know. And he's down here and he wants to go home to his wife and kids and he doesn't really understand why he has to be here, and so they cause us problems. But that's probably. The only criminals, we

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really haven't received enough of them for them to be a...
to have escalated up... you know. Where you're dealing
with -- we have like usually about [REDACTED] people in a compound
now. (inaudible) ^{b2-3} you can get a whole group riled up real
quick and easy. Whereas, you know, for (inaudible)
criminals we have, I don't, a couple hundred maybe. Maybe
we have that many. And they're all segregated, inside
their own compound they're segregated out. So they don't
really have enough to --

Q: Segregated out by choice or by --

A: Segregated by choice. We keep them. We keep them. Yeah.
As another class, (inaudible), officer, enlisted, civilian,
civilian criminals. And it's just the way we work it. But
pretty much everybody keeps... for the most part it keeps
itself all leveled out. It probably happens... I had never
understood... I understand why these people -- I'm not
going to say these people are so violent, but they happen
to be, when they go to the violence, they tend to grab a
gun. And if you ever go down there and watch one of them
get into a fight, it's like girls junior high school fight.
It is just slapping, and like pulling hair, and it looks
like, it looks like a couple of little girls fighting. I
swear to god, if you dropped any of these people into a
junior high school in like, a decent-sized city, they would

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just get their ass kicked.

Q: (inaudible).

(Break in tape.)

Q: All right this is Sergeant ^{bb-2} [REDACTED] resuming the interview. And you were talking about fighting, um, Iraqis.

A: Yeah. So that kind of limits their options. They can't really go out and do that. In the United States, you might have a problem with a guy, you might just pop in the nose or something like that and go, you know, have it all over and done with over a beer or something, you know. That tends to happen quite a little bit. Every now and again it'll escalate into shooting. Here, I don't think they tend to escalate at all. They just go straight to the final step and grab a gun and shoot somebody. But... things for further psychological study.

Q: All right.

A: I'm going to work on a doctorate on that.

Q: (laughter). You know they do doctoral students on U.S. prisoners, maybe someday someone will look at that.

Q: All right. We've covered the holding area, the (inaudible) point. Your mission changes in May.

A: OK. May we got some unfounded allegations against us my a high-ranking individual who got basically his nose scuffed,

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put out a bent, by one of our NCOs, so he might have stretched the truth... a really hard. OK, he lied. But he made some allegations which basically prompted us getting removed from up there. And punished by getting sent down to stand (power?) guard and stuff like that.

Q: So you got -- all right, so you guys never were really in the holding pen. Or in the compound.

A: Not down there. It's called, it's a core cage. All we would do is we would escort people out of their cages and take them different places, like tribunals were held down there. We'd take them and maybe get like a group of [REDACTED] or so and take them down there and bring them back. Or -- b2-3

Q: They wouldn't be [REDACTED] over (inaudible).

A: No, you'd walk them. Walk them down, however they -- in their coveralls or whatever they were wearing, you'd go down there and get in a line. Follow this guy. And (inaudible).

Q: How would they have to walk? I mean --

A: Single file. We tried to keep them as tight together, just easier to control at that point. If they're spread out, you have more (inaudible) to guard. You're further from the middle at the end. Each guy's farther from the middle guy. Something happens up front, it takes time for the back guard to get up to the front. All that stuff.

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Q: And again, looking forward? Head down? Or --

A: We tried -- yeah, we tried -- sorry.

Q: No talking.

A: Yeah, no talking, keep your head down. Head down or head on... your eyes on the back, on the guy's back in front of you. No talking. Keep your hands either -- usually we'd keep them above their heads, or you have to keep them clasped behind your back. Stuff like that and take them down to wherever you're going. If you're just doing one guy, you can pretty much, OK, just (inaudible) keep your eyes down, whatever. You know, keep your hands up. But it, when you start dealing with larger groups you have --

[REDACTED]

b2-3

[REDACTED], and the higher you have to go

with basically controlling -- not physically, but making sure that you have a warning before something bad would happen. Stuff like that.

Q: The prisoner, or guard to prisoner ratio, how do you determine (inaudible).

A: High, like high (inaudible). If I'm... let's see. When I first got here I weighed 240 lbs. I think the average Iraqi looks like he might weigh, I don't know, 130 to 150. I've got about 100 lbs on this guy. I can pretty much, if I'm walking (inaudible), you know, I can get there and I

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b2-3
can walk with about [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of these guys, and I know that if they were to jump me, I probably could get the [REDACTED] just throw them off with no real problem, and be able to control the rest hopefully, if the rest of the jump me with a weapon or another level of force. But when you start getting up into where you're dealing with like [REDACTED] guys... I'm (inaudible) (laughter). You know, you start out, put restriction on movement. Keep your hands on your head. So you have the walk along with their fingers interlaced and walking with their hands on their head, and you'd walk behind them or walk off to the side and make sure they keep their hands on their head. (inaudible) comes (inaudible) until that last guy figures out he needs to place hands on his head. You remind him, of course.

Q: And no one else would say anything. (inaudible) you know, "Shut up you idiot. Put your hands on your head." Because they had to be quiet.

A: I'm sure, yeah. I'm sure some people were thinking it. And you get some pretty good looks out of those situations. But, yeah, for the most part, everybody just played nice. Especially when we were working at the IHA. In part because at that point they were so scared and (inaudible). I'm in prison (inaudible). You know, stuff like goes through your head.

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Q: All right. So you, when you had allegations made against you, can I ask what those allegations are? Or...

A: Yeah. (inaudible). (inaudible) to have them, then somebody can look it up in a few years. Yeah, a certain officer... I'll tell the background. A certain officer came down when we were working at the IHA, we were getting prisoners from an escort guard company that formed our, that formed their outer parameter. I was not there this day. It was the other platoon working. We worked the other shift. They had their outer perimeter form done, they had their inner perimeter, and their doing searches on the inside. Now, this officer comes up and he's like... starting to walk like he's going to go against the perimeter. Which is a no-no. Once you start, nobody comes in, nobody goes out. It, you stay until you're finished. This officer and his group-entourage as we call it -- was coming down there, and one of our NCOs, sir, I urge you to stay out here, we're in there, you know, we're working with prisoners right now, we need to do this. (inaudible) we can't allow people to come in or out. He said his rank and (inaudible), you know, such and such and such, I'm coming in there. He's like, no sir, you're not. That's my AO, right now. I need you to respect that while I'm working here, dadadadada. Well, the guy kind of stormed off and he

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wasn't so happy because he just got made to look bad in front of the whole group that he was trying to pull rank in a place where he shouldn't be sticking his nose in. He basically told them, he said, hey, you want to go down there and see that? I'm (inaudible), I can get, yeah, I can get you in there. And so the next day it came down from higher that two of our E7s and one E6 basically beat the crap out of two prisoners, kicking him, beating him, you know, while he was down, during the search area, stuff like that. Some officer had filed char-- or had filed official pap-- two official statements to that effect. You know, saying that he saw... we only have two E7s and the other E6 -- well, we have a couple of them, but yeah. They also... obviously he was pointing a finger at these people. (inaudible) major does an investigation, starts his investigation. He's the investigating authority.

Q: He's not for the (inaudible) battalion, is he? I think that came down from battalion (inaudible).

A: I'd have to check on where on the officer came from and stuff, but yeah. So. (inaudible) came down, (inaudible) star major --

End of Tape 1, Side A

A: -- their name's cleared from this.

Q: Yeah.

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A: You know, that's something that'll ruin your -- well there's not a lot of (inaudible) they're pretty much ready to retire anyway, but you know, they're like, "Yeah that smears our name, da da da, what the hell?" You know? So it ain't (inaudible) major. We like this (investigator?). You know, come on it. Bring in CID. Bring in everybody. You know, what the hell. Well, apparently instead of relieving us, they just switched our missions. Took us away. Because they didn't want this investigated. They basically like just to punish (and sell?) (laughter) We got taken out of that.

Q: And what mission did you get?

A: We got the internment facility; sitting in towers for 12 hours/day. (laughter)

Q: All right. Watching the inside.

A: Yeah, now we're going to sit there and watch the prisoners in the holding area.

Q: Which, I suspect, is pretty boring.

A: Yeah. It's a slower job. If you work nights, you got to sleep during the heat of the day; if you work day, you got to be out there in the sun all day and cooking wherever you're stationed at. So, it can become a long one.

Q: All right. How many interment towers are there?

A: Well, there's... let's see. Now we've got [REDACTED] 42-3

014301 43

[REDACTED]. We have [REDACTED] for every [REDACTED] compounds that are stacked across from each other. It just depends on which compounds are filled with how many people, so that you have to rotate your guards around depending on which compound. (inaudible) about [REDACTED] people.

Q: That's kind of what I was wondering is how many people are required to man them. So [REDACTED] people, that means [REDACTED]-hour shifts is what I'm figuring out here. And that means pretty much no one's getting a day off. Am I right or wrong about that?

b2-3

A: Yeah, pretty good. You figure pretty well. That was for a few days, and then they brought in another company and we started to be able to get breaks and stuff like that.

Q: OK.

A: So that was pretty good. It's bad when you get exciting going from a 12-hour day and you're happy just to go down to an eight. It's like, "Woo hoo!"

Q: I still don't know what that's like.

A: It's like, "Yeah! I'm only working eight hours everyday now!" (laughter)

Q: And I've got four extra hours to stare at the sand.

A: Yeah. It was really good.

Q: Let me just ask you a little bit more about the interment area -- so, about [REDACTED] towers. Communication with people?

b2-3

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Or...

A: [REDACTED] radio.

b2-3 Q: [REDACTED]? Or --

A: [REDACTED], I believe they are.

Q: OK.

A: My bad.

Q: I'm still recording.

A: Uh oh.

Q: We're going to go ahead and stop the interview right now.

(Break in tape)

Q: All right, this is Sergeant [REDACTED] b6-2; we are about to conclude the interview --

A: Steaks for dinner. (laughter)

Q: Thanks for dinner. I'm sorry, but history be damned sometimes. You know, we've got two and a quarter hours I've done my part for history today. (laughter)

A: History takes millions of years to build.

Q: All right. (Armament?). [REDACTED] guards...

A: OK. It varies per position. Inner facilities -- if you're in a tower between [REDACTED] facilities -- [REDACTED] will have [REDACTED] b2-3, usually, with [REDACTED] rounds, [REDACTED] and basically [REDACTED] for crowd dispersal. Then you have usually [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] or they can also carry [REDACTED] as well.

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Q: OK. And each guard has [REDACTED] those.

A: Each guard has [REDACTED].

Q: OK.

A: And then, you have [REDACTED],
depending. Then you have [REDACTED], usually it varies between
about [REDACTED] people.

Q: And you provide the [REDACTED] for that.

A: Yeah, we provide the [REDACTED] down there.

Q: Now, the riot gear. Did you get that from someone else for
the QRF, or were you all able to procure that?

A: Riot gear, right. That would be our [REDACTED] and our
[REDACTED]. That's what we wear for our riot gear.

Q: Do you all get [REDACTED]?

A: We don't have [REDACTED], we don't have [REDACTED], we don't have
[REDACTED].

Q: Now, from what you said with the prior riot -- or I
shouldn't say prior -- but with the riot that you told me
about, they did have [REDACTED]. Because they thought the
[REDACTED]. Could they
let you borrow that riot gear, or...?

A: I don't know. I tell you what. That'd probably take some
looking into, but I don't even remember if they had the
[REDACTED] when they were down there. That was just an
assumption --

014304

Q: OK.

A: -- said that's probably just [REDACTED] 623

Q: OK. How about morale? How's morale been in your unit?

A: It's pretty good, actually. It's pretty good. We all know each other. We know each other pretty well, since we just came off another year of deployment, where you know, you pretty much get to know each other pretty well.

Q: And you didn't have troops cross-leveled in, which might be a good thing in some respects, bad in others.

A: Yeah, pretty much. We're pretty good about that. We picked up a few new guys, but for the most part, it's the same bodies that went with us last year. So that was pretty good. We all know each other pretty well. I've only gotten one new guy in the platoon in my team.

Q: Let me ask you, have you had any riots since you guys have --

A: No. Not a single riot.

Q: OK. We're getting closer to concluding the interview.

A: Excellent. Excellent.

Q: The retention. When this is over, traditionally?

(Overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

(laughter)

A: Sorry, I get that in as soon as somebody mentions that word to me. I'm coming up on my tenth year of service now; I

014305

was only going to be doing nine. I was supposed to ETS December 10, 2002. I've been held over by stop loss. A lot of people won't be back. It's going to be a very high (inaudible) rate on this. I would say close to 50% is going to be what's going to be taken. I know me, the Alpha Team leaders, his ETS was three days before me. My squad leader's already passed his ETS up. He's ready to retire.

Q: OK, you got the key to this? OK cool.

A: He's ready to retire. The Sergeant's ready to retire. A lot of people just ready to retire and have passed their ETS and just being held on by stop loss at this point. I mean I don't mind doing it, but --

Q: Too much, too soon.

A: Yeah. Well, also, I would have liked to keep up, like, the high tempo deployment payment, where you know, there were 365 days in a two-year period, you get bonus X, Y, Z.

Q: Oh, OK.

A: There was talk about that, the Congress waived that. It used to be the way the Congress punished the Pentagon with the point of reserves But they waived that stuff because -
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Q: Too many.

A: So, now they're talking about something for 400 days over 700 days.

014306

Q: Oh, I'll take that.

A: Yeah. (They're down?).

Q: Let me ask you, (inaudible). What do you plan to do when you get home?

A: (inaudible) Sit down by the river with a picture of (inaudible).

Q: That's all (inaudible). God knows we'll conclude the interview.

(laughter) Thanks for your time; I do appreciate it.

End of IFIT-35-086 (Sgt. [REDACTED])

b(6)-2

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