

IFIT-35-084 Second Lieutenant [REDACTED]

b(u)-2 All

Q: All right, this is Sergeant [REDACTED] with the 377th Theatre Support Command, Command Historian's Office.

Today's date is 16 May, 2003. The time now is 10:22. I'm here at Camp Fukah (sp?) in Iraq. And I'm interviewing 1st Lieutenant [REDACTED]. Or, how do you pronounce your last name?

A: Second Lieutenant [REDACTED]

Q: Second Lieutenant [REDACTED] And, could you please spell your first and last name?

A: [REDACTED] Last name is [REDACTED]

Q: And, could you give your unit and duty position

A: I'm the Intelligence Officer of the S2, of the 320th Military Police Battalion.

Q: And, I'm going to go ahead and read off the boilerplate language here. Do you understand that the tape and transcript resulting from this oral history to be retained in the United States Army Reserve Historical Collection and/or CFLIC Military History Group will belong to the United States Government to be used in any manner deemed in the best interest to the United States Army as determined by the Command Historian or representative? Do you also understand that subject to the security classification

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restriction, you may be given an opportunity to edit the resulting transcript to order to clarify and expand your original thoughts? The United States may provide with a copy of the edited transcript for your own use subject to any classification restrictions. OK, thank you. Nodding your head won't help me here. All right, sir, how long have you been with the 320th MP Battalion?

A: Since October of 2001.

Q: All right, shortly after 9/11.

A: I was in a previous reserve unit that drilled approximately 20 minutes from where 320th (inaudible). And I wanted to get an Officer's MI spot. So, I transferred to the only place within a 200-mile radius that had one, which brought me to the 320th MP Battalion.

Q: OK. And what did you do -- What is your branch, sir, and if you could, if you could provide a brief military biography.

A: I'm a Military Intelligence Officer. I enlisted in April of 1997 as an E1. I went into basic training one year later on Fort Munergold (sp?), Missouri from May until July of 1998. And then Chippard (sp?) Air Force Base for AIT from July to September of 1998. I became a contracted ROTC cadet in the fall of 1999 and commissioned as a Military Intelligence Officer at (inaudible) State University

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through their ROTC program in December, 2001. I went to --
My officer basic course (?), I (inaudible) to Arizona from
March through July of 2002.

Q: All right. So, did you drill AT with the unit at all, the
320th?

A: I haven't had any annual training dates, but I've been
through every reserve drill since then.

Q: OK. And what are your drill weekends like?

A: A typical drill weekend for me would be establishing what
the (inaudible) staff is doing first and foremost. We
usually have a meeting or two every day, a couple of times.
There's usually security clearances to work on, chasing
people down, getting information through them. If there's
any to do in my (inaudible) section, which there normally
is in federal reserve drill, I'll speak with the other
people that I need to, to order maps or other office
supplies, speak with my NTOIC National Sergeant [REDACTED]
(sp?) -- [REDACTED] (sp?) would be the only person in my section
before we get mobilized.

Q: You said he's the only person in your section, sir?

A: Up until that point. Once you're mobilized, we had a 96
Bravo PFC [REDACTED] and a 97 Bravo.

Q: And could you tell me those are?

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A: 96 Bravo is an Intel Analyst. And a 97 Bravo is under Intelligent (inaudible).

Q: And were they cross levels from other units?

A: No. PFC [REDACTED] the Intel Analyst was part 320th Military Policy Battalion; he was RFC'ing with another unit that was closer to his (inaudible). So, mobilization was the very first time (inaudible). And especially with [REDACTED] our 97 Bravo is a CI Agent, was given to us as we -- I guess we would be a cross level. He was added to us when we were at Fort Dix (sp?) for about a week or two, the first post that I met him. And he is originally from -- I can't remember the exact unit, but it's another MP unit that works out of Florida.

Q: And could you describe the function of the S2 or Intelligence for the 320th Battalion? Because as I understand it, the battalion handles EPW's.

A: Yeah.

Q: So, what's your specialized intelligence function?

A: It's a very human intelligence based operation for (inaudible) battalion of this nature. We should have two more CI Agents, but I'm only having one. So, I had other people helping us out here or there. And the CI Agents would go in the compound, talk to the Military Police personnel, talk to the prisoners in the compound that could

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speaking English and just do a lot of what's called passive collection where they walk around and see: who's in charge in the compound; who are the people that are acting on behalf of other's orders; who are the ones inciting the riots; who are the ones that are making trouble; and who are the people that seem to be the Boss? In labs (?), we can do everything from keeping MP's safe, making things easier [so the compounds are run (?)]. On a slightly larger scale: coordinate with the Intel Officers of other battalions that are on the ground; seeing what they are up to, if we can help each other out. There's a lot of force protection issues in a situation like this because we have people giving up (inaudible). We're in a hospital nation - - we're still at war officially, so there's always that hospital traffic. And they're gonna sneak up on a perimeter with a ward or two, you know, something like that, until it's too late. So you have to know who's in charge of force protection for the entire facility and then coordinate with them, and find your sectors of fire, (inaudible) requires coordinating with the subordinate unit -- or protecting your living areas in addition to your working areas. And there's always the basic stuff like: weather in training and all. And everything is in support of keeping the Battalion Commander [REDACTED] (sp?) up

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to date with everything that he needs to know to keep the supply (?) running.

Q: So, I'm curious: when you're CI Officers go out there and they ask the MP's questions, or the prisoners, what type of questions are they? I mean, some of it, I'm sure is --

A: I haven't been able to walk around some because if I associate myself with the CI Agents who don't wear any ranks on or any name insignia -- All they have is the US flag on their shoulder and a "US Army" on their DCU top (?) if they're wearing even that much. So, they're just trying to look like normal Joe, not anything that would relate them to what they're actually doing. It would make their job a lot more difficult, if not impossible. So, I don't know what kind of questions they're directly asking, but they are not interrogators. They are only collection people. So, they're just lookers and see-ers; they get a feel for something: they'll look for patterns starting to develop; you'll start seeing people doing the same things over and over again; and they'll start to see people doing behavior that kind of fits a profile. Like, if someone's really an Iraqi Military Officer, but they're in civilian clothes, they're going to have a lot more reverence among everyone else that's in the compound than a normal civilian would. If they are a person in charge, they are going to

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have people doing jobs for them. They are not going to be the guy that's like testing the wire, trying to see if there's a weak spot. They're not going to be the one who's stealing extra food and bringing it back to the tent. They are going to be the guys who are kind of just laying in the background, trying to look as inconspicuous as possible to hide their true identity. And it's also possible that they could be doing -- selecting for their governments or their agencies to provide an intelligence estimate for the people that they're working for. So, they could actually be in here for a specific purpose, and got captured on purpose.

Q: I hadn't thought about that. Could you name some of the governments that it might be?

A: I'm really not at leisure. But, [REDACTED] ^{pl 2-3} primarily, even though they're a government -- That was the one that they were probably working for no longer exists to any large degree. But, there are still a lot of people in this country that don't want us to be there, and are willing to go to great means to get us out as soon as possible.

Q: Now, as I understand it, you have a lot of foreign prisoners as well. And --

A: Not a lot, but some.

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Q: OK. You have some foreign prisoners. Do you handle them the same way you do the Iraqis, or is there any different procedure?

A: The only main difference with them is that they are segregated from the Iraqi civilians and the Iraqi military personnel. If there was enough people from a certain country, they might get their own compound. But a lot of that segregation is now being conducted by the 724th Battalion, which has the same mission as is: we are running the core holding area, and now they're holding the (inaudible). We only have a handful of segregated EPW's left. Organizational has the vast majority, [REDACTED], b(2)-3 whichever number it is right now.

Q: And the segregated prisoners, is this because of the nationality or violence or --

A: The segregated prisoners that we are currently detaining are mostly because of psychological trauma or they're head cases, people that would be a danger to themselves and others if they were allowed to wander through a compound.

Q: How many prisoners did you have in the core holding area when you first arrived, and how many do you have now, approximately?

A: When I arrived, there was a little bit more than [REDACTED]
The number had climbed to [REDACTED] before it started to taper

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b(2)-3 down. In the core holding area right now, we only have a [REDACTED] in one regular compound, if there's any left in that at all -- I haven't been down there in a couple of days. But, the only ones that we were consistently looking after are the ones that are separated. And they're not even in the compound; they're in convexes with a sharp wire and wooden framed fence in front of it to keep them isolated. I'd say those are the people that are mentally instable.

Q: And you've also mentioned force protection. How do you get information from that outside?

A: I'll talk with a lot of the forces that traverse the area a lot. The 46th Engineers who built the vast majority of the facility out here are the ones who are continuously running around the outer perimeter. I've spoken with their S2 Officer, b(6)-2 [REDACTED] (sp?) several times. I was doing so on a daily basis when it was much more of an issue. A couple weeks ago, another IR Battalion, similar to us, the 530th MP Battalion, took over the entire force protection; that is, all that they do is they set up the observation post along the perimeter --

Q: I'm sorry, what is IR?

A: Internment Repediment (?).

Q: Thank you.

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A: They're the ones who are maintaining the wires, maintaining the guard forces that are out there, taking in (inaudible), according the (inaudible) up to the (inaudible) Disposal Team, talking with incoming and outgoing convoys, making sure that they're not having any issues, and maintain a constant radio presence with all the observation posts, and the entrance and exit (inaudible).

Q: And you had spoken about riots. Now, how many riots occurred while you were here?

A: I can't give an exact number. Half, because I don't know.

Q: OK, that's cool.

A: The S3 Major would be a better person to answer that question. Major [REDACTED] b(6)-2

Q: Major -- Could you spell that name?

A: [REDACTED] b(6)-2

Q: Thank you.

A: There were several major riots. I'd say at least five, there were more than one compound involved.

Q: Thank you.

A: The biggest one that --

Q: And how many people are in a compound?

A: Anywhere from [REDACTED] up to [REDACTED] b(2)-3 Sometimes, it could creep over that amount. But they're trying to keep it as small as possible, so it takes a smaller group of people to try and

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contain what (inaudible). Also, it makes feeding a lot easier.

Q: And why is that?

A: A normal feed is supposed to take about an [REDACTED] If there are a lot of people, and they're being rowdy or uncooperative, it could take up to three hours or longer -- because it's a very orderly process. You want to maintain presence of who's already been fed, who's being fed. It takes a few EPW's to help out with moving the food inside and outside of the wire. And while the Feed Team is in there, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] And if you keep everyone lined up and only have the right people standing, to stand up, walk over, get their food and sit down, then it will keep a lot safer for everyone involved. If you have [REDACTED] guys in there milling around in a crowd, someone's not going to get fed, someone's going to get upset, someone's going to get fed twice. (inaudible) every time.

Q: OK, thank you. Now, we were talking about the riots. And you were talking about more than one compound. How many -- You said about five of those occurred while you were here. How do you handle that, in your position?

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A: There is little that I do. That is much more operational problems to do that. So that again, would be the S3 Major

[REDACTED] b(1)-2

Q: OK, but you deal with the after-effect, kind, because you -

A: Yes. Because I will find out who started it, what was the situation or instances that instigated that -- what was the scenario that led up to it: was someone not fed; was someone trying to escape; was someone being mistreated or beaten. It is mostly identifying the people that were starting the problem -- if we can get them out of there and send them up to the Intelligence Detachment near the brigade, to have them be interrogated -- just to figure out if they were trying to do this for another purpose -- because many of the smaller riots where -- times when people were trying to escape -- because you'd have all the Military Police watching this huge mob while two or three guys are trying to sneak out of the back in the wire.

Q: Right, create a distraction, so -- All right. And, you know, you see that on TV all the time. About how many prisoners try to escape a day? Or, is it that frequent?

A: Well, it's never very frequent. We never had a tremendous amount of people trying to escape. There were probably a

[REDACTED] different attempts. But very few of them were ever
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successful. The majority of them were actually captured before they ever even got outside the main burn (?).

Q: And have you seen security conditions increase since you've been here, what was it, April 2?

A: Significantly. Everything about Camp Bukah has been improving since we arrived. Living conditions, working conditions, materials being supplied, transportation, sanitation.

Q: And could you provide some specifics for living conditions: how that's improved -- what it was, what it became?

Working conditions --

A: When I first arrived here, everything was just in tents.

Q: Did they have them set up for you when you arrived, or did you ask --

A: Yes. The majority of MP's were up here about two weeks prior to me coming up. So, everything was pretty well established in this living area. When I arrived, I had a tent all set up. And I even had a cot laying out there for me, so I had a place to sleep when I first got here. But, since then, a lot of people have had wood floors put in, which is just a lot more comfortable to walk around on. It prevents (inaudible) like scorpions and the camel spiders from sneaking around undetected. The showers have gotten much, much better. They've actually built enough of them

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now so there's not more than a five minute wait shower at any given time. And there's another water in the shower facilities so you can bathe every day if you want to. When I first got up, every four days -- No, I went four days without a shower. So, it was the fifth day that I was here that I had gone without a shower. They were serving food out of a mobile kitchen trailer. And now they have a dining facility, which there are hot meals in an air conditioned environment. So, it cuts down on the flied getting in your food and it's a lot more sanitary and appetizing, in that respect. The food is much better quality also, because before it was just heating up tins of pre-cooked, pre-sealed food. You just pull the tops off after it's heated, (inaudible) content. (inaudible) like a half-step above an MRE.

Q: And I'm afraid the menu on that probably stays pretty constant as well.

A: Yes. You had two or three options. But, it was better than MRE, depending on the mood that you were in. Sanitation has taken huge steps forward since I first arrived here. They're still doing human waste burning as diesel fuel on a lot of the things, but now, even last week, we had port-a-johns dropped off with SST's to go around semi-regularly to clean them out and sanitize them.

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Q: And do you know what SST stands for?

A: I can tell you what everyone calls it, but some kind of sanitation truck.

Q: All right. Well, Sewage Sanitation Truck, or something like that. All right.

A: Maybe that.

Q: And what about the Bukah Illness? Because you're talking about sanitation?

A: That's probably just been dysentery or diarrhea. There is only so much hand sanitizer that you can slather yourself with on a daily -- on an hourly basis before it's going to catch up with you. Everyone is living in very close quarters. No one changes all their clothes every single day because you'd just be doing laundry continuously. And there's not adequate water to do that. Everyone keeps on getting care packages and food and lots of munchies, and things that you're used to eating with your hands. And you don't think about it that you've been wiping off your head with -- because you're soaked in sweat every five minutes. And then you're out TMTS'ing (?) your vehicle. And before that, you were out doing yard (?) patrol. And before that you were out dealing with an Iraqi. And the last time you bathed was who knows when? And all that stuff just kind of compounds, and you have 30 other things on your mind. So,

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personal sanitation is in the back of your thoughts sometimes, unfortunately. So, once someone gets sick, it doesn't take long for them to pass that along to everybody else. I've had bits and pieces of it, but it's never lasted more than a day. And as uncomfortable and unpleasant as it is, it's much more dangerous, because when it gets to 115-plus degrees out here, which it does daily now, you can become a heat casualty very, very quickly. One of the girls that I play cards with every night had seven I.V. bags put in her before she had the urge to go to the bathroom; that's how dehydrated she had become. And when you become that dehydrated, you run the risk of brain damage; that is just right on the verge of heatstroke.

Q: I was gonna say. Yeah. Did they send her home, or is she still here?

A: No, she's still here. She recovered, fortunately for her sake. But a lot of other people had similar or worse situations where they actually had to spend a day or two at the aide's station. And it sneaks up on you. You don't realize it. I drink anywhere from six to nine liters of water a day, which sounds outrageous. But, you sweat it out so rapidly, you don't even notice it. You take your t-shirt at night, and there are white lines of dried up

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(inaudible) because of the sweat that you -- dumping out of your body.

Q: All right, now what about the working conditions? We were talking about security, and you said that's been improved as well. Can you describe how so?

A: There's an outer perimeter around fars (?) perimeter of Camp Bukah that has [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] And it was incomplete or it was just completely missing in some spots. And the 530th went along and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the whole thing. There is more [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], and all of them have

[REDACTED] at it. The entry control

point out by the roads [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Q: And how many [REDACTED] are there?

A: There's at least [REDACTED] of Camp Bukah.

There might be even more. Plus, I'm aware of several other

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There's a Quick Response Force specifically for

force protection, which is several [REDACTED] with

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(inaudible) for taking [REDACTED] of some type like a [REDACTED] which can be any place within about [REDACTED]. There are more Burms (?). There's more internal wire. There are force protection plans schemed; [REDACTED] plans that are drawn up. If anyone happens to come inside our living areas, we have (inaudible). It doesn't sound like something that is quite as big, but the vast majority of the people [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Q: And what about with the prisoners? Earlier, you had mentioned, it sounded like they were trying to reduce the number of prisoners to compound, that they could do that.

A: Yeah.

Q: What are some of the other steps that they're taking as well?

A: A lot of the compounds are much more cooperative, which believe it or not, was in with [REDACTED] [REDACTED], more often than not. Actually, they started feeding themselves, where there would be no US soldiers inside the wire when they were feeding; they would just

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come outside the wire to grab their food from the feed truck, take it inside the wire, and distribute the food among the rest of the people. And when they were done, they would bring it out. [REDACTED] b(2)-3

[REDACTED] So, there is much less risk involved with that.

Q: And did it work for both sides in doing that?

A: Yeah. There were some people that just had it out for --

b(2)-3 [REDACTED] it seemed like they could do nothing right. And there was a lot of unnecessary yelling and screaming, which doesn't help anyone out; it just kind of gets everybody on edge. And I can understand, if you're standing out there for a 12-hour shift --

Q: If I could go ahead and pause this here, it looks like we got --

(break in tape)

b(u)-2
Q: This is Sergeant [REDACTED] I'm resuming the b(u)-2
interview with Second Lieutenant [REDACTED] All
right, good deal. And so, we were discussing some of the
conditions that you found to have improved for safety
within the camp, for the Military Police. And the last
thing we talked about was allowing the [REDACTED] b(2)-3
[REDACTED] to serve their own meals. What are some other
things that have been done?

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A: A lot more wire was used to put the -- (inaudible) the individual compound. We used [REDACTED] b(2)-3
[REDACTED] b(2)-3 It wasn't strong, and far apart, to create gaps for them to go through. They gave up on making [REDACTED], which ended up just becoming highways between the compound, instead of preventing them from going in between like it was originally intended. They put a lot more lighting in there, so there were no dark spots that allowed people to sneak in and out undetected. They put more personnel out there, more observation posts, more roving guards.

Q: Now, let me ask you about the [REDACTED] b(2)-3 They're for force protection or external. But, do you have some for internal, to watch the prisoners that are separate as well?

A: Yeah. Those are usually up on convexes with [REDACTED] b(2)-3
[REDACTED] b(2)-3 also.

Q: OK. And could you tell me how many you all have, or approximately?

A: In the holding area, when we were running it, we had, I believe it was [REDACTED] b(2)-3

Q: OK. And they're spaced out about how far apart?

A: Each one would watch about [REDACTED] maybe [REDACTED] b(2)-3 compounds.

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Q: OK, yeah, that's what I'm trying to get at. Good deal.

And, [REDACTED]

A: Usually, it was just [REDACTED]

Q: And was there communication, so they could assist each other?

A: In the first time, no. Communication was a really big problem. We had [REDACTED] little handheld radios that had unreliable batteries that were just too old to be functional anymore. But we had to use them, otherwise we would have been completely in the dark. All of our other radios such as [REDACTED] which were packed in carnexes (sp?) or on our vehicles which hadn't arrived yet. And, a month ago, the brigade finally sprung for it and got a bunch of brand new handheld radios, which were a lot clearer, a lot easier to use, but didn't have quite as long on battery life. We were given enough to vastly improve communication, but it still a few steps away from where it should have been, the way that we would have liked it to be. Probably the biggest thing that helped force protection within the compound was the arrival of the K9 Unit. For the first time, we only had [REDACTED] And when the dog went there in the first riot that he was involved in, it shot guys down really quickly. You get a hyperactive

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German Shepard out there, and guys get submissive real quick..

Q: And what did the German Shepard actually do? Did it actually attack anyone, or was it just the presence about -

A: It was the presence that was the big deterrent. I'm not sure; I don't believe that the Dog Handlers ever released it from the leash. But, just, the dog getting right up in peoples' face was kind of like it was appearing that it was about to be torn out of the Dog Handler's hand. So, it was very good at keeping people in line.

Q: OK. And if the dogs hadn't of been there, how would you have put it down?

A: A couple of weeks after we got the dogs, we got in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which is just [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in place of [REDACTED] which would still leave terrible welts, or maybe even knock somebody out, but it wouldn't kill them -- which never was used fortunately, or never had to be, after that point. By then, we had -- We'd go down, the court holding area's capacity to about half of what it was. At that point, screenings had started (inaudible) there, starting to out-process people. They are (inaudible) the military members that they were leaving. And everyone was just breathing that sigh of

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relief as things were finally breaking away from the crest of what everything had been at, and how crazy it had been, to getting a little bit quieter. The 724th was finally operating within there, in terms of (inaudible), they were taking some people. And then the screening, and the (inaudible) were getting rid of people. So, we're at the point where we're at now.

Q: Which is, you're not doing as much counter-intelligence work because there's fewer prisoners.

A: Yes.

Q: So, you're doing tribunal work (inaudible).

A: I never did anything on the counter-intelligence, just because I wasn't trained for it. And if I tried to do it, it would just possibly countermine the success of people who were in --

Q: The serious soldiers, your three enlisted soldiers.

A: Yes.

Q: So, could you explain what you do for the tribunals, and what those are like?

A: The tribunals only started yesterday, officially. It's possible, they're the first ones since Vietnam. It's kind of a big deal for us. Especially, me not being a JAG Officer. I find it interesting. But, they were a lot like a screening (?), where they would be by the federal rules

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(?) and hauled to rest some legal rights that they had being in our custody. And, basing or referencing some military documents and operations (inaudible). It's a fact of nature (inaudible) that a lot of (inaudible) to tribunal, and who was in charge of them. And then, we did that. (inaudible) simple question.

Q: Now, you're asking these prisoners. What's so special about these prisoners that they get a tribunal?

A: Prisoners that were given a tribunal yesterday were foreign nationals, people who were caught in Iraq, from another nation.

Q: OK. But, it doesn't have to be (inaudible) to them. It could be a person who's status is unclear -- (tape speeds up)

(break in tape)

Q: This is Sergeant [REDACTED] ^{b(u)-2} We've been booted out of our office, temporarily. I'm here interviewing Second Lieutenant [REDACTED] ^{b(u)-2} Sir, you were talking about the good things here in Iraq.

A: The last good thing about me being over here is that it's going to make me appreciate the small, simple, little insignificant things back at home. A plush pillow, like a soft bed. Carpeting, electricity, air conditioning, a fridge full of cold beverages. My family, my friends.

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Internet access. It's everything and anything. I'll never take it for granted ever again.

Q: Now, actually, we talked about what went right.

Doctrinally --

END OF TAPE

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