

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 as 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

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

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?

014261

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.

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?

014266

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.

01-4257

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.

014268

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.

014209

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 --

014270

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

014271

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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014272

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

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.)

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

014275

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}

014276

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 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 sit -- you have to segregate it out. You have the military on one side and you have the

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  people ⁶²⁻³ 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

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

bb-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).

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).

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

014283

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

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  b2-3 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 --

014285

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.

014236

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  b2-3 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

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

014209

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

014290

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

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...

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

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) 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

just get their ass kicked.

Q: (inaudible).

(Break in tape.)

Q: All right this is Sergeant ^{b6-2} [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,

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.

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

014297

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.

014298

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

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.

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] 12-3

[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?

62-3

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?

62-3

014302

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] [redacted], 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.

b2-3

014303

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 --

62-3

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 -

-

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(u)-2

014307

b(6)2 A11

Q: Hi. This is Sergeant [REDACTED] with the 377th Theater Support Command Historian's Office. Today's date is 21 May. The time now is 20:32. I'm here at Camp Buka. The time is local time Kuwait and I'm here interviewing Dr. [REDACTED]. Sir, could you please spell out your first and last name? b(6)2

Q: And sir could you please state your duty position and unit. [REDACTED] I'm a Lieutenant Colonel. I am the physician for the 530th MP battalion but here at Camp Buka in Iraq, I'm serving as the 800th Brigade surgeon, the acting surgeon.

Q: And do you belong to the 89th Regional Support Command in [REDACTED] (inaudible)?

[REDACTED] Correct.

Q: All right, so I have to read off some boilerplate language if that's all right. Do you understand that the tape and the transcript resulting from this oral history to be retained in the United States Army Reserve historical research collection and/or (inaudible) military history crew, will belong to the United States government to be used in any manner deemed in the best interest of the United States Army as determined by the command historian or representative? Do you also understand that subject to security classification restrictions, you may be given an opportunity to edit the resulting transcript in order to clarify and expand your original thoughts? The United States Army may provide you with a copy of the edited transcript for your own use subject to any classification restrictions.

[REDACTED] That's fine.

Q: Good deal. Thank you, sir. In that case, let's go ahead and begin the interview. If you could sir, please provide a brief biography of your military career.

[REDACTED] OK. I was originally drafted in 1969 for the Vietnam War and, again at that time, I was in graduated school and the same week that I finished a master's degree, I was called on to active duty to Fort (inaudible), California. And had a basic training there and then immediately went into infantry, 11th Bravo, AIT Advanced Training at Fort Ord ((sp?)). Upon completing the infantry training, my entire unit and one other unit that was in sequence with us, we were all sent to Germany, to Frankfurt. And at that time, I was able to switch out of the infantry and work in a child's psychiatry clinic at a general hospital in Frankfurt. Completed that duty, came home and got out of reserves for a couple of years and then went back for a PhD and while I was doing my PhD, I went ahead and came back into the Army Reserves, still enlisted. Then, after my PhD, I went ahead and got a direct commission as a LDS Chaplain. And after being a university professor for a few years and still saying the army reserves as a chaplain, I decided to go to medical school and upon completion of medical school, switched over to the medical corps. I continued to work last 22

014308

b(u) - 2 A11

years to serve with the, it was 82nd field hospital in Omaha, Nebraska (inaudible). It is now changed over and it's called the 4223 US Army Hospital. And I served Desert Storm with that unit 12 years ago.

Q: OK. Did you handle EPWs at that time, sir?

Only wounded ones. I was in a (inaudible) hospital and the EPWs we saw came off helicopters.

Q: OK, so, you can go ahead and continue.

And then, served with the 31st cash ((sp?)) hospital and then for the duration of the Desert Storm war, and then returned home and stayed with the 4223 US Army Hospital living in Utah and commuting to Nebraska, Omaha, Nebraska for drills. And then, this last January, with a two day warning, I was called up to report back to duty on January the 24th, 2003.

Q: And you reported to Fort Riley?

I reported recently to Omaha, stayed there two days doing some paper work, processing in. And then we reported to Fort Riley, Kansas. I spent 78 days at Fort Riley, Kansas. We were there so long because we were originally going into Turkey and then on into Iraq with the 4th MP division and all of our equipment got placed on 40 ships along with their equipment and Turkey kept playing games, couldn't make up their mind whether they were going to let us in or not. Finally at the end, they said no. And then the war started, and it took about a month for those ships to get sent to Kuwait.

Q: OK, if I could go back a little bit. So, you went to Fort Riley on the 26th and you joined the 530th MP battalion as the battalion surgeon.

Right. They were also out of Omaha. My reserve unit is in Omaha and the 530th MP battalion is in Omaha. So I was crossed over to that unit. Both units from Omaha.

Q: All right.

But I live in [redacted] b(u) 2

Q: Okay so you were crossed over to the 530th. When you arrived at Fort Riley on January 26th, how did the in processing go for you?

The same as Desert Storm. It was just a lot of lines and eventually we started helping them. We had medics and we sped it up. Our medics started giving shots and we sped it up somewhat by being able to help. Help with lines. Spent several days doing that.

Q: Let's see. Those medics, they're from your battalion?

Right.

Q: And had you met them before and how many were you commanding?

No. Six medics and there was a physician's assistant. Captain [redacted] b(u) 2

Q: So, physician's assistant. Is that a doctor as well?

A PA.

Q: Oh, a PA.

Yeah.

014309

b(6) 2 A11

Q: Okay. And so you guys helped the staff in Fort Riley. Were they overwhelmed then?

[REDACTED] Yeah, just you know, a thousand people, trying to get them through. Just big lines.

Q: And compared to Desert Storm, was it more efficient, less efficient?

[REDACTED] Pretty equal. Well both of them, again--it was interesting. You do it in an auditorium and I--before I did it at Fort Pole ((sp?)), Louisiana and, very similar. There's the same tarp, I swear was on both gym floors and the same tables and everything else. I think quite efficient, for the thousands that they're doing. No, I had no problems with it.

Q: Good deal. Now, what about the training you received at Fort Riley because you had never dealt with Enemy Prisoners of War before, so...

[REDACTED] I think it was interesting for me because always in the military, the last 20 years or whatever, I've been a physician. And so it was interesting to be in the unit where I went to staff meetings, as one of the staff, and to be with soldiers. And to see how the army is ran, I'd never seen it before. I'd always been with doctors who were laid back and other people were running it and everything else. For example, both times that I've been promoted to a Major and a Lieutenant Colonel, I never showed up. I just came to drill each time and it's, oh you're a Major now, oh you're a Lieutenant Colonel, I never even filled out paper work. And so to go from that into being with soldiers and then the 530 is a very excellent unit. You know, excellent leadership, and I give credit for it coming out of the Midwest. And so, I've lived in Omaha for nine years, so I'm not from there so I could rank on this unit. But very organized, very hard working--good leadership and good troops. And so it was interesting, for 78 days we planned this camp. To the nth detail. And the day room, on the floor, they took tape, master tape, and at the scale, mapped out this prison. And they would argue for like ten hours where to put one tent. And the latrine would be worth 20 hours of arguing. And this thing was that planned, that thought out. And so it's kind of disappointing to come here to see this place.

Q: Okay, actually, if you could sir, could you go ahead and describe a little bit of detail, what the plan was? You were going to be called up with the 4th Infantry?

[REDACTED] Yes, the 4th Infantry division had gone into Turkey, was landing in a port there, and then it was several hundred miles through the mountains. They were coming through here, they called our brigade and then the northwest Iraq, in a small town called Telefar, which is west of Mosul, is a town of Telefar--next to this town was a big airport. And why that airport's there, I have no idea. And on the--we saw satellite figures and everything else, the detailed map. And I can tell you this now, it was secret. Where we went to set up this large (inaudible) unit, about 90 miles

014310

b(6)2 A11

in Iraq. And so we would follow straight in with the (inaudible) coming right in with it.

Q: OK, and what were your plans as a surgeon? I mean, what equipment were you ordering, what did you need, did they have it all?

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[REDACTED] With Captain [REDACTED] ((sp?)) doing it a lot of it because he was with this unit the 530th so he really led the way on it. But we picked up some like, \$150,000 worth of medicines and equipment there. Not so much equipment, but mainly medicines at Fort Riley there and at Fort Riley, the hospital was very gracious, they helped a lot. So we had in our connexes ((sp?)) and in our medic bags and everything else, we had medicines as much as we could make up and carry. The planning was somewhere between 10 and 20,000 prisoners. And with the process, it was my understanding that we had 13 days to wait before a cash ((sp?)) hospital was going to come in and set up next to--excuse me, next to us. And so we were figuring that we were going to run this thing by ourselves for about 13 days. And I never slept through it, because I just (inaudible) this could happen. You know, there'd be no surgeons, on and on, and we'd have wounded prisoners. And I never had--no nurse, no lab, no X-ray machine, no nothing. And I went out, took my money and I bought a lamp, this lamp to have because I figured I could sew people with it in night time. You know, we have no equipment and we were going to be there, as far as I could tell by this outline, it was, we were going to follow the 4th ID in, and we were going to be in for a while. And I was going to be the only doctor. So I asked for it, I can't remember how many--but they gave my like 500 body bags or a thousand or something like that, because I saw that people were going to die. Large numbers were going to die, with that plan. And as I was interpreting it, they were throwing us in a position to not have an operating room, no lab, no x-rays, it's kind of what you do. (laughter) Then have body bags, you can patch them up.

Q: When you said there'd be wounded people and the aspirin wasn't--
[REDACTED] --Yeah yeah, and like I said, there was no nurses, no nothing. Just medics and the PA, but still, what are you going to do?

Q: And did you participate in the planning of the lay out of the medical house for the war as well?

[REDACTED] Not that much, no, no. Because the cash hospital was going to come in, you know we talked about how we were going to set up our area. So, no, we weren't involved in that.

Q: Okay. And the days of training that you had, did they give you--did they break you on prisoners or handling or anything?

[REDACTED] Once again, I saved it, kind out of bat. What I ended up doing was I volunteered and I worked at the, in the emergency room in Fort Riley a lot (inaudible). That's just when I'm on time--with my schedule, if it got slow or I got bored, that's the main thing I did, just earned my pay.

Q: Okay. Good deal.

[REDACTED] And they were short on doctors. It was a long 78 days. (laughter)

014311

Q: And as I understand, as a doctor's tour in theater is 90 days?

[REDACTED] Correct. But in the--
(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

[REDACTED] Yeah, yeah. It has to be all your duty stations and there was one doctor in Fort Riley, doing his 90 days there. And so he came there about 2 weeks ahead of me and he was leaving about the same time I left to go over here.

Q: I just want to confirm in case we haven't said it yet, but the (inaudible) surgeon handles both enemy prisoners and American soldiers?

[REDACTED] Right, right. Yeah.

Q: All right, so if you could go ahead and describe your flight over to Kuwait? You left on April 10th.

[REDACTED] Right. We left Fort Riley, we stopped several time.

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ATL [REDACTED] then, [REDACTED] and the worst stop was we stopped in Cyprus and we sat on the ground for four hours while we waited on some stewardesses and they wouldn't let us off the plane because theoretically we weren't in [REDACTED]. We landed there to get fuel and the [REDACTED] government wasn't in (inaudible) that we were there. And so we couldn't get off the plane. And so then finally, we were on the plane for about 21 hours or so and when we landed in Kuwait City, they still wouldn't let us off the plane because there were so many planes landing that there was no ramps to get people off. And so we sat there in Kuwait for forever. And what was irritating to me was, finally, ten minutes after midnight, we went past an SUV that had some soldiers in it and they took our ID cards and split them and that marked your time. And I'm (inaudible) because I lost the day by ten minutes. And so say I went home on July 10th, they may be flying July 11th because we sat there on that plane--we were on that plane I think more than 24 hours. And when we landed we couldn't off. You may have done the same thing.

Q: I think they just held you on the plane until it was midnight--

[REDACTED] Everybody was laughing at me because I'd be running up there-- I mean because I'd run up the ramp, I said I am in Kuwait, it's the 10th still. So, when we went from there to this whole Camp Wolf from the airport and as I was saying before, the only thing bad was that they put us in an air conditioned tent, which was nice but that day it wasn't that hot here and it was actually too cold. And they put us in this large tent, about [REDACTED] of us, and no cots. And this was again, a little bit after midnight. So we tried to sleep on the hard floor with nothing. You just lay there on the floor with the air conditioning running and being cold. And then we got up, and they left us there the whole day. And finally that night, they did a convoy, something like 26 city busses and moved us to 35 miles from Camp Wolf to Arifjan. That 26 miles, what it was, took--I can't remember--took over four hours. Took almost the whole night for us to get there. Because they took everybody together, they made everybody--they loaded up all of our bags in trucks. And there must have been--well there were hundreds of troops that they moved. However many people it takes get into the city---21 or 26

B(6)2 A1

city busses, you know big passenger busses. That's a lot of troops and they moved all of us in this massive convoy. Took hours.

Q: Let me ask you something. Since you're with the 530 MP battalion, I don't believe they brought their subordinate unit so...

[REDACTED] No, no. Just the headquarters unit.

Q: Had the subordinate units joined you at Fort Riley, Kansas?

[REDACTED] No, no. They were all, most of them I think were in Fort Lewis.

Q: OK.

[REDACTED] There's a small unit of twelve that work on a processing line. They showed up, that was it.

Q: And when did you find out that you wouldn't be joining the corps by the--the going through Turkey?

[REDACTED] Boy, I mean for weeks and weeks it was a game. The Turkish government would say, well maybe, we're going to decide next Tuesday, next Friday, next Tuesday, next Sunday. They voted against it, it was voted down by only four people. And then they said they were going to revote it because the military wanted us to come and then they elected some president who wanted us here. And so--actually probably wouldn't end up going.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

Q: OK, so, March then...

[REDACTED] It just became more and more the writing on the wall. For a long time, we believed it. I mean, for a long time, people would keep saying, you know, the government offered them what, 26 million dollars?

Q: Geez.

(laughter)

[REDACTED] You know, and nobody thought that they would turn down 26 million dollars. Their military wanted us in and the new elected president wanted us. So it was kind of interesting that nobody agreed to it.

Q: Now how did this affect your supply situation? Because your medical supplies are on this ship at the time so...

[REDACTED] Right, right. And so we couldn't leave Fort Riley until the ships started getting unloaded. And they were trying to--in Kuwait--they were trying to unload the tanks, trying to unload the fighters first. Although, our stuff was intermixed with theirs. So I think we kind of had (inaudible). They did have priority over, so that was the kind of deal on that.

Q: Okay, and you make it to Arifjan April 11th.

[REDACTED] Yeah, and yeah, ten minutes into it. And it may even have been the 12th time we got to Arifjan because yeah. Yeah, it took us so long. And so at Arifjan--then we sit there, in a hangar, no it wasn't a hangar. It was these large, large warehouses. And I was trying to count it, you know looking at the CODs and it's, it's bigger than that of a football field. In length and it's width. So and there were hundreds of us in there. And I was kind of going nuts because you know the war's going on and then we thought we were going here and I knew they were short on doctors. And I was

014313

b(u) 2 A11

starting to think, why am I sitting here? And they took an advanced party like one or two days ahead of us. And I was going to take over that but they didn't fill me in on, because I knew they were dying. You know, they took the chaplain and left me sitting there and I'm thinking, I need to go to work.

Q: Hmm, interesting. Okay, so you're dying. I suppose seeing a chaplain would be a good thing but seeing a doctor might be above it.

[redacted] Yeah, when you're majorly short on them. So anyhow, we--
Q: --I'm sorry, but who was short on them?

[redacted] This unit was, you know Camp Buka was short on their doctors.
Q: Thank you, that's what I wanted to hear.

[redacted] The Brits had kind of started this place and then just kind of, over night, they just start bringing in hundreds and hundreds of prisoners. And it just rapidly escalated, and the Brits, I don't know what they had for medical help here but it was gone. And when I got here, there was only like two doctors.

Q: And at this point, the war had been going on for close to four weeks.

[redacted] Right, right. So then they had all these prisoners and they start bringing them in here by mass numbers. But they didn't--they hadn't mass stuff to providers. That's where I came in here.

Q: OK so you came in, there were probably close to 6,000 prisoners.

[redacted] No there were 6,800.

Q: 6,800?

[redacted] Right.

Q: And, there were only two British doctors--

[redacted] --No, no, there were no British doctors. It was, two Americans. Captain (inaudible) and Major [redacted] b(u) 2

Q: Okay.

[redacted] The only two I can think of. And then--

Q: And then did they have medical assistants or--

[redacted] They had medics also and they had a PA. Yeah. Had one PA. So two doctors and one PA.

Q: And that was it?

[redacted] Yeah.

Q: For 6,800 people.

[redacted] Plus 1,500 American soldiers.

Q: Plus 1,500 Americans, thank you.

[redacted] Yeah, yeah. And so it was--and there was another PA here who was taking care of American soldiers.

Q: Okay.

[redacted] So you had two divisions of two Pas. For that many--that many customers.

Q: And is that a normal situation, ratio?

[redacted] Nah, that would never be normal. And not for the badly wounded. And so, the day I got here--and it was on this stretcher here--what (inaudible) day of Iraq, had been shot and imprisoned.

Q: Oh, okay.

[redacted] And so--

Q: That was the Palm Sunday riots. I--oh, no, the week after that I believe.

[REDACTED] Yeah, I mean just the--and so the first few days I was here, to me, was interesting. Part of it. In that--

Q: We're gonna go ahead.

[REDACTED] Okay.

Q: Pause the interview here.

(break in tape)

Q: All right, this is Sergeant [REDACTED] ^{b(6)2}. I'm resuming my interview with Lieutenant [REDACTED]. The lights have gone out in the tents, so it's going to be an interesting situation. But there's no reason we can't do a field interview in the dark. All right sir, so you were talking about your arrival...

b(6)2
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[REDACTED] My first day here, coming into Camp Buka. I wasn't sure where to work and so I came here, and I think I couldn't find my PA so I came to the battalion aid station and was working here. And on this stretcher that we're using as a table here was a dead Iraqi prisoner that one of the guards had shot, he apparently was swinging a club at one of the other--one of the American guards. And so my PA came and picked me up and by this time, it was in the dark. And we went down to the original prison. And at that time there was a little over [REDACTED] prisoners there.

Q: The core holding area?

b(2)-3

[REDACTED] Right, the core holding area which you were unable to see. But going down there in the dark was, the word I used several times, was I described it as being surreal in that, under the bright lights, the prison lights, it was very much different than we had seen in the daytime. But you had these (inaudible) of compounds, where the (inaudible) wires stands up. And each compound had about 500 prisoners in it and then there was a narrow lane going in between them. And so what we did, we started at the end of it and we had two medical boxes full of antibiotics and IVs and different things like that. And we'd just drag these down the middle. The prisoners would just crowd the edge of their compounds and they were really upset. For one thing, one of them had been shot and I think a lot of them were aware of that, and then they hadn't been treated. And the guards who were behind a gate that didn't have a lock on it. And there was like three guards per compound with a little wooden gate that wouldn't lock. And these prisoners could come in, any time, if they rushed it. And a lot of them would have been shot but they still would have killed you. And so I'm sitting there, I just left a dead prisoner, laying on this cot here but I got my (inaudible) on and I went down there, these bright lights. And these kind of angry prisoners and the effect of it is, it's like you we're in a World War II, Nazi concentration camp movie. You've got prisoners, they're kind of yelling, they're crowding the edge of the fence there and then the smell was just, it was this horrendous smell. And then just garbage every place. And the wind, the wind blows against the wire you know and everything else.

b(u)-2 A1

Q: The smell and the garbage, is that because the prisoners are being mistreated? Or why is that happening?

[REDACTED] It was just, there was so many of them. And they tried--I mean they had open pit latrines and if you put 1,000 people in maybe b(2)-3 four acres or whatever, there's no way, there's no place to put anything else. There's no way to clean it.

Q: And what about trash collection?

[REDACTED] Part was that it was the wind, we had these sandstorms. And if everything blows---yeah to me, they could have been after it and picked it up better. But they're just trying to have--they're just pretty much coming in nonstop you know. They're feeding them MRE type meals, they're blowing away.

Q: So it wasn't negligence or mistreatment of the prisoners?

[REDACTED] No, no, no, no. It's just the general situation.

Q: Okay.

[REDACTED] And so we were only able to see--we would ask the guards to give us prisoners who had wounds, who had bullet wounds. And we'd have them give us a prisoner who spoke English. And all the compounds had--so we didn't take translators with us. We'd just get a prisoner out and use them. And so they'd bring out these prisoners, I don't know how many we saw. Just one after, after, after, another of these guys--and then somebody else. (inaudible) been hospital.

Q: They actually had bullet wounds?

[REDACTED] Yeah, yeah. You know, stitched up and they'd be all (inaudible) or infected.

Q: Bullet wounds from that day or?

[REDACTED] No, no no. From the war. When they were captured, you know, they were taken to hospitals or whatever. And had been sewn up and everything else. But had never been treated there, they'd just been thrown in jail with all these masses, stitches and--some prisoners had gaping holes. Just you know, certain wounds you don't sew up because you're guaranteed infection. If you take a deep bullet hole wound and you sew up the top of it, that's how you get (inaudible). And so a lot of these had secondary healing where you take a while to come up. (inaudible). That's all we did for days and we'd just do that, and the other day, we'd go back to our tents. We had no shares, no nothing. We just had the cots and tents that were out. And I just collapsed, I never took my clothes off, never took my boots off. Because you're just so filthy dirty and so tired and there's no way to shower. And then we had these sandstorms, these tents just shake. We haven't had big sandstorms like we did five weeks ago. And it's hot. Unless (inaudible) was hot. Then the heat was a good thing. But there was a lot more sandstorms, just horrendous.

Q: Now how many hours were you working per day--

[REDACTED] --God, you'd just. You know, I didn't pay attention to it because it didn't matter. You know, you're not going home or anything else. And you just lay down and get up and do it again.

014316

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We did that several days and then they got us a good number of doctors. They started coming in.

Q: Where did these doctors come from?

[REDACTED] I don't know. You know, Arifjan or whatever.

Q: And what went through your mind. I mean, you're going several days--

[REDACTED] --The first night, like I said, I walk out of here with a guy laying her dead, and I go down there in the dark and all of a sudden, I call it a spiritual experience, I thought I'd died and gone to hell. It was, that wild. It's hard--I mean the smell, the visual thing of it. And the lights, these bright lights. And these prisoners--and the noise of it. You get 6,000 people and you're going down a lane that's only like 15-20 feet across. You're going down between 6,000 people and most of them pretty irritated.

Q: Are they talking or yelling?

[REDACTED] Oh yeah, yeah. They're just making noise. Going, "doctor! Doctor!" They can all say that. And then we wouldn't see them and so half of them were mad because we couldn't see them. We could only see people with infected wounds. We'd change these dressings and you know, go back the next day and put them on antibiotics and on and on. And we were irritating a lot of people because we were doctors and you know, if you had a headache, a backache, you know whatever, a bellyache, diarrhea, constipation, we didn't see you. And so, and most of them had that kind of stuff. Their living in tents on the ground--trust me you don't feel good and whatever. So we weren't real popular. What was interesting was that real fast that they could see that we would come back. They'd been told tomorrow a bunch of times. But the staff (inaudible), they were just short. But I do think that, I want to say, that for a few days there or whatever, in my mind, there were like two PAs and two doctors, I can't think of them. And you can't do it, you can't handle--

Q: Let me ask you, medics. Were they able to handle some of the minor stuff? The diarrhea, the backaches, the stomach aches...

[REDACTED] No, no no. Because they were helping us do the dressings. No, no. We only had--they were. It takes one to write in a book, who we're seeing and what they had and what we did to them. And then the rest of it would be you know, stuff, taking off bandages and we took like an IV bag and put a line on it and then we (inaudible) with that. So that, one person had to have the IV, it's still water, you know, but and then on (inaudible). They would have them you know cleaning them and redressing them. Every now and then we'd be you know, cutting into them, doing cuts and stuff like that. But, it's just in the dirt, I mean it's just wild.

Q: In the dirt out there or?

[REDACTED] Yeah, we were in the dirt. Literally and figuratively. And then laid down in the dirt. You know, we just go right down this dirt trail in the compound. There was a trail, it was a (inaudible). Wide enough for two humvees is all.

Q: And did you have this medical tent set up at the time or?

014317

b(6) 2 A1

[REDACTED] This was, this was our triage. And the Spanish hospital was here and so if something was bad down there, we had a (inaudible) to have, we still have it. We load them up in the (inaudible) and bring them up here. If it's something we couldn't handle, we brought them up here and if they couldn't handle it here, then they went over to the Spaniards.

Q: OK and what is the Spanish hospital in relation to yourself? I mean, what's their role and mission?

[REDACTED] They're--they would be more of a level two type thing. They can do some surgeries--and they've got their big ship out here, it went off for the first time today.

Q: Okay and what is the name of that ship or?

[REDACTED] The name of it?

Q: Yes sir.

[REDACTED] I don't remember, I was just on it. I had lunch on it.

(laughter)

Q: (laughter) That's okay.

[REDACTED] And there was an American ship called the Comfort. That was taking people too, and I didn't understand that. I don't feel they took many prisoners. I'm not sure. And so with these prisoners at wartime, I don't know. There was a big British hospital up in Nasriye that's still there. And so I think--most of these, we're working on by the briefs, hospital.

Q: Okay and the Spanish--what is level two? Is that, level one is here?

[REDACTED] Right and level two is higher, they've got surgeons and x-rays and everything else. So they can help us out on, you know, the more complicated ones. And I failed to mention, you know, they were here but the problem is, they weren't going down into the field.

Q: Okay.

[REDACTED] They stayed up here.

Q: And so, has there been much use of the Spanish hospital units here?

[REDACTED] Yeah, yeah. A fair amount. And so then, by calling then, I got tasked then to be the acting brigade surgeon. And so then I had to start interacting between all these people. And that's been my pain in the butt. Because there for a while, we had two Iraqi doctors, who, they weren't prisoners and yet they were held down there. In essence, they were prisoners but they had some other title. And so we had them helping us. I didn't know they were there for about five days, geez, I could have used them. So I ended up having to interface with two Iraqi doctors, the Spanish doctor and I speak Spanish because I'm a former missionary in South America so I can speak Spanish. So I'm interfacing with them and then all these doctors here, and the medics, and the PAs and everything else, and so. My boon in life is I value going to five meetings a day. And I spend about half the day going around just seeing that everybody has feathers that are not ruffled and everybody's pointing in the same direction. Which sounds easier than it is. (laughter) Because when you're dealing with doctors and whatever...

014318

But now, so now the work becomes more routine. We're down to [REDACTED] prisoners and what I do so that I feel like--because I'm critical of doctors who administrate the stuff and don't see prisoners. We have here in the camp, an area of high security prisoners. These prisoners don't get to stand up except for a few minutes a day. They're sitting in one tent with [REDACTED] guards looking at both ends of the tent. So these guys are of special interest. These are ones who, either did something really wrong, or they think they know somebody who did something really wrong. And so I go see them every day and that way I feel like I am working as a doctor. And I'm in a camp now that's probably 125 degrees when I see them. It's not air conditioned. And this air conditioning--this was my big battle, this is my accomplishment for being here, I take credit for this--is I fought for five weeks to get it air conditioned. Because we have soldiers that come in with heat problems, and yet a soldier with a temperature of 125 and the tent's 115, how can you cool it down if the tent's 115. Our thermometers wouldn't work. You pick up any thermometers up until--this air conditioning's been here about three days. You pick up a thermometer out of the drawer, it'd be maxed out. And you couldn't shake it down because it would just come right back immediately because it was probably 115-120 degrees in the tent. And so to take somebody's temperature, you had a hard time doing it. And then trying to cool them off, you know, you really couldn't. And your IV would be the same thing. Somebody's temperature's 105 and you've got an IV that's 120, you're not going to cool them down very fast. So now we have air conditioning, so creative accomplishment, I can be famous for that. So, anyhow, so now it's just more than mundane thing of seeing prisoners everyday and then we maxed out at about 2,000 American soldiers, about 2,100 and a large group of them left so we're down to probably 1,600 American soldiers. And one of the interesting problems we had here was a virus that went through the camp, we called it the Buka plague, it caused vomiting and diarrhea. And some units were hit extremely hard on it. The military intelligence unit had [REDACTED] people in, and all [REDACTED] at one time or another had it. And the unit I'm in, probably I'm guessing maybe 50 percent. And I never had. As interesting as it is, I work with Iraqi prisoners, I don't wash my hands like I ought to. I see them, on and on. And I see the Americans with it, and some people have had it several times. But at one time, the worst we had it in one day, we had 51 people who were treated with IVs. It was just a lot, that's a--

Q: That is a lot. Now, medical supplies are class what?

[REDACTED] I'm not sure what it is. I don't speak Army talk.

Q: Okay. But were you ever short of medical supplies? Was that ever a concern?

[REDACTED] Only the air conditioners. And I fought that, which to me was a legal issue, had somebody have died. There would have been one legal battle over that one, as to have you can justify some soldier dying of a heat stroke. Because people die of heat strokes in

014319

b(6)-2 A1

level three hospitals in the United States. I mean it can be a serious, serious thing. And they would have no defense for it.

Q: All right, let's--I'm sorry let's go to the Buka illness or the Buka plague for the moment. I mean, I heard--what are some of the theories going about? I've heard dysentery...

[REDACTED] Most people get diarrhea and vomiting or some will just get one or the other. Like one of the troops this morning, he kind of described how you'd feel to be curled up on top of our garbage can. He couldn't (inaudible). He tried to just describe this to me and he couldn't get the garbage can up. It's just explosive, vomiting diarrhea. And we're documenting the first--oh the first night I was here, on top of all this other stuff, I finally went to bed and I don't know what time it was, it was really late. Somewhere at like four o'clock on the morning, these dogs start fighting like ten feet outside our head. There used to be all kinds of wild dogs going through here. At night time you'd hear it. But these guys--these dogs, it was after this horrendous night, like four in the morning, these dogs, I don't know how many of them. And they were literally outside the tent. Just fighting like crazy. And then the next night, this Buka plague started in our unit and I think they woke me up four times. They'd come in the tent, "medic, medic!" well they'd wake me up because I don't sleep very good, you know I--whatever. And why should I have them wake up a medic when I'm already awake. And four times then, this going to bed late, that you're sitting there, and they're waking you up. The thing came on fast, these soldiers would drop almost.

Q: Do you remember what day it was? I mean, the specific day, or do you have records of that?

[REDACTED] It was immediate. I mean, on the second day. They had me up all night.

Q: Oh, on the second day. So that was the 16 April or mid-April.

[REDACTED] Yeah, yeah. And others in the camp here already had it. We didn't bring it in. We weren't the ones that started it. What caused it, probably a virus, it was my understanding--the Brits looked at it and came up with I think six different viruses. I don't think it was just the same virus. But how it was spread, I don't know. It would tend to go in tents. But why I never got it and my PA never got it, there's sickness in the tents still now, and like two out of six of us had it. Not real clear. But that one MI unit, they all got it.

Q: Did someone else theorize that it could be or said the Brits said it was the Norwalk ((sp?)) virus?

[REDACTED] Right, right which is a type of a virus.

Q: Okay.

[REDACTED] Okay. A (inaudible) virus. That's what I was told, that the Brits apparently did some study on it, whatever. But I don't know if that's true or not, that's a good story. But how it spread, I don't know. I mean (inaudible). One of the problems here is that Iraqi prisoners don't like to use toilets, just culturally. And

014320

b(u) 2 (AM)

right outside here, there's probably 5,000 poops or pees right out the door here.

Q: And just on the sand?

Yeah. I mean, there's a latrine there and they'll go in the sand. They prefer squatting down to do it. And so this whole place has just been covered with it.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

With the complaints I've had they've been like getting gravel on the roads and they dug--apparently gravel is super expensive here. And they have to haul it to who knows where. And I've forever tried to get them to, down the road, knock down the dust. It can be just horrendous. And these air conditioners. I got the air conditioners, and they're slowly getting the gravel down. And now we have this mess hall, whereas before, each area had their own mess hall, there are several tents around here.

Q: The mobile kitchen trailers.

Right right. And I think a lot of this stuff could have been spread that way too.

Q: That was the period that I (inaudible) as well.

So I don't know. But these viruses tend to run their course. When somebody gets them, they get their antibiotics against them and it's over with.

Q: Some people have also said it's just, you know, we're new to this area and that...

Yeah, yeah. I accept all explanations. I've heard some wild ones and I tell them I say, I don't particularly agree with that, but I can't prove it's not true.

Q: What's the best one of them you've heard, if you don't mind me asking?

Oh, oh. What? That Iraqis were spreading it on purpose. That the prisoners had it and it was a plot to get us. So the conspiracy theory was the best one, I mean that was the best one.

Q: And what about the prisoners, were they coming down with the Buka?

Only a few, not very many. And what's interesting is I work over here at this compound and they had a mix of a strip on their meals and they start getting kind of a, they've already eaten and everything, but the United Nations type MRE.

Q: The human daily ration, the one in the yellow packet.

Yeah, anyhow, they're all getting constipated. So, we don't see that many prisoners with this, which is kind of interesting. We have antibiotics against it. So whether the flies are carrying it, whether it's in the wind, whether it's hand to mouth, people being in the same tent, no good explanation. But boy, when people get it, they can drop in like one hour. Just, you know, you're working and all of a sudden you're not working. You're just bent over, losing it.

Q: And I've heard it lasts approximately about 48 hours?

Yeah about that. And then, the occasional person just has it longer. And I have not had it. Have you had it?

014321

b(4) 2 A11

Q: I'm not quite sure. I've had the runs since I've been here but I don't think...There was a while, I was up at Garma by Baghdad and I might have had a light version of it there, because I just felt nauseous for one day and then the runs for a little bit longer.

So like I say, now we're just, everybody's just coming up with rumors as to where the plague's (inaudible). That is the entertainment of the day, is trying to guess what's going to happen to this plague.

Q: Let's see, 650 prisoners. The war cease fire has...

It's great. And as I mentioned at our staff meeting a couple of nights ago when you were there, Camp Buka's not going to be a permanent place. The rumor originally was this was going to be a humanitarian standard, because you're close to the port, close to the railroad, close to the highway, close to the Kuwaiti border with you know, resupply. And with all that, they were going to make this a humanitarian base. And they say they're not. And then, you know, they announced this being an EPW camp, not a prison for bad guys. And yet now, most of our people coming in now are bad guys. So and then they're building up these small--

Q: Bad guys being criminals.

Yeah, yeah. And they're going to leave these prisons now up north, they want to (inaudible). So and this place has to be costing an absolute fortune. I don't know why we just want take each prisoner and say, here's 5,000 bucks get out of here, stay out of trouble, we want our money back, and you come out ahead.

Q: So now, this hospital--let me ask. How are sick--or how is the medical treatment done for the Iraqis and then how is it done for the Americans? And I mean by that, in particular, like sick call, when does it begin or is it 24 hours?

Sick call is over here, the 161st has it now but more than that, very impressively, the 46th engineer group, they had one PA with like seven medics or whatever, they staffed it, ran it, 24 hours a day, seven days, by themselves.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

They did an extremely good job. And every time I'd ask, do you want help? He said, "nope, we can do it." And then they did an extremely good job. Which now they left a week ago and the 161st stepped down.

Q: And when did the 161st step down?

Probably, two or three weeks ago. Two weeks ago.

Q: Okay. Now, did they assist you in your work with the prisoners?

Right. So the way it is now, we have two tents now down at the new prison, the uh--

Q: The interment facility.

Yeah and the guards bring down the prisoners who say they have a problem. It's really organized now and we see them in tents, there's no air conditioning, but we see them in the tents. Some things that we can't handle there, they need IVs, they need an x-ray, you know, they passed out, then we put them on a deuce and they have to bring them up here.

014322

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Q: Okay.

[REDACTED] Okay and if they need surgery or whatever, the Spaniards can do that or even x-ray. Then, for the American soldiers, the 46th engineer PA handled them, 24 hours a day. Of course, now they have sick call seven to ten because this is military police unit, probably, maybe even a fourth of this compound is working 24 hours a day, you can't see geez you missed sick call. So I've asked them to be very, very liberal. That there job's not to say, geez, this isn't serious enough, sick call into the tent. I've asked them to be very, very liberal on it. So we see them there, and up until yesterday, there's some connexes, which is your metal boxes that everything's shipped in in the back of a truck. Prisoners who are in trouble or you know, are causing riots or the rapists, whatever, they were in those connexes. I would go by and see them, they had a barbed wire, wood frame on the end of it. And it was getting so hot, it was probably 130 degrees in there or whatever, it got to be just too hot. And I believe it was yesterday was the last day that they took them out of there. And so I made rounds on them too.

Q: Okay.

[REDACTED] So, there for a while, we were busy because when they built the new prison, they had the old one still open, the new one open, so we were seeing prisoners at the brand new prison, still at the old one, at the connexes, and then this high security area. It was kind of--we'd see them in five different areas.

Q: Okay now you said at the interment facility, they're putting in a tent, and you would see--or medics would see them there.

[REDACTED] And the physicians and the PAs.

Q: Cool. Now how was it at the old facility?

[REDACTED] We just saw them out on the street.

Q: So you would go out to them--

[REDACTED] --We just went down the lane, every day. And down the lane, and they came out there, amidst the sun and the dirt and whatever, we treated them. So there was no facility or anything else.

Q: Let me ask, how's the Red Cross been throughout this?

[REDACTED] They were really interested as to what was going on at the beginning. You know, the lack of treatment and everything else. And I feel on the whole, that they were very satisfied. They saw we were trying, and there were things that weren't done, it wasn't because we didn't care. You know, if you're short on people, you're short on people. And then this high security area, that crossed them, I didn't know it was there. Probably even today, probably 50 percent of the soldiers here don't know this area's over here. It's about 200 yards behind the burm over here. Nobody knows it's even there. And I didn't know it was there and they weren't being seen. And the Red Cross found out about it and gave us a check off on that. And so when I went over there, it was like the second or third day, the Red Cross doctor went with me, and he complimented this--my interaction with the Red Cross doctor was that I felt that he was satisfied with what we were doing. So

014323

b(u)2 A1
there was never, again, if something wasn't done, it was because we were short and on and on. And they had to see it.

Q: So out of, I want to say not quite ignorance, but lack of not being informed as opposed to deliberate action...

[REDACTED] Right, and just being overwhelmed with numbers and everything else. And I felt they saw that we were passionate and had every intention to do good.

Q: Could you give an approximate number of how many Iraqi prisoners you treated or have been treated medically?

[REDACTED] It'd be in the thousands. Because it was interesting, after it settled down, we became their entertainment is what I would say.

(laughter)

[REDACTED] We were at break. That's why we start to see you know, headaches, backaches, whatever whatever.

Q: So people who've been in the compound wanted to get out--
(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

[REDACTED] And I have philosophy that everybody gets a pill. In my own practice I do that. I don't give out antibiotics, because there are all kinds of studies, showing that we way over use them. So, if you have a backache, you get a Tylenol or an Ibuprofen or whatever, and I still do it now. I, I mean they hurt, they're bored, they're sleeping on the grounds, you know, on and on. And they're getting bit by scorpions and vipers and whatever, so. It's not my job to say that somebody doesn't hurt bad enough.

Q: Now you talked about scorpions and vipers. What areas or how much of pest control is handled by you or what advice do you do?

[REDACTED] There was definitely--when we first moved in, (inaudible) in a 24 hour period, two of them got bit. A viper and I think one of them died. They had to life flight them out of here. And he may have died. We could never track it down, we couldn't find out where the guy went to or whatever. So, these are pretty serious. And then, that was only two. When they moved into this brand new, brand new area. It's a big area.

Q: Big area, hadn't been inhabited by humans before, so vipers--
[REDACTED] Were in there, yeah.

Q: Have any US soldiers been bit by vipers or scorpions?

[REDACTED] Scorpions, yeah, yeah. Scorpions a lot. And right now, if you go out there and start moving--the 46 engineers, they had three of them, they were just signed in. One of them was a big one, it was black. It was probably six inches long or whatever and it looked like a big lizard. And the other two were small white ones, the whites are the ones that get everybody.

(break in tape)

Q: All right, this is Sergeant [REDACTED] I'm interviewing

b(u)-2
Lieutenant [REDACTED] We were just talking about some of the pests and problems that they cause on the post here, scorpions and vipers.

[REDACTED] Now, Major [REDACTED] b(u)-1, one of the traditions here, he killed two snakes in his tent. One of them was just here about a week or so ago, it was a big one. And I don't know if anybody ever saw what

014324

b(4)2 A11

kind of snake it was or whatever, but he described one of them as big. And their area's been there for weeks and weeks, so I don't know where the heck that thing came from.

Q: Probably swallowing up dogs.

[REDACTED] Yeah, yeah. The dogs are the worst thing and we went and killed a bunch of them.

Q: Now, for a doctor I expect wild dogs on post has got to be a major post.

[REDACTED] Well, they can carry rabies, and fleas and everything else and they're just mangy dogs. And I feel sensitive to the Iraqi people, when we leave a bunch of these dogs running loose, I (inaudible) they could take out a little kid. Some little kid crossing the field, and you got 700 or 800 dogs. We're not killing them now but we killed a whole bunch of them. The veterinary people are here now and you're supposed to catch them alive so they can go kill them. And then some soldier took a rifle and killed some dog, apparently the whole story is this dog was in between a whole bunch of soldiers and this kid shot him from a long distance. That makes a good story.

Q: In Arifjan, a soldier was being attacked by a dog, and another soldier did the right thing, he shot the dog. But he didn't pay attention to where the other soldier was, he shot from a distance as well, it went through the dog and hit the soldier, so.

[REDACTED] Yeah, yeah. So, anyhow. So that's where we are today. It's more mundane type thing and my philosophy is that most of these prisoners are good people and I leave it up to the (inaudible) of God to pick out the bad ones. I treat them all as if they're good people and give them respect, and maybe we can stop the violence, the circle of hatred, it just goes on and on and on.

Q: Could I get some statistical information from you? Like numbers processed a day average or, both American and Iraqi.

[REDACTED] You know, we have log books on it. I mean, I would have to dig it out, but we have the books on all of it.

Q: But do you have sit reps that would have that information?

[REDACTED] Have what?

Q: Situation reports?

[REDACTED] No, you know, only now this week have they asked us from Arifjan, have they sent us some papers that we're to fill out now. Whereas in the past, lucky us, we didn't have to do it. So, yeah we can pull up all along, day one when we started. The numbers are kind of confusing because you have different degree of difficulty of the problems and then different numbers in prisoners. So when you have almost 7,000 prisoners you have a bigger pool to draw from than when you get down to 600. And the prisoners are more complicated. But we have that information, we just have to dig it out.

Q: All right sir. If it's all right, we might do that later. Now, one of the big problems here at Arifjan is the heat. What do you do to prevent that?

[REDACTED] Camp Buka--

014325

b(6)2 A71

Q: I'm sorry?

[REDACTED] You said Arifjan, here at Camp Buka.

Q: Oh, Camp Buka, I'm sorry.

[REDACTED] No right now, yeah, that is the overwhelming that controls your whole day. The thing that affects you because by 8:30 it's 100 degrees. And like the other day, I was walking--we have a thermometer so I know what it is. I'm not guessing that, boy this is 120 degrees. No, we have a very accurate (inaudible) thermometer. The other night, I was just, in my mind, thinking how cool it was. You just went, I can handle this. Walk by thermometer, it's 106. It's like, you know, (inaudible) it's that cool. But in our tent--see my problem is, that in the afternoon I have a 2-3 hour break between seeing prisoners, and then before I start these meetings at 4:00 and on and on. But the problem is, I go back to our tent and, I'm not exaggerating, it's got to be 125 degrees in there. And so about half the time, for a while, I would just lay on the floor, in front of the door, and just exist. It just overwhelms you. And now I think I'm getting more acclimatized to it, it doesn't bother me as much. And it's kind of a mental thing, now I'm just saying, no, I'm not going to let it bother me.

Q: Now, how about the US soldiers who, you know, some of the soldiers are in the guard towers, now it's eight hours it used to be 12 hours. Some of those towers are metal so the heat can get pretty intense. Have there been heat casualties?

[REDACTED] No, no. Knock on wood. I can't believe we didn't, I can't believe it. And we couldn't have handled it if it happened. These (inaudible) trucks, I mean I had plans to put people in with the cabbage, the lettuce and the ice. The meat.

Q: Because, you didn't have the air conditioning.

[REDACTED] No, no. A few times we used the Spanish (inaudible). But somebody, to cool them down, you'd have had to put them in a trunk, in a (inaudible) truck.

Q: Now, a couple days ago, at one of the meetings, we talked about that sulfur smell and how it was affecting one of the guard posts, or the check posts as you say. That to me's kind of a unique experience. What else have you faced like that?

[REDACTED] To me, the level of concerns I have for what's going to happen to us, desert syndrome number two, I feel it is going to come from what we've been breathing. We were down there in those compounds breathing that stuff, next to prisoners coughing in your face and on and on and the wind blowing. These guys are pooping all over the place and on and on, and I question what's in the air. And plus the dust, there's a medical problem called silicosis from breathing dust. And I just question what breathing contaminated soil and who knows what is in the soil. That's my concern.

Q: Speaking of what is in the soil, I have heard rumors that this was a landfill once--

[REDACTED] It's certainly a landfill all the way around this. But again, this was a tv station.

Q: Okay.

014326

b(6) ? A11

[REDACTED] That's what the big tower is, for the tv station. And so, I would assume that in the immediate area around us--have you been in to Ukasar ((sp?))?

Q: No sir.

[REDACTED] Every inch of it between here and there is a dump. Every inch of the road is where they haul big trucks in and dump the stuff. So if this wasn't a garbage site, and they found out on the map of the prison in our talk, they have this one area called boot hill, this morning they found seven people with shovels outside of the SUV and they're burying a new pit. And it is a burial ground, it's right here on post. Probably a thousand yards from here. And so, so they bury people here and then when the MI guy was interviewing somebody, this guy was getting ready to get on the bus and he said, I feel bad about this, I got to tell you, I know where there are some landmines, ten minutes from here. So they convinced the guy to stay over night, and you can drive out there if you want, you can see them, they got them taped off. These landmines are just sitting on the ground. Just mass of them. Landmine field just about a thousand yards from where that new prison was going to be. So I mean, there's crap around here and I guess (inaudible) goes up in the air. So I mean, the burial ground's part of it and then if this was a garbage dump, it is ten feet away. So the area itself, the main area was a tv station.

Q: You mentioned the landmines. Have any soldiers been injured in any attacks or unexploded ordnates or anything like that?

[REDACTED] No, not here. They have all over the place, that's a big concern. Had they built that second prison, there may have been a good chance that somebody may have, because it was right next to it. But these things, I saw a picture of it, one of my medics went on patrol with the guards and they got pictures of it. These things were just laying on the ground, it wasn't even buried. Or it was buried then and the wind's blown it off. It's just all over, it's just funny, I mean you think of a landmine, (inaudible) this just looks like someone went out there and just started throwing them around. Tons of them.

Q: And there's, from what I've understood, there's literally tons of unexploded ordnates surrounding this camp.

[REDACTED] Yeah, I've heard of that. The landmines are the most worrisome I think.

Q: Yeah, an RPG you can see and if you step on it, it might not explode.

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

[REDACTED] Yeah, but a whole landmine...

Q: All right, let me see. Let me ask you, doctrinally, has this been what you expected or have you had to use many field expediencies here, and if so what?

[REDACTED] It wasn't the horror picture that I stayed awake with, thinking of going through Turkey. Me, being the only doctor with thousands or hundreds of casualties, and not being seen by anybody. But it was halfway overwhelming--it came as close to that as I

014327

b(4)2 A11

wanted it to. For the first few days, just the mass casualties that we saw, that were infected and needed to be, you know, wounds changed and everything else. What I feel good about is that I feel, this is what I tell the new doctors and PAs next when they come in, that in your life, you will not help improve the quality of life and bring comfort to people. But also, you will never be so uncomfortable yourself. And I feel that. I feel like I have done more, been able to help more people than I ever did in my old practice and make life better. You're driving your humvee, if somebody's walking, you pick them up. You don't do that at home. And if there's some soldier, it's 115 degrees out, and he's walking in the sun--and there's a thousand things a day you get to do like that. And with the prisoners, to just sit there and listen to them like they're human beings--they probably haven't ever seen a doctor in life. Giving them care, to me is very unique. It's very, very touching. Sometimes I've been very, very pleased with that. I feel I have made the world a better place. And the United States, I don't make it a better place very much. I don't know if that makes sense.

Q: It does, it does.

[REDACTED] But just, in treating Iraqis as good people, and like I said, I let God (inaudible) pick out the bad ones, that's not my job. And also not my job to say who's not sick enough to be seen. I'm getting paid good money, I'll see them all. I don't care if it's a headache.

Q: Let's see, have they been appreciative, the Iraqis?

[REDACTED] Yeah, yeah. Because, I mean they recognize you here. Yeah.

Q: How about the interaction with the prisoners?

[REDACTED] I've heard many of them speak English, so --

Q: Do you get to talk to some of them and know them?

[REDACTED] On the whole, you don't, because that's not real good. I mean that's -- you know, I mean there's -- what's that -- Stockholm syndrome or whatever where you -- so no, I never made a goal to do that or anything else. But I've hired two former prisoners. I paid for them with my own money. They're my translators. And they speak very good English. One kid's kind of retarded, and he doesn't speak that good English, but with these prisoners down at the Conex (sp?), these guys are sleeping down there with them, and they're having a guard fight (inaudible). We've had three severely mentally ill patients down there. I don't know if you were here for that or not.

Q: Actually, I heard it was four.

[REDACTED] The fourth one was up here, but there was three of them down there. It was just crazy. These guys had never been here. They weren't criminals. They weren't prisoners of war. Somehow, they got released from mental hospitals, and they got swept up and brought here. See anyhow, this one guy would help bathe and everything else, and then the other kid, he was in the (inaudible) guard (inaudible) Sergeant, but he spoke extremely good English. (inaudible). So he would help them, but now he stays here some

014328

place and every morning my PA picks him up and he goes down and translates for me down there.

Q: So let me ask you -- you said you had four mentally ill patients. How did you handle them differently from the rest of the prisoners, or --

A: Well, they were in the conex, so they weren't handled good. I mean, these people were probably schizophrenic, whatever. I mean, these people only talked to the four winds. So, no, there was no -- as far as I can remember -- if I had the ability, I would have thrown them out. I mean, these were people, you know, peeing under the (inaudible), you know, whatever, whatever. Did they not know their names, who they were, where they were from, or anything else. So they had them in conex (sp?) said just to hold them there, because they cause problems if you put them in --

Q: And if they were put in the compound, what would have happened?

A: I don't know. I don't think they would have been beat up, or whatever, but we would have lost them. They probably would have laid there and -- you know, oh, what's that guy doing back there?

Q: So what happened to these persons?

A: I got in trouble over this one. We fought this for a week. This was one of my three battles. One was air conditioning. The other was getting a helicopter down here. There was a hospital in Baghdad that said they would take them. And the third was to get gravel on the road, so finally, after a week of talking about this, and Major [REDACTED] (sp?) -- have you interviewed her?

Q: No, sir. But I know who you're talking about, the S1 --

A: Right. Major [REDACTED] works about 20 hours a day, OK? I'm not saying she's up 20 hours a day. She's working 20 hours a day, fine tuning, micro-managing every prisoner here, (inaudible) conservated areas bigger. And so she was helping on this. We got this hospital lined up, got this helicopter to come down. This was five or six days ago, to take these people to Baghdad. And I wanted to go, because I haven't been to Baghdad, and I'm sitting there -- I work every day of the week, and this would be my trip.

Q: What hour shift do you work, sir? About 12-hour days, 8-hour days?

[REDACTED] I go 7:00 til about 10:00 at night. But I'm just checking on things. Is that work? I'm in five meetings a day. That's work. Yeah, so I see my own patients, and then I want to know what's going on.

Q: And you know it's over in 90 days.

[REDACTED] Yeah.

Q: I expect that helps. All right, so let's go back to --

[REDACTED] OK, so basically there's this long, drawn-out story. So anyhow, we finally get a helicopter in here, and these guys are to be here at 7:00, and so I have these prisoners. I get them bathed, and I have brand new uniforms for them. These jump suits for them. I get them bathed, get them all clean, get them -- and come up here. And then -- I'm going down so I can sleep good. So at five o'clock in the morning, I get up and started rounding these prisoners up. I get up here and we make the decision let's go

014329

ahead and put them to sleep. So we inject them with haldol (sp?) and valium. And the helicopter doesn't come. And here, I've put four psychotics to sleep. So anyhow, then the helicopter, they called to say -- they didn't tell us. We called them, they say, well, it's overcast, we couldn't fly. So at 9:30, 9:25, they said we'll be there in half an hour. When they hung up, we could hear them. It was a one-minute warning. We've got these four people in here and the helicopter (inaudible) at about 1,000 yards. We didn't want them waiting, so we grabbed them, tried to get them out there (inaudible) -- and I talked them into letting my translator go with us, who's living down there with them, and he knows them. They trust him and everything else. So originally, they said no. Then, OK, you can go. They've got the force. So we get on this Black Hawk. We go up there, and the unit that's supposed to meet us doesn't show up, and we landed it at Baghdad International Airport.

Q: Oh, Baghdad International Airport, BIA.

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[redacted] Yeah. Saddam International Airport, that's what they wanted to (inaudible). We landed right in front of that sign, it was right there on the runway. The helicopter's sitting there. And the minute they turned it off, when we landed, we said, could you get the 150th MP group and have them come out here. We have the prisoners. And some little cute voice from off the radio said, yeah, we'll do that. Well, they turn off that helicopter then, that shut off the radio. This isn't a car. So we lost our contact. And luckily, here, somebody gave me a radio. I called back and said, it's 170 degrees and these guys are waking up. It takes four hours to get there and I've got some prisoners that are waking up, and we're sitting on the runway. It's 100 and x degrees, and these guys don't show up. Finally, finally, an hour and 40 minutes later, these guys show up with the dukes that have, and the only thing in my mind is what do I do with these prisoners? Do I put them on there, because this helicopter then needed to leave because we had to get back before dark. And I thought, just take care of -- they know where to go, they've got the (inaudible) anything else. So I get in the helicopter and leave. I take them stuff to stay. So anyway, it's a long story. So they take off and end up and the hospital doesn't take them. So here is this MP group with these four psychotic (inaudible) prisoners, and I came back and Major [redacted] was ready to kill me. And legally, you don't do that. You don't drop somebody off with somebody else. You take them to the door and sign off on them. So I said, oh, geez, I, oh. You asked me to be (inaudible), not on this. So anyhow, that was a long story. Apparently, somewhere, somehow, they got accepted at some hospital up there. But that was -- gosh. Because I thought I had done everything so cool. I came back and I gave her a thumbs up, and oh boy. It wasn't thumbs up. Major [redacted] (sp?) found out that the hospital hadn't accepted them, and there were four psychotics out there -- she expected me to stay. My thinking was how am I ever going to get back from Baghdad? I could have been up

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there for days, you know, and I have a job down here. I should have stayed, because I wanted to go. Crap. I could have had a day vacation up there. And I was (inaudible) with people who will work, and I thought, no, this helicopter's sitting here waiting on me. I'm going to go. I should have stayed. I don't know how I'd have gotten back. It's a long trip from here to Baghdad. It was four hours one way on the helicopter. So anyhow, that was (inaudible).

Q: Let me ask you, what's been your most interesting case, and what's been your most interesting moment here in Iraq?

Those four whackos was a better story -- I'm going to get in this trouble over it. It took me 14 hours in one day, doing all this, and then took a week of begging. They wanted us to take these prisoners up there in either an ambulance -- it was a 14-hour trip on the road, or the Dukes they have. Can you imagine trying to keep somebody drugged up for 14 hours, or being psychotic and waking up in a black, enclosed ambulance box? They would have gone nuts. Plus, then somebody could have shot your butt while you're spending 14 hours driving up there in an ambulance. Just those first few days of just going to bed -- you know, same thing happened in Desert Storm. Desert Storm, I didn't take my clothes off for five days. I didn't take my boots off. These nights, there was no reason to take your boots off. There's nothing you can do. You're in a tent full of dirt. So, yeah. There's no specific thing, it's just an overall thing, and now, it just, in fact, I feel that I do good. That I -- that I help people get along. I mean, I'm safe to say -- these two Iraqi doctors wanted to leave. And the Army, by rights, didn't have the -- we held them for months. They were detained personnel. And this one was an old guy and he was dying to -- he was a General, Brigadier General, and he was dying to leave. And when he left, he was ready to kiss my feet, and I was to come to his house, and on and on. That was very rewarding. And a lot of good experiences like that, truly making people feel good. And in the States, you don't do that. You don't do that very often. In other words, here, just the personal satisfaction of making a better place is just non-stop. So you still want to leave tomorrow?

Q: Yes. Let me ask, what is the most common injury you've treated with Iraqis and Americans?

Well, with Americans, it was the Hookah (sp?) plague --

Q: OK.

-- (inaudible) everything else. With Iraqis, the first half of it, was (inaudible) infected wounds. There really were some interesting wounds. A lot of them were lower extremity wounds. And like (inaudible) that, I'll explain. The medics on that is if you're shot above, you're dead. So you don't get a chest wound, other than in the movies. Chest wound -- we (inaudible), but most chest wounds are dead. They collapse the lungs, blow up the heart, blow a blood vessel, and you die. So a lot of buttocks. One kid had a wall with a hole in it and he also had a hole in his butt.

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It was (inaudible) wall with a bullet hole in it. You know, he was going through this. So there was some of that, some pretty gaping open stuff. Of course, now, I think we see up front, I think. Now, it's just kind of depression and just -- the misery, not like right for every day, where I see people who don't get up, who maybe spend one hour a day standing up. And so they're sitting on the ground or laying down 23 hours in a tent, probably 115, 120 degrees. So, you know, I mean, they hurt. And then, these guys, a whole bunch of them just get beat up.

Q: Not like guards?

[REDACTED] No, by the guys who were totally psychotic. The Brits, whoever (inaudible) these people (inaudible) not here. The Brits -- my impression -- in both wars, tend to beat the crap out of prisoners.

Q: You said your impression -- oh, Desert Storm one and two.

[REDACTED] Yeah, the same thing there. The Brits beat the crap out of them. And this group of people that I'm seeing, their British prisoners, and so --

Q: OK.

[REDACTED] But even before that, though, if I saw somebody that's beat up, I'd always ask because I'm doing this informal study. You know, I'd always ask the interpreter, I'd say, you know, who did it, Americans or Brits? And almost always it was the Brits. We'd see guys who had handcuffs on for four days.

Q: And what does that do to a person?

[REDACTED] Well, you get temporary paralysis.

Q: OK

[REDACTED] It just shuts off the circulation during everything else. Most of them would recover, but oh, geez, I mean, blood and open wounds, you know, from the swords. I mean, you've got prisoners that have got handcuffs on, you're going to rub off the skin. Yeah, so things -- and this one prisoner showed me -- it's probably the saddest thing I ever saw. This guy showed me a picture of his wife, a beautiful Iraqi young woman that he would look at, two little kids, and they were all three dead, killed by American bombs. Just stuff like that. And a lot of these prisoners, you know, truly innocent. Truly innocent. They're just people -- and they'd come through streets and you know, pick up everybody in the street, and these guys were just in the street at the wrong time.

Q: Some of them had weapons, but weapons here --

[REDACTED] Some of them didn't have weapons. And also, I believe everybody's innocent when they're caught.

Q: That's true too.

[REDACTED] A lot of innocent people. I always say, if you're going to go to war, don't go to war (inaudible) United States. If you have to lose, lose to the United States. That's one of my theories.

Q: Now if you were -- when you leave this unit and another -- or if you leave this unit, you might stay on, the next battalion surgeon -- what are three pieces of advice that you're going to give him?

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[REDACTED] I have a saying, it's nice to be important. It's more important to be nice.

Q: OK.

[REDACTED] And I think people need to be nice. I see people short-tempered, people who don't get along, who take up fits. You're an authority over these prisoners, and everything else. It's easy, be nice. And then the saying that I tell them is that you'll never bring more comfort but you'll never be comfortable yourself. And it is a comfortable (inaudible). The (inaudible) leaves and the wind and the dust seem to have dropped way down. There were really bad storms. But now the heat. (inaudible).

Q: Now is the heat going to get worse, and what's being done to combat that, as far as --

[REDACTED] Nothing. You know, we've got these air conditioned camps here, but I don't work in them. So it doesn't do me much good.

Q: What about the soldiers, are they going to get air conditioning?

[REDACTED] I don't think so. I think they'll close this place down in a month.

Q: That quick.

[REDACTED] Yes. They'll start. That's my prediction, about a month.

Q: In the meantime, everyone's--

[REDACTED] You could die, you're just going to flat out -- because it'll get hotter. This is the hottest time frame (inaudible). You know, I think it will be up another four or five degrees. What's funny is to take a water bottle to wash your hands with it, and it's hot water. That's the shock, is to wash your hands with that, you think, you know, I wouldn't turn on the water in the bathroom any hotter than this, and then that's what you have to drink. You have no ice. So.

Q: I've done that. When I pick up my camera, it is literally burning hot sometimes. I'm waiting for it to go out.

[REDACTED] Well, what I get a kick out of is all of our medicines says store at under 87 degrees. And we carry these things in these brown, metal boxes, and I leave them back in the Humvee. When I go to take them out, that is so hot you can't touch it. It's like an iron. On top of that box, it has to be -- it's got to be 140 degrees. Maybe it's 150 degrees, and I'm thinking, that's like 60 degrees than that medicine's supposed to be, and I wonder, does that work? What does that really mean, to store it under 87 degrees? The capsules, they get glued together. The gel caps.

Q: Yes, sir, OK.

[REDACTED] They're just fluid.

Q: Now let me ask -- I kind of asked about field expediencies earlier, like, you know, these are nice stretchers that you have.

[REDACTED] They're very good. (inaudible).

Q: So I'm just curious, like -- once I saw an episode of MASH. Very cheesy, but -- someone needed -- someone's throat had been damaged, so they got a pen and put it through their -- so what field expediencies have you had to use, I mean, nothing so dramatic as that, but --

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[REDACTED] Just working in the dirt. You're sitting there sticking a knife plate in somebody in the dirt.

Q: How do you try to beat that? I mean, that could lead to infection, so what do you do --

[REDACTED] Antibiotics, they either went home or they got better. It just kind of blew my mind that this stuff -- what we did seemed to work. It was just kind of a shock. You know, but we see them every day -- normally, in the outside world, you wouldn't see somebody that often. Here, we made a point to -- we didn't allow them to go every other day, which in the States you could have done. We were quite aggressive.

Q: Let me ask you something. We talked about prisoners with depression. Have there been any U.S. soldiers with depression?

[REDACTED] Yeah, I've seen one, and there's one who was severe -- that I'm aware of. They called me, and one of our companies underneath us. This was a guy who had been cheating on his wife, and on Mother's Day, this girl contacted his wife. And so when he called home on Mother's Day -- I don't know if it was the same day, but when he called home to talk to his wife and wish her a happy Mother's Day, she had a few words to say to him about the fact that he's been having an affair. And I don't know if that was the only affair. And so, yes. He pulled a gun out, and went out on (inaudible). So, I mean, they got him out of here on the spot. (inaudible). I mean, he could have killed himself.

Q: Or someone else.

[REDACTED] Mainly himself. Mainly himself. So it's interesting -- I'm seeing, in my unit, probably two (inaudible) males -- soldiers that are hitting it off with each other.

Q: Oh. Oh. Wait a minute.

[REDACTED] (inaudible) and they're both very, you know. There's things you see that you shouldn't see, and then you see somebody good. So it's kind of a unique experience, to have people living together, you know, in close contact nonstop. you know, on and on. So you see a lot. And to me, it's interesting, this experience of seeing how the Army ran. And I sit it on four meetings a day, at the battalion and the brigade level. I've seen people report on and on. I've never seen that. I'm like the guys in MASH. I just kick back and it just happens. Now I know how it happens. It happens because people do a lot of hard work. So I've been impressed.

Q: Let's see. That's a pretty good way to end this interview. Is there anything you'd like to elaborate, or something I've totally missed, let me -- you've listed some of your big accomplishments, you've listed challenges.

[REDACTED] No, I'm pleased that I and our medical group and this unit -- that we had a purpose, a need that I feel a lot like we met. And I feel sorry for people that (inaudible) on setting their -- and I hated it in Fort Lotte (sp?). I was sitting there day after day, just taking a check. So it was nice to have a mission that was there and very legitimate, and to have pulled it off. And I feel that (inaudible). I was glad to be a part of that.

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Q: All right, last question. What's the first thing you're going to do when you get home?

[redacted] When I went home for Desert Storm, my wife -- I didn't go home. She met me and she already had a hotel reservation for three days, so I didn't go home for three days. She just figured if I went home -- we have six kids -- we'd just -- and all the neighbors and people at church and everything else. But you're talking about when I first go home, I'll probably go straight to Hotel (inaudible). So getting past that scene, I believe I was talking about how we walked around (inaudible) trees and I will probably get to my house and (inaudible). And I'll probably -- I don't know. The shock will be the (inaudible). That is the -- because as a (inaudible), I could be in a tent by myself. Or I could share half a tent with whoever I like, whatever. But I choose to be in a tent with four medics and a PA. And we get along very good. They tease me nonstop and I tease them nonstop. My favorite quote is -- I write in my diary here every day, in my journal, and I was always saying, dear journal, I'm surrounded by idiots. That is the relationship that we have. It's very fun. I don't want to be by myself, so it's been nice to have good people.

Q: That's usually one of the best things that comes out of something like this.

[redacted] Yes. Sometimes you're not with good people, and with people who don't get along. I mean, this is my passion, my job. I'm sitting there -- I've got people who do not get along, and I'm sitting there, like, hey. Put the (inaudible) all down so they point in the same direction. So, OK.

Q: All right. The time now is 21:58, sir. Thank you for taking time out to do this.

[redacted] You're welcome. I've got to go back. Every day I write my wife.

Q: And do you want me to turn this off?

[redacted] Yeah, go ahead and turn it off.

Q: This is Sergeant [redacted] I'm here with Lieutenant [redacted] He's going to go ahead -- he found his journal, and he's going to read off what he wrote for the first day.

[redacted] OK. April 18, 2002. This is just an entry in my journal. It says, after a five plus-hour ride, we made it to Camp Buka (sp?) in Iraq. This place is as close to hell as I want to be. It is unbelievably dusty. There are around [redacted] prisoners here, and they are scary. The guards shot and killed one prisoner today, and wounded another one. We saw over 50 prisoners this afternoon, most with bullet and shrapnel wounds. It is 10:30 and I am exhausted and have caught a cold. We have no lights in our tent and probably three inches of powdery dust on the floor. I can't wait for the winds to start. And they started the next day. We didn't have to wait long.

Q: And then you wanted the winds to stop.

[redacted] Right. Right. These tents -- have you been in one when the wind blows?

b6-2 Q: Yes, sir.

[REDACTED]: They rattle just -- and with the dust. You walk on the floor and you go, (inaudible). OK, you can turn it off.

Q: OK.

END OF TAPE

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IFIT-35-084 Second Lieutenant [REDACTED]

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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

014336

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

014339

speak 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, ^{pl 2)-3} [REDACTED] 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

014343

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(u)-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]

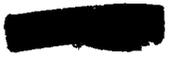
[REDACTED]

[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

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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

 different attempts. But very few of them were ever

b(2)-3

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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

014348

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.

014349

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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b(2)3-A11

(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], 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]

[REDACTED] There's a Quick Response Force specifically for force protection, which is several [REDACTED] with

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b(2)-3 All

(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]
[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 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] [REDACTED] to serve their own meals. What are some other things that have been done?

b(u)-2

b(2)-3

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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 [REDACTED] 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] 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.

b(2)-3

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b(2)-3 A11

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

014356

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

b(2)-3 A11

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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

(?) 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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IFIT-35-111 Sergeant [REDACTED] ^{b(u)-1}

Q: SGT [REDACTED] ^{b(u)-2} ((sp?)) of the 35th Military History detachment. I'm with Staff Sergeant [REDACTED] ^{b(u)-1} He's with the first squad leader, third Platoon of the 314 MPs. SGT [REDACTED] ^{b(u)-1} could you please state your name, spell your last name and give us your duty position please.

^{b(u)-1} [REDACTED] My name is [REDACTED] ^{b(u)-1} Last name spelled [REDACTED] ^{b(u)-1} [REDACTED] First, [REDACTED] ^{b(u)-1} I'm First Squad Squad Leader in 3rd Platoon 314th MP Company.

Q: OK, now what was the day that you were mobilized?

[REDACTED] The date I was mobilized was 6 February.

(break in tape)

Q: SGT [REDACTED] ^{b(u)-1} where were you actually--where did you report to your move station?

[REDACTED] 18 February 2003.

Q: And where was that?

[REDACTED] Fort Bliss, Texas.

Q: And how long did you stay there?

[REDACTED] Approximately two weeks. We left 24 March 2003.

Q: OK and while you were at Fort Bliss, how did your mobilization go?

[REDACTED] Fairly well actually. The MSRP itself, getting certified, it went fairly fast considering the number of

soldiers being mobilized out of there at that time. You can imagine, there were a few, about a hundred units. Seemed like they were moving all at once. So there were soldiers from all over. 3,000 soldiers at one time went through the same stations and it went fairly fast. It seemed like it was coordinated well and it went smoothly and efficiently.

Q: And when you were ready to dissent overseas, did your vehicles leave ahead of you?

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[REDACTED] Yes they did, they left approximately two weeks ahead of us.

Q: And were they in country when you arrived in Kuwait?

[REDACTED] Yes they were.

Q: So when did you actually arrive in Kuwait?

[REDACTED] We actually arrived 24 March here in Kuwait.

Q: And upon your arrival in Kuwait, when did you come to Camp Buka?

[REDACTED] We came to Camp Buka on 29th of March.

Q: And what was the condition of the camp when you arrived?

[REDACTED] It was extremely packed. There were units everywhere. It was dry and bare and there was not a whole lot out here. I remember when we got here and got off the bus, the sand was glowing. It was extremely hot. You had all your gear with you and you're on the bus and for miles and miles, all

you saw was dessert. When you got off the bus, it was extremely hot and extremely high, extremely high winds.

Q: Let me take you back to your arrival in Kuwait. What happened upon your arrival when you just got off the aircraft?

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[REDACTED] First thing that happened I remember is that we had a scud ((sp?)) alert where we had a scud missile alert it went off and the sound went off. We were inside the plane, we didn't know it went off. So you can imagine we've come to a rolling stop in the plane, getting ready to get off the plane and I look outside the window and I see some of the grounds crew and they have their protective masks on. I look around and everybody's got the same look and immediately somebody yells gas and everybody starts to put on their gas masks. I remember thinking to myself at that very moment that this was the real deal, that I wasn't in Kansas anymore. I remember thinking that I was scared, I didn't know what was coming next, I didn't know if a missile was actually going to hit. I didn't know what to expect. A thousand things going through my head at that time. My family was going through my mind, my children, my wife, my mother, my father. And then I stepped back and I remember I felt the sense of helplessness as we're packed in this airplane thinking, if there is an attack, we're all

014363

trapped in this airplane, we're not going to be able to get out. You have your gear with you, your M16s, full battle rattle, you're barely able to move, maneuver around one person, let alone trying to get out of a plane that has over [REDACTED] people on it.

Q: And what was the feeling of the other soldiers with you at the time?

[REDACTED] I remember they felt pretty much the same thing. A little bit of panic, a little bit of terror. Not knowing what was ahead. The uncertainty of whether or not it was the real thing or not. Everybody had the same scared, confused look in their eyes. And they were just waiting for someone to assure them that everything was going to be okay. Waiting for that all-clear sign to be given. And once it was, it was just the sign of relief. I remember looking at the crew that was working board the airplane, the pilots and the stewardesses and I remember looking at them putting on their protective masks and half of them didn't know how to put them on. So, many of our soldiers assisted them, putting their masks on. I knew for sure that if this was serious, this was something that definitely needed immediate attention.

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Q: So with all the training that you had, your past training really paid off when being able to direct your soldiers and to get everybody off the aircraft in safety.

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[REDACTED] Yes, yes. All of our training with the NBC training which is Nuclear Biological Chemical training, all the different drills we've had. Practice drills, putting our masks on, putting them away, putting them on, putting them away. Going through the procedures over and over again. The repetitious drills that we've done, it actually paid off because when it came time to it, when we looked around, everyone had their mask on within the amount of time allotted for normal conditions. Mind you, it was close quarters, it was very cramped, lack of space. Everybody had all their gear. And everybody did really well. Our training's what stopped the panic from taking over and the fear from clouding our judgment, it helped us make clear decisions.

Q: While you were in Camp Arifjan, were there other occasions when you had to go into your (inaudible) gear?

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[REDACTED] You know, as soon as we got off the plane, got on a bus, even before we got to Arifjan, while we were making way to Camp Wolf, which was our first destination, it was kind of like your reception camp. I remember it was over 100 degrees and I was sitting in the front of that bus and

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each bus had about 60 soldiers. SO we were caravanning these busses and all of a sudden, another scuddler ((sp?)) went out and we went to MAC4 ((sp?)) and in MAC level 4, I remember I was sitting in this bus, crammed so tight, I remember thinking to myself I was going to pass out it was so hot. I just felt like I couldn't breathe. I was already in a confined area and in those conditions, I remember feeling like I was going to pass out. I looked in the eyes of my soldiers equally as scared, equally as confused, and I remember one thing that stood out in my mind was that the driver of that bus, he was of Mid-Eastern descent, maybe Kuwaiti, maybe Indian, and he had a radio playing and he put the siren on for the scud missile, for the scud alert, and the siren made this unforgettable annoying siren sound that just kept playing over and over and over again. And I looked at him and he smiled at me because it's something that--scud alerts are something that he's obviously been used to for quite some time now, and it was something that had us completely flustered and scared. But it was no big deal because to him it's just part of his everyday life out here in a country that's so unsettled and chaotic.

Q: OK. And did you actually see any scuds or any patriot missiles being shot off?

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[REDACTED] We didn't see any, I don't think. Thankfully we didn't see any until we got to Camp Arifjan. Once we were in Camp Arifjan, about a week into our stay there, we would be woken up about 2 o'clock in the morning by a loud explosion and some vibration that shook the particular warehouse that we had been sleeping in. I remember everybody yelled gas and we donned our protective gear as fast as possible, took cover and waited for the all-clear sign to be given. Once the all-clear command was given, that next morning, just a few hours later, we had learned that a scud missile had landed approximately two miles away from Camp Arifjan where we were staying, and again, a sense of reality set in and it really brought it home to each soldier how serious this really was. And how serious they had to take this mission.

Q: Okay and once you got back up to Camp Buka, had you been under scud attacks or missile attacks while you were here as well?

[REDACTED] No, once we got here, scud attacks had already ceased by about a few days, so ever since we arrived, we had not had a scud attack out here at Camp Buka. There were instances where there were small arms fire from rebels or militia type soldiers passing by the perimeter. There was reports of a couple RPG rounds being launched from outside vehicles as they drove away but no scud attacks.

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Q: OK, SGT [REDACTED] could you tell me a little more about your primary responsibilities here at Camp Buka?

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[REDACTED] Yeah. Primary responsibilities here at Camp Buka is to lead a feed team, one of [REDACTED] b(2)-3 into the compounds. And our mission was to conduct feed operations. This operation entailed feeding the prisoners twice a day, breakfast and a late lunch or early dinner, if you will. And also, to ensure that our soldiers had everything they needed. They had to make sure their tents were set up properly, organizing their tents, making sure we had the right number of bodies in each tent. Separating the females, making sure they had whatever they need. So the first initial is just the set up, once the set up was over the next mission was to get ready for work and assign various tasks, who would be on what team. And from there on, it was just your normal, everyday operations. Taking care of soldiers and completing the mission.

Q: And what kind of food do the prisoners receive?

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[REDACTED] Usually, they--okay for breakfast, a typical breakfast would consist of milk, something they call biscuit, which is a cracker type meal, some bread which usually consists of a pita bread, one jelly, one butter or cheese, and usually two hard boiled eggs. That's your typical breakfast. For dinner, you'd have one scoop of rice, one

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scoop of soup, a cup of soup, that they would pour onto the rice, a glass of tea, three cigarettes, bread, jelly, cheese and that's all.

Q: Was this enough food for them? §

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[REDACTED] It was sufficient but they always claimed that they were hungry and they always claimed that there was not enough, that they weren't getting enough portions. But portions were clearly weighed out beforehand and it was determined how much food each of them would need to sustain normal health, good health.

Q: And during that period of time, was there any fighting among the prisoners, as far as for the food?

[REDACTED] Not as far as for the food, but there were instances where they did try to take extra food and steal extra on many many occasions. Not necessarily from each other, but from the feed line itself. From the people handing the food out, they would try to get extra any time they could. A hundred times over, even if they've been caught the day before, they would try the next day. If there friends were on the serving line serving the food, they would try to use their friendship to gain extra food. More soup, more rice, more cigarettes and we'd have to constantly monitor that because we would run out of food and the food was accounted for.

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b(w) - 1 All

Q: SGT [REDACTED] during your feedings and other guard duty, were there other circumstances that came up that may have put you or your guards in danger?

[REDACTED] Well, there were a few incidences where tensions within the camps got really high for various reasons. Reasons like when they would hear on their radios, that they had, their little home-made radios or radios that they had acquired somehow or brought with them. As they heard the war winding down, their tensions got higher. They wanted their freedom. They felt that they no longer deserved to be prisoners because the war was over, Saddam Hussein had been chased out of Iraq. That was probably one of the most motivating factors for the tension I would say. Was the fact that they heard on the radio through a media source that the war was winding down, that Iraq had been conquered, that Baghdad had been conquered in general. SO that caused tensions to rise. Also, whenever we would extract a prisoner for reasons, maybe he wasn't compliant, maybe he was aggressive and he needed to be taken out and put into another camp where he couldn't do any harm either to our soldiers or to the fellow prisoners inside. Sometimes that would cause tensions to flare up. Sometimes the prisoner would protect that individual, not wanting that individual to be taken out of that camp. Sometimes it

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would be a matter of maybe a prisoner being fed up, he's just fed up with following rules. We had--you know, it's really ironic, we had to teach these people how to live by rules when it seems like they haven't known any rules all their life. Generations and generations of chaos and animosity, and yet we brought them into an environment that was controlled and we expected them to know that they should follow the rules and then we expected them to enforce them by disciplining them or rewarding them. So we took a--basically a non-civilized society and taught them how to live, civilized, respect each other, don't steal each other's food, don't steal each other's blankets. There's plenty to go around. Don't cut in front of one another in line. Don't hit one another, don't assault one another. Respect each other's human beings. Respect each other's rights. It was a hard concept to break to them, to get them to actually believe in, and to actually want to do. Because we had no reason to do it. They'd been living in their eyes just fine before. We had to show them that there were rewards for doing this things, for living in-- and one of the rewards was being able to self feed. This meant that we would take the food, drop it off and that compound would, with the help of the compound representatives and their helpers, would be able to feed

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themselves without having soldiers decide. This gave them a sense of freedom and it helped them to give them something to shoot for as they saw other camps do it. A sense of liberation in a way, if you will.

Q: Any occasion where the prisoners may try to attack the guards?

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[REDACTED] Yes. Two occasions during both riots. The guards were attacked. We had to bring our quick reaction force in and during both riots, guards were attacked by both physical objects i.e. shoes, poles, rocks, cups of sand, anything that they could get into their hands to use as weapons they would. And during both of those riots, many of those items were used.

Q: OK, you said you had two riots. How were they started and how did you contain those?

[REDACTED] The first riot was started due to the fact that there was a rock throwing frenzy among the compounds. The prisoners one day just decided that they were going to riot and they weren't going to stop until they were let free. We had to withdraw everybody from within the compound, assemble a quick reaction force and a plan, and we had to go in physically and take one compound out. This compound was the compound that contained the officers. One of the officers was a high-ranking general. The general had

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instigated these riots. He had planned them, coordinated them and instigated on that date. It was on his order that the riot happened. So the first thing to do was, we went in there and we set the perimeter. We chased each compound back to give us a safe perimeter in the middle and we took a quick reaction team and went in and physically escorted those officers to another compound far away. They should have never been that close to the lower enlisted soldiers. So that's how we controlled that one, and again, unfortunately that did result in the shooting of one EPW who refused to listen to the orders given and the rules of engagement and he was shot. The second riot was started due to the fact that a trouble maker was identified. He was going to be extracted by myself, by making contact with an Enemy Prisoner of War, he resisted and he was taken down to the ground where he was subdued to be extracted. The crowd then stood up and came at me in a hostile and aggressive manner, attempting to do great bodily injury to me. During the course of us trying to get out of the compound safely, while backing the crowd up, trying to sit back down and prepare to be--continue to be fed, a crowd of over ^{b(2)-3} [redacted] someone ran passed our formation and went into the tent. Came out with a three foot tent pole and went to swing at my head. He missed my head by inches due to the

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fact that one of my soldiers yelled, "watch out SGT [REDACTED] he's got a pole behind you." I turned, just as I turned, he swung the pole and missed my head again by inches. And the EPW then turned and kept coming at me with that pole. I was clearly at a reach disadvantage and my only action was to evade and try to talk him into putting the pole down. But to no avail he kept coming and approaching at a very rapid pace, in a very aggressive manner and he was shot at center mass and killed.

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Q: So are you the one that actually shot him then? b(6)-1

[REDACTED] One of my soldiers, by the name of Specialist [REDACTED] ((sp?)) was the one that actually shot him.

Q: And what was his question of knowing how to handle, how to react in this situation?

[REDACTED] No, he was clearly knowledgeable in how to react. All of our soldiers knew exactly what the rules of engagement and the rules of interaction were. He saw the rules of engagement try to be implemented, he saw the first two levels, he saw the third level and the fourth level. He reacted quickly, without hesitation, with due regard to personal safety for other innocent EPWs. But he made a split decision that was the right decision, and he eliminated a threat which is obviously--was not going to stop for anything.

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Q: What happened to the rest of the prisoners? They got back
or they--

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All*
[REDACTED] They got down. Once they heard the shots fired, they
got down on their knees and put their heads down. They
were afraid that they would be shot next. They gave us
this split second to get out of the compound safely without
being mobbed by *b(2)-3* [REDACTED] EPWs standing there.

Q: Did you try to separate the trouble makers or separate the
possible other trouble makers as well?

[REDACTED] What happened was--yes. What happened was, the second
riot started because of the fact that we tried to separate
them. We were unsuccessful, the riot happened, there was a
shooting. But the very next day, we went back and we had a
formation, we had them sit down like they normally would.

And as they went to get their ISN number checked in, we
just made an excuse. Led to ISN counts. This gave us the
ability to separate the prisoners one by one in an orderly
and safe manner without them having the protection of the
rest of (inaudible) sitting down. So, as they came up to
me, I was able to physically identify them and say yes or
no. If I said yes, then this prisoner was able to go past
and get his food. If I said no, then this prisoner was
extracted. At that point, he was apprehended right there
and he was rushed out of the compound, quicker than anybody

could realize what was going on. And we did that, and that day we extracted a bunch of them, like [REDACTED] ^{b(2)-3} prisoners out of that facility that were determined as trouble makers

Q: And with the different prisoners, were these soldiers, were they civilians, were they a mixture? What kind of prisoners did you actually house?

b(2)-1

[REDACTED] They were a mixture of everything. They were a mixture of citizens, a mixture of civilians, mixture of soldiers, both officers and enlisted. All walks of life, all walks of life. All ages. There were civilians who were innocently caught up in the whole thing. I met two Syrian brothers who were teachers and were here in Iraq studying their doctorate degree. And on their campus, the university that they were at, they had an anti-war demonstration and it got a little out of hand on the way, walking to their next class, the police came in and the next thing you know, they were taken prisoner and here they are. There was another gentleman, an older gentleman in his late 50s. He's from Jordan. He owns a--he's a retired Jordanian army lieutenant, now runs a library with him and his wife. Again, in his mid-50s. And the way he got captured was he was here in Iraq in a taxi cab, coming to look for his brother who had been missing for two weeks.

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Goes through a checkpoint, gets captured. So there were many civilians and--mixed in with the crowds of soldiers.

Q: You have some young adults that were captured as well?

[REDACTED] Yes, we had juveniles. We had a whole compound of juveniles, approximately 35-40 bodies. Ranging from the age as early as 10 years old. And some of them were caught with their families, some of them were caught with their friends. Some of them innocent, some of them not. All the way up to the age of 18 until they were considered an adult. Some of them very, very educated. Some of them were just babies who didn't know what they were doing.

Q: And did you see if any of these prisoners had identifying marks on them that would identify them as soldiers or part of different militias?

[REDACTED] Other than the wrist bands that would declare whether they were civilian or soldier, no.

Q: On your different guard duty, as you've been here for a while, has that--has your position here, as far as your service, has it changed as far as your mission goes?

[REDACTED] No, no. It's pretty much the same. It's pretty much the same.

Q: As of recent date, have you done any type of escort service of escorting prisoners from one area to another that you recognize were a significant find?

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[REDACTED] Yes, three days ago while I was working our new mission, which is the out processing center now, we're no longer conducting feed operations as the prisoners have been moved over to the new permanent facility next door. So our unit has been tasked with running the tribunals and the in and out processing station. While I was over there, I was NCOIC that shift and it was told to me that there were three individuals that needed to be escorted over to the JFIZ ((sp?)) which is the MY complex to be interrogated. Once I got over there to see who the three individuals were, I was told that two of them were the **[REDACTED]** and the third one was a Unabomber. This individual had been known for blowing up a lot of things. He had left a signature on a lot of the things that he had blown up and he was a very hard catch. We weren't able to catch him for a long time but finally I'd caught him. And I was asked to escort him over there and I remember thinking to myself as I'm looking at these individuals and I'm walking them, and it's just me and them and I'm thinking ya know, these are some bad people that made some bad history happen in this war and here they are within reach distance from myself. And I couldn't help but feel a little bit of anger, a lot of anger actually, knowing what they did to that poor girl, knowing that she's

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one of ours and a lot of anger. I felt no sympathy for them. And I couldn't help to feel like I just wanted to do something for her, ya know. Knowing that if she had the chance, she would.

Q: Did you have different occasions where you actually talked to any of the prisoners?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On many occasions I got to know a lot of the prisoners, especially during the feed operation. Many of them knew me by name. They would call my name out, [REDACTED] I developed a certain trust and report with them. Many times there were riots that were going to happen. One particular instance, we were going into compound nine, which is a compound that I fed on a regular basis. Many of them trusted me and I trusted them a great deal. Upon going into the compound, a compound representative stopped me and said he would advise me to not come in today, that it was not safe, to take my team and go feed another compound. I took his word for it, I thanked him for giving me the warning. And as soon as my team got in the vehicle and left the compound, within seconds a rock throwing frenzy had ensued. And there were many, many soldiers who had

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gotten hit by rocks and there were also a lot of prisoners who had sustained injuries due to the rocks flying.

(break in tape)

Q: SGT [REDACTED] obviously with the type of prisoners that you are watching, you have to be on a high state of alert. How are you going to maintain that with your soldiers?

[REDACTED] We're able to maintain that by talking to them. Communication was the key. It's too late to train out here. There's not training involved. It's just doing what you know, using your people skills, being alert, being on your toes, knowing how to read body language. Many of our- there's a few of our soldiers, NCOs within our company, who have correctional type experience. People we left, those NCOs gave little classes on how to read body language, ways to avoid being manipulated by the prisoners. Our soldiers were told that there would be many attempts and the prisoners trying to manipulate them, whether it's to get something they want, get something they need, or to get something, get the soldier to do something that they normally wouldn't do. So, we talked to them on a regular basis, prepare them by telling what to expect, what you could expect. But at the same time, letting them know that, although it's OK to be scared, not to let the fear

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cloud your judgment. To be confident in your soldiering skills and in your military police skills.

Q: Did you find that the type or prisoners that we had here in Iraq, as to the correctional officers that were giving you instruction, the circumstances would be different, where there would be a different style of body language that was different than the Americans?

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[REDACTED] Yeah, it's different, but it's similar. The basic concept is the same. They will try to get extra, just like back home. The prisoners who are incarcerated back home, they'll try to get extra. Just like the prisoners back home, they'll try to manipulate you for things. There are just different items that they'll manipulate you for, but there's still manipulation, the deceit, the dishonesty, the ability to lie directly to your face. And it's all the same to prisoners back home. The only difference I would say here is that they have nothing to lose. Back home, you know, they know if they have a time to get out, they can go back to their families and live a life. Here, it seemed like a devotion to where they had nothing to lose, so they didn't mind, you know, trying anything, because they knew that the consequences, they were willing to deal with them.

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Q: During your training and your off times, how do you keep your soldiers motivated, keep them alert and sharp for the next day's service?

[REDACTED] Well, the only way we could do that was by talking to them, seeing where they're at every day after a shift, conducting after-action reviews after every shifts, brief, you know, discussing how the shift went--what went right, what went wrong--what could be done differently and room for improvement. Other than talking to our soldiers, the only thing we could do was try to provide some kind of MWR or R&R within our own company because of the lack of support. So, we acquired a tent from another unit that was nice enough to give us one. And we put up, made that our MWR tent and then some of the NCOs pitched in, we bought a TV and a DVD player. Now, those soldiers had somewhere to go relax and unwind and not be a soldier for an hour or two, watch a movie, go and relax (break in tape) civilian.

Q: That's helped. What about personal relationships with (CEGI?) soldiers?

[REDACTED] Well, just like any deployment in any situation where you have a certain group of people crammed together at all times, tensions are going to flare up. For the most part, the morale was really good. And collectively as a company, we're pretty close. However, you do have tensions flaring

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up due to the fact that it's getting hotter, it's harder to stay cooler, people are more irritable, so short fused, short tempered. And so, you're going to have natural spats and disputes, disagreements, but there has not been one single incident where it has escalated to a physical level.

Q: Has your mission started to change since you've been here?

[REDACTED] Yes, it's gone from an (MP?) operation and external security and it's now changed to the in-processing out-processing tribunals. That is our new mission.

Q: And what exactly would be doing for those?

[REDACTED] We provide bodies for the inside of the in-processing, make sure it runs smoothly, makes sure that the newly-arriving prisoners can be placed in their proper pens, make sure that the prisoners who are going through the in-processing stations, make sure they get there, to their station, make sure once they go with their station they go on to the next. Make sure that circle is complete so they can be released.

Q: And have you noticed a difference between the style of prisoners that you've received as to the beginning part of the war as to today?

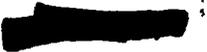
[REDACTED] Yes. We're noticing that now they're criminals. These are criminals; they're not soldiers. So, although they may be more dangerous in some ways, they're less

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aggressive. There's a sense, they have a sense of: I've been caught. I don't want to be here but I've been caught, so I'm just going to take whatever I've got coming to me so I can go home. So, it's a different atmosphere.

Q: And the wanting to go home, I'm sure the loneliness is starting to set in. Have you had the need to actually sit down and have to counsel any of your soldiers to, you know, change their feelings and console them in any way?

 No. No, I haven't had to do that. Everybody knows that we're going home someday and that they're not to speculate, guess, or wonder when that is. They know that when it comes, it comes. Rumor control is a job of an NCO, make sure when you hear a rumor you dispel it. You crush it. You stop it, and that's all there is to it. So, for the most part, everybody is just doing their job and when they get the word we're going, and our stuff is on the plane and we're heading to the bus station, then we'll believe it. Until then, we've got a mission to do and we can't even concentrate on going home.

Q: OK. (break in tape) So, if I could talk about the support of lack of support that you may or may not have received within the company here at Camp Buka.

 Well, the lack of support has not been from the company level; it's been actually at the brigade level.

014384

There are many things that should have been done way before our arrival here. For instance, phones. There is no phone center set up for the soldiers. There are only DSM lines, which have been shut on and off on a regular basis due to the overloading on phone calls. A soldier's ability to call him and talk to his or her loved ones is a direct reflection of the morale. If a soldier does not have good morale, you can look at whether a soldier made a phone call home. Has the soldier had a chance to do his laundry? Has a soldier had a chance to get on the internet and check their email? All those little things are things that should have and could have been done as preventive medicine but have not. I clearly believe that it's a failure and a lack of initiation on the part of the senior leadership, mainly the senior NCOs and senior officers. They seem to have forgotten about the soldier, concentrating solely on the mission. They seem to have forgotten somewhere down the road along the lines of soldiers' morale and welfare. There are many things they could do, provided a USO soldier, maybe a source of entertainment for our soldiers. Just show the soldiers that they generally care. So, that would have to be my biggest problem with the support.

Q: You mentioned a USO show. Has anything of that sort been, has anything like that come to Camp Baku as yet?

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[REDACTED] No, it has not. The closest we heard it's come is to Camp Doha, where they had a celebrity band playing with a guest (inaudible) of Conan O'Brien. Events like that bring the morale of the soldiers to an extremely high level, especially when they're down pretty low right now.

Q: What kinds of amenities are you trying to make in the camp here to make it more livable?

[REDACTED] Well, just within our own camp itself, we have an MWR tent, which is, which shows you movies at night. Everybody can go relax, watch a movie on the DVD player. And we have a weight room now where soldiers are able to conduct physical fitness. They're able to get back in shape, work out some of the aggression, and that seems to be helping a lot. We're trying to build better showers, more showers. We're putting in hardwood flooring in the tents to get everybody off the dirt. Amenities like that. We can't do anything about the phones because that's out of our lanes, out of our hands, that's a whole different level. But hopefully, it'll be fixed soon.

(Break in tape.)

In relation to morale, another area that I feel is a definite concern that should be look at somewhere down the road is the politics that seem to have set in now. Now that the mission is winding down, the prisoner count is

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just over [redacted] now, and it dropped from [redacted] to [redacted], now 62-3
that the war machine is slowing, the activity is slowing,
now it seems like there are--there's almost too much time
on our hands because the politics are setting in. When I
say "politics," it's coming from the brigade level.
Soldiers who are working are no longer allowed to yell or
push or touch the soldiers in any way. When we were
working with them before during their most hostile of
times, the MPs felt like they had more support, more
backing from brigades and from their H battalion. Now the
brigade is listening to the CID and MI people, and many of
the prisoners are making complaints that they're being
yelled at, that they're being treated too aggressively,
when just a month ago, they were being shot at and being
hit by the British. And I don't understand that. I think
it's, it directly affects morale. On two occasions, we've
had speeches from the major from the 320th, from our
battalion. And he's, on two occasions he basically gave us
a chewing out for a unit's actions that was not ours on our
own. One unit had been escorting prisoners and had gotten
too aggressive and had pushed one of the EPWs, and because
of that, there was a mass type punishment where everybody
was going to get the same lecture. So, a little politics
like that, I don't understand. We have one prisoner who

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would make demands for certain items, i.e., a cold Sprite. Or he asked for crackers or a salad. And he would get these items. I think that, yeah, we should be humanitarian about our operation, but at the same time, we should remember that they are EPWs, and so long as we give them the basic necessities, we should be able to do our job without brigade sticking their nose in and telling us--or micromanaging, telling us how to operate.

Q: (break in tape) Any quick solutions?

[REDACTED] Quick solutions? I would say, first of all, maybe someone needs to take the MI guys, the military intelligence, and the CID people and take them and have them get a better view of what's really going on out there, closer to what we're doing, rather than sitting in a tent all day just interviewing, hearing the stories, because they're only hearing one side. But if those CID agents would have seen what kind of hostile environment we were in just a little over a month ago, how each of our lives were at stake, I don't think they'd be making these--be so quick to make the judgments they've been making.

Q: And --

[REDACTED] Just in my chain of command, but they say right now that this is what the brigade wants. The brigade has also made, recently came down with a policy list. Many things

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were on this policy list. One, for instance, was you confine each--soldiers are confined to their immediate company areas. They're not to leave. They're not to associate with the Spanish or the British. They are not to consume alcoholic beverage. And little things like that is affecting the morale of the soldiers. Again, my suggestion was that these are adults. They've behaved like such, they should be treated like such. (Break in tape.)

Q: Sergeant, would you like to make any conclusion to this interview?

FRANCO: The only conclusion, I just want to say that I realize that it's not the higher-ups, it's not the officers, it's not the senior leadership that make this mission happen. It's the soldiers. It's every young man and young woman here who's wearing that uniform with that flag on it, no matter where they're from, all walks of life, all parts of the world. It's these soldiers who get up day in and day out, who live and deal with the dust, who walk through the sand and deal with the heat, the bugs, the prisoners who smell and who are disease infested, it's these soldiers here who will make this war happen.

Q: Thank you, Sergeant [REDACTED] and this concludes this interview on 20 May, 2003. b(1)-1

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END OF INTERVIEW

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Q: This is Master Sergeant [REDACTED] I'm with the 314th EPW
MPs. We're located at Camp Buka and this is date of 6 May
2003. And I am doing a group interview with three of the
soldiers, and they're going to introduce themselves and
spell their names.

b(u)-2

[REDACTED] Staff Sergeant [REDACTED] last name [REDACTED]

A. First name [REDACTED] First -- 2nd
Platoon 1st Squad Leader.

[REDACTED] Staff Sergeant [REDACTED]

rather. Last name spelled [REDACTED] first name
spelled [REDACTED] I'm 2nd Platoon 2nd Squad Leader.

[REDACTED] My name is Staff Sergeant [REDACTED] Last name

[REDACTED] first name [REDACTED]. And I'm 3rd
Platoon 1st Squad Leader.

Q: OK. As we're here, can you please give me a little bit
more of a description of what the conditions were like and
what you were faced when you first arrived here at Camp
Buka?

[REDACTED] When we first got here, we didn't know what to expect.

We got here, it was tents were up, nothing on the ground.
It was dusty. We were scared. We didn't know what to
expect. Orders came down a couple hours after we got here

we were going to start working in the morning, the following day. Start feeding these EPWs.

Q: What was the date of your arrival?

b(u)-1 [redacted] 3 April of 2003.

Q: And Sergeant, how many prisoners were here when you arrived?

b(u)-1 [redacted] I believe there were about [redacted] when we first arrived. About [redacted] I know that there was -- my first job was the processing center, station rather, and so we had about [redacted] there, just a little bit under [redacted] when I first arrived, actually a little bit over [redacted] maybe about [redacted] when we first arrived. So I think there was about [redacted] -- or about [redacted] sorry, in the actual compound, main compound when we got here.

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Q: And how was the processing done?

b(u)-1 [redacted] Processing is done -- we were in the process of taking over for the British. The British were actually already still on the ground when we first arrived, and so their process -- and we pretty much had to follow their same procedures and processing. Processing as far as there's one station in which they gathered, got off the bus, they would get off the bus, gather all their materials as far as getting blankets and silverware and stuff that would hold them for the night, as well as a 24-hour ration. During

the processing center you don't want them to be held for longer than 24 hours. So they would give them a 24-hour ration. From there they would go inside the actual small compound that we had right there, and we would segregate them pertaining to whatever they were, i.e., civilians, officers, enlisted members or other. And we would segregate them that way, and then they would go from there they would go through the actual processing as far as finding out what their name was, as far as getting an ID, if they didn't already have an ID. Bracelet, that is. Getting process of where they came from, how were they captured, and then they would go to the medical to get screened, and then from there they would get sent off to the actual main compound.

Q: Sergeant, during this process, where exactly were you? And how were you affected by the prisoners? Did the prisoners accept you? Were they troublesome? What were the circumstances?

[REDACTED] Well, when we got here, each platoon had been given various tasks and various missions that they were going to be handling. I was assigned to be on of the feed team leaders. I was the alpha feed team leader. I had a team of **[REDACTED]** and our mission was to feed them twice a day. I remember when we first got here we took over for the

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British, which ran it a little differently than the way we ran it. They had a little system that we had to adopt. We trained with them. They taught us their system, how they fed, how they lined the prisoners up, how they kept order inside. I remember looking inside the camp when they were in there for the first time and I remember thinking it was crazy, because they didn't go in there with weapons. And I thought they were completely outnumbered. We had three to four British soldiers inside with anywhere from 5-600 EPWs and I can remember feeling scared, nervous, especially because I was a feed team leader, and I knew I was responsible for all [REDACTED] ^{b(2)-3} of my team members. I can remember feeling -- wondering if they were going to accept us. I had seen tempers flare up. I had seen hostile acts, aggressiveness. I wasn't sure how we were going to handle it and how they were going to react, respond to us. Once we took over for the British, we had one day to train with them, and the very next day they handed it off to us. I was one of three teams -- excuse me, one of four teams, and we took off with it and we ran with it. And at first, the prisoners, they were told that we were a little more aggressive than the British. The British had told them that we had a no-nonsense type of policy where we wouldn't put up with any kind of nonsense. So at first the EPWs

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were a little apprehensive and a little leery. They wanted to see exactly how we would react. There were times where they tested us in various ways to see exactly what they could get away with. They tried to manipulate us at various times. At different levels there were relationships established. Each camp has a compound representative that's usually of Iraqi descent. And typically speaks some English if not pretty good English. The relationships were established with the team leaders and those compound representatives. And that helped us to accomplish the mission. I myself learned a little bit of Arabic and that helped, as well as the rest of my team members. Before long, there was somewhat of a trust and an understanding that we were in there to do a job and that's all we wanted to do. We wanted to get in there, feed them and get out. And they wanted to eat. So it was a mutual understanding. Let us do our job and we'll let you have your food and we'll be on our way.

Q: What kind of eating arrangements were made -- did they have special dietary requirements?

[REDACTED] Yeah, they had a nutritional chart, which I'm sure they went by in the kitchen where the food was prepared. As to how many calories and carbohydrates they were to consume a day. And the menu was developed according to

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those guidelines that were set forth by the higher-ups. Typically a breakfast would have in the morning they would have a biscuit, some jelly, some cheese, maybe a couple hardboiled eggs, some hot tea. For dinner, the next meal would be some soup, some rice, again a biscuit, cheese and jelly, a bread and some hot tea. And also as an extra bonus they got cigarettes, usually three for each time they were fed. And that was kind of like their dessert and so forth.

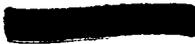
Q: Can you tell me some of the circumstances that you were faced with, the difficult problems that the MPs had to encounter?

[REDACTED] Well, when we first started training, the day that we ^{b(u)-1} trained with the British, we immediately saw that there was some safety issues. The way they were feeding them, and it was obviously a problem. When we started we can see the prisoners a little bit out of -- they were out of order. No discipline, there was a lot of problems for us. Trying to communicate with them, had to communicate with them and get them to do what we wanted to do. What we wanted them to do was line up in rows of 20, and we'd select 20 at a time to come up to the food line and receive their meal. But of course they'd be on the line giving each Iraqi their issue, whatever their daily issue was, they'd be stealing

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on the line. They'd be putting extra biscuits in -- people on the line would be putting biscuits in their pockets and that would present a problem for us because we wouldn't have enough food to feed everyone. Now when we get to the stage of not having enough food for everyone, once they were aware of that, then they got aggressive. Standing up, yelling, and of course we're in there with them with no weapons except nightsticks and that was our only weapon to try to protect ourselves. In case something happened. The first week that we started feeding the prisoners, there was a I would say 16-hour day just to feed two meals. You go in, feed them, then go to the next what we call pens. Pens was each small compound of prisoners. And there were Iraqis that did attack our soldiers and we did have to defend ourselves.

Q: What type of attacks?

 Well, they'd attack us with tent sticks. Tent poles, b(u)-1 which came from the tent that they were living in, that we provided for them, and they'd attack us with those. And in the beginning what we would do is we'd hurry up and just get out of that pen. Until we could establish some kind of order in that particular pen.

Q: Were any of your soldiers, any of your MPs, were any of them injured?

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[REDACTED] Yes. They threw a rock at me. They were throwing rocks at us. A few of our soldiers were hit by rocks in various parts of our bodies, some in the head, just the body, some of them were hit with a stick, with a tent pole, some of us were attacked by tent poles. Luckily some of us were able to escape that.

Q: OK. Can you give me another perspective on how the conditions were in guarding the prisoners?

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[REDACTED] Yes. At first my first job was doing the processing. And that was actually my first two days. My third day was actually starting a perimeter. As the British would start to leave there were certain positions that we had to in order to establish a strong perimeter around the actual compound, there were about [REDACTED] b(2)-3 positions that we actually had around the perimeter, in which our main focus was to make sure that first the prisoners didn't try to escape and go from one compound to the other, which they tried that a couple times. And also make sure they didn't escape. So we had certain procedures as far as if they got out of the compound, rules of engagement, what we would do if they did get out the compound or get inside the trenches. Some of them had trenches. Some of the actual pens have trenches. So sometimes the prisoners would go inside the trenches, hide in there, and they had nothing to do all day. So

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their main objective was to watch us. We could watch one pen could easily have [REDACTED] people in there. So there's one person doing perimeter, watching [REDACTED] people, whereas [REDACTED] people were [REDACTED] this one person and watching what they do on a daily basis, do they sit at the one post or do they actually do a patrol, what do they do, and when they pretty much had that under control they would try to sneak inside the trenches and sometimes like I said they would go from one [REDACTED]-- sneak from one pen to the next or try to escape.

Q: So with that did you change your daily routine so they couldn't figure out how you were doing your security?

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[REDACTED] We changed it. By two reasons. Making a rotation, because what was happening is that no matter how much you stressed it on soldiers to make sure that they were in their right position, it still was almost not complex but almost a routine that would generally happen. Unless you take them off for an hour, give them a break, and then send them back on the next hour. Then they had another person to watch, versus just that one person for the whole 12 hours.

Q: OK and with the prisoners, were there certain prisoners that you had to watch more closely?

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[REDACTED] Yeah, a couple of the pens gave the feed team a couple of bad incidents. So they were definitely one of the ones,

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and they were also known for going from one trench to the next trying to get with their brother, or trying to get with other family members. So they knew that maybe we had a soldier that got captured and also a family member that wasn't in the military. And so that person would be trying to escape to go to that compound to help out his brother. Or you would have a situation working the perimeter where they would be throwing stuff over the fences so that they can communicate, write stuff in Arabic, say anything in Arabic, say that we're going to run tomorrow night, or don't eat the chow tomorrow night or something like that. So they would be passing messages back and forth, threw bottles.

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[REDACTED]

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Q: OK and how did the barbwire and who placed the barbwire around the pens?

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[REDACTED]

The British are the ones that set up this whole compound. The type of barbwire that they have is the old

type of barbwire. Very ineffective. If you put your hand on it you might not cut yourself, opposed to our razor wire, whereas if you do put your hand on it you'll cut yourself. So it made it easy for them to crawl through that type of barbwire and escape.

b(2)-1 [REDACTED] When they crawled through the barbwire, I saw a guy physically with my eyes. Because we had a couple times where we caught guys in the trenches and we weren't able to actually identify them. Mainly because as soon as we saw the guy in the trench and we came around to where he was the guy would jump out of the trench, through the actual barbwire, and into the tent in less than two seconds. And you wouldn't be able to identify him. By the time you ran over there and said hey it looks like there's a guy in the trench, and run over there, the guy is gone, and it was very ineffective the way that they did the barbwire. And the trench, you know, it's pretty much, it's a good idea, but it makes it easier for them, they can jump in the trench on one side, crawl all the way on the other side and made it easier access for them, versus making it harder for them. It's a good idea, but the concept's all wrong. He would be telling them, you're not getting cigarettes for the next men. That was the only bartering tool that we did really have. We had to establish a way of communicating

with the other units because our mission was, we were on the feed team. Our mission was to feed them. But we had another unit whose responsibility was to maintain the law and order within that compound. So, we kind of worked and developed our own system, work hand in hand to correct any problems that that compound guard couldn't correct without physically going inside, because he was always outnumbered and there wasn't enough personnel available to keep those prisoners under control 24 hours and to control all their actions. So what we did was that system that SGT [REDACTED] talking about was when the compound guard--when we showed up to feed them--the compound guard would tell us of any problems that he was having, either the day before or the night before, or up to that day. And once he told us what the problem was, the source of correcting that problem was denying them something that they liked, which was their cigarettes. It was our way of disciplining them without having to physically go in there and discipline them.

Q: And, how did they communicate with each other? How did they--how were they able to do that?

[REDACTED] The EPWs were very very resourceful. They had many methods of communicating. First was verbal. If they were in one or two camps of each other, they would yell back and forth and there often times wasn't again enough personnel

to prevent them from yelling. So they would yell from compound to compound and they would communicate that way. If it was a matter of them needing to communicate with an EPW three, four camps down, they would simply--or if it was something that they didn't want somebody to hear, they would simply write it on a piece of paper and they had, either, they would use a water bottle that they had obtained somehow, fill it with sand and rocks, put the note in there and fling it over to the next compound. I saw t-shirts that had been ripped up, a little note thrown in there attached with some rocks inside, tie them in a knot, throw them over. I saw a tent stake that had a t-shirt wrapped around it. The tent stake was thrown, the t-shirt had the message that needed to be passed. So they were very resourceful in how they communicated.

Q: And, how were you able to control that? How were you able to stop any of that?

[REDACTED] No, for the most part we weren't able to stop any of that. If it was done while we were inside feeding, we would try to intercept it and destroy it or throw it in the trench. But most of the time, those communications--that communication was done while we were not inside, so that wouldn't be intercepted. So the only means of controlling it, was by denying it something for the next time they got

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fed. Whether it be either cigarettes--cigarettes was the most effective means of controlling that and disciplining them.

[REDACTED] There was one incident--just to backtrack on what SGT [REDACTED] just said. Yes, when we did intercept those notes, we didn't just discard them. We'd send them up to the top and there might--just in case there's some type of intel on them--on the note--we'd be aware of it. And what we do is--all we do is get the note and send it up the chain of command, give it to the NCOIC, which would in turn send it up the chain. And there was one incident when we did intercept a note that said there was going to be a mass escape. And that was helpful. When it was all said and done, because of that intel, no one escaped that night.

Q: Were there any escapees at all during the time that you've been here?

[REDACTED] Yes there was. Sporadic, Staff Sergeant [REDACTED] was involved in an escape--preventing the--while he was out he escaped and Staff Sergeant [REDACTED] caught the escapee. He can tell you more about that.

[REDACTED] Yeah, we had a couple incidents, like I was saying, of those that were trying to escape would go to the trenches and like I said, go to one compound to the next. Some were successful, going to one compound to the next. Because it

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really wasn't a good guideline as far as those MPs, they really didn't have a good logbook of what individuals were in each compound. So you would have some compounds that would, according to their logbook, you know, you would have, let's just say 200 people in this actual compound. But when they're doing an actual INS check, that would actually be 205. So, some of the numbers would be off, or it would be 190 and they thought they had 200, so some of the numbers were off. But some of the people were successful in moving from one compound to the next. We did have a couple of people who tried to escape and get up the perm. Some of the escapees were caught by myself and other individuals on the perimeter. Our procedures were, if in fact we saw somebody trying to escape, as soon as they passed the second strand of barbed wire and perm, that would be under our control so our rules of engagement were not to shoot. If they got beyond the perm our rules of engagement were to--rather, from the actual last wire to the actual perm, we only had probably about two seconds to actually do rules of engagement as far as firing into different (inaudible). We did catch a couple over the perm. We caught one actually the first day that we were actually here, we caught one trying to escape over the perm. And, if they get over the perm our rules--our

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procedures were to pop a flair so a light can be shown and we can see where the actual individual is gone. We utilize dogs and also the unit dog also doing patrolling, he would also be out there, helping us out.

b(6)-1 [REDACTED] On the very first night that we were here, we were just getting settled in. And there was an escape. The British were running the camp at that time so there was--it was a very poor set up in my opinion. There wasn't a clear reaction force available, there wasn't a plan of action in place in the event of an escape. Three of our soldiers went and apprehended one of them that had already taken off into the desert and had a clear run. There were two individuals that escaped and our soldiers who were not even on--not even ready to react yet, they went and they apprehended them. They brought them back and the other one got away. I remember looking and there wasn't a British soldier out there. I remember thinking to myself, okay where's the vehicles with the headlights coming, it should be coming around that perm any minute now, going to chase after them. There was no plan of action set for it and the rules of engagement were completely unclear and ineffective. It wasn't until we established the rules of engagement for the US soldiers that a clear plan of action was in place for various incidents that would arise.

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[REDACTED]: Took about two weeks to get rules of engagement and really documented it and saying exactly what was going on. So for a whole two weeks, it was pretty much okay, this is what we're going to use as our rules of engagement depending on what shift that you were actually working on and what your position was as far either being perimeter or being the (inaudible) team.

Q: Were there any fatalities during this period of time?

[REDACTED] Yes, one fatality.

Q: And how did that circumstance arise?

[REDACTED]: From my understanding, well [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It was--this was the second riot that had happened.

There had already been one riot that resulted in the shooting of two individuals. One got shot in the leg and one had been shot in the arm. Both lived. It was during the second riot that the fatality had occurred. What happened was my team was in there feeding, myself and SGT [REDACTED] were inside, we were feeding the prisoners. We had identified a prisoner who had been a trouble maker and who had assaulted one of our MPs the day prior to her feeding session. We went to extract that individual from the crowd, to pull him out. And we were going to relocate him to another camp because he was causing too much trouble. During that process of extracting that individual, a riot

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ensued. It quickly got out of control and the crowd quickly began to become very aggressive and hostile. My (inaudible) team, four of my soldiers including myself, had been cut off from the front gate. Our avenue of escape had been eliminated due to the fact that the crowd was about 350 strong. We followed the rules of engagement, tried to restrain them. Tried to get them to sit back down, to back up. We gave them verbal orders to back up, to sit down. It was clear that the crowd had no intention of following those orders. In fact, it was clear and evident that they planned on doing great bodily injury to all of us inside. There was one individual who ran into his tent passed our line. He went in and grabbed a three foot metal stake pole and took a swing at my head. One of my soldiers, by the name of Specialist [REDACTED] yelled for me to watch out. He said, "Watch out Sergeant [REDACTED] he's got a pole behind you." It was at that time I turned and looked, I saw a EPW running at me with a pole over his head, gripped with both hands. And he took a swing at my head and missed me by inches. The prisoner then turned and continued to come for me and one warning shot was fired and I ordered the MP who was on the perimeter to shoot him. He fired one warning shot and it was ineffective. He fired a second shot which struck the EPW center mass in the chest. He then dropped .

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the pole, ran about 10 feet where he collapsed and died shortly thereafter. And that was the incident with the fatality. Luckily my team got out safely and SGT [REDACTED] Specialist [REDACTED] and Specialist [REDACTED] all had a great part in that day, why we got out safely.

Q: OK, SGT [REDACTED] with the circumstances that you were faced with, how did this affect you in this incident?

[REDACTED] During the incident I remember feeling trapped inside, because we were completely cut off from the front. The soldiers that were at the front of the gate holding the perimeter with the weapons could not see us. The crowd was standing up and they couldn't see us, and I knew they couldn't see us. My team was broken in half and half of us were trying to protect the rear because there were tents and we were trying to watch the people coming out of their tents just in case they came out with more weapons and the other half of us were trying to control the crowd in front of us. I remember thinking in my head that this was the real thing. I remember thinking, I don't want any of us to get hurt. I was trying to figure a way out--a way to get my team out as safely as possible while eliminating the amount of injury that would be accrued by either us or the EPWs. I remember looking in their eyes and they had this look of determination and they weren't turning back. They

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weren't listening. We had our sticks out and I had hit one
of them

END OF TAPE

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IFIT-35-123 First Sergeant [REDACTED]

Q: (inaudible) of the 35th Military History Detachment. This is the 22nd of May, 2003. I'm with First Sergeant [REDACTED] [REDACTED] of the 314th MP company, part of the 320th battalion. First Sergeant, could you please state your name, spell your last name for me and give me your duty position here at the unit.

A: My name is [REDACTED] I'm the First Sergeant of the 314th MP Company.

Q: First Sergeant, could you tell me a little about the original mobilization at home station, what you had to do in preparation for mobilization and when you actually left your home station to go to remote site.

A: We first got, like, a activation notice. That was probably right at the end of January, I think. Anyway, what they did is -- we knew it was coming -- the mobile work was coming. We had a few days' notice. They put us on five days AT orders, kind of help get stuff together, get people called in, and then we got the actual mobilization orders and we were probably there on mobile orders for an additional seven days. So we had about two weeks in Irvine to get everything together and ready to go, which helped us out. That extra five days really helped us out.

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Q: And how many members in the company?

A: I have some guys in Basic, in AIT. I had [REDACTED] packs, so [REDACTED] slots would have to take (inaudible).

Q: And were you able to bring all your vehicles and assets with you as well?

A: Yeah, we brought all our vehicles. MKT was an issue. We couldn't get MKT together. So we cross leveled one over. Also I was short some MP's, so they cross leveled some MP's to me. And I'm still short one lieutenant. There are just not enough officers. We actually came with all our equipment, as far as vehicles and MKT goes, and [REDACTED] soldiers.

Q: And did you headquarters from, I believe, the 63rd RSE, did they assist you or did you run into any problems as far as getting anything together with them?

A: They did, they sent this master sergeant down. She made a lot of calls and made a lot of stuff work for us. It's kind of the stuff, though, that we've already identified as being short on, you know, life sets and hard-topped vehicles, stuff that you just don't get in the Reserves, for some reason, you know? They say, oh, you'll get it, you'll get it, but you just don't get it. They got on the phone and they blitzed -- helped us get the soldiers and helped us get whatever equipment they could from other

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companies, like tool sets from the maintenance section, and this new MKT and stuff like that, so -- they did come down and they did assist -- it's just stuff we should have had already. Stuff that had been identified as shortages in the past. Reserves just don't get it.

Q: But you were able to acquire all those things, and so you had everything to meet your (inaudible) and leave your home station to go to mobile station then?

A: Well, we didn't take it all with us. Some of it met up with us in Bliss (sp?). And our life set, we just picked up here the other day, and that was on our T1E. Equipment was kind of piecemeal. It's still being shipped to us, different parts of it, you know what I mean? We got the main stuff to make missions -- soldiers, weapons, equipment, you know, vehicles, and some maintenance stuff to get us going, and everything else is still kind of trickling down to us.

Q: So your equipment has been a major issue with the unit that -- because of your different shortages that --

A: Yeah, you know, I don't if shortages -- some of the -- repair, like those Humvees, they're not the right Humvees. We need the hard-topped, not these soft-tops, and that's like a hindrance, a major hindrance. Because that's stuff you need for these missions. You know, an MKT, a working MKT with those new burners on them instead of the old ones.

So those are the major issues. I don't know. I don't know how they're ever going to fix that stuff. Just rewrite the whole M21E, the whole new (inaudible) maybe, to get us the new stuff we need. Update us, maybe.

Q: and when you left for your mobile station, what was the morale of your troops at that time?

A: Good. I got some guys -- 71 of them just came back from Bliss (sp?), a year-long activation, about four months before. So some of those guys, they're tired, and if they had their choice, they wouldn't have come. But I told them I needed them; I told them the country needed them, and they put on their best game face, and morale was good. Morale was good. Then the guys that hadn't deployed before, they were all fired up about it, so their momentum kind of fired up the older guys, so it went well. Everybody was ready to go.

Q: So (inaudible) was already on mobilization at Fort Bliss prior to this current deployment, what kind of a mission were they on?

A: Law and order. They were at Fort Bliss for a year after September 11, regular garrison MP duties.

Q: OK, so they were on a full year term of duty, then.

A: Correct.

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Q: And when you arrived at Fort Bliss, what was the process that you had gone through when you were there?

A: That was a different kind of a mobe site. Last time I came here, I went through two or three different mobe sites, and everywhere you went, they had people with signs, to kind of make sure you got on the right bus, the right range, make sure you didn't have to do training schedules and get your people there. All you had to do was get them in formation in the morning, and they would kind of take it from there. In Fort Bliss, I think they tried. I think those guys tried, but it just -- maybe too much for them to handle, I think. They just didn't have the staff to handle it.

Q: Now is that because of what they call the UA's, Union Administrators, they didn't know what they were doing, or were understaffed as you just mentioned, or was that the fault of maybe another process?

A: No, I think at our home station, I think we should have received a packet that said, kind of, this is what's going to happen, this is what you need to do, here are the phone numbers, here's this and here's that. So you kind of preplan. Like if you want us to go there and you want us to train on MVC stuff -- nobody knew that, so I didn't take any training gear with me. I was thinking we were going to mobe site to mobe and then come over here, but they want to

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do all this training, which is good, but they didn't have the training they needed to do it, and they expected the companies to bring it. Nobody told the Companies to bring it. So it kind of -- the UA's, I'm still not really sure what their lane is. I don't know what they -- I know he worked a couple equipment issues. I still don't know what their lane is, to tell you the truth. He's a nice guy. He seemed to work hard at whatever he was working at.

Q: But you didn't see any major accomplishments to make you and your troops go through the process easier?

A: I guess he was -- my understanding is he was working some M-tel issues of stuff we were short. Then, like, when we mobbed, when we left there, I kind of think he should have picked up the ball and taken our stuff down to port to make sure it got on the train, or on the boat, and that didn't happen. Kind of like a liaison between us and the people around Fort Bliss. I'm trying to think because, as far as tracking, you know, who had what shot records, and all that, you didn't track any of that, you didn't -- I'm not sure what their lane is.

(break in tape)

Q: First I just want some -- can you tell me, during your mobilization at Fort Bliss, were you able to get through

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the different SRP in your Fort protection without any problems?

A: Well, you know, the organization was kind of screwy because you didn't, especially in that first few days, you didn't know where you were going or how to get there, and these bus drivers -- thank God they had some people at Fort Bliss reporting, to tell the bus drivers where to go. There was just a lot of lack of information and a lot of -- you go to these briefings at night. Those briefings were usually during the time you had to be going through some other briefings, so if you didn't make it, you were just out of the loop. We did get through all that process, and I think a lot of it was because I had some pretty good NCO's that were there before, and they were able to kind of beat the system, you know, tell the bus driver where to go. They knew some MP's and some other people that -- (inaudible) were there before, so they knew the program. That's what saved us. That's what got us through that thing pretty rapidly. The staff over there -- it seems like they'd identify a problem, identify a solution, but just wouldn't put it into place. Took a while to kind of get that program running smooth.

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Q: And did you have any issues on getting the equipment for clothing issues or your J-list -- did you have any problems with those issues?

A: The clothing was a major hassle. I still have people without the proper uniforms. I don't understand why that -- it seems like they'd get it, and you'd run the people through, and there was just a constant shortage of DCU's and PA50 kind of items -- goggles, stuff that we need out here, goggles were never issued. Field dressings, never forget them. Not to mention medical bags for the combat life savers, it just wasn't there. For mobe site, I always thought they had warehouses full of that stuff. Didn't have it. The J-suits? Oh, my. Yeah, you couldn't get those things. My understanding was that while at your home station, you order a week before you're supposed to leave. They're supposed to meet up with you at your mobe site. If you order any sooner than that, then it can get sent to your home station. Well I waited. Seven days before we were supposed to mobe, I ordered it. It took them -- the day we flew, you know, it took them a month and a week to get it to us, and that's because it went to a storehouse. The J-suits just were not there. Thank God I had a pretty good MVC guy that made sure everybody had the right mask before we left. We did a lot of cross-delivery there at

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our home station. Stuff like harnesses, you couldn't get those. Any MVC thing, you could not get there at Fort Bliss. You couldn't get it.

Q: You were a high profile unit. You were going to be a ETW or tech MP unit, and so they knew that you had special requirements and that you had to get all your gear in place, yet they still weren't able to get you any of those elements of what you needed before you left.

A: I know. We left without stuff the guys needed -- goggles, you know? I tried to get some night vision devices. I could never get those. I think that's what that UA was going to work on, and I don't know, he couldn't make that happen. And then the J-suits. The day we left, I had this whole shortage of J-suits. There's a warehouse full of them in Bliss. I don't know why we went through all the bases and all the stress to try to get that stuff. They had it over there. I'm not really sure what they were holding up on it. But like harnesses for your J-- for your MVC mask, you couldn't get them. Stuff that they need, you know, sunscreen, foot powder, simple soldier stuff, they didn't have it. Didn't have it.

Q: So were you acquiring this equipment in any other fashion?

A: We went out of pocket. Went down to Local Economy, and bought a whole bunch of gun cleaning stuff, bug repellants.

Soldiers had to have it. You know what I mean? A lot of these soldiers went out on their own and bought goggles. They're all wearing like Oakley ski glasses, you know? But the Army wouldn't give them what they had to have, so they went and bought it because they needed it. (inaudible) spent a lot of money. Everything was priority ordered through the Army channels but it still would take forever. Then, during that time of RSE, this master sergeant, [REDACTED] I believe is her name. Anyway, like MP was ours, and (inaudible) -- what happened at home station, before I left there was an MP told me the (inaudible) that left prior to us -- they went to Fort Lewis. Well the boneheads forgot their holsters and their magazines and their magazine pouches. So they told my Company, give up 50 of your holsters, magazines, and magazine pouches. I says, OK, but I'm mobing. I need to get it back. Anyway, I sent up to Fort Lewis at 382nd. I went out the door there at the home station, and I didn't have 50 holsters, magazines, and magazine pouches. No bazaars -- anyway, that master sergeant, when we were in there, finally made it happen, but it was a nightmare. Had to go to the range over there, you know, 111 MP's, and I had like 25 magazines. We had holsters, we were packing the guns. We were on everything. Because you know, they didn't have them there at the mobe

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site. You couldn't draw them. Then the RST had to buy it off the market. They had to do all that civilian contracting stuff to get it to super troopers. They made it work, but it was a mess. It could have been a lot easier. The mobe station, yeah, the range -- they didn't have ear plugs. No ear plugs. They were in the range and they got no ear plugs. I don't think that mobe site was ready for mobilizing. Just equipment wise, they had a lot of people out there that were trying, good attitudes, pushing soldiers, but the equipment, the logistics of it, they didn't have it.

Q: After you finished your force protection, were there any issues after that point -- how much time after that was it before you actually left?

A: First we did that SRP thing, and that was an exercise in confusion. Nobody really knew where to go to get all that stuff done. And then we did a force protection. Those instructors, they tried, and they put on a good show. My soldiers enjoyed it, but then again, they expected the units to bring all these training aids -- blanks, blank adaptors, pyro. Nobody told the units to bring the shit. So you were out there going -- it could have been so much better. So they tried to put on a good show. Then we did the metal training. We did that for about three days.

That was good. It kind of got people thinking about their lane, and stuff. But once again, we didn't have any training aids, so it was all just kind of going through the motions. It was like, you know, drill weekend. No training aids.

Q: When -- over at the mobe station, when they said you should have brought these and you didn't have them, what did they say?

A: They said, OK. They said, you just won't use them for your training. If they would have told me, I would brought them. I don't even know if I would have brought them.

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Mobe sites should -- they're going to train my unit, why would I bring [REDACTED] practice MVC suits, [REDACTED] blank adaptors, all this blank ammunition, if I'm going to mobe site to prepare to go to war? They should have that at the mobe site if that's what their training is. You know what I mean? For us to -- to tell me to bring it?

Q: No.

A: What am I going to do with it, bring it all over here? So, yeah. Not a lot of thought.

Q: And how did you get your notice as far as times to ship out?

A: It was odd, because we got done doing all our training, but we didn't get validated, because we didn't have the MVC

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suits. So Captain [REDACTED] got a cell phone call about two weeks after we got done with all our training. Some guy from -- 800 MP brigade, I guess it was, said, hey, you guys all ready to go? And she explained, we don't have any J-suits. And he said, oh, don't worry. We need you out here. About half hour later, the battalion there at Fort Bliss said hey, you've been bumped up, you're taking this flight and it's leaving Saturday, which was about 48 hours out. So, that's about how it came down. And so that time, that's when they broke in the warehouse and got us some J-suits and other stuff we needed to go.

Q: So while they wouldn't give it to you prior to, all of a sudden, because you're ready to get on the aircraft, they came out with the suits and they gave you (inaudible)?

A: Which validated us, which kind of -- they would have gave it to us sooner and validated us sooner, that would have let the 800 MP brigade, instead of making all these frantic phone calls trying to find MP's, they would have seen a validated unit. It was there on Fort Bliss, so it kind of defeats the whole validation thing. It's kind of the tail wagging the dog. If they would have validated us with that stuff they had in the warehouse, MP brigade, I'm assuming, could have looked at a sheet of paper, said, OK, 314 is now validated, let's get them out here, you know?

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Q: And after you got on the aircraft, what was the feeling of your troops as they boarded the aircraft and their fighting wills were up, and you're in the air flying, and you knew where you were off to, because at that point, the war had already started.

A: The war started and I think -- I try to spin them up, try to get them a little bit thinking about it, because you know, these guys never been out here. And I knew, based on my past experience, the moment you hit the ground, it can all go shitty on you. So I try to get them guys thinking, try to get them thinking -- there were some guys that were kind of scared about it all, some guys that were worried, and -- Morale was high, but there was just a lot of uncertainty. I try to stress in them to trust their leadership and they'll be all right, but just be ready. We trained them. They were good soldiers, ready to go. There were some people that were nervous, worried.

Q: In your flight, did you make stops along the way?

A: Yeah, we stopped in Germany or somewhere? I don't know.

Q: So it was a direct flight from Fort Bliss to Germany?

A: I think Germany, and then from there to over here, so one stop.

Q: And how was the feeling in your female soldiers during this period of time?

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A: They were worried. Males, females, they were all -- I tried to get them thinking. I tried to get them thinking, start thinking about what you're doing, you know? Where you're going isn't AT, it isn't drill weekend. People's lives -- real people shooting real guns with real bullets, and they need to wake up and get in the game. And even at that rest stop, when we stopped in Germany, people were making phone calls and you could tell there was not a calmness but more of a focus. Leaders were talking to their subordinates to make sure they had everything ready to go, they knew where everybody was at. They knew what was going to happen when we hit the ground. They knew -- yeah, people were doing -- (inaudible) -- doing for more of a sense of purpose than before. So it was good.

Q: And when you arrived in Kuwait, where did you land in?

A: Kuwait City Airport.

Q: And when you arrived, did anything happen at that time when you first arrived?

A: Last time I was here -- I told these guys -- I saw many planes get -- (inaudible) say, hey, ^{b(lu)-1} [REDACTED] had to run troops back and forth -- I saw a lot of these guys getting SCUD attacks while the plane was on the ground. I said, it's night. People are running around trying to find MVC masks and J-suits. Don't be a knuckle head, have that shit with

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you, and sure as shit, soon as we landed, I was standing in the plane, making sure the Company got out and half of them were out sitting on the tarmac, a couple of them in a bus, the other half still on the plane, they got SCUD attack. So all command and control was kind of broke down, you know? But they did what they had to do, they closed the door. Everybody on the plane got their masks on, got down low. The guys on the tarmac got on the bus, got their masks on, got their J-suits on, closed all the windows. The leadership was working, you know? And they, yeah. They were thinking.

Q: So upon landing, all the focus -- instruction and training that you gave them earlier -- this would have come home in that this is no AT, as you put it. This is real time.

A: See, a lot of these guys thought, yeah, we're going to land in Kuwait City, and it's far away from Iraq, and this is a civilian airport. We're flying a civilian plane. Shit, we're going to get up to the terminal and stroll through just like we're going back -- on vacation. I says, no, fellas. This is what couldn't happen -- this is worst case scenario. The only thing was, we landed in the daylight, so at least we could see each other, you know what I mean? Yeah, we got SCUD attacked before we even got off the plane. I got my glasses broken before I even got off the

plane. One of them waitresses jumping all over trying to find her glasses, too, so. But anyway, it was good. The soldiers, they did what they were supposed to do and the leadership worked. I mean, even though we were all spread out in different parts of the tarmac, in the plane, on the bus, the NCO's, whoever's near them, made sure they put their stuff, got where they had to be, and got accountability of the soldiers. The soldiers were focused, listening to what they were being told to do.

Q: At that time, you said some of them were in a bus outside, and some of you were still in the aircraft when they closed the door. What about the airline crew? What did they do?

A: They tried to get their -- they had civilian gas masks. They were putting their stuff on too. And of course they closed the door. Thank God they didn't try and take it off again, because we had people on the steps. Last time I saw that, they started moving the plane, so thank God they didn't do that. So anyway, but they closed the doors. They put on their masks, and they just waited until it became all clear. It came over, I guess, the radios.

Q: OK, so when you got the all clear sign, then you de-mask, and then you exited the aircraft.

A: Right. Then we got on the bus and sure enough, there's another SCUD attack. We sat down. It took us forever just

to get to the A-pod, or whatever they call it. Yeah, it was like two or three SCUD attacks, and everybody's sitting on this bus, hotter than heck, and everybody's looking at each other like -- but this time, the good thing -- last time the Patriots would intercept the SCUD low, so you'd feel the explosion. You could hear it and feel it. This time, I guess, there was the interception elsewhere, because you never felt it. So it was a lot more easy, you know what I mean? It wasn't so nerve-wracking as before.

Q: Did you actually hear or see the Patriots going up, being cut off?

A: Last time, yes. This time, no. Here in Kuwait, I didn't hear any. I know one time, they had, I guess, one of the SCUDs ran kind of close to Arabdar (sp?), where we were at, and it rattled those warehouses we were sleeping in. Last time, yeah, you could actually see them intercepted there, in Saudi Arabia. That was kind of nerve-wracking.

Q: And the sense of being in your month here, the idea of the threat of having a gas attack or any kind of a biological attack, I'm sure that was a very stressful period of time for your (inaudible).

A: Yeah, they got real serious real quick. You know, they figured it out. You know, you can train them and you can train them and you can talk about it, but the first time

you put it on in a real situation because you think there's a biological or nuclear attack coming or a chemical attack, they think -- even if that attack doesn't come, they still think about it, because they know. They hear the sirens, they see -- they see workers out there wearing full MVC stuff, trying to, you know, get inside. They know it's the real deal. They got very good at putting on those suits. It's the real deal.

Q: Once you finally arrived at Camp Arifjan, what happened after that -- what was -- what were your troops doing? Did you have a mission to start off with as soon as you arrived?

A: Yes. Everything we did -- you have to remember, there were all these SCUD attacks. It would take forever just to get the mess off, because you know, first thing they drop us off, and by that time it was dark, and we were in Arifjan, and they got all these warehouses, and I've got to go meet a Sergeant Major, and blah blah. Anyway, they said drop them off in one warehouse, but there was no lights, nobody knew where -- it was just a big fluster, and you know, the whole time people are in MVC suits, and masks, and so anyway, we got inside this one warehouse, and then a buddy of mine, another NCO came up, said, hey, this other warehouse has bunks and cots, and it's a couple down. I

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said, Well, OK. So we're all dragging our stuff, our rucksacks and duffle sacks. Anyway, we got them bedded down for the night. Then they got woken up a couple times because of the SCUD attacks.

Q: In your first day in arriving, how many SCUD attacks were there?

A: Quite a few. While we were in Arifjan, it seemed, you know, in the sha-- yeah, they were, you know, all the time.

Q: Was there any --

A: I think whenever a launch -- no matter where it was, whenever there was a missile launch, then they would do the lightning, lightning, lightning, even though if it wasn't coming this way, it was going somewhere else.

Q: Did any of the SCUDs actually make it through or make it near an encampment?

A: Yeah. One, I guess, they fired from a boat off in the Gulf, so it missed the radars picking it up, so there was no lightning, lightning, but it landed somewhere around the way, and you could feel it. Like I said earlier, it shook the sides of the warehouses, and then they came around saying lightning, lightning, so by that time, people -- that was in the middle of the night. People were up, getting their stuff on.

(break in tape)

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Q: All right, First Sergeant, as you arrived here in Kuwait, and you were waiting for your orders for moving North, when did that come, and do you remember when you actually left Arifjan to travel up to (inaudible)?

A: You know, we were in Arifjan for probably about seven days before I sent one platoon up here to Buka (sp?), kind of as an advanced party for us. So we were there about seven days.

Q: And the main body followed after that, then?

A: About five days after that. So three platoons were there, almost two weeks, and one platoon was there about a week.

Q: So that runs toward the end of the first week of April?

A: Correct.

Q: Once you arrived here at Camp Buka (sp?), what were the conditions of the camp?

A: I came up with the advance party. We spent the night, to see what we were getting into. It was just a field. It was just dirt. There was -- 724th, I think, was trying to set up. The battalion 320 was trying to set up, but there was nothing, just dirt. We had -- they told us to get some tents out of a Conex (sp?) and start setting it up. The British were still running the compound. There was nothing.

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Q: At that time, how many prisoners were here at that time, that the British had under their control?

A: I couldn't tell you. I think right around 4 or 5,000.

Q: What kind of containment area did they have and security force did they have here at that time?

A: When I came up with that platoon, I didn't get down there and look at it, but I assume it's the same as the British run -- rapidly put up kind of a holding area, rather than a long term facility. My main concern was just the soldiers, getting them up here and getting them kind of situated. But yeah, it was -- I remember that one night I stayed up here, there were several escapes. Whenever there was an escape, they'd shoot a flair. I remember seeing several escapes. They had -- it just seemed, yeah, I wasn't really sure. It was a lot of confusion up here, everybody moving around. The EPW's, all I know is they were having a lot of escapes going on.

Q: And once your main body came up, what did -- what was your mission, and what exactly did you start doing first?

A: Well, you know, (inaudible) ^{b(6)-1} [REDACTED] (sp?) led that first platoon up here. He did a real good job, because that night, or that next day, I guess, they put down, it's starting to work now, the EPW camp after I left. But he still went ahead and got most of the tents set up for us,

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some of the main body came up. Basically, we had to just unpack, and then that night, we started working down at the Camp. So there wasn't any down time. We hit the ground, unloaded our stuff, and sent people down to start doing what they had to do down there.

Q: And what were their jobs at that time?

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A: We came up here EPW guard -- we got tasked doing everything. I had [REDACTED] people, including the Commander and myself, and I got tasks for [REDACTED] people. We were running the in-processing, the -- they had the interviews and they were coming in -- (inaudible) or something like that. We had people on the guard detail, people escorting, and people feeding EPW, so we were tasked out completely.

Q: Once you did arrive, and you started the troops working, did you have to do any special security or refortifying the Camp?

A: The EPW Camp, or our live-in camp here?

Q: The EPW Camp.

A: Yeah, the British put it together, but it was not what we were kind of used to. They used different kind of wire, and it wasn't stretched right, and EPW's were calling out, so right off the bat, we had to start moving light sets, restringing concertina wire, filling holes, stuff like that.

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Q: After you at least fortified the -- (inaudible) the holding areas, were escapes lessened at that point?

A: They were, once we kind of got control of it on the perimeter. And then I had more -- you know, I set a pretty tight perimeter. They still try and escape, but we would catch them. Because the wire they were using was not razor wire, it's like barbed wire. You and I could get through it, so, I mean, it's just -- it wouldn't keep them in.

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[REDACTED]

-- we didn't have enough light sets, so it was darkened down there. It was very hard to control.

Q: With the very primitive way of -- it was originally set up, this had to be a definite security factor for the soldiers.

A: Oh, yeah. Then, when they were escaping, they were running over the brim, coming into the living area, so the people that were (inaudible), were always kind of on guard anyway, just in case somebody came over the brim. Once I got the MP's set up, they would try to escape, but we caught them. I'd still see the flares go off, and the whistles. Yeah, it's kind of a tense environment. Then, too, there was a

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lot of unexploded ordinance (sp?) and stuff, and so there's a lot of booms going on, and there was -- the first week when the platoons got -- when my first platoon came up and they spent that night, there was small arms fire, and stuff going on, too, so it was a different environment.

Q: So the camp was under attack at different times?

A: I don't think it was under attack. I don't know what exactly it was, but there was a lot of explosions going on outside the camp and small arms fire, kind of towards the town over there, but the British were doing most of the security patrols, and I don't know exactly what they were doing. Just hearing all that kind of wakes you up.

Q: How many soldiers would be in each of the -- excuse me, how many prisoners were in each of the holding areas, and as to how many soldiers guarding them?

A: They had like [REDACTED] compounds inside the camp, and each one had around [REDACTED] EPW's in it, so 320 would put -- there's [REDACTED] soldiers on the gate on the front side, and then behind every pen, I tried to put [REDACTED] I didn't have enough MP's, so I ended up putting my cooks out there behind the pens, and ad men, and my mechanics, and anybody that could carry a weapon, I had to put them on point, so we were stretched pretty thin.

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Q: With each of the five kind of prisoners in each of the camps, what were their conditions when they arrived -- the ones that you had seen -- were they in good condition, were they wounded, did you have different problems with them?

A: A lot of them were sick. A lot of them were wounded. The British were handling all the medical care, and I don't think they were getting -- between you and me, I don't think they were getting what they needed. If I was one of them, I wouldn't want to be receiving the medical treatment they received. Some of them were in bad shape. They were. And then even their clothing, the stuff that they'd been wearing during the war was dirty. The hygiene -- they were out of water and stuff. It was pretty nasty.

Q: For each of the prisoners, was there a certain process that was used to give them good hygiene and to feed them?

A: I guess the first night, we helped the British feed, to see how they did that. And then, that night, at about 2:00 in the morning, our battalion said, OK, 314th, you're going to feed them from now on. You saw how the British did it, so you guys just do it. The British, the way they did it was pretty fierce. There was a lot of chaos, people getting manhandled pretty rough. So it wasn't a learning -- it wasn't something to watch and learn how to do it. I put -- first day, I made two teams,  people in each team, to go

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in and figure that stuff out. I put some strong NCO's in there, and some aggressive soldiers, and they got them fed. The first couple days, it took them 6:00 in the morning to about 10:00 at night, but they got them fed two meals. It was -- yeah. Something like that, you don't train on. Something like that was just a task you have to accomplish.

Q: What was the process, did they just get a serving line to get the food? What was the process on that, do you recall that?

A: The whole thing was a process, you know, even getting the food to them, because they didn't have enough cooks, so I had to pull my cooks out of the MTT, which raised all sorts of hell, but I put them down there to cook for these EPW's, and they have these big tents, and they cook in these big garbage cans filled with food -- rice and soup and cheese and all this stuff, but then they give them the tents down at the camps and have to haul it in the back of these pickup trucks, and then there, once they got there, they'd unload it. They'd pick out four or five EPW's to drag it inside the compound, and they'd kind of put it in a line, and then they'd get those same four or five EPW's to dish it out. And my MP's would go in there and they would control the crowd, have them all sit down and try and make it fair. Because EPW just wanted fair. They wanted

everybody to be fed the same. They didn't want a weak guy to get less and strong guys to get more. That was what was happening when the British were getting it. Guys weren't getting fed. So that was trying to get that control. That's what they wanted. That's what the majority of that pen wanted, and that's what we finally ended getting the captives. It's all a process.

Q: When they were getting the food, if one person got more or less than another, did anything occur during that period of time?

A: Oh, yeah. First off, they were all trying -- it was weird. Looking at the pen, you have a group of [REDACTED] ^{b(2)-3} You have them all sit down, and you try to get five or ten at a time, and you try to keep the line in order so everybody wasn't pushing and shoving, trying to fight their way to the front of the line. And then we'd check their ID card, their tag, and then we'd issue them the food and then they'd go back to their tents to eat it, and we'd have to keep them back by their tents rather than come back up towards the group. So it was all about control and making sure, no matter who you were, you got the same portion of food as everybody else.

Q: And did anything else go on within the compounds on a daily basis?

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A: A lot of fighting, fighting amongst each other, fighting with MP's.

Q: Why were they fighting amongst each other?

A: They wanted -- the little guys wanted food too. They wanted to be treated equal, and a lot of times, when they put them in there, they didn't categorize them properly. They put civilians in with soldiers in with Shiites, in with different religious backgrounds, kids in with adults. It was just [REDACTED] ^{b(2)-3} people and there was no rhyme or reason for it. It's like putting the Bloods and the Crips together in the same pen. It just didn't work.

Q: So it brought out -- among themselves, because of the different sects that they came from?

A: I think, and then just the different backgrounds and different educational levels. They had the officers in there too, and they were trying to raise hell, because that's their job, you know what I mean? It just wasn't categorized properly.

Q: While you were trying to keep control, at any time did this get out of control, where maybe a riot might have occurred?

A: To be honest with you, the riot, that was more controlled than just a routine day. A routine day was out of control. There was no control. A riot, at least you know it was a riot. There were other stuff, I mean, they were -- yeah,

it was brutal. We did have a couple major riots, and one time I thought they were going to lose the camp. They were out in the middle aisles, they were outside their pens. I had all my security around the sides, just trying to contain it.

Q: So they actually got out of the pens themselves.

A: Yeah. They had the camp. I thought we were going to lose the whole camp. I thought they were just -- yeah. It was a bad day. We did lose the day. They were outside the pens. We had no control of that camp.

Q: How did you get them back in? How did you -- how were you able to stop the rioting?

A: You know, Sergeant Major [REDACTED] ^{b(6)-1} took about [REDACTED] ^{b(2)-3} of my guys, and I took about [REDACTED] ^{b(2)-3}. He started at one end and I started at the other end, and just went into each pen and tried to take over each pen, while other pens were throwing rocks at us, throwing stakes at us, throwing anything they could find at us, and that pen fighting us. We shot a couple guys that day, and we fired a whole lot more rounds, hit them, got them back in their pens, though. We finally got some canine down there too, and that kind of calms it, and then we got every MP that's on this post, I think, and it must have been -- by the end of the day, there's probably

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around 500 MP's down there to help us out. They lost the pen -- they lost the compound that day, I think.

Q: During that period of time, you said there were a couple of shootings. What were the circumstances of that, and what was the outcome of the two?

A: They were all justified. One of my fellows -- they were swinging a stake at him -- a tent stake, a big one, you know, a pole with a nail on the end of it. And he shot him in the arm. And another guy, they were trying to get a pistol belt, and they thought it was a pistol in it, (inaudible), anyway, he shot a guy in the leg. Dropped the pistol belt.

Q: So he (inaudible) actually got the pistol belt?

A: Yeah, what it was was -- I think it was a 320th soldier, they were guarding the middle aisle, and for some reason, they left their pistol belt there when they -- they took off, because EPW's were all running outside the cage. We only had perimeter security, the individual pens. They were out and about, and they took off out of them. When they took off, they left their pistol belt with the holster on it, so an EPW was grabbing that, and they shot him, thinking there was a pistol there inside that holster.

Q: Were there any other injuries?

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A: That day? I think one MP broke his arm. Wasn't my guy. Few people hit with rocks, a few EPW's hit with batons, but no life-threatening injuries.

Q: Did you get to bring out your [REDACTED] and your other styles of riot control equipment?

A: Yeah, we had limited [REDACTED], because we were using the British [REDACTED] the British riot control equipment -- we didn't have any, so -- then my guys, they got in there. Before this all happened, the Sergeant Major put his arm (inaudible) -- with the rules of engagement, you're not supposed to shoot warning shots. He put his arm around me, said, you need to fire some warning shots. Fire them, whatever it takes to get this thing back. So I had my -- I was with my team. It was about five guys, it was -- all they had was shields, and they were stuck in the middle of this pen. I felt for them. They were about ready to run out of that pen, I tell you. They were just getting overwhelmed with people hitting them, hitting those [REDACTED] with 2x4's, so I went in there and started shooting my gun a few times. And we held the line. Then [REDACTED] shot one of them, and we were able to push them back. That was one of the major pens we were having trouble with.

Q: In that particular pen, were there more criminals than soldiers, or was it, again, just a whole mixture?

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A: Just a whole mixture. They had civilian criminals, civilian soldiers, the officers were right across from them, and they were starting it off. They started it off (inaudible) personally, so --

Q: What about the following day, did anything occur the following day?

A: That day-- there was a riot like a day, or two days before that. Same thing, we went in there, but we didn't shoot anybody that day. A lot of warning shots. But after we took control of that pen that day, we got the officers out of there, sent them over to the new (inaudible), and took out some of the instigators from the individual pens, put them --

END OF SIDE

A: There you go. I think those EPW's figured it out, especially when they saw all those MP's at the end of the day. We beat them. And they knew they were beat, and they knew they better behave themselves. I think that's when the camp finally came under order.

Q: Were there any fatalities?

A: No. One of my guys on perimeter, a few days later -- my guys were inside feeding, and one of my perimeter guards, I bring them down to cover the guys inside the fence feeding,

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[REDACTED] All they had were

[REDACTED] A guy came out of the tent, charging him, one of my MP's, with a 2x4, and one of my guards shot him in the chest and killed him. That was probably about three or four days after the big riot.

Q: When that shooting occurred, was there any type of special procedures that you had to follow when someone is killed like that?

A: Yeah, you know. I'm surprised we didn't shoot more. I tell you what, I told that story (inaudible). We're lucky. Anyway, yeah. What happens is, of course, they pull them off duty, and then -- sits in a tent and then CID comes and interviews him, and they do a 15-6 and it's la, la, you know. He was justified; he saved a soldier's life. I'm going to put him in for a Bronze Star. Hopefully, somebody back at headquarters will figure it out. A second grade schoolteacher took somebody's life and he had a hard time dealing with it. But he made the right call. He made the right call. A good soldier.

Q: How did that soldier feel after that shooting?

A: He was kind of tore up on it for a few days, and I talked to him, I had the chaplain talk to him. Some of the other soldiers talked to him. I think the turning point, though, when -- (inaudible) [REDACTED] (sp?), he's the guy that almost

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got hit by that 2x4 -- and he pulled out a picture of his wife and his kids, and he told that soldier, hey, this is my wife and kids, this is my family. Thank you. I think that was the turning point. That's when he figured it out, that he did the right thing. He did what he was trained to do and had to do.

Q: Was this -- during these couple riots that occurred, was this also another wakeup call, for all your soldiers, again, this is real action. This is no playing around. You have to take the job seriously.

A: Well, here's the thing. You know, you got them guys. You spin them up at home station, and then you go to the mobe station. You're ready to go and then we sit around at mobe station for two weeks, and they go flat on you. Spin them up again, you get into Arifjan, you're ready to go, and then we sit around for a couple weeks and go flat on you. So you know, the emotional ups and downs of a deployment -- it's hard to keep them peaked for any period of time, because they start losing jobs, they get bored and they go flat on you. But during that period, while we were down there, every day was -- I'm telling you, every day was out of control. So they were spun up for a good six weeks while we were down there. Every day they were focused, ready. They were on the point, ready to do what they had

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to do. I've got some good soldiers, I'll tell you what. I was worried about putting that one back there that killed that guy, but I put him back on the point, and I tell you, I think today he'd make the same decision that he made that day, take the same shot.

Q: During the same period of time -- you said you had your female soldiers that are also guarding your prisoners -- did they experience anything that was out of the ordinary with the Iraqis, since they don't treat their women quite the way the U.S. treats their women?

A: Right or wrong, I don't know, but the battalion said they didn't want women going in and feeding the EPW's. I can see their reason, but I can tell you, I've got some fine female soldiers. (inaudible) EPW's, though, they were hard on them, so they probably made a good call telling me to keep them out of there. Yeah, they -- the hygiene, first off, down there. They had one pissers/shitter for boys, girls, it didn't matter. So just staying down there on point during a 12-hour shift was hard on them. And then the EPW's would constantly show them their private parts, just disrespecting them in our society. They were being very disrespectful, in a way that would be criminal back in our states, you know? But my female soldiers -- tip top. Not a one of them complained. Not a one of them refused to

do it. I got some -- in this whole deployment, I've got some very good soldiers, and those females, they showed me something. They really did. I was concerned before we left, because I knew it was going to be tough out here. I knew about this culture, and they really --

Q: Did you warn them, or did someone else in the command or at the Camp here give them any kind of heads up as to what they may experience?

A: Oh, I told them. I told them. Day one, you know, because based on what I saw last time, and they beat me. They were smarter than me. They were better prepared than I prepared them for. They -- I got a couple MP5 -- female E5's, sharp. And they took those females -- there's ^{b(2)-3} of them altogether, and those female NCO's I got -- took those enlisted in and they just fixed them. Got them to make sure they had all the right sanitation equipment for there, told them all about the culture here, they really got them spun up well. Yeah. Very happy with those females, very happy.

Q: Up to this point though, your deployment, and being here at Camp Buka (sp?), have there been other situations that have put your soldiers at risk?

A: Yeah. Just last night I had -- a couple of my guys were transporting somebody in the back of a Douce (sp?). A guy

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stood up and started trying to slash his wrists with a Coke can, in the back of the Douce (sp?). I don't know why there was a Coke can in the back of a Douce (sp?), but there was, and (inaudible) was trying to slash his neck. My driver put the -- slammed on the brakes. Female MP grabbed the guy, slammed him into the back of the wall there, where the cab is, and subdued him. A lot of these guys are mental cases or on types of drugs, mental stability type drugs. There are some criminals, some murderers, some rapists, some real bad people, and any moment -- they're not just, you know, EPW's, there's some bad mix in there. So at any moment -- they've got to stay alert.

Q: So with the mix of some deranged or mentally offset individuals, or EPW's, are there certain special holding areas for these individuals?

A: Yes. We ran out of the holding areas, though, that was the bad thing, because we would just take them out for about a day and then put them back in the pen, because we ran out of them. Those guys I sent in to feed those EPW's, every day, had to deal with same jackasses, same mental cases, same trouble every day. The guys sitting on the fence, every day, had the same mental guy exposing himself to him every day. They did have some Conex (sp?) to set out.

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They filled those up and (inaudible) kind of reserved for the worst of the worst.

Q: Now that the Camp is starting to have less prisoners -- at one time there was as many as [REDACTED] prisoners, and now, I believe, we're closer to around [REDACTED]. How have you been able to keep your soldiers active, and has your mission changed since you originally arrived?

A: Yeah. They -- the Camp we were guarding actually plowed it down. Kept it going -- I don't -- Echelon's above me. They finished off that brand new EPW camp after the war was done, when we were down to about [REDACTED] EPW's, and I don't know why they did that, but -- the engineers did that, and we've got a lot of soldier issues on the ground here where we were living. This was a spearheaded operation and my soldiers did fine. I'm not complaining about it. But now, once again, they're going flat on me. You know, the peaks and valleys, right now. I got about -- they task me with [REDACTED] a shift and I've got three shifts working up with that in-processing, but I can see my in shields are taking care of it with probably about a dozen, because there's just nobody coming in. So to try and find things for them to do, I got some MWR runs going on. I've got my ship burning detail going on. I've got jazzercise in the morning for

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people that want to come. I've got a weight room set up with tv's. But they're going flat on me.

(break in tape)

Q: First Sergeant [REDACTED] can you related to any stories of your soldiers that may have risen to the occasion, that maybe excelled during this deployment?

A: Actually, I'm proud of all of them. They all did a good job. Company Commander on down. Those Army values, loyalty, number one. They were loyal to each other. I've got to hand it to Sergeant [REDACTED] (sp?). He figured out this feeding thing. I said here's what you've got to do. Figure out how to do it, and he did. He put together these teams, supervised them, got them working. Sergeant [REDACTED] Staff Sergeant [REDACTED], I knew that guy as an E5, and I was like, eh. I tell you what, though, he really pulled up his boots and he was pushing soldiers out here and making stuff happen. Some of these younger -- it's kind of neat, because some of these younger E6's I had, when they deployed at Texas, they were E5's. And now they're teaching those E5's what to do as E6's. The E4's are now E5's, and they're teaching these guys that haven't deployed before what to do. All my NCO's have done a real good job. Specialist [REDACTED] (sp?), the guy that actually shot and killed that EPW, that was a hell of a thing for him to

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do as a person. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] For him to make that call is good stuff. Staff Sergeant [REDACTED] -- what a guy. He's another one. I always thought he was just kind of -- you know, everybody's buddy, but he gets them privates going. He gets right in their face and he tells them what to do and he makes things happen. My NCO's, yeah. As far as the E4 and below, I see some of them guys just working point and squad. You have to watch them squad leaders and them Platoon Sergeants, who they -- because I know some of them guys have risen to the occasion. I know they have. They've done some good stuff out here. Very good stuff.

Q: First Sergeant, as you see the changing of the way -- the amount of prisoners that are here at Camp Hookah, and as you said, you're trying to keep the morale of the troops going, what have you done in your own coding area to bring up the morale of the troops as to when you first arrived?

A: In my living area?

Q: Yes.

A: When I first arrived, we didn't have anything. The first thing I did was to put up a shade tent so these guys didn't have to sit out in the sun and eat hot MRE's. Now we've got -- Sergeant [REDACTED] (sp?) actually, he and Sergeant

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[REDACTED] (sp?) went out and bought a TV and DVD player, and we set up a tent so people can watch movies at night. At the end of the day, they'll hold a raffle, and whoever wins it will get the TV and the DVD set, and that way, they'll recoup the money for what they purchased out of hock. We brought a weight set with us. We finally got our conex (sp?) in and we set that up. I had a chess tournament -- one of my specialists sponsored a house-wide chess tournament, and that was kind of good. One of my females is a black belt in karate, and she's going to do this jazz -- or tai bo? Tai bu?

Q: Tai bu.

A: Yeah. She's going to start that up tomorrow. I think they've got a little puppy dog in there, and I'm not going to raise too much hell about that, if they want to raise that dog. I tell them, fellas, I make them wear their uniform, and I tell them, they can be proud of what they're doing. They can be. I've got to get on them every now and then, but whatever I can do. I built them showers. I remember the day I got plastic seats for my toilets. Everybody smiled that day. It's the little things, in this environment, the little things. That's the spirit of operation, so everything -- everything's a better day, you know?

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Q: So when you arrived, you didn't even have toilet seats for your soldiers, or --

A: We didn't have toilets.

Q: You didn't even have toilets.

A: We had a slit trench dug in the back. You know, I started working right away as soon as I got here, so as soon as I could pull off a couple people, the first thing I'd do is build me a couple wooden shitters. Actually, my battalion built me those. I couldn't pull my people off. My battalion built me those shitters. And then the showers came later on, once I could pull some people off to build those for me.

Q: I understand also, shortly after you arrived here, you had some soldiers that started to become ill, and they kind of called it the Buka (sp?) virus. How many of your people went down during that?

A: I'd say about 2/3 of my company, probably about 70 soldiers. Yeah, we were in those EPW's tents, we were living -- using the rest room in open pits. You know, I had my guys down there, 12 on, 12 off, not a day off for about six weeks, and they were constantly exposed to that, the flies, going in the tents, doing searches, touching EPW's when they were transported. So they -- I got sick. It was everybody -- some days I had up to eight people in

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some form of throwing up, diarrhea, but in the sick
(inaudible) of the hospital.

Q: That had to affect your mission as well, I'm sure.

A: Oh, yeah. I couldn't give anybody days off. The only time they got a day off was when they got sick on me. Yeah, then we run out of people. The whole thing's about rotation, you know what I mean? Trying to get a guy in out of the sun. So if you've got, you know, eight people out of 28 assigned, you can't -- yeah. It affects the mission.

Q: And how is that now? Has the virus gone through its cycle? Are you still having soldiers getting sick?

A: Honestly, as soon as they (inaudible) over that damned EPW camp, it stopped. About that same time, they put in this D-pack (sp?) and they put in plastic bathrooms, and yeah, now I haven't had a soldier sick that I'm aware of in about three, four, five days.

Q: And also, just the health and welfare of your troops -- is there one thing that you could say they crave the most in this hot environment?

A: Ice. Ice has been -- they started giving us ice about a week ago. I don't know why it took them so long to get ice. They knew when we got here. But now they keep running out. They bring it, they don't bring it. It's like you give a kid a sucker, then you take it away from

him every couple of days, then you give it back.

(inaudible). Not just for morale, but the actual health of the soldier. It cools him off, improves morale, so ice is a huge thing. If I can keep getting them ice -- they ran out of ice these past few days, I was going to go off post and buy it myself. I said, I got no ice, I've got to cool them off.

Q: And what kind of future do you see happening to your company in the weeks and months ahead?

A: I see if they leave us -- this is too much dirt. The soldiers are going to start thinking about home, and they're going to get homesick. Morale's going to plummet. Retention's going to be affected. I hope they do something good with this. This a good company. I hope they do something good. Send us home. That's a good thing. Send us further north to do a mission. That's a good thing. Whatever. Don't just leave us idle, not in this environment. It's no good for them. It's no good for me.

Q: OK, First Sergeant, are there any other comments you'd like to add to the end of this interview, with any aspect of your deployment?

A: I was just talking to some of the fellows, if we were sitting back home, we would have been pissed off because we're not over here doing this. Even on a bad day, at the

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end of the day, they look back and say, wow, I'm doing what I'm supposed to be doing. This is what I joined for. This is what I'm supposed to be doing. They're going to be proud of this. A couple years after they get home, they're going to be very proud of what they've done. It's good stuff.

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Q: I thank you, First Sergeant [REDACTED], for your interview. I'd like to keep the dialogue open with you so that as time goes on, I could, perhaps, re-interview you for additional information as to what your company has done and your accomplishments. Is that OK with you?

A: Sure.

Q: Thank you. This ends this interview on the 22nd of May, 2003.

END OF INTERVIEW

END OF TAPE

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