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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW OF DAVID FEELEY

December 21, 2005

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ORIGINAL

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2 (The interview commenced at 10:00
3 a.m.)

4 BY RUSSERT: Okay. This is an
5 interview at the New York State Military Museum,
6 Saratoga Springs, New York, 21st of December 2005
7 approximately 10:00 a.m. Interviewers are Wayne
8 Clark and Mike Russert.

9 BY MR. RUSSERT:

10 Q. Could you give me your -- your
11 full name, date of birth and place of birth,
12 please?

13 A. My name is David Christen Feeley
14 My date of birth is October 11, 1970. I was born
15 in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

16 BY MR. CLARK:

17 Q. Okay. What was your -- well,
18 what was your educational background prior to
19 entering service?

20 A. I went to the State University of
21 New York at Geneseo. I graduated with a commission
22 through the R.O.T.C. program at the Rochester
23 Institute of Technology in 1993. Attended the
24 Field Artillery Officer basic course, light fire

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2 **support officer course and then proceeded to the**
3 **Second Infantry Division, Korea, where I was**
4 **platoon leader of Battalion Assistant S-three in**
5 **the 6th Battalion 37 Field Artillery in Gwangju**
6 **Korea for eighteen months. Upon returning to the**
7 **United States I then went to the 10th Mountain**
8 **Division, Second Battalion, Fifteenth Field**
9 **Artillery where I served as a light fire support**
10 **officer, battery executive officer and battalion**
11 **fire direction officer for a period of just over**
12 **two years.**

13 **BY MR. RUSSERT:**

14 Q. Could I ask you to go back to
15 Korea and what were some of your duties in Korea?

16 A. Korea, I was a platoon leader for
17 an M.O.R.S. Platoon, three firing launch, three
18 launchers, usual headquarters Alnix and my unit was
19 stationed in Uijeongbu Korea at Camp Stanley is on
20 the east side of -- of Uijeongbu just north of
21 Seoul. My total work position was actually on the
22 Yeongju and the Hwaseong and we actually looked
23 down into the North Korean Propaganda villages.
24 So, the way that the D.M.Z. runs there on the Gimje

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2 the D.M.Z. is actually north-south at that point in
3 time. So I could look and I saw the actual fence,
4 the -- the lighting on the south side and going up
5 towards Camp Osan, Camp Grieves (phonetic spelling)
6 and all the rest towards the Joint Security area.
7 And then to the west of the fence just on the other
8 side of the Paji was just pure darkness and very
9 much a -- a there-be-evil kind of things for about
10 a year and a half. And then of course to our -- to
11 our west was China.

12 BY MR. CLARK:

13 Q. Did you experience any -- any
14 sort of problems there or any contact?

15 A. There was contact in our area. I
16 was not personally involved in direct fire
17 engagements. Most of the contact was South Korean
18 and North Korean units. It was not heavy by any
19 stretch of the imagination. It -- it was sporadic
20 and light. By sporadic I mean no more than a
21 couple incidents every other month or so. In spite
22 of the North Korean threat which was obviously --
23 this was during the Crimea crisis, the first crisis
24 in 1994 and 1995 and when Kim O. Song (phonetic

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2 spelling) died, in spite of that there was not a
3 large amount of contact.

4 I arrived in Korea, landed at
5 Incheon Airport and processed to the Second
6 Infantry Division in June of 1994. Apparently Kim
7 O. Song had died -- had died during that period and
8 just the last weekend in June I remember sitting in
9 the Camp Stanley P.D.X., which was a quonset hut --
10 several quonset huts woven together and covered the
11 necessary thing, and all the American soldiers were
12 in there on a Saturday afternoon watching on the
13 television screen that was there the O.J. Simpson
14 low speed chase through Los Angeles. And all the
15 Koreans were buying canned food and bottled water
16 and watching the Korean newscast. And I asked a
17 Korean what was being said and basically that, you
18 know, the menace to the north, the former dictator
19 to North Korea had died and his insane son had
20 promised to bury his father in the burning heart of
21 Seoul.

22 That night Colonel John Abrams
23 (phonetic spelling), Chief of Staff of the Army,
24 during the Vietnam War and Commander McAvey

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2 (phonetic spelling), he was a division commander of
3 Two I.B. at the time, had a party at the C.G.'s
4 mess at Camp Redcloud (phonetic spelling) across
5 town there. And interestingly enough the C.G.'s
6 mess at Camp Redclouds was built more like
7 something you'd see in Germany, like a swiss chalet
8 sort of building, a very steep roof and everything
9 and had a fire pole in it for some odd reason. And
10 Abrams opened the bar, he was behind the bar and
11 there was drinks for everybody. The next morning
12 the Second Division got to the field and we were in
13 the field pretty much three weeks, a month from
14 July '94 into March of '95 because the prime nation
15 time when the rice paddies froze, when the water in
16 the rivers were at the lowest level was wintertime.

17 So, we basically moved out South
18 Korean army portions of it, we moved to the cold
19 war positions. They pretty much lived in it, but
20 they stepped up their reserve mobilization rate.
21 It was a very exciting time.

22 Q. What were your -- your
23 relationships like with the Korean people?

24 A. We had --.

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2 Q. Did you have contact?

3 A. Well, we did. We had, based on
4 the conducive program, Korean Albantist to U.S.
5 service program we actually had embedded in our
6 platoons embedded across the second infantry
7 division Korean soldiers who spoke English. They
8 were actually members of the Korean Army, but they
9 wore U.S. uniforms and Korean rank and they
10 actually lived in the village with our soldiers.

11 There were only enlisted
12 soldiers. We did not have conducive officers in my
13 battalion. I wasn't aware of any of the units in
14 2-I.B. that did. So, between that one of my first
15 sergeants when I was there actually had been in
16 Korea over seven years, since the '70s. His wife
17 was Korean. Her -- her extended family was still
18 in the area on Tongyeong. So, we had a lot of
19 contact with the local population.

20 Q. Uh-huh.

21 A. A real break on the -- the
22 contact with the local population was just that we
23 spent so much time in the field. So, that was
24 really the only thing that stopped us there. But

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2 as far as going out with the Korean soldiers and
3 learning all about Korea, that was very
4 interesting.

5 BY MR. RUSSERT:

6 Q. You were up at Drum. How long
7 were you up there?

8 A. About two years. This was -- I
9 went to Drum after Somalia and Haiti expecting --
10 fully expecting something along the lines of some
11 bad to happen again. That was part of the reason I
12 volunteered to go to Ft. Drum which is not a
13 popular place in the Army just due to the cold.
14 Even in the 1990s Tenth Mountain was a heavy
15 rotation unit, specifically with -- with -- not
16 Bosnia at that point in time, but with Haiti and
17 Somalia, as well as doing Turkey during the first
18 Gulf war. We expected to be going into Bosnia. I
19 remember actually the winter of 1997 I guess, '96,
20 '97, training up in the frozen tundra of Ft. Drum
21 to go into Rawanda. And the marines had actually
22 went and were operating in the forward air base in
23 the western part of Kenya and we were getting
24 briefs on that and how we were going to deploy to

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2 Kenya, use Kenya as a forward station base to go
3 into Rawanda and we did not.

4 The -- the period that we went
5 through our training and the political process
6 basically held off. Then Rawanda Genocide occurred
7 and was something that could have been prevented.
8 By this point in time the --.

9 Q. Why do you think it could have
10 been prevented?

11 A. Basically people were killing
12 each other with machetes --

13 Q. Uh-huh.

14 A. -- stones and farm implements and
15 a -- a force the size of the Tenth Mountain
16 wouldn't have had a hard time stopping most of
17 that. When you're talking about a hundred thousand
18 people a week being killed with farm implements
19 it's not very difficult for people with machine
20 guns to stop that. And of course at this point in
21 time the war that's involved, the Congo, Rawanda,
22 partially began to -- had actually killed more
23 people than the first world war by now. And the
24 war crimes trials in Rawanda actually now were

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starting, perhaps starting like two years ago.

Q. What did you do next?

A. After that, the army artillery advanced course, Nassau Warfare graduate then the 3rd Infantry Division. 3rd Infantry Division just had gotten back from an extended tour in Kuwait based upon the Desert Fox operation executed in late 1998 I believe it was which is a series of bombings by U.S. forces against high value targets in Iraq. I arrived at about Thanksgiving time in 1998 at Ft. Stewart Georgia. I was in processing and they hadn't finished in processing. I actually was in line when someone came up, it was very much like Korea, "Get your stuff, we're actually going." I looked at more of the division head and signed it. So, it was okay, we've got you a seat on the plane. And then came the point where we were being told it wasn't a matter of if we were going, it's when we were going. That was my first introduction to some of the war plans for -- for the defense point initially and then for Desert Crossing, which was the actual original war plan in late 1990s, early 2000 for the invasion of Iraq that was drawn

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2 up following the Gulf War that involved
3 approximately four hundred to five hundred thousand
4 U.S. troops and with a much larger undertaking than
5 the actual invasion that was eventually executed in
6 2003.

7 And probably the reason I was
8 involved in that was I was the fire control officer
9 for the 3rd Infantry Division and based upon the
10 things that -- based upon the capabilities the 3rd
11 Infantry Division had at the time some of the
12 planning factors we were involved in was striking
13 deep targets to enable air attacks both rotary
14 wing, helicopter, and fixed wing.

15 Q. Okay. And obviously you didn't
16 go at that time?

17 A. No. The invasion -- the defense
18 in Kuwait and invasion of Iraq did not happen late
19 1998. There was a partial deployment to Kuwait
20 which was a very routine thing in the 3rd Infantry
21 Division. At that point in time we were rotating
22 between 3rd Infantry and the 1st Calvary. The
23 spring of the next year was when Kosovo kicked off
24 and that was -- that was then we were a follow on

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2 force for Kosovo. Kosovo was primarily the U.S.
3 5th corp at that point in time, the 1st Infantry
4 Division and the 101st was scheduled to deploy for
5 the actual invasion of Kosovo which did not happen
6 because the problem was solved, was reached.

7 The interesting thing on
8 asymmetric warfare at that point in time, though,
9 even though we were not a first to deploy unit for
10 that mission, the -- the division signal officer
11 was reporting that we were receiving cyber attacks
12 at Ft. Stewart on our unclassified servers at a
13 Bulgaria. It appears to have been connected to
14 with the actual conflict to Kosovo. Everything's
15 connected I guess.

16 Q. Yes. Now, you ended up in
17 Kingston from there?

18 A. I got out of the Army in the
19 spring of 2000, gave a hell of a try to have a
20 civilian career, joined the 1st battalion a 156
21 field artillery headquartered in Kingston, New
22 York. At that point in time the unit had batteries
23 in Newburgh, Kingston, Poughkeepsie and Rochester,
24 New York. The unit actually was slated to

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deactivated under the A.D.R.S. program by which the

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Army was going to close down a number of the newer

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brigades. The 27th brigade was one of those units

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that was slated to close down. The 27th brigade

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was -- was the parent unit to the 156 artillery.

7

We were also scheduled at that point in time to go

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to J.R.T.C., so I participated in part of the

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training for Joint Leamos Training Center at Ft.

10

Polk Louisiana. We deployed to Ft. Polk Louisiana

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in August of 2001. We were home approximately

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fourteen to sixteen days and then the September

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11th attacks happened, which pretty much I have

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been on some sort of duty, federal or state, since

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September 2001.

16

Q. And what are -- could you tell us

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what some of these duties have been?

18

A. Initially I actually worked at

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the Stewart Air Base basically based upon the Y2K

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plans that the state had put in place for possible

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problem based upon computer failure with the change

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of the century. Several districts had been set up

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to help coordinate support to civil authorities.

24

Stewart Air Base was the staging base for supplies,

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2 equipment, personnel going into New York City at
3 that point in time. And since 156 was a Hudson
4 Valley based unit that was the place where I was
5 assigned to go as a liaison officer. I spent about
6 two or three weeks there escorting units into New
7 York City and into Lower Manhattan, Randalls Island
8 was that and then coordinating units were coming in
9 and dropping and helping to track units that were
10 supposed to return back in home station.

11 After the first four days or so
12 it became obvious that there was a limited amount
13 of space and a lot of equipment and was going to be
14 a long-term recovery operation. So, at that point
15 in time units from the 42nd Engineer Brigade that
16 had been staged at -- at Ft. or Camp, sorry, at
17 Stewart Air National Guard Base were actually sent
18 back to their home station and put on a rotation
19 schedule and stayed active duty.

20 Starting in October I was asked
21 to be the officer in charge of the provisional
22 rifle company, security company at La Guardia
23 Airport in Queens, New York. Captain Vincent Hines
24 (phonetic spelling) was asked -- of the 105th

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2 Infantry was asked to be the commander for J.F.K.
3 Airport, also in Queens, New York, as Task Force
4 Empire Shield was stood up. That was federal duty
5 on Title 32 and at the same time the 156 was
6 alerted or wooped across the state to the garden
7 variety of installations at that point in time. A
8 large part of the 156 ended up guarding river
9 crossings between Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan,
10 as well as a very large Con-Edison Plant on the
11 northern part of Queens to the west of Rikers
12 Island.

13 I spent about ten months in
14 command of the security company at La Guardia
15 Airport and then basically started -- basically got
16 asked if I wanted to be on part of the planning
17 staff for Kosovo. I was having difficulty finding
18 a civilian job at that point in time, so I said
19 yes. And from a position -- from the planning
20 position for Kosovo I was then mobilized as the
21 fire support officer for 2nd Battalion 108
22 Infantry. That's the unit I deployed to Iraq with.

23 At this point in time the 156 was
24 also in the process of deactivating, as were the

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2 other units in the 27th Brigade, all of which the
3 2nd and 108th Infantry was one. But as the Army
4 looked at its inventory of available units, even
5 though we didn't have a equipment they're like find
6 what you can find and get to Ft. Drum and start
7 training and deploy. Other units deployed at that
8 point in time. The 1st Battalion 108th Infantry
9 was activated and sent to Coring air bases in the
10 midwest to augment the Air Force guards. The 1st
11 Battalion 258 actually was activated -- partly was
12 activated to provide guards for West Point, United
13 States Military Academy and other units were
14 created -- provision units were created to help
15 augment the U.S. Border Patrol at various crossings
16 to Canada, as well as maintaining anywhere from
17 four hundred to over a thousand soldiers on some
18 sort of state active duty activations in or around
19 Manhattan, as well as at the three nuclear plants
20 in New York State.

21 Is this too much information?

22 BY MR. RUSSERT:

23 Q. No, not at all. Okay. Now --
24 now, you were deployed to Iraq and Kuwait --

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2 A. Yes.

3 Q. -- and --?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Could you tell us what your
6 experience was there?

7 A. We -- as I said, we were actually
8 in the process of -- we had given most of the
9 equipment of the 1st 156th, away after September
10 11th as part of the plan that had been in place
11 under A.D.R.S. for several years. So, our
12 equipment actually went to the 31st Infantry
13 Brigade, Wisconsin Army National Guard. So, when
14 we got the order to activate we literally were
15 pulled in from -- from wherever. This happened in
16 November of 2003. There were no lieutenants at
17 that point in time left in the unit. They all had
18 been transferred out.

19 I actually was working in the G-3
20 shop of the 42nd Infantry Division at Troy at that
21 point in time, but I was yanked back. And we built
22 the Fire support elements with forty-something
23 soldiers, forty-five soldiers initially. We lost a
24 couple people to medical problems and injuries in

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2 training and then we activated in the second week
3 of December 2003 and moved to Ft. Drum. The 2nd
4 108th Infantry had been activated in October. I
5 remember there at Camp Smith Captain Hines was the
6 commander of -- to fill out 2nd 108th Infantry a
7 large portion of the 105th Infantry had been used.
8 105th was also a unit that was slated to be
9 deactivated.

10 Captain Hines who was given
11 command of most of the 105th Infantry units that
12 were in and around New York City, which I believe
13 were B and C Companies, based on Lexington Avenue
14 in Jamaica, Queens, I remember watching him
15 activate his soldiers with great field Camp Smith
16 and thinking wow, good for them. And I'm going to
17 Kosovo because that's where I'm going at this point
18 in time. That obviously didn't happen, so we --
19 like I said, we activated in December. We had a
20 few weeks -- we trained up, had a short break at
21 Christmas and New Years, did a couple more weeks
22 training in January, went to the Joint range
23 Training Center where we were on official
24 activation paperwork and our command and control

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2 was officially through the 30th Brigade North
3 Carolina Army National Guard, which the normal
4 organization, 30th Brigade North Carolina Army
5 National Guard including -- included an armored
6 battalion out of West Virginia and the rest of
7 their unit out of North Carolina. We were attached
8 based upon -- just for mobilization purposes.

9 We deployed in February, because
10 it was February 28th that we flew out of Ft. Drum
11 to Kuwait where we moved to Camp Dore (phonetic
12 spelling). We actually met up with the unit that
13 we were going to go into Iraq and serve in Iraq
14 with, that we were actually attached to. That's
15 the 2nd Brigade, First Infantry -- Infantry
16 Division that was at that point in time based in
17 Schweinfurt West Germany. West was longer
18 accurate.

19 So, when we arrived at Camp Dore
20 we met the 2nd Brigade 1st Infantry Division. We
21 spent approximately twelve to fourteen days there.
22 We crossed the border -- no actually twelve days.
23 We crossed the border into Iraq on the 11th of
24 March and about forty-eight hours later arrived at

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2 our primary base, Fort Operating Base O'Ryan
3 (phonetic spelling). We had -- as part of the
4 process in the planning process, the 2nd Brigade
5 had gone through, they had planned to cross level
6 platoons and even company size elements from our
7 battalion that was not in the brigade and may
8 not -- to other units across the brigade's area.

9 So, from the north the 2nd
10 Brigade was located and had responsibility for
11 Solidan (phonetic spelling) Providence in the Sunni
12 (phonetic spelling) Triangle. Solidan province is
13 the province directly north of Baghdad and borders
14 Attburo (phonetic spelling) on the west and the
15 southwest and then Bakava (phonetic spelling)
16 province in the southeast of the Tigris and then
17 also borders the different Kurdis regions in the
18 north and the east. So, I was in the middle of the
19 Triangle. Somora (phonetic spelling) is the
20 largest city in Solidan province which occurred is
21 the capital of Saddam Hussien's domain and Saddam
22 Hussien Kirki because that's where he was from.

23 So, there were larger palaces and
24 the Solidan Province as well as the home base of at

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2 least one Republican Guards Division. And those
3 guys just went home after the war and we'd fought
4 them for a while. As well as some fairly decent
5 sized chemical weapons and weapons of mass
6 destruction storage -- storage sites.

7 So, we crossed the border,
8 arrived at FOB O'Ryan which was a part of a Iraqi
9 Air Base that was co-named Logistic Support Area
10 Anaconda, which is actually the largest U.S. base
11 in Iraq. The base that we were on, FOB O'Ryan, was
12 a sub installation of Anaconda to make it safer for
13 the aircraft when the base had been built. The
14 ammunition and the fuel storage -- primary fuel
15 storage sites for the -- for the air base were
16 located about ten kilometers to the south and
17 that's where we were. We were at the ammunition
18 storage site living in the -- majority of the
19 soldiers living in the concrete bunkers previously
20 used by the ammunition, the ones that had not been
21 bombed by our forces either in '91 or during Desert
22 Fox.

23 Immediately our Charlie Company,
24 as had been deplanned, in Kuwait, moved north to

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2 forward Operating Base Brasiomoran (phonetic
3 spelling) and went into Somora and they had the
4 most challenging tour of any of our -- any of our
5 units.

6 Q. In what way?

7 A. They had the most contact of
8 anybody. They spent their ten months or so in
9 contact most of the time. An average day based
10 upon what Captain Rodriguez (phonetic spelling),
11 the commander of Charlie Chunwaite (phonetic
12 spelling) has said, average day can include contact
13 five times a day or more. When it came -- U.S.
14 forces were actually in and out of Somora based
15 upon the intensity of the -- the pressure from the
16 various -- various tribal factions in Somora. In
17 July of 2001 -- sorry, July of 2003 -- July of 2004
18 when they actually went back in to Somora in
19 September and October of 2004 Charlie Chunwaite was
20 the main effort for the division going back in.
21 They actually seized the Palisene Hotel and several
22 sites in immediately in the vicinity of the Blue
23 Mosque, which was one of the -- one of the resting
24 place for two of the Mosque that are very important

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2 **if you were a Shite Muslim and the primary**
3 **religious site in Somora.**

4 Q. Now, were religious sites like
5 that off limits for you --

6 A. Yes, they were.

7 Q. -- when you were engagement
8 at --?

9 A. They were very firmly off limits
10 for us.

11 Q. Uh-huh.

12 A. And we actually I think were the
13 1st battalion in the brigade to actually do a raid
14 on a mosque and was very firm that U.S. troops
15 could not do that. What we did was we planned and
16 executed along with a company of the Iraqi National
17 Guard that we had assigned to our operations and we
18 were at -- the town that we actually executed that
19 in was Onderjal (phonetic spelling) where the --
20 Onderjal was a fairly small town and I'll come back
21 to why Onderjal is so important in a few moments.

22 And Onderjal for a fairly small
23 town wasn't seventy thousand people had two
24 different Kurdish communist parties. They -- for a

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2 small town they have two different communist
3 parties of an ethnic group that aren't -- that's
4 not even -- Onderjal was a Shiite Arab town in the
5 middle of the Sunni Arab Triangle and they had two
6 different Kurdish communist parties in a Sunni and
7 Shiite Arab town in the middle of the Sunni
8 Triangle, it gives you an idea of how working the
9 politics were.

10 There were several Shiite
11 religious parties. We had Batter (phonetic
12 spelling) Corps, which is the armed wing of the
13 Tagary (phonetic spelling) Supreme Council for
14 Islamic Revolution in Iraq. We had some Al Qaida
15 operatives that were operating in the town and
16 that's why we raided the mosque, information about
17 Al Qaida operative. As well as just various
18 criminal -- criminal activities and given the
19 proximity to the air base and the proximity to
20 Baghdad former members of the -- high ranking
21 members of the Bath Party. Again, this is Solidan
22 Provence and based upon the tribal network
23 basically that party was part of the large extended
24 tribal network. There were people there who had

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2 been major generals in the Bath Party who had been
3 high ranking officers in the Republican Guards who
4 had been in the Iraqi Secret Police and various
5 forms and guises.

6 So, between criminal elements --
7 criminal regime elements who wanted to get ahead,
8 former regime elements -- elements who want to
9 fight us, former regime elements who were working
10 with criminals and working with us selling us
11 commodities, especially like -- things like gravel.
12 If you're the U.S. military in Iraq and you're
13 pouring a lot of concrete, you need gravel; right?
14 You're not importing gravel, you're getting local,
15 so whoever controls the gravel controls the source
16 of cash.

17 There was a couple of the raids
18 we executed we found drugs and large, you know,
19 footlockers full of Parkinson's disease medication
20 that was apparently being distributed as a cheap
21 drug, both for people who apparently were addicted,
22 as well as because it apparently suppressed fear
23 response it was being given to the people to go
24 make attacks on us. So, a small town, a lot of

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2 **stuff going on.**

3 Q. Uh-huh. Did your unit suffer any
4 casualties?

5 A. We suffered one killed south of
6 **Onderjal, Siglin Fredrick Ogatati (phonetic**
7 **spelling) in October of 2004 and two killed in**
8 **Somora along with numerous other soldiers wounded**
9 **in Somora. The two soldiers killed in Somora, the**
10 **first one was Nathan Brown (phonetic spelling) from**
11 **Glens Falls area who died on Easter of 2004 and**
12 **then -- then Mike Mc Clonnie (phonetic spelling)**
13 **who died in the Tauseng Hotel which I believe was**
14 **objective of Washington in the retaking of Somora.**

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. There were numerous other
17 **soldiers wounded at various points in time. But**
18 **Ogatati was killed, Sergeant Benjamin Owen**
19 **(phonetic spelling) of the 156th was wounded in his**
20 **right arm. As you may have seen the Tom Brokow**
21 **reports --**

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. -- that thing on Sunday night,
24 **that was some of the soldiers from Charlie Company**

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2 who were involved in the fighting of Somora.
3 Nathan Brown was the first soldier to die, as I
4 said, around Easter time in 2004. He was
5 apparently killed instantly by an R.P.G. either
6 near miss or direct hit on his body. He was riding
7 the back of a five-ton truck which was what they
8 had available at that time, was not unusual, that
9 had slab-sided steel on it which is not --.

10 Q. Which is what then?

11 A. It's good enough solution if
12 you're dealing with AK-47 rounds, but if you're
13 dealing with a R.P.G., which is a weapon system
14 assigned to penetrate armor, it's not going to help
15 you with because you won't hear anything like that.

16 My understanding from talking to
17 the platoon leader, who I believe was Lieutenant
18 Zoe (phonetic spelling), a round actually was fired
19 from the upper story building directly into the bed
20 of the five-ton truck, wounded most of the people
21 in the truck, killing Nathan Brown. The soldiers
22 who were able to, even wounded soldiers, began to
23 return fire.

24 And just as an idea of my

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2 **understanding of what the contact Charlie Company**
3 **went through, that platoon had contact two or three**
4 **more times that day. So, it was a much higher**
5 **level of contact than what we were experiencing on**
6 **a normal period in the southern part of Solidan**
7 **Provence where we were stationed, where we had the**
8 **northern most villages, northern most towns of**
9 **Baghdad and the southern most towns of Solidan.**

10 Q. Could I ask -- I was going to ask
11 this later, but you -- you brought it up.

12 Did you watch the Brokow program?

13 **A. I watched most of it. I recorded**
14 **it.**

15 Q. Uh-huh.

16 **A. I think that --.**

17 MR. CLARK: Your opinion of it?

18 **A. I think that was very good.**

19 Q. Uh-huh.

20 **A. I think that my personal**
21 **background, the vast majority of it is active Army**
22 **and you know, I -- my idea in the active Army was**
23 **that we were going to fight. Based upon where my**
24 **first platoon was, our battle position was on, the**

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2 demilitarized zone, was less than four kilometers
3 south of De Mingn (phonetic spelling). and it was
4 like -- De Mingn's over there and I'm facing North
5 Korea. I had very little doubt that we were going
6 to take significant casualties in any sort of
7 opening exchange with North Korea.

8 Q. Uh-huh.

9 A. So, my attitude towards some
10 things, particularly towards casualties, has been
11 confirmed by that experience and by being a 3rd
12 Infantry Division expecting to fight in a chemical
13 environment in the desert outnumbered and defending
14 Kuwait and then attacking into -- into Iraq as well
15 as what we expected to do in 10th Mountain, which
16 was either something along the lines of Haiti or
17 Somalia or Rawanda where we expected to fight. The
18 soldiers who joined the National Guard didn't
19 necessarily expect to fight until after September
20 11th. That said, you cannot say enough about the
21 adaptability, the personal determination and the --
22 the skills that our soldiers brought to the table.
23 2108th can be safely described as a gifted unit in
24 many ways. The skill sets that the soldiers

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2 brought to the table and the adaptability, the
3 civilian experience and maturity that the soldiers
4 brought to the table was exceptional and really
5 made a difference not just in our ability to fight,
6 but in our ability to engage the Iraqi public and
7 our ability to not kill a lot of innocent
8 civilians. It was very frightening, confusing,
9 terrifying environment and the maturity level
10 displayed by our soldiers as well as by the N.C.O.s
11 and junior leaders really made a huge difference.

12 BY MR. CLARK:

13 Q. What did you find to -- to be the
14 greatest threat? Was it from ambushes, roadside
15 bombings or from sniper attacks combinations of the
16 two?

17 A. I -- I would not classify -- I
18 know people use the term sniper, I would not
19 classify anything that I saw in Iraq other than our
20 operations as sniper. The sniper is someone who
21 actually is trained to fire a specialized weapon.
22 I would classify a lot of it as inaccurate rifle
23 fire, you know, as -- as someone who is on drugs or
24 anyone randomly shooting an AK-47 is not a sniper.

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2 **BY MR. RUSSERT:**

3 Q. Okay. Because I -- I did hear on
4 the news, you know, various people that they would
5 profile that were killed, they would say by a
6 sniper fire.

7 A. I understand and that's a very
8 broad term. Again, we did capture Russian sniper
9 rifle, at least one in our area. But as far as
10 accurate precision rifle fire, that was not what we
11 typically encountered. What we typically
12 encountered was spray and pray on the part of the
13 Iraqi's. And I understand that the press uses the
14 term sniper, but I think, you know, just this is
15 important to -- to make that distinction. A
16 soldier like Mike Devonnie who was killed when
17 going to Somora, he had a rifle round that my
18 understanding the AK-47 round penetrated the weak
19 spot in body armor under -- underneath his left
20 armpit immediately destroying his heart and both
21 his lungs. You know, that was part of a six-hour
22 fire fight with automatic weapons with the support
23 of attack helicopters, you know, a company sized
24 fire fight for six hours. I'm sure that somebody

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2 could call it sniper fire, but it was a lot of
3 exchange of a lot of rounds.

4 And just again, going back to
5 the -- the -- the soldiers, the 218 I think it says
6 a great deal that a active Army division selected a
7 National Guard company to be the main effort for
8 the largest operation that unit had done since the
9 actual breach into -- into Iraq in 1991. The
10 retaking of Somora was the largest operation that
11 2nd -- that 1st Infantry Division had conducted in
12 about fifteen years, and certainly one of the most
13 important that was conducted during the time in
14 Iraq and that Charlie Chuna Lai was selected to be
15 the main effort for that says a great deal about
16 the skill that the soldiers brought, the
17 determination the soldiers brought to the table.

18 Q. How did you -- you know, it was
19 on the news quite a bit on -- about the body armor
20 and the armor on -- on the vehicles.

21 A. The body armor I thought was --
22 was very good. The -- the body armor was much
23 better than what I had when I was -- most of the
24 time I was on active duty. When I was in Korea we

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2 had the ranger body armor, which was a very heavy
3 plate front and back, virtually no neck protection
4 and certainly nothing on the sides. And so that's
5 what I had when I was in the 2nd Infantry Division.
6 When I was in 10th Mountain Division we commonly
7 trained -- excuse me, in the older Keflar vest that
8 provided better all -- all around protection, but
9 did not provide the same sort of chest protection
10 against -- against a round.

11 Q. Uh-huh.

12 A. It provided neck and protection
13 against, you know, shrapnel. The interceptor body
14 armor that we were issued before going into Iraq
15 had, you know, chest protector as well as the --
16 the plate in back that provided protection of up to
17 seven point six two bold and had, you know, a neck
18 collar, a throat piece you could wear, most
19 soldiers do not wear that, as well as a -- a flap
20 of protective loin. The weakness was obviously on
21 the sides, but I would rate the body armor superior
22 to anything that I had been issued by the Army up
23 to that point in time.

24 And as we were there these

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2 soldiers were issued more body armor to improve
3 even more, particularly our most vulnerable
4 soldiers, which were the gunners on the vehicles,
5 were issued additional Keflar pads for their arms
6 which did restrict their movement and were hotter,
7 but provided significantly more -- a great deal
8 more protection for their arms as well as the
9 gunners target they were issued steel purposely
10 manufactured steel plates to protect their sides as
11 well as wore gun shields to protect them on their
12 front. And there were pads that became available
13 on a limited basis to help protect the vulnerable
14 spot here.

15 If I could discuss -- I'd like --
16 Onderjal and threat levels after this question.

17 Q. So -- so actually your unit
18 didn't experience a lot of the equipment shortages
19 that --?

20 A. That is not true because I'm just
21 talking about body armor right now. Personally I
22 crossed the border into -- from Kuwait into Iraq in
23 the same Humvee that we had brought from -- they
24 had gone through all of our stuff at the National

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Guard, so you can maintain yourself, all the way through G.R.T.C. and everything else like that. We had vinyl doors and a plywood build up on the back of my truck with sand bags.

BY MR. RUSSERT:

Q. I was going to ask then about the vehicle armor and that was --?

A. That was nickel chrome and that was part of the problem also that was brought out with the -- Nathan Brown where again the slab side of steel on the five-ton were, you know, this -- I did not personally ever see this five-ton that Nathan Brown died in, I saw other vehicles that were similarly armored. I'd like everybody to understand I never saw that vehicle that Nathan Brown was killed in. Five-tons that I rode in that we had at a different location, the armor was generally less than the width of my thumb. Okay. Which again provides significant protection against an AK-47 round, all ammunition, but is not going to provide you with protection against something larger.

Q. Like a fifty caliber would

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2 penetrate that?

3 A. Well, a seven six two round from
4 machine gun might penetrate that and depending upon
5 the ubiquity. Part of the problem too is a
6 roadside bomb, if you're talking a flat surface, it
7 is that the armor won't just be overwhelmed by the
8 blast, it is that the armor will potentially become
9 spar1 itself, but that if you were in a five-ton
10 vehicle which is to start off with, you know, chest
11 high off the ground is where the crew compartment
12 is, you're going to have some blast effect coming
13 up underneath the floorboards and -- and like that.
14 So, it's difficult to do something in the five-ton
15 to make it a safe vehicle for soldiers.

16 And it's not the war we expected
17 to fight by any stretch of the imagination. Even
18 when the 10th Mountain was in Haiti and Somalia it
19 was, you know, take the vinyl doors off so you can
20 get up quick and you know, riding around with the
21 wooden seats in the back facing outward. That was
22 really what the 10th Mountain fought with in
23 Somalia and what they fought with in Haiti and they
24 had -- you know, if we have contact in Haiti, then

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2 **what we fully expected to utilize if we had gone to**
3 **Rawanda. The up armored Humvees really didn't come**
4 **into the inventory until after Somalia and then**
5 **only limited issue items, what they called theater**
6 **provided items for people who deployed to Bosnia to**
7 **protect against mines and the like.**

8 Q. Now, initially you -- you
9 referred to the first planning you talked about
10 five hundred thousand going into --

11 **A. I think --.**

12 Q. -- Iraq. Do you think that the
13 problem was that we didn't send enough troops in
14 initially?

15 **A. I think that it's better not to**
16 **talk to me.**

17 Q. Okay.

18 **A. You -- you did say the**
19 **intelligent thing to do would be to go and look at**
20 **the statements that have been made by General Zini**
21 **(phonetic spelling) and other people who were**
22 **intimate with the planning. I was aware of Desert**
23 **Crossing --**

24 Q. Uh-huh.

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2 A. -- which was the plan.

3 Q. Right.

4 A. And you know, I guess five, ten
5 years from now can all come down and sit down and
6 talk about it, but I think the intelligent thing
7 would be to look at the SETCOM commander at the
8 time of Desert Fox, the person who had a great deal
9 of influence on the writing and preparation of
10 Desert Crossing was Marine Corps General Zini,
11 Anthony Zini. And he has made some statements
12 about that and some other people have made some
13 professional statements about that, not political
14 statements about that. Because ultimately we're
15 going to have to sit down and talk about what we've
16 done in Iraq and how it affects the other -- other
17 countries in the Middle East and how we have
18 potentially advanced our own national interests or
19 not.

20 At this point in time the
21 counting of the December 14th ballot in Iraq is
22 going on and while the main Shiite religious
23 parties now call themselves United Iraqi Alliance.
24 It is still scary as the primary party, Supreme

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2 Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq that is
3 headed by a group of Ayatollah's (phonetic
4 spelling), so we're going to have to -- to think
5 about okay, how do we interact with a potentially
6 majority religious -- Shiite religious government
7 in Iraq, okay, and how do we help protect our
8 interests and the interest of United Iraq in that
9 environment, especially because one of the
10 platforms that's scary is to hold onto their
11 personal worship and they have worked very hard to
12 infiltrate the Iraqi security forces with members
13 of Bathe reporter.

14 Q. Were you -- did you have much
15 contact with the employees of Halliburton (phonetic
16 spelling) that were security people there in
17 the --?

18 A. Halliburton rules and the rules
19 that the U.S. Army had were very, very strict. I
20 actually did have some interaction with some
21 Halliburton employees. One of them actually had
22 been one of my instructors when I was at the
23 R.O.T.C. unit at Rochester in the Institute of
24 Technology. He was a Special Forces sergeant major

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2 and they were very strictly not allowed to have
3 weapons under any circumstances. So, when you had
4 the security personnel for Halliburton were not
5 armed, okay, and were interacting with us and
6 making sure that, you know, this -- they were
7 concerned about their employees obviously, but they
8 were not armed. They -- they did not want to be
9 armed. They understood their role and they
10 understood that they -- they could not be. There
11 were other personnel not part of Halliburton or
12 Kelvin, Brock&Root who were paid security --

13 Q. Uh-huh.

14 A. -- carrying weapons. We
15 interacted on a couple of occasions with the
16 Bechtel Corporation that was building a water
17 treatment plant in Onderjal and was one of the
18 first water treatment plants that they were
19 building outside of Baghdad Providence. It was
20 actually a fairly large project. They had a number
21 of paid security personnel working for them, the
22 majority of whom were former British military. So,
23 there were those personnel, but did not have
24 interaction -- you know, Halliburton, just to be

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2 **clear, didn't have one pro-sem-anon.**

3 **BY MR. CLARK:**

4 Q. Uh-huh. Okay. But how do you
5 feel about these armed security personnel that were
6 there?

7 A. They were highly professional,
8 the ones that we dealt with. They were -- they
9 were effective, their job was to protect their
10 principle. I know there's been a number of things
11 out there about whatever they've done. The -- my
12 limited experience, they were professional, they
13 were there to protect their principle, they got in,
14 they got out, that was it.

15 **BY MR. RUSSERT:**

16 Q. Okay. All right. I guess is
17 there anything else you want to talk about, what
18 your experience has been?

19 A. Probably I guess two things, that
20 again we were talking about protection in vehicles,
21 over time our vehicle situation got much better in
22 that I don't think that -- while I understand it's
23 very painful for the family members of the soldiers
24 who were wounded, it certainly was not the greatest

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2 thing in the world, that we had to fight with what
3 we had and that as the equipment situation improved
4 it was improved across the board. So, the main
5 effort for the division was Somora. The 1st
6 Battalion 26th Infantry of which Charlie Company
7 2108 was attached, so you know, naturally with the
8 highest amount of contact, the highest amount of
9 risk they received a slightly larger amount of
10 equipment than anyone else. So, I think that makes
11 sense as you look at the threat level.

12 We eventually did get to the
13 point where we were fully traveling in armored
14 vehicles that were either add-on armored kits or
15 were purpose built armored Humvees and the like.
16 There were a couple of vehicles that we had that
17 were only being used to transport supplies
18 primarily back and forth between Anaconda and
19 O'Ryan that still had the homemade steel on them,
20 not homemade steel, but steel welded onto the
21 vehicles. But by the time we left Iraq we had --
22 our -- our armor situation had greatly improved.

23 You'd asked about the threat
24 level and different kinds of threats. I think

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2 trying to describe the threat level in Iraq is very
3 difficult because it varies a great deal in the
4 area that you're in. For us in our area we only
5 had company size contact, direct fire contact
6 during the Easter weekend period where it appeared
7 that -- that elements were attempting to transit
8 our area since we were directly north of Fallujah
9 up by Iraq and Baghdad attempting to transfer our
10 area to go into Fallujah. Other than that the
11 majority of the contact in our area was Delta
12 Company had in the southern part of -- of our A.O.
13 on the main highway from Baghdad to Mosel, It was
14 mostly direct fire contact, the vast majority at
15 night, and a typical fire fight lasted less than --
16 my understanding, lasted less than fifteen minutes.

17 The tactics shifted to more
18 I.E.D.'s. The -- again the maturity and attention
19 to detail on the part of the Delta Company soldiers
20 really saved themselves a great deal -- saved their
21 lives where -- to -- to the point where they
22 actually recognized when rocks were out of place or
23 things of that nature. So, I would look at the
24 transition from direct fire contact to I.E.D.'s as

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2 being success for Delta Company's engagements with
3 the enemy. The enemy made a survivability choice
4 because we were killing more of them than they
5 wanted to have killed.

6 In the northern part of our area
7 of operations B Company spent a great deal of our
8 time just south of the -- which is the support area
9 in Anaconda focused on counter and border
10 operations. Airfield Anaconda was a major supply
11 hub. It was home of the F-16 wing that was
12 operating in Iraq, home of a -- again, the largest
13 U.S. base in Iraq and very important especially for
14 fuel transit and distribution of supplies. It was
15 being mortared routinely. The majority of the
16 rounds were coming in from the north on both sides
17 of the -- of the river in the area of Task Force
18 Tacoma and Task Force 77th Armored.

19 So, if you were in Anaconda the
20 primary threat was mortar or rocket rounds. If you
21 were out on M.S.R. Tampa the primary threat
22 initially was direct fire engagements and I.E.D.'s
23 and then shifted to I.E.D.'s. If you were in
24 Somora where Charlie Company was it varied with --

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2 between direct fire engagements, small bombs, large
3 bombs, mortar attacks and suicide car bombs. I
4 personally was only suicide car bombed once and
5 there was another suicide car bomb in Onderjal
6 against the city -- against the C.S.C. council
7 building and there were several -- I believe two
8 against the northern gate of Logistics Support Area
9 Anaconda.

10 Of those five attacks that I'm
11 talking about, two of them were focused against the
12 Iraqi's -- sorry, three of them were focused
13 against the Iraqi's and two at Logistics Support
14 Area Anaconda were -- were during the shift change
15 times when Iraqi civilians were working on the base
16 were leaving the north gate. And the -- it appears
17 that the intent was to intimidate Iraqi citizens
18 and prevent them from interacting with the
19 Americans.

20 The one against the city -- city
21 council building in -- in Onderjal was obviously
22 against interactions with the Iraqi government.
23 The one that I personally was involved in with
24 Delta Company, that was where Delta Company

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2 successfully intercepted a car bomb that appeared
3 to be headed towards Baghdad and were either the
4 weapons fire from Delta Company or the suicide car
5 bombers body was just going to initiate it good
6 enough, cause that weapon to explode -- the suicide
7 car bomb to explode before it was able to hit its
8 intended target. So, of those, the majority
9 were -- appeared to be against Iraqi's.

10 Q. So, that last one you're talking
11 about there weren't any casualties outside of the
12 bomber?

13 A. They had -- the bomber was the
14 only casualty. We found sizzling chunks of him on
15 everybody's truck, but nobody was hurt. We -- we
16 had stopped and the first vehicle was trying to
17 dismount to -- to flag the guy down. I was in the
18 second vehicle. The first vehicle was also a
19 hundred meters away from the car bomb when it went
20 off. They were engaging since -- they were
21 engaging. I actually was on the driver's side of
22 the vehicle. I was watching my lane. I had a
23 clear shot and I was watching my lane because they
24 were engaging the target. The amount of time it

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2 took me to -- to look at the car bomb, see where
3 they're engaging and then focus on my lane, the
4 round went off, the artillery rounds that were in
5 the suicide car bomb went off. And it wasn't like
6 I heard shrapnel whizzing or anything like that or
7 even that I really remember the sound too much,
8 it's just the fire ball and there's stuff
9 everywhere and nobody's hurt. That's a win.

10 The importance of Onderjal if I
11 can just say in closing, and I had mentioned
12 Captain Vincent Hines previously and some of the
13 skill sets that -- that the -- the National Guard
14 brought to the table. The skill sets that were --.

15 Q. Excuse me. Was he a -- a guard?

16 A. He was a guardsman with the 105th
17 Infantry. When -- when we mobilized to fill out
18 the 108th Bravo Charlie, 105th Infantry we
19 consolidated with the 108th and then deployed.
20 Captain Hines had primary responsibility for the
21 town of Onderjal. In 1982 there was a botched
22 assassination attempt by citizens in Onderjal
23 against Saddam Hussien. Again Onderjal was a
24 predominately Shiite town in the middle of the

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2 **Sunni Triangle. Retribution was pretty swift and**
3 **pretty horrific. The current war crimes trial,**
4 **crimes against humanity trial that was going on**
5 **against Saddam Hussien and so the senior leaders**
6 **Hussien, his half brother, was based upon the**
7 **actions of A Company gathering statements and**
8 **building that case against Saddam Hussien.**

9 The A Company commander, Captain
10 **Vincent Hines, is an assistant district attorney in**
11 **Manhattan. Most of his senior leaders are either**
12 **state troopers or law enforcement officers in New**
13 **York City, cops. So, you basically had a group, a**
14 **D.A. and a bunch of cops who spent almost a year**
15 **fighting the enemy and building a case against**
16 **Saddam Hussien that's being tried right now. So,**
17 **when you look at the contribution of the 2108th**
18 **Infantry and the soldiers in the New York Army**
19 **National Guard to what happened in the Solidan**
20 **Provence right there, again, on the tactical side**
21 **Charlie Company and 2108th was the main effort to**
22 **go into Somora. And Alpha Company, the skill sets**
23 **they brought to the table is going to have a**
24 **lasting effect on the future of Iraq just based**

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2 **upon the war crimes trial of Saddam Hussien.**

3 Q. Okay. You answered a question.

4 I was going to ask you why he was the right guy in
5 the right place. You -- you answered that.

6 One other thing you mentioned is
7 that you said you had no injuries other than from
8 the normal illnesses due to eating local food.

9 A. We --.

10 Q. Was that in Iraq or --?

11 A. My -- my fire support --

12 **assistant fire support officer, Tom Woods (phonetic**
13 **spelling), had volunteered to clothe us. He was**
14 **actually from the 258th Artillery, which is now the**
15 **last artillery unit left in New York. He actually**
16 **was on Cipro about five different times just from**
17 **local illnesses, from, you know, having a social**
18 **engagement with the Iraqi's, shared food.**
19 **Personally I was on Cipro I guess like two or three**
20 **times from the same sort of thing.**

21 Q. What type of food --?

22 A. You were okay as long as you
23 avoided any of their sort of meat products. One of
24 the civil action projects that -- that Tom actually

1

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2 spearheaded along with A Company was cleaning up
3 the local slaughter house. You know, without
4 electricity, without running water it's really
5 difficult to keep anything clean. And if you're
6 there killing animals in an unsanitary environment,
7 slaughtering animals in an unsanitary environment
8 and cutting and trimming that into a meat product
9 for somebody's home, that has a huge potential to
10 go wrong.

11

We actually had a -- one of the
12 last social functions we had with the Iraqi's was
13 in the city council building after it had been car
14 bombed. You know, we were walking around this
15 crunching glass in the floor and there was a series
16 of tables set up on the first floor and the food
17 was laid out. And of course the outrageous price
18 of we paid and it was lamb and various pickled
19 vegetables. And it was just covered with flat
20 bread and you know, flies and whatever else and
21 there was no refrigeration, it was out for over an
22 hour. I don't know how long it had been before --
23 where it had been stored before, wherever else, so,
24 you know, the bright idea stay with the pickled

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2 vegetables and avoid meat products and you'll be
3 just fine.

4 Q. Okay. When did you leave Iraq?

5 A. I flew out of Iraq on the 23rd of
6 December 2004. And we first landed in Frankfurt
7 West Germany to refuel and then we landed again to
8 refuel in Bangor Maine just after -- actually the
9 30th -- we actually arrived just after midnight on
10 the 1st of January 2005 at Bangor Maine. We were
11 greeted by the Adjunct General of the state of
12 Maine along with a number of veterans, local
13 veterans as part of the local welcoming Committee
14 and that was really just a local thing for them.
15 Then we arrived at Ft. Drum New York. We spent
16 about two weeks, ten days, at Ft. Drum New York and
17 then we were released back to our home station in
18 early --.

19 Q. What is your present assignment?

20 A. I am presently the Marginal
21 Coordination Officer for the state of New York and
22 working the Joint Operations Shop for the State
23 Military Headquarters and I'm also the Operations
24 Officer for the 1st Battalion 258th Artillery.

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2 **The -- the -- as I had said earlier, there was a**
3 **reorganization of New York Army National Guard that**
4 **had been planned before 9/11. Since the**
5 **mobilizations had been happening there is another**
6 **reorganization that's going to cross the entire**
7 **Army National Guard and part of my job is actually**
8 **to coordinate and -- and to ensure that stays on**
9 **track so we can produce combat forces as part of**
10 **the ongoing local Militari.**

11 **BY MR. RUSSERT:**

12 Q. Okay. All right. Well, thank
13 you very much. Did you have any photographs or
14 anything that you would --?

15 A. I actually -- I've got some of my
16 **fund drive, but not too many.**

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. I forgot to bring my camera. I
19 **apologize.**

20 Q. Okay. Well, thank you very much
21 for the interview.

22 A. **Thank you.**

23 Q. I know we were talking about that

24 A. **Well, and this --.**

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2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Thank you gentlemen just for
4 allowing me one last chance to say something. And
5 it's just I guess two things I'd like to say in
6 closing again is that the -- the -- the
7 adaptability of the soldiers, there can't be enough
8 said about that, both in what they are able to do
9 to make the scope of this war a safer, more
10 effective location. The -- the skill sets the
11 soldiers brought to the table, especially when you
12 have law enforcement officers who had a -- had the
13 right skill set to go out and conduct
14 investigations which is what -- a lot of what they
15 did amounted to, to find and identify what was
16 going on and identify any personnel.

17 And the other piece I just want
18 to bring up was that people have asked repeatedly
19 what Iraq was like and -- and I would just like to
20 say on -- on my behalf that -- that part of my
21 professional military experience involved Iraq and
22 officers from different militaries. Whether that's
23 Filipino officers, Brazilian, Israeli, Egyptian,
24 and Iraq is a lot like a number of other places.

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2 It just makes the news well. And it also just like
3 car bombing, terrorism and the rest.

4 For example, I was -- I spent
5 almost a year in school with a Brazilian officer
6 from Oklahoma and he had a -- a certain level of
7 possible contact with the federal gangs in Rio de
8 Janeiro. He had also had contact -- heavy contact
9 with large bands of well trained gorillas along the
10 border that Brazil has with Venezuela and Columbia
11 and professionally been involved with Venezuelan
12 officers who would operate along the -- again in
13 the jungle along the border with Columbia,
14 Venezuela and Brazil who actually encountered
15 better -- gorillas that were better equipped and
16 actually had armored vehicles -- light armored
17 vehicles and had heavier weapons than the
18 Venezuelan Army.

19 So, when people ask what Iraq is
20 like I would tell you it's like Rio de Janeiro when
21 you get outside the tourist areas. It's like parts
22 of Johannesburg South Africa, it's like parts of a
23 number of areas if you take a wrong turn down a
24 wrong street. And I would just like to be clear

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2 about that.

3 Q. Uh-huh.

4 A. And also just I discussed that in
5 the last team of our soldiers and myself had gotten
6 sick at different points and just based upon my own
7 family's experiences, that it's -- that some of the
8 sanitary practices I don't think should be chalked
9 up to these -- those people or anything else like
10 that, that it's not unlike around the '50s or '60s.
11 It's not unlike parts of Bosnia and Kosovo today if
12 you talk to American soldiers serving in those
13 locations. So, when we talk about Iraq I would
14 hope that people would understand that there are
15 certainly things about Iraq that are uniquely
16 Iraqi, but that the violence level, some of the
17 sanitary problems that you're encountering, some of
18 the corruption problems that they're encountering
19 and that we are encountering with them, are not in
20 no way unique to people who are Muslim and Arab.
21 I'd just like to make sure that -- that I said
22 that.

23 Thank you, gentlemen.

24 BY MR. RUSSERT:

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2 Q. Okay. Thank you. I'm -- I'm
3 going to ask one last --.

4 **A. Okay.**

5 Q. How do you think your time --
6 you're still in the service, but how do you think
7 it's influenced your life?

8 **A. I haven't lived in one place for**
9 **more than eighteen months since Camp Stanley Korea,**
10 **that there's a lot of moving, especially when I was**
11 **on active duty where we -- in the 10th Mountain**
12 **Division, 3rd Infantry Division, while we were gone**
13 **usually for training about anywhere from fifty to**
14 **sixty percent of the year. So, it's certainly made**
15 **me a vagabond of some sorts. It's expanded my**
16 **world view in many ways the -- in the interactions**
17 **I've had with other officers, the travel I've done,**
18 **you know, both personal, pleasure, professional**
19 **travel and then, you know, actual military**
20 **engagements has certainly expanded my world view.**

21 **And again I'd just like to stress**
22 **that some of the things that are being encountered**
23 **in Iraq are not necessarily unique to people in**
24 **Iraq because they're Muslim or Arab, that a lot of**

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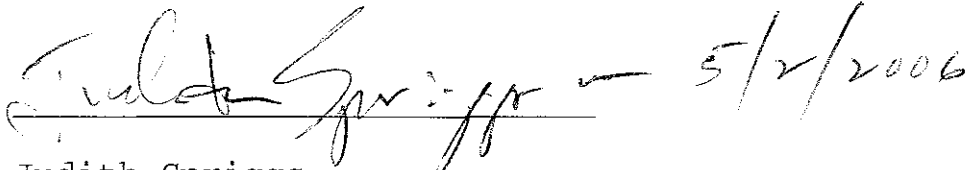
these things are being overcome and can be overcome, but that -- that we should be very cautious about letting people off because they're from a certain part of the world or because we judge things to be too hard.

MR. RUSSERT: Okay. Well, thank you very much.

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This is a transcription of the audio provided to us. It is completed to the best of our skill and ability. The transcript consists of pages 1 through 57 inclusive.

 Judith Spriggs

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