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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW OF DIANE OWSLEY

3

4 February 13, 2004

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1 Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2 MR. OSTREGO: Good afternoon. My  
3 name is Carl Ostrego. I am with Mr. Gary Ford.  
4 Today is February 13th, 2004. We are interviewing  
5 Specialist Owsley. She served in Desert Storm and  
6 is currently serving in Operation in Afghanistan.

7 Could you state your full name,  
8 date, and place of birth please for the camera?

9 A. My name is Specialist Diane Marie  
10 Owsley. I was born in Rome, New York.

11 Q. What branch of armed forces did  
12 you serve?

13 A. I was on active duty during  
14 Desert Storm. And then I went into the -- what  
15 they call the IRR, which is Individual Running  
16 Reserve. Then I went through two -- a running  
17 reserves, which is active reservist.

18 Q. What is your current rank?

19 A. I'm a specialist which is an  
20 E-four.

21 Q. How long was basic training?

22 A. Basic training was eight weeks.

23 Q. Did you feel your training  
24 prepared you well for the Desert -- for Desert

1 Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2 Storm and in Afghanistan?

3 A. No. I don't think even our  
4 training that we had during basic prepares you for  
5 any -- much of anything to be honest with you.

6 Q. What -- what would you need that  
7 you didn't get?

8 A. We would -- when you -- when we  
9 do weapons qualifications especially, you're laying  
10 in a prone position. You have a prone supported  
11 and prone unsupported.

12 Reality is, if someone's firing  
13 at you, you are most likely not going to be laying  
14 on the ground, you're going to be running. You're  
15 going to be up on a wall. You're going to be  
16 hiding behind a building.

17 So, the training as far as the  
18 weapons qualification is not realistic to what you  
19 will actually face. And that I experience -- when  
20 we have had a -- we get bombed regularly. When the  
21 alarms go off, we go to fighting position which is  
22 on a wall. They don't -- there is no training for  
23 anything like that -- you are standing at a wall.

24 Also, most of the bombings occur

1                                   Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2       at night. There is very little training as far as  
3       how actually you fire your weapon at night. During  
4       basic training they use something called tracer  
5       rounds. Well, we don't have tracer rounds. We  
6       fire when you have to.

7                                   Two weapons I have is a nine  
8       millimeter and an M-16. We fire as many rounds at  
9       night that we fire during the day. There are no  
10      tracers.

11                                  MR. FORD: And why did you join  
12      the army instead of any other branch?

13                                  A. I always wanted to be in the  
14      military ever since I was in high school. It was  
15      something I always wanted to do, but I opted to get  
16      married and have children and felt it was important  
17      to us, to raise my children. And as they got older  
18      and got school aged, I became an age where I had to  
19      make a choice that I was getting too old and I  
20      decided to join the army.

21                                  Also, to be honest, in Rome  
22      there's not a lot of job opportunities. And for  
23      me, I felt like I would get good training -- get  
24      paid while I was being trained and do something

1                   Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2           that was important to me.

3                   Q.   What were your general duties at  
4   Desert Storm?

5                   A.   During Desert Storm I was the  
6   food inspector.  And my main function in life was  
7   to make sure that the commissary which is -- is a  
8   grocery store for military personnel.

9                           I inspected the slaughtering --  
10   not the slaughtering but basically the cutting of  
11   the meat.  I ensured that the temperatures were  
12   correct, the freezers -- there wasn't growing  
13   infestation in the building and none in the  
14   warehouses.

15                           I inspected something called pit  
16   trap, which is a dry storage where they keep the  
17   boxes of the food before they come from the store  
18   where they sit in the warehouse for awhile.  And we  
19   inspect those to make sure that there was not a lot  
20   of mold or infestation, mainly rats infestation.

21                   Q.   And what were your duties in  
22   Afghanistan?

23                   A.   In Afghanistan I worked in  
24   several different areas.  My primary job there was

1 Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2 to work what was called the Jay-1. Normally that  
3 is the S-1, which is basically your clerical  
4 person. I became J-1 because I worked through the  
5 joint staff as opposed to -- S-1 is just the  
6 regular staff. I worked for the joint -- joint  
7 operations that are over there. When I say joint  
8 operations, there's several different countries,  
9 and several different branches of the military  
10 which are all involved in the campaign that we're  
11 in.

12 And seek and -- which is what I'm  
13 under is combined with special operations  
14 taskforce. So I became J-1.

15 My primary duties were I  
16 processed awards. I processed soldiers that were  
17 coming in and I processed soldiers that are going  
18 out.

19 At one point I was transferred  
20 over to work with FAFF which is single -- single  
21 operations command because my MOS was actually  
22 Civil Affairs Officers.

23 Q. MOS means?

24 A. MOS is your job title when

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Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

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your -- your principals -- principal of a school.

3

Our MOS is -- is a three-digit number they give you

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which assigns you to a specific specialty. My

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specialty at this moment, what I am right now is

6

called the Civil Affairs Specialist. I was very

7

fortunate to have an opportunity to leave the J-1

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and go out with the CAPOC which is -- their mission

9

is to win the hearts and minds and that's

10

literally -- you'll hear that on TV That's what

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their mission is. To win the hearts and minds of

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the people in Afghanistan.

13

Civil Affairs comes in behind

14

them or with them to say now that we've gotten rid

15

of the bad guys, how can we help you? What do you

16

need?

17

Typically it would be, we need a

18

school. We need our streets paved. There is no

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paved roads there. Just dirt roads.

20

MR. OSTREGO: How did you do

21

that?

22

A. Our function is to go in and try

23

to make it better -- a better life, a better

24

quality of life.

1 Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2 Q. How do you win their trust?

3 Historically, outsiders have always been the bad  
4 guy.

5 A. Well what we usually -- we will  
6 entrust the Afghanistan people is we do not manage  
7 them. We can win -- we can say is let's rid of the  
8 bad guys, the bad guys are Taliban and Al-Quaid.

9 A. We can get rid of them or we can  
10 scare them away. But we can not stay as a  
11 presence -- a strong presence and let them know  
12 that we are not going to let anything happen to the  
13 Afghanistan people the minute we leave. We will be  
14 right back where we started.

15 And that's what -- Afghanistan  
16 people were first -- the Russians came in and took  
17 over and killed millions of people there. And then  
18 the United States decided to help the Taliban.  
19 We -- we helped them to get the Russians out of  
20 power. And now we're getting the Taliban and  
21 Al-Quaida out of power.

22 MR. FORD: When were you assigned  
23 to go to Afganistand?

24 A. The first -- well, I was

1                   Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004  
2    deployed, my unit was deployed several months  
3    before me. I went as it what they call individual  
4    R and D meaning they needed a person for a job and  
5    I had skill and won it so they pulled me from my  
6    unit and sent me away with another unit of people  
7    who I had no knowledge -- never met before. Met  
8    them at Fort Bragg.

9                   Q. And your original unit was the  
10   J-1?

11                  A. My original unit is the four  
12   fourteenth civil affairs, which is -- Utica, New  
13   York.

14                  MR. OSTREGO: What was daily life  
15   like there?

16                  MS. OWSLEY: Daily life in  
17   country is nonetheless very dirty and the sand is  
18   not like when you think of sand like going to  
19   Florida to the beach. It is dust. It is like a  
20   Talcome powder and it covers everything. During  
21   the summer months you -- you can not keep anything  
22   clean. You -- you don't realize how dirty you are  
23   until you leave the country and go somewhere else  
24   and wash your clothes and realize how imbedded

1 Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2 the -- the dust gets into everything you have.

3 And it -- actually I noticed,  
4 when I was in Germany, I kept smelling an odor,  
5 wondering what it was. Finally realized it was me.  
6 Opening my -- my wall locker, I said oh, that  
7 smell -- that smell the last few days it's me.

8 It -- you get their smell just from the dust and  
9 the dirt that's there. I guess it imbeds in you.

10 MR. OSTREGO: What does it do to  
11 your weapon?

12 MS. OWSLEY: It makes your weapon  
13 very, very difficult to keep clean. We have to  
14 very regularly take everything apart and clean it  
15 because the dust gets into your firing pin. If  
16 your firing pin doesn't work, you're in trouble.

17 MS. FORD: You cleaned your  
18 weapons. So, how would you compare American  
19 weapons to that of the Iraqis or the Afghans?

20 MS. OWSLEY: Unfortunately, a lot  
21 of the weaponry they have, it was weapons that they  
22 obtained from the United States through other  
23 factions that black market purchasing.

24 The -- a lot of the Afghanistan

1 Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2 people carry very, very old weapons, Russian  
3 weapons that they -- that are left over from when  
4 the Russians occupied their country.

5 They have cache what they call  
6 cache that they've stockpiled in the caves and  
7 different areas, mainly in caves where they  
8 stockpile all these Russian weapons which we -- one  
9 of our goals is to confiscate any of those that we  
10 find.

11 MR. OSTREGO: We often read about  
12 these rocket propelled grenades that seem to be  
13 their number one choice against our vehicles,  
14 against our helicopters. Could you explain how  
15 they work?

16 MS. OWSLEY: They're called  
17 RPG's. And thank God they don't have the  
18 technology to accurately use them or you would be  
19 seeing maybe more deaths from Iraqi soldiers.

20 They pretty much set them on a mountain, they  
21 point them in the general direction of the base or  
22 where they think people are and they send them off.  
23 They don't know how to accurately adjust them the  
24 way our soldiers know how to use them. So, we are

1 Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2 very fortunate that they have not perfected that  
3 technology. They're getting better -- they're  
4 getting much better at it.

5 MR. OSTREGO: In your transcript,  
6 it says you were assigned to the 304th. Could you  
7 explain exactly what the 304th is?

8 MS. OWSLEY: Psychological  
9 Operations and their function is as I said earlier,  
10 to win the hearts and minds. The way they do that  
11 is by pamphlets. They drop pamphlets out in the  
12 city. We literally drive in trucks and throw  
13 pamphlets out. They do air drops where they just  
14 load airplanes and they just fly over areas and  
15 just drop pamphlets.

16 They actually will have matches  
17 with pictures of the bad guys, offering rewards.  
18 We give those out. Pencils, they have a message,  
19 help the Americans.

20 MR. OSTREGO: Which seem to work  
21 best?

22 MS. OWSLEY: The pamphlets -- so  
23 much of the population can not read. The other  
24 thing that we also have are trucks with big

1                   Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004  
2 speakers on them. And we'll drive through the  
3 cities and we'll say, "We're here to rid the city  
4 Taliban and Al-Quaida and if you know where they  
5 are, if you would come to us, we will offer you a  
6 reward. We will protect you and we will take the  
7 bad guys away." And people do come forward. There  
8 are large rewards offered.

9                   MR. FORD: What were your  
10 Officers like?

11                   MS. OWSLEY: The officer's that I  
12 worked with in psychological operations were a  
13 great people. They become -- they become a little  
14 numb. I think a lot of people over there can  
15 become a little bit numb and you get to a point  
16 where, I think jaded is a good word. You begin to  
17 forget that not everyone there is trying to kill  
18 you. At some points it's -- it's hard -- especially  
19 people who spend way -- way too much time there,  
20 they -- they become very jaded. And everyone was  
21 Taliban and everyone is Al-Quaida, everyone is --  
22 is intention threat. And -- and they are.

23                   You can't tell the difference.  
24 You can't walk down the street and say that's

1 Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2 Taliban and that's -- that's a regular Afghanistan  
3 citizen. They blend in very well with the  
4 population.

5 MR. OSTREGO: Did you ever see  
6 any captured Taliban or Al-Quaida?

7 MS. OWSLEY: I saw three Taliban  
8 that were captured. I did not see them captured  
9 but I saw them after they were captured. And  
10 basically it's like you see on television when they  
11 put the bag over their head so they can't see  
12 where -- where they're at. We -- we don't want  
13 them to know where they're at. We don't want them  
14 to know how to get to where they're at.

15 They are surviving, we have a special prison and  
16 I -- I also should mention that I'm on Special  
17 Forces Compound. Special forces are the ones that  
18 go out and they hunt them down. And raid people's  
19 home that they hear were that they're at, Taliban  
20 or Al-quaida hanging in the certain areas. Special  
21 Forces are the guys that go off and hunt them down.

22 MR. OSTREGO: Did you see of any  
23 decorations, medals or accommodations?

24 MS. OWSLEY: I saw many --

1 Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2 many -- because that's where I processed -- I must  
3 have processed over five hundred awards for  
4 soldiers who were there ranging from Army  
5 accommodation medals to Purple Hearts. And the  
6 Purple Hearts are the ones that you don't want to  
7 see because that means that somebody was either  
8 killed or wounded, very, very scarily injured.

9 MR. FORD: Did you actually  
10 receive one?

11 MS. OWSLEY: I have three. I  
12 have what they called Joint Service Achievement  
13 medal which we go to the joint Special Forces I had  
14 a joint like special service taskforce over there.  
15 That translated to not war time, it'd be an army  
16 accommodation medal. Or army achievement medal.

17 MR. FORD: Do you know exactly  
18 what you received it for?

19 MS. OWSLEY: I -- I received  
20 it -- when -- when I was transferred over to CAPOC  
21 they had no S-1, they had no J-1. The first  
22 sergeant was doing all their paperwork. So they --  
23 they asked if I would be willing to go and  
24 basically -- I said I'd go there. And the reason

1 Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2 he awarded it to me was because I created their  
3 office -- basically I took all the papers that they  
4 had sitting everywhere in the files and organized  
5 them and the medals, helped with promotion packets.  
6 Because some of the soldiers there are eligible to  
7 be promoted and worked on their promotions and  
8 awards.

9 And if they got hurt, if you get  
10 hurt over there it's called the line of duty and  
11 they were called off. So I'm thinking. I did a  
12 lot of those type of paperwork.

13 MR. OSTREGO: What would you say  
14 was the most interesting experience that you --  
15 that -- I'm sorry. What would you say was the most  
16 interesting or inspiring thing that you experienced  
17 in the war?

18 MS. OWSLEY: The most inspiring  
19 thing and most interesting thing to me was when I  
20 was allowed to go to a city called Garnez. I went  
21 with the spy chasers and the CAPOC and the Civil  
22 Affairs. And I was actually able to meet with some  
23 village elders.

24 We went out to a very, very

1                   Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004  
2       remote area. And they invited us all to have a  
3       meal with them. They're very gracious people.  
4       They always want to give you tea, they want to meet  
5       you. And while we had one of these particular  
6       meetings, I asked if I could speak with the women,  
7       which women are not -- you don't see the women,  
8       they're kept hidden. And I was allowed to go into  
9       a room with over twenty women and sit down and  
10      speak to them. And that was -- that was the most  
11      awesome thing that we -- my whole time away from my  
12      family worthwhile to have that opportunity to sit  
13      and ask these woman how they felt about us being  
14      there.

15                   Women were terrified to answer  
16      that question. They said we love you, we love the  
17      Americans, we love to serve you, we love to cook  
18      for you.

19                   So, I realized that I wasn't  
20      going to get too far with asking them questions.  
21      So basically I told them very basic things about  
22      myself, that I was a mom. That I had children.  
23      They wanted to know about my daughters. And when I  
24      said I had a daughter whose in school, and she

1                   Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004  
2           wants to go to college. She'll -- she'll go to  
3           college, or she wants to get married and have a  
4           family, she can do that. But she has a choice.  
5           And they were amazed that women in this country  
6           have -- have that opportunity.

7                   They also wanted to know why I  
8           was not covered. Why -- they're all veiled. Most  
9           of them wear something called Burqa which  
10          completely covers them. You can not see their eyes  
11          or anything. And they wanted to know why I did not  
12          have one. And I said because in the United States,  
13          we don't have to cover ourselves. We're allowed to  
14          dress how we want to dress and we're free to do  
15          that. Which is why we want to come in here because  
16          we want you to be free, if that's what you choose.

17                   Some of the women have gone from  
18          the Burqa to the veils. They still veil themselves  
19          but it's not the way it was when the Taliban was  
20          there. Everyone was in a Burqa.

21                   **A. You did not go out in the street**  
22          **unless you were completely covered from head to**  
23          **toe.**

24                   MR. FORD: What person or persons

1 Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2 do you remember best from your service?

3 MS. OWSLEY: I think as far as  
4 the people go, Afghanistan people, it would be the  
5 people who would come and walk on our compound.  
6 They are very gracious. They're -- they're very  
7 happy just to shake your hand, just to have their  
8 picture taken with you. They are very, very poor.  
9 So, to give them a sweater or a jacket, it was  
10 everything in the world to them. They are very  
11 appreciative because they have so little.

12 One of the things that, it --  
13 it's not fun but it's -- it would be funny to think  
14 of your oldest pair of shoes that you have that you  
15 would just throw away. They would fight for those  
16 shoes because some of them had no shoes. Or they  
17 have no soles. Their shoes are completely worn.

18 And it gets very cold there. So,  
19 for them to have something besides a little plastic  
20 sandal that they can afford, to have a tennis shoe  
21 or a boot that actually covers their feet, it's a  
22 huge thing for them.

23 As far as soldiers go, I don't  
24 think I will ever forget the fear that I felt every

1 Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2 time I watched a convoy get together to get out to  
3 look for the bad guys. And seeing -- seeing some  
4 of them come back wounded is -- and know that a few  
5 days later I had signed them out in the book. And  
6 now, some of them didn't -- did not come back  
7 alive. That -- that probably -- I don't think that  
8 I'll ever be the same.

9 MR. OSTREGO: What experience  
10 would you say left the greatest impression?

11 A. Seeing the need of the people  
12 there. Seeing how poor they are and how little  
13 they really got compared to our standard of life  
14 and compared to even what we consider poor  
15 countries.

16 I've -- I've been to Guatemala,  
17 and I thought they were very poor people. Their  
18 poor is nothing like what I've seen in Afghanistan  
19 people. I can not stress enough how incredibly  
20 poor the majority of them are. That's a standout  
21 memory for me.

22 Q. Did you perform any unusual  
23 service duties?

24 A. I -- going out with the CAPOC and

1                   Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2    seeing was very unusual for someone -- for my being  
3    over there as an -- person, even though I was not  
4    in shooting. I was very fortunate that my first  
5    sergeant saw something within me and he knew that I  
6    wanted to be more proactive and he gave me the  
7    opportunity to do that. So that was -- a lot of  
8    people were jealous. They wanted to know how I got  
9    so lucky.

10                   All my family will tell you, what  
11    do you mean lucky to go out to a fire base where  
12    you're risking your life, where you're being shot  
13    at? But it -- it made it mean something to me.

14                   Q. You mentioned earlier that you  
15    followed some spy catchers.

16                   A. I didn't follow them, I ran -- I  
17    was with them. I was --.

18                   Q. What makes a spy catcher a spy  
19    catcher?

20                   A. A spy chaser --

21                   Q. Or spy chaser, I'm sorry.

22                   A. -- basically, they're  
23    intelligence. That's the intelligence of the  
24    military. And what they do is they get reports

1                   Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2       from people in this area, there's a group of people  
3       who are doing this. For instance, they were  
4       collecting tolls on roads. They were not supposed  
5       to be doing. They were robbing people.

6                   Our spy chasers go to the  
7       authorities and they say we know this is going on.  
8       And we believe that you know who they are. And we  
9       would like to give you a chance to -- to tell us  
10      who they are and where we can find them so that we  
11      can keep your cities safe. And it's pretty  
12      effective.

13                  MR. FORD: In this forum did you  
14      work with people of other countries?

15                  MS. OWSLEY: During desert storm  
16      I worked strictly at Fort Drum. I never left the  
17      country.

18                  MR. FORD: What about in  
19      Afghanistan? Did you work with any people from  
20      other countries?

21                  MS. OWSLEY: I have a -- I had a  
22      very unique opportunity to meet the United Emirates  
23      Colonel who for some reason took a brief liking to  
24      me and I went to their compound for meals, change

1 Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2 of ceremony, their national holiday.

3 I met the people, been able to go  
4 over to their compound. We're not technically  
5 allowed to go over to other branches of the  
6 military's compounds but I was able to get  
7 permission from my command to go meet -- meet some  
8 of these people.

9 The Lithuanians regularly come  
10 out to our compound so we were able to interact  
11 with them.

12 MR. OSTREGO: Do you feel that  
13 the current foreign policy is working or would you  
14 have it changed?

15 MS. OWSLEY: I would have it  
16 changed. I think they need to step up. There --  
17 there's a huge focus in Iraq right now, but we have  
18 not completed our job in Afghanistan and we need to  
19 step up, military action, which is in the works. I  
20 believe it's been on the news that they're  
21 currently going to be operating several more fire  
22 bases throughout the country. They are much more  
23 actively going to pursue the Taliban and Al-Quaida.

24 And I think it's very important

1 Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2 for us to call this a successful campaign, we must  
3 not give up. We have -- things have become too hot  
4 there. We need to show greater strength in my  
5 opinion.

6 MR. FORD: Could you explain some  
7 of the pictures that you brought here?

8 MR. OSTREGO: Well, I brought a  
9 picture of the current president who is Khalim  
10 Karsi. Who is I think it was approximately a month  
11 ago they actually met in the city of Kabu they had  
12 a big meeting to reestablish a government, or to  
13 establish a government.

14 One of the biggest problems that  
15 we have in Afghanistan right now is the Pakistan  
16 border. That is Pakistan are not our friends in my  
17 opinion. They have undermined many things that the  
18 United States has tried to do. They've let  
19 Al-Quaida and Taliban fairly easily walk across the  
20 border. There's several sentiments out there that  
21 feels Pakistan is actually working with Osama Bin  
22 Laden somewhere.

23 I will tell you that I saw caves  
24 as you drive through Afghanistan there's caves

1 Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2 everywhere. And it will probably take them a  
3 million years to go through every one of those  
4 caves, which is where they hide. The Taliban  
5 hides -- caches being a large group of weapons.

6 And that's where we have lost  
7 some of our soldiers who found these caches and  
8 tried to detonate them and had no idea that the  
9 tunnels ran in several different directions and  
10 other tunnels were full of caches and you'll see  
11 that and every now and then things would go array.  
12 They think they're blowing up the cache and then  
13 the next thing you know there's explosions  
14 everywhere.

15 I think I can say that it was on  
16 the news that the city was pretty much ruffled  
17 because of --.

18 MR. FORD: What about your actual  
19 photographs?

20 MS. OWSLEY: These photographs,  
21 initially when I got to bombing this is what we  
22 lived in. There was no air conditioning, there was  
23 no heating. Don't be fooled by what you see there.  
24 There was no air conditioning or heating.

1                   Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2                   It was very, very hot during the  
3 day time until -- you could not go in there -- you  
4 had to be outside in a shaded area.

5                   This is also -- this is what it  
6 looked like before contractors came in. The  
7 contractors came in and they built this which is  
8 called -- they're called Hut which is nothing more  
9 than plywood buildings, but they had heat. So we  
10 were very happy for them.

11                  Haven't seen a lot of bugs or  
12 things like that of that nature, we did have a  
13 camel spider which I brought a picture of a camel  
14 spider, which I would say -- try to get a clear  
15 picture off the internet. They were very  
16 frightening looking. They looked sort of like a  
17 cross between a scorpion and a spider. And they  
18 were incredibly fast.

19                  And my roommate and I had the  
20 opportunity to chase one down and kill it one day,  
21 it was trying to live in our house. So we -- we  
22 got rid of that one as quickly as we could. But  
23 they're fast.

24                  Both of us were running around

1 Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2 with objects chasing it from out from underneath  
3 our makeshift little shelves we had.

4 MR. OSTREGO: You mentioned  
5 earlier a bodyguard. Would you mind sharing that  
6 with a troop story?

7 MS. OWSLEY: In Afghanistan, when  
8 we go to a city, for instance, this is the city of  
9 Kabul, which you will see on the news a lot, Kabul.  
10 In order for us to be able to walk the streets  
11 without being mobbed, there were young teenagers,  
12 boys would come up and offer to be your body guard  
13 for a very small fee.

14 And what they do is, they  
15 virtually keep the local Afghanistan people away  
16 from you because we draw so much attention they  
17 would even follow us. It would be like the Pide  
18 Piper. You will walk down the street and you'll  
19 look and there'll be twenty people and you look  
20 again and there's a hundred people.

21 And of course that posed a  
22 problem for our safety because we don't know who's  
23 in the crowd. It can be anybody. So we typically  
24 what will happen is we will always have special

1                   Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2       forces with us. They will always be constantly  
3       looking around for anyone that looks suspicious or  
4       anyone with a weapon. And the police -- the local  
5       police are very supportive of us. We can come in,  
6       they will keep -- keep from high traffic if they  
7       can.

8                   This is a picture of a small  
9       crowd which -- which joined us when we were eating  
10      french fries. They're just so amazed to see  
11      Americans. And to see an American woman carrying  
12      weapons, carrying weapons, walking around with no  
13      covers on her head, is quite a thing to them. And  
14      they are just amazed to see us and look at us, So  
15      they follow us everywhere.

16                  MR. OSTREGO: You had a story  
17      about someone that you lost?

18                  MS. OWSLEY: We had a young -- a  
19      young fellow from our unit. And I'll try not to  
20      cry when I talk about him. Because this is very  
21      touching and his nme was Adam Ginger he'd been in  
22      Afghanistan since July. He had two more weeks and  
23      he was about to go home to his wife -- to his wife  
24      who was expecting a baby in March. And he was one

1 Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2 of the soldiers that unfortunately, there was a  
3 cache that was found. I'm not sure if they  
4 determined whether it was booby trapped which is  
5 one of the things that they'll do to try to -- to  
6 kill us.

7 But he was -- he was just  
8 recently killed. And as I said he was due to go  
9 home. It said here two weeks, I thought it was  
10 three weeks, but he had about two more weeks to go  
11 before he could go home.

12 MR. FORD: What was it like --?

13 MS. OWSLEY: No, I just -- the  
14 most important thing is that we don't forget about  
15 Afghanistan. That we don't forget that you can not  
16 go in and just scare the bad guys away. That in  
17 order to be effective with what we're trying to do  
18 there, there needs to be a lot more Civil Affairs  
19 people, which is the people I work with.

20 We need to make a better place  
21 for them or for what we've done is for naught.  
22 If -- if we pull out another enforcement is going  
23 to take over. And that's what these people are  
24 used to. This has happened to them for thousands

1                                   Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2           and thousands of years. There has been somebody  
3           coming in to occupying their country and we have an  
4           opportunity to make a difference.

5                                   And as an American, I hope that  
6           we don't let these people down.

7                                   (The interview concluded)

8           pwss

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1 Diane Owsley - 2-13-2004

2 This is a transcription of the audio  
3 provided to us. It is completed to the best of our  
4 skill and ability. The transcript consists of  
5 pages 1 through 30 inclusive.

6

7

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judith Spriggs", is written over a horizontal line.

8 Judith Spriggs

9 Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc.

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A		
<b>ability</b> 31:4	28:11	<b>big</b> 12:24 24:12
<b>able</b> 16:22 23:3,6,10 27:10	<b>answer</b> 17:15	<b>biggest</b> 24:14
<b>accommodation</b> 15:5,16	<b>anybody</b> 27:23	<b>Bin</b> 24:21
<b>accommodations</b> 14:23	<b>apart</b> 10:14	<b>birth</b> 2:8
<b>accurately</b> 11:18,23	<b>appreciative</b> 19:11	<b>bit</b> 13:15
<b>achievement</b> 15:12,16	<b>approximately</b> 24:10	<b>black</b> 10:23
<b>action</b> 23:19	<b>area</b> 17:2 22:2 26:4	<b>blend</b> 14:3
<b>active</b> 2:13,17	<b>areas</b> 5:24 11:7 12:14 14:20	<b>blowing</b> 25:12
<b>actively</b> 23:23	<b>armed</b> 2:11	<b>body</b> 27:12
<b>actual</b> 25:18	<b>army</b> 4:12,20 15:4,15,16	<b>bodyguard</b> 27:5
<b>Adam</b> 28:21	<b>array</b> 25:11	<b>bombed</b> 3:20
<b>adjust</b> 11:23	<b>asked</b> 15:23 17:6	<b>bombing</b> 25:21
<b>affairs</b> 6:22 7:6,13 9:12 16:22 29:18	<b>asking</b> 17:20	<b>bombings</b> 3:24
<b>afford</b> 19:20	<b>assigned</b> 8:22 12:6	<b>booby</b> 29:4
<b>Afganistand</b> 8:23	<b>assigns</b> 7:4	<b>book</b> 20:5
<b>Afghanistan</b> 2:6 3:2 5:22 5:23 7:12 8:6,13,15 10:24 14:2 19:4 20:18 22:19 23:18 24:15,24 27:7,15 28:22 29:15	<b>Associated</b> 31:9	<b>boot</b> 19:21
<b>Afghans</b> 10:19	<b>attention</b> 27:16	<b>border</b> 24:16,20
<b>afternoon</b> 2:2	<b>audio</b> 31:2	<b>born</b> 2:10
<b>age</b> 4:18	<b>authorities</b> 22:7	<b>boxes</b> 5:17
<b>aged</b> 4:18	<b>awarded</b> 16:2	<b>boys</b> 27:12
<b>ago</b> 24:11	<b>awards</b> 6:16 15:3 16:8	<b>Bragg</b> 9:8
<b>air</b> 12:13 25:22,24	<b>awesome</b> 17:11	<b>branch</b> 2:11 4:12
<b>airplanes</b> 12:14	<b>awhile</b> 5:18	<b>branches</b> 6:9 23:5
<b>alarms</b> 3:21	<b>B</b>	<b>brief</b> 22:23
<b>alive</b> 20:7	<b>baby</b> 28:24	<b>brought</b> 24:7,8 26:13
<b>allowed</b> 16:20 17:8 18:13 23:5	<b>back</b> 8:14 20:4,6	<b>bugs</b> 26:11
<b>Al-Quaid</b> 8:8	<b>bad</b> 7:15 8:3,8,8 12:17 13:7 20:3 29:16	<b>building</b> 3:16 5:13
<b>Al-Quaida</b> 8:21 13:4,21 14:6,20 23:23 24:19	<b>bag</b> 14:11	<b>buildings</b> 26:9
<b>amazed</b> 18:5 28:10,14	<b>base</b> 11:21 21:11	<b>built</b> 26:7
<b>American</b> 10:18 28:11 30:5	<b>bases</b> 23:22	<b>Burqa</b> 18:9,18,20
<b>Americans</b> 12:19 17:17	<b>basic</b> 2:21,22 3:4 4:4 17:21	<b>C</b>
	<b>basically</b> 5:10 6:3 14:10 15:24 16:3 17:21 21:22	<b>cache</b> 11:5,6 25:12 29:3
	<b>beach</b> 9:19	<b>caches</b> 25:7,10
	<b>believe</b> 22:8 23:20	<b>call</b> 2:15 9:3 11:5 24:2
	<b>best</b> 12:21 19:2 31:3	<b>called</b> 4:4 5:15 6:2 7:6 11:16 15:12 16:10,11 16:20 18:9 26:8,8
	<b>better</b> 7:23,23,23 12:3,4 29:20	<b>camel</b> 26:13,13
		<b>camera</b> 2:8
		<b>campaign</b> 6:10 24:2
		<b>CAPOC</b> 7:8 15:20 16:21

<p>20:24  <b>captured</b> 14:6,8,8,9  <b>Carl</b> 2:3  <b>carry</b> 11:2  <b>carrying</b> 28:11,12  <b>catcher</b> 21:18,19  <b>catchers</b> 21:15  <b>caves</b> 11:6,7 24:23,24  25:4  <b>ceremony</b> 23:2  <b>certain</b> 14:20  <b>chaches</b> 25:5  <b>chance</b> 22:9  <b>change</b> 22:24  <b>changed</b> 23:14,16  <b>chase</b> 26:20  <b>chaser</b> 21:20,21  <b>chasers</b> 16:21 22:6  <b>chasing</b> 27:2  <b>children</b> 4:16,17 17:22  <b>choice</b> 4:19 11:13 18:4  <b>choose</b> 18:16  <b>cities</b> 13:3 22:11  <b>citizen</b> 14:3  <b>city</b> 12:12 13:3 16:20  24:11 25:16 27:8,8  <b>civil</b> 6:22 7:6,13 9:12  16:21 29:18  <b>clean</b> 9:22 10:13,14  <b>cleaned</b> 10:17  <b>clear</b> 26:14  <b>clerical</b> 6:3  <b>clothes</b> 9:24  <b>cold</b> 19:18  <b>collecting</b> 22:4  <b>college</b> 18:2,3  <b>Colonel</b> 22:23  <b>combined</b> 6:13  <b>come</b> 5:17 13:5,7 18:15  19:5 20:4,6 23:9 27:12  28:5</p>	<p><b>comes</b> 7:13  <b>coming</b> 6:17 30:3  <b>command</b> 6:21 23:7  <b>commissary</b> 5:7  <b>compare</b> 10:18  <b>compared</b> 20:13,14  <b>completed</b> 23:18 31:3  <b>completely</b> 18:10,22  19:17  <b>compound</b> 14:17 19:5  22:24 23:4,10  <b>compounds</b> 23:6  <b>concluded</b> 30:7  <b>conditioning</b> 25:22,24  <b>confiscate</b> 11:9  <b>consider</b> 20:14  <b>consists</b> 31:4  <b>constantly</b> 28:2  <b>contractors</b> 26:6,7  <b>convoy</b> 20:2  <b>cook</b> 17:17  <b>correct</b> 5:12  <b>countries</b> 6:8 20:15  22:14,20  <b>country</b> 9:17,23 11:4  18:5 22:17 23:22 30:3  <b>course</b> 27:21  <b>cover</b> 18:13  <b>covered</b> 18:8,22  <b>covers</b> 9:20 18:10 19:21  28:13  <b>created</b> 16:2  <b>cross</b> 26:17  <b>crowd</b> 27:23 28:9  <b>cry</b> 28:20  <b>current</b> 2:18 23:13 24:9  <b>currently</b> 2:6 23:21  <b>cutting</b> 5:10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>D</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>D</b> 9:4  <b>daily</b> 9:14,16</p>	<p><b>date</b> 2:8  <b>daughter</b> 17:24  <b>daughters</b> 17:23  <b>day</b> 4:9 26:3,20  <b>days</b> 10:7 20:5  <b>deaths</b> 11:19  <b>decided</b> 4:20 8:18  <b>decorations</b> 14:23  <b>deployed</b> 9:2,2  <b>desert</b> 2:5,14,24,24 5:4,5  22:15  <b>determined</b> 29:4  <b>detonate</b> 25:8  <b>Diane</b> 1:2 2:1,9 3:1 4:1  5:1 6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1 10:1  11:1 12:1 13:1 14:1  15:1 16:1 17:1 18:1  19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1  23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1  27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1  31:1  <b>difference</b> 13:23 30:4  <b>different</b> 5:24 6:8,9 11:7  25:9  <b>difficult</b> 10:13  <b>direction</b> 11:21  <b>directions</b> 25:9  <b>dirt</b> 7:19 10:9  <b>dirty</b> 9:17,22  <b>doing</b> 15:22 22:3,5  <b>draw</b> 27:16  <b>dress</b> 18:14,14  <b>drive</b> 12:12 13:2 24:24  <b>drop</b> 12:11,15  <b>drops</b> 12:13  <b>Drum</b> 22:16  <b>dry</b> 5:16  <b>due</b> 29:8  <b>dust</b> 9:19 10:2,8,15  <b>duties</b> 5:3,21 6:15 20:23  <b>duty</b> 2:13 16:10</p>
--	--	---

<b>E</b>	<p><b>felt</b> 4:16,23 17:13 19:24  <b>fight</b> 19:15  <b>fighting</b> 3:21  <b>files</b> 16:4  <b>Finally</b> 10:5  <b>find</b> 11:10 22:10  <b>fire</b> 4:3,6,8,9 21:11 23:21  <b>firing</b> 3:12 10:15,16  <b>first</b> 8:16,24 15:21 21:4  <b>five</b> 15:3  <b>Florida</b> 9:19  <b>fly</b> 12:14  <b>focus</b> 23:17  <b>follow</b> 21:16 27:17 28:15  <b>followed</b> 21:15  <b>food</b> 5:6,17  <b>fooled</b> 25:23  <b>forces</b> 2:11 14:17,17,21  15:13 28:2  <b>Ford</b> 2:3 4:11 8:22 10:17  13:9 15:9,17 18:24  22:13,18 24:6 25:18  29:12  <b>foreign</b> 23:13  <b>forget</b> 13:17 19:24 29:14  29:15  <b>Fort</b> 9:8 22:16  <b>fortunate</b> 7:7 12:2 21:4  <b>forum</b> 22:13  <b>forward</b> 13:7  <b>found</b> 25:7 29:3  <b>four</b> 9:11  <b>fourteenth</b> 9:12  <b>free</b> 18:14,16  <b>freezers</b> 5:12  <b>french</b> 28:10  <b>friends</b> 24:16  <b>fries</b> 28:10  <b>frightening</b> 26:16  <b>full</b> 2:7 25:10  <b>fun</b> 19:13</p>	<p><b>function</b> 5:6 7:22 12:9  <b>funny</b> 19:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>G</b></p> <p><b>Garnez</b> 16:20  <b>Gary</b> 2:3  <b>general</b> 5:3 11:21  <b>Germany</b> 10:4  <b>getting</b> 4:19 8:20 12:3,4  <b>Ginger</b> 28:21  <b>give</b> 7:3 12:18 17:4 19:9  22:9 24:3  <b>go</b> 3:21,21 7:8,22 8:23  9:23 14:18,21 15:13,23  15:24 16:20 17:8 18:2  18:2,21 19:4,23 21:11  22:6 23:3,5,7 25:3,11  26:3 27:8 28:23 29:8  29:10,11,16  <b>goals</b> 11:9  <b>God</b> 11:17  <b>going</b> 3:13,14,15,15 6:17  8:12 9:18 17:20 20:24  22:7 23:21,23 29:22  <b>good</b> 2:2 4:23 13:16  <b>gotten</b> 7:14  <b>government</b> 24:12,13  <b>gracious</b> 17:3 19:6  <b>great</b> 13:13  <b>greater</b> 24:4  <b>greatest</b> 20:10  <b>grenades</b> 11:12  <b>grocery</b> 5:8  <b>ground</b> 3:14  <b>group</b> 22:2 25:5  <b>growing</b> 5:12  <b>guard</b> 27:12  <b>Guatemala</b> 20:16  <b>guess</b> 10:9  <b>guy</b> 8:4  <b>guys</b> 7:15 8:8,8 12:17  13:7 14:21 20:3 29:16</p>
<b>F</b>		
<p><b>face</b> 3:19  <b>factions</b> 10:23  <b>FAFF</b> 6:20  <b>fairly</b> 24:19  <b>family</b> 17:12 18:4 21:10  <b>far</b> 3:17 4:2 17:20 19:3  19:23  <b>fast</b> 26:18,23  <b>fear</b> 19:24  <b>February</b> 1:4 2:4  <b>fee</b> 27:13  <b>feel</b> 2:23 23:12  <b>feels</b> 24:21  <b>feet</b> 19:21  <b>fellow</b> 28:19</p>		

<b>H</b>	23:24 29:14	<b>J-1</b> 6:4,14 7:7 9:10 15:21
<b>hand</b> 19:7	<b>impression</b> 20:10	<b>K</b>
<b>hanging</b> 14:20	<b>inclusive</b> 31:5	<b>Kabu</b> 24:11
<b>happen</b> 8:12 27:24	<b>incredibly</b> 20:19 26:18	<b>Kabul</b> 27:9,9
<b>happened</b> 29:24	<b>individual</b> 2:15 9:3	<b>Karsi</b> 24:10
<b>happy</b> 19:7 26:10	<b>infestation</b> 5:13,20,20	<b>keep</b> 5:16 9:21 10:13 22:11 27:15 28:6,6
<b>hard</b> 13:18	<b>initially</b> 25:21	<b>kept</b> 10:4 17:8
<b>head</b> 14:11 18:22 28:13	<b>injured</b> 15:8	<b>Khalim</b> 24:9
<b>hear</b> 7:10 14:19	<b>inspect</b> 5:19	<b>kill</b> 13:17 26:20 29:6
<b>hearts</b> 7:9,11 12:10 15:5 15:6	<b>inspected</b> 5:9,15	<b>killed</b> 8:17 15:8 29:8
<b>heat</b> 26:9	<b>inspector</b> 5:6	<b>knew</b> 21:5
<b>heating</b> 25:23,24	<b>inspiring</b> 16:16,18	<b>know</b> 8:11 11:23,24 13:4 14:13,14 15:17 17:23 18:7,11 20:4 21:8 22:7 22:8 25:13 27:22
<b>helicopters</b> 11:14	<b>instance</b> 22:3 27:8	<b>knowledge</b> 9:7
<b>help</b> 7:15 8:18 12:19	<b>intelligence</b> 21:23,23	<b>L</b>
<b>helped</b> 8:19 16:5	<b>intention</b> 13:22	<b>Laden</b> 24:22
<b>hidden</b> 17:8	<b>interact</b> 23:10	<b>large</b> 13:8 25:5
<b>hide</b> 25:4	<b>interesting</b> 16:14,16,19	<b>laying</b> 3:9,13
<b>hides</b> 25:5	<b>internet</b> 26:15	<b>leave</b> 7:7 8:13 9:23
<b>hiding</b> 3:16	<b>interview</b> 1:2 30:7	<b>left</b> 11:3 20:10 22:16
<b>high</b> 4:14 28:6	<b>interviewing</b> 2:4	<b>let's</b> 8:7
<b>Historically</b> 8:3	<b>Int'l</b> 31:9	<b>life</b> 5:6 7:23,24 9:14,16 20:13 21:12
<b>HISTORY</b> 1:2	<b>invited</b> 17:2	<b>liking</b> 22:23
<b>holiday</b> 23:2	<b>involved</b> 6:10	<b>line</b> 16:10
<b>home</b> 14:19 28:23 29:9 29:11	<b>Iraq</b> 23:17	<b>literally</b> 7:10 12:12
<b>honest</b> 3:5 4:21	<b>Iraqi</b> 11:19	<b>Lithuanians</b> 23:9
<b>hope</b> 30:5	<b>Iraqis</b> 10:19	<b>little</b> 4:2 13:13,15 19:11 19:19 20:12 27:3
<b>hot</b> 24:3 26:2	<b>IRR</b> 2:15	<b>live</b> 26:21
<b>house</b> 26:21	<b>it'd</b> 15:15	<b>lived</b> 25:22
<b>huge</b> 19:22 23:17	<b>J</b>	<b>load</b> 12:14
<b>hundred</b> 15:3 27:20	<b>jacket</b> 19:9	<b>local</b> 27:15 28:4
<b>hunt</b> 14:18,21	<b>jaded</b> 13:16,20	<b>locker</b> 10:6
<b>hurt</b> 16:9,10	<b>Jay-1</b> 6:2	<b>long</b> 2:21
<b>Hut</b> 26:8	<b>jealous</b> 21:8	<b>look</b> 20:3 27:19,19 28:14
<b>I</b>	<b>job</b> 4:22 5:24 6:24 9:4 23:18	<b>looked</b> 26:6,16
<b>idea</b> 25:8	<b>join</b> 4:11,20	
<b>imbedded</b> 9:24	<b>joined</b> 28:9	
<b>imbeds</b> 10:9	<b>joint</b> 6:5,6,6,7 15:12,13 15:14	
<b>important</b> 4:16 5:2	<b>Judith</b> 31:8	
	<b>July</b> 28:22	

<p><b>looking</b> 26:16 28:3  <b>looks</b> 28:3  <b>lost</b> 25:6 28:17  <b>lot</b> 4:22 5:19 10:20,24  13:14 16:12 21:7 26:11  27:9 29:18  <b>love</b> 17:16,16,17,17  <b>lucky</b> 21:9,11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>M</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>main</b> 5:6  <b>majority</b> 20:20  <b>makeshift</b> 27:3  <b>manage</b> 8:6  <b>March</b> 28:24  <b>Marie</b> 2:9  <b>market</b> 10:23  <b>married</b> 4:16 18:3  <b>matches</b> 12:16  <b>meal</b> 17:3  <b>meals</b> 22:24  <b>mean</b> 21:11,13  <b>meaning</b> 9:4  <b>means</b> 6:23 15:7  <b>meat</b> 5:11  <b>medal</b> 15:13,16,16  <b>medals</b> 14:23 15:5 16:5  <b>meet</b> 16:22 17:4 22:22  23:7,7  <b>meeting</b> 24:12  <b>meetings</b> 17:6  <b>memory</b> 20:21  <b>mention</b> 14:16  <b>mentioned</b> 21:14 27:4  <b>message</b> 12:18  <b>met</b> 9:7,7 23:3 24:11  <b>military</b> 4:14 5:8 6:9  21:24 23:19  <b>military's</b> 23:6  <b>millimeter</b> 4:8  <b>million</b> 25:3  <b>millions</b> 8:17</p>	<p><b>mind</b> 27:5  <b>minds</b> 7:9,11 12:10  <b>minute</b> 8:13  <b>mission</b> 7:8,11  <b>mobbed</b> 27:11  <b>mold</b> 5:20  <b>mom</b> 17:22  <b>moment</b> 7:5  <b>month</b> 24:10  <b>months</b> 9:2,21  <b>MOS</b> 6:21,23,24 7:3  <b>mountain</b> 11:20  <b>M-16</b> 4:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>N</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>name</b> 2:3,7,9  <b>national</b> 23:2  <b>nature</b> 26:12  <b>naught</b> 29:21  <b>need</b> 3:6 7:16,17,18  20:11 23:16,18 24:4  29:20  <b>needed</b> 9:4  <b>needs</b> 29:18  <b>never</b> 9:7 22:16  <b>New</b> 2:10 9:12  <b>news</b> 23:20 25:16 27:9  <b>night</b> 4:2,3,9  <b>nine</b> 4:7  <b>nme</b> 28:21  <b>Normally</b> 6:2  <b>noticed</b> 10:3  <b>numb</b> 13:14,15  <b>number</b> 7:3 11:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>O</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>objects</b> 27:2  <b>obtained</b> 10:22  <b>occupied</b> 11:4  <b>occupying</b> 30:3  <b>occur</b> 3:24  <b>odor</b> 10:4</p>	<p><b>offer</b> 13:5 27:12  <b>offered</b> 13:8  <b>offering</b> 12:17  <b>office</b> 16:3  <b>Officers</b> 6:22 13:10  <b>officer's</b> 13:11  <b>oh</b> 10:6  <b>old</b> 4:19 11:2  <b>older</b> 4:17  <b>oldest</b> 19:14  <b>ones</b> 14:17 15:6  <b>Opening</b> 10:6  <b>operating</b> 23:21  <b>Operation</b> 2:6  <b>operations</b> 6:7,8,13,21  12:9 13:12  <b>opinion</b> 24:5,17  <b>opportunities</b> 4:22  <b>opportunity</b> 7:7 17:12  18:6 21:7 22:22 26:20  30:4  <b>opposed</b> 6:5  <b>opted</b> 4:15  <b>ORAL</b> 1:2  <b>order</b> 27:10 29:17  <b>organized</b> 16:4  <b>original</b> 9:9,11  <b>Osama</b> 24:21  <b>Ostrego</b> 2:2,3 7:20 9:14  10:10 11:11 12:5,20  14:5,22 16:13 20:9  23:12 24:8 27:4 28:16  <b>outside</b> 26:4  <b>outsiders</b> 8:3  <b>Owsley</b> 1:2 2:1,5,10 3:1  4:1 5:1 6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1  9:16 10:1,12,20 11:1,16  12:1,8,22 13:1,11 14:1  14:7,24 15:1,11,19 16:1  16:18 17:1 18:1 19:1,3  20:1 21:1 22:1,15,21</p>
--	--	---

23:1,15 24:1 25:1,20 26:1 27:1,7 28:1,18 29:1,13 30:1 31:1	<b>please</b> 2:8 <b>plywood</b> 26:9 <b>point</b> 6:19 11:21 13:15 <b>points</b> 13:18 <b>police</b> 28:4,5 <b>policy</b> 23:13 <b>poor</b> 19:8 20:12,14,17,18 20:20 <b>population</b> 12:23 14:4 <b>posed</b> 27:21 <b>position</b> 3:10,21 <b>powder</b> 9:20 <b>power</b> 8:20,21 <b>prepared</b> 2:24 <b>prepares</b> 3:4 <b>presence</b> 8:11,11 <b>president</b> 24:9 <b>pretty</b> 11:20 22:11 25:16 <b>primary</b> 5:24 6:15 <b>principal</b> 7:2 <b>principals</b> 7:2 <b>prison</b> 14:15 <b>proactive</b> 21:6 <b>probably</b> 20:7 25:2 <b>problem</b> 27:22 <b>problems</b> 24:14 <b>processed</b> 6:16,16,17 15:2,3 <b>promoted</b> 16:7 <b>promotion</b> 16:5 <b>promotions</b> 16:7 <b>prone</b> 3:10,10,11 <b>propelled</b> 11:12 <b>protect</b> 13:6 <b>provided</b> 31:3 <b>psychological</b> 12:8 13:12 <b>pull</b> 29:22 <b>pulled</b> 9:5 <b>purchasing</b> 10:23 <b>Purple</b> 15:5,6 <b>pursue</b> 23:23	<b>put</b> 14:11 <b>pwss</b> 30:8
<b>P</b>		<b>Q</b>
<b>packets</b> 16:5 <b>pages</b> 31:5 <b>paid</b> 4:24 <b>pair</b> 19:14 <b>Pakistan</b> 24:15,16,21 <b>pamphlets</b> 12:11,11,13 12:15,22 <b>papers</b> 16:3 <b>paperwork</b> 15:22 16:12 <b>particular</b> 17:5 <b>paved</b> 7:18,19 <b>Pencils</b> 12:18 <b>people</b> 7:12 8:6,13,16,17 9:6 11:2,22 13:7,13,14 13:19 17:3 19:4,4,5 20:11,17,19 21:8 22:2,2 22:5,14,19 23:3,8 27:15 27:19,20 29:19,19,23 30:6 <b>people's</b> 14:18 <b>perfected</b> 12:2 <b>perform</b> 20:22 <b>permission</b> 23:7 <b>person</b> 6:4 9:4 18:24 21:3 <b>personnel</b> 5:8 <b>persons</b> 18:24 <b>photographs</b> 25:19,20 <b>picture</b> 19:8 24:9 26:13 26:15 28:8 <b>pictures</b> 12:17 24:7 <b>Pide</b> 27:17 <b>pin</b> 10:15,16 <b>Piper</b> 27:18 <b>pit</b> 5:15 <b>place</b> 2:8 29:20 <b>plastic</b> 19:19		<b>qualification</b> 3:18 <b>qualifications</b> 3:9 <b>quality</b> 7:24 <b>question</b> 17:16 <b>questions</b> 17:20 <b>quickly</b> 26:22 <b>quite</b> 28:13
		<b>R</b>
		<b>R</b> 9:4 <b>raid</b> 14:18 <b>raise</b> 4:17 <b>ran</b> 21:16 25:9 <b>ranging</b> 15:4 <b>rank</b> 2:18 <b>rats</b> 5:20 <b>read</b> 11:11 12:23 <b>realistic</b> 3:18 <b>Reality</b> 3:12 <b>realize</b> 9:22,24 <b>realized</b> 10:5 17:19 <b>really</b> 20:13 <b>reason</b> 15:24 22:23 <b>receive</b> 15:10 <b>received</b> 15:18,19 <b>reestablish</b> 24:12 <b>regular</b> 6:6 14:2 <b>regularly</b> 3:20 10:14 23:9 <b>remember</b> 19:2 <b>remote</b> 17:2 <b>Reporters</b> 31:9 <b>reports</b> 21:24 <b>Reserve</b> 2:16 <b>reserves</b> 2:17 <b>reservist</b> 2:17 <b>reward</b> 13:6 <b>rewards</b> 12:17 13:8

<p><b>rid</b> 7:14 8:7,9 13:3 26:22  <b>right</b> 7:5 8:14 23:17  24:15  <b>risking</b> 21:12  <b>roads</b> 7:19,19 22:4  <b>robbing</b> 22:5  <b>rocket</b> 11:12  <b>Rome</b> 2:10 4:21  <b>room</b> 17:9  <b>roommate</b> 26:19  <b>rounds</b> 4:5,5,8  <b>RPG's</b> 11:17  <b>ruffled</b> 25:16  <b>running</b> 2:15,16 3:14  26:24  <b>Russian</b> 11:2,8  <b>Russians</b> 8:16,19 11:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>S</b></p> <p><b>safe</b> 22:11  <b>safety</b> 27:22  <b>sand</b> 9:17,18  <b>sandal</b> 19:20  <b>saw</b> 14:7,9,24 21:5 24:23  <b>says</b> 12:6  <b>scare</b> 8:10 29:16  <b>scarily</b> 15:8  <b>school</b> 4:14,18 7:2,18  17:24  <b>scorpion</b> 26:17  <b>see</b> 14:5,8,10,11,22 15:7  17:7 18:10 25:10,23  27:9 28:10,11,14  <b>seeing</b> 11:19 20:3,3,11  20:12 21:2  <b>seek</b> 6:12  <b>seen</b> 20:18 26:11  <b>send</b> 11:22  <b>sent</b> 9:6  <b>sentiments</b> 24:20  <b>sergeant</b> 15:22 21:5  <b>serve</b> 2:12 17:17</p>	<p><b>served</b> 2:5  <b>service</b> 15:12,14 19:2  20:23  <b>serving</b> 2:6  <b>set</b> 11:20  <b>shaded</b> 26:4  <b>shake</b> 19:7  <b>sharing</b> 27:5  <b>shelves</b> 27:3  <b>she'll</b> 18:2,2  <b>shoe</b> 19:20  <b>shoes</b> 19:14,16,16,17  <b>shooting</b> 21:4  <b>shot</b> 21:12  <b>show</b> 24:4  <b>signed</b> 20:5  <b>single</b> 6:20,20  <b>sit</b> 5:18 17:9,12  <b>sitting</b> 16:4  <b>skill</b> 9:5 31:4  <b>slaughtering</b> 5:9,10  <b>small</b> 27:13 28:8  <b>smell</b> 10:7,7,8  <b>smelling</b> 10:4  <b>soldiers</b> 6:16,17 11:19,24  15:4 16:6 19:23 25:7  29:2  <b>soles</b> 19:17  <b>somebody</b> 15:7 30:2  <b>someone's</b> 3:12  <b>sorry</b> 16:15 21:21  <b>sort</b> 26:16  <b>speak</b> 17:6,10  <b>speakers</b> 13:2  <b>special</b> 6:13 14:15,16,17  14:20 15:13,14 27:24  <b>specialist</b> 2:5,9,19 7:6  <b>specialty</b> 7:4,5  <b>specific</b> 7:4  <b>spend</b> 13:19  <b>spider</b> 26:13,14,17</p>	<p><b>Spriggs</b> 31:8  <b>spy</b> 16:21 21:15,18,18,20  21:21 22:6  <b>staff</b> 6:5,6  <b>standard</b> 20:13  <b>standing</b> 3:23  <b>standout</b> 20:20  <b>started</b> 8:14  <b>state</b> 2:7  <b>States</b> 8:18 10:22 18:12  24:18  <b>stay</b> 8:10  <b>step</b> 23:16,19  <b>stockpile</b> 11:8  <b>stockpiled</b> 11:6  <b>storage</b> 5:16  <b>store</b> 5:8,17  <b>storm</b> 2:5,14 3:2 5:4,5  22:15  <b>story</b> 27:6 28:16  <b>street</b> 13:24 18:21 27:18  <b>streets</b> 7:18 27:10  <b>strength</b> 24:4  <b>stress</b> 20:19  <b>strictly</b> 22:16  <b>strong</b> 8:11  <b>successful</b> 24:2  <b>summer</b> 9:21  <b>supported</b> 3:10  <b>supportive</b> 28:5  <b>supposed</b> 22:4  <b>sure</b> 5:7,19 29:3  <b>surviving</b> 14:15  <b>suspicious</b> 28:3  <b>sweater</b> 19:9  <b>S-1</b> 6:3,5 15:21</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>T</b></p> <p><b>take</b> 10:14 13:6 25:2  29:23  <b>taken</b> 19:8  <b>Talcome</b> 9:20</p>
---	---	--

<p><b>Taliban</b> 8:8,18,20 13:4 13:21 14:2,6,7,19 18:19 23:23 24:19 25:4 <b>talk</b> 28:20 <b>taskforce</b> 6:14 15:14 <b>tea</b> 17:4 <b>technically</b> 23:4 <b>technology</b> 11:18 12:3 <b>teenagers</b> 27:11 <b>television</b> 14:10 <b>tell</b> 13:23 21:10 22:9 24:23 <b>temperatures</b> 5:11 <b>tennis</b> 19:20 <b>terrified</b> 17:15 <b>thank</b> 11:17 <b>thing</b> 12:24 16:16,19,19 17:11 19:22 25:13 28:13 29:14 <b>things</b> 17:21 19:12 24:3 24:17 25:11 26:12 29:5 <b>think</b> 3:3 9:18 11:22 13:14,16 19:3,13,24 20:7 23:16,24 24:10 25:12,15 <b>thinking</b> 16:11 <b>thought</b> 20:17 29:9 <b>thousands</b> 29:24 30:2 <b>threat</b> 13:22 <b>three</b> 14:7 15:11 29:10 <b>three-digit</b> 7:3 <b>throw</b> 12:12 19:15 <b>time</b> 13:19 15:15 17:11 20:2 26:3 <b>title</b> 6:24 <b>Today</b> 2:4 <b>toe</b> 18:23 <b>told</b> 17:21 <b>tolls</b> 22:4 <b>touching</b> 28:21 <b>tracer</b> 4:4,5</p>	<p><b>tracers</b> 4:10 <b>traffic</b> 28:6 <b>trained</b> 4:24 <b>training</b> 2:21,22,23 3:4 3:17,22 4:2,4,23 <b>transcript</b> 12:5 31:4 <b>transcription</b> 31:2 <b>transferred</b> 6:19 15:20 <b>translated</b> 15:15 <b>trap</b> 5:16 <b>trapped</b> 29:4 <b>tried</b> 24:18 25:8 <b>troop</b> 27:6 <b>trouble</b> 10:16 <b>trucks</b> 12:12,24 <b>trust</b> 8:2 <b>try</b> 7:22 26:14 28:19 29:5 <b>trying</b> 13:17 26:21 29:17 <b>tunnels</b> 25:9,10 <b>TV</b> 7:10 <b>twenty</b> 17:9 27:19 <b>two</b> 2:16 4:7 28:22 29:9 29:10 <b>type</b> 16:12 <b>typically</b> 7:17 27:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>U</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>undermined</b> 24:17 <b>underneath</b> 27:2 <b>unfortunately</b> 10:20 29:2 <b>unique</b> 22:22 <b>unit</b> 9:2,6,6,9,11 28:19 <b>United</b> 8:18 10:22 18:12 22:22 24:18 <b>unsupported</b> 3:11 <b>unusual</b> 20:22 21:2 <b>use</b> 4:4 11:18,24 <b>usually</b> 8:5 <b>Utica</b> 9:12</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>V</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>vehicles</b> 11:13 <b>veil</b> 18:18 <b>veiled</b> 18:8 <b>veils</b> 18:18 <b>village</b> 16:23 <b>virtually</b> 27:15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>W</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>walk</b> 13:24 19:5 24:19 27:10,18 <b>walking</b> 28:12 <b>wall</b> 3:15,22,23 10:6 <b>want</b> 14:12,13 15:6 17:4 17:4 18:14,15,16 <b>wanted</b> 4:13,15 17:23 18:7,11 21:6,8 <b>wants</b> 18:2,3 <b>war</b> 15:15 16:17 <b>warehouse</b> 5:18 <b>warehouses</b> 5:14 <b>wash</b> 9:24 <b>wasn't</b> 5:12 17:19 <b>watched</b> 20:2 <b>way</b> 11:24 12:10 13:19 13:19 18:19 <b>weapon</b> 4:3 10:11,12 28:4 <b>weaponry</b> 10:21 <b>weapons</b> 3:9,18 4:7 10:18,19,21 11:2,3,8 25:5 28:12,12 <b>wear</b> 18:9 <b>weeks</b> 2:22 28:22 29:9 29:10,10 <b>went</b> 2:14,16 9:3 16:20 16:24 22:24 <b>we'll</b> 13:2,3 <b>we're</b> 6:10 8:20 13:3 18:13,14 23:4 29:17 <b>we've</b> 7:14 29:21</p>
---	--	--

<p><b>wife</b> 28:23,23  <b>willing</b> 15:23  <b>win</b> 7:9,11 8:2,7 12:10  <b>woman</b> 17:13 28:11  <b>women</b> 17:6,7,7,9,15  18:5,17  <b>won</b> 9:5  <b>wondering</b> 10:5  <b>word</b> 13:16  <b>work</b> 6:2,20 10:16 11:15  12:20 22:14,19 29:19  <b>worked</b> 5:23 6:4,6 13:12  16:7 22:16  <b>working</b> 23:13 24:21  <b>works</b> 23:19  <b>world</b> 19:10  <b>worn</b> 19:17  <b>worthwhile</b> 17:12  <b>wounded</b> 15:8 20:4</p>	<p><b>30</b> 31:5  <b>304th</b> 12:6,7</p>	
<b>Y</b>		
<p><b>years</b> 25:3 30:2  <b>York</b> 2:10 9:13  <b>young</b> 27:11 28:18,19</p>		
<b>1</b>		
<p><b>1</b> 31:5  <b>13</b> 1:4  <b>13th</b> 2:4</p>		
<b>2</b>		
<p><b>2-13-2004</b> 2:1 3:1 4:1 5:1  6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1 10:1  11:1 12:1 13:1 14:1  15:1 16:1 17:1 18:1  19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1  23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1  27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1  31:1  <b>2004</b> 1:4 2:4</p>		
<b>3</b>		