



**Ian P. Sharpe**

## Objects for Deployment

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[veteransbookproject.com](http://veteransbookproject.com)





"TO BE NOBODY BUT YOURSELF IN A WORLD

PS 4/26/01

WHICH IS DOING IT'S BEST, NIGHT AND

DAY TO MAKE YOU LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE,

MEANS TO FIGHT THE HARDEST BATTLE

WHICH ANY HUMAN BEING CAN

FIGHT AND NEVER STOP FIGHTING"

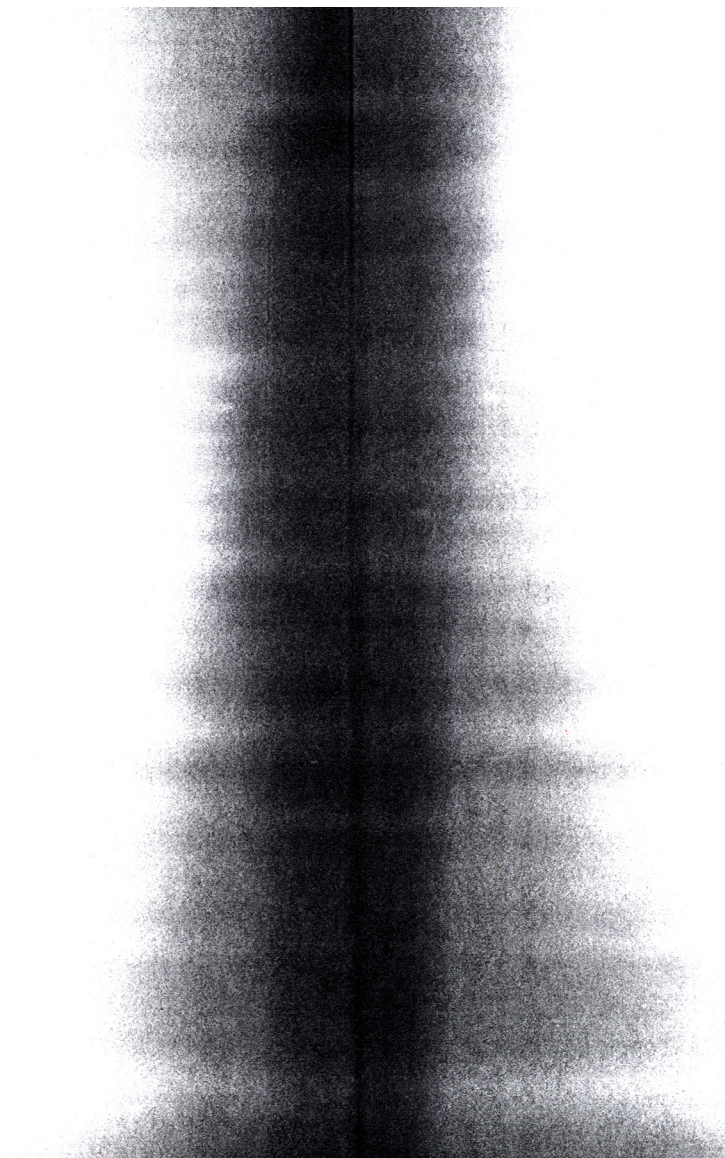
see summary

This book is laid out in chronological order, based on my military experiences. It is broken into three acts: entry into the military, my time in Iraq, and post-deployment. I felt the use of this structure was the best way to convey these experiences. In movies, there is often a narrative arc – the development of the character, the build-up, the tragedy – in this case, the Iraq war – and the aftermath. Throughout all my writings, I search for myself amidst military conformity.

Some of the experiences were good, others bad. I want to share all the emotions that I faced. For that reason, I include artwork that highlights these emotions. I also include journal entries as signified by dates, photos and documents. The text is organized by the questions I am most commonly asked. And the questions I ask myself.

This is my journey.





Act One



Why did you enlist?



We all have our reasons for joining the military. For me, I wanted to build a solid foundation consisting of discipline, education and world travel. But, ultimately, the biggest reason was a sense of duty. I wanted to serve a country I believed in. To give back to a country that gave me privilege and everything I asked for. Looking back, I had a need to be part of a greater cause, however misdirected it may have been.

The summer before my senior year of high school, I went to stay with my grandparents in Pennsylvania. I had a lot of time to think about the next year and what I wanted to do after I graduated. College did not seem like a good fit, so I started thinking about the military. It could be a good way to get out of Colorado Springs and explore the world.

One summer day, my Grandpa and I were at a t-shirt store in Conneaut Lake, Pennsylvania. I saw a t-shirt that had two eagles on it and said “Proud to be an American.” I told my Grandpa that I was thinking about joining the military and he supported my idea. From there, it turned into a plan, and then, ultimately, an action.

When I got back to Colorado Springs, I told my mom I was thinking about joining the military. A couple of days later, I went to the recruiter’s office and signed my delayed entry program paperwork. The date was September 11th, 2000 and I was a 17-year old soon-to-be Airman. Boot camp would start on July 4th. Because I was only 17, my mother had to sign guardianship over to the Air Force just before I departed.

What was it like in bootcamp?

I still remember the day I left my house, headed for processing and, then, boot camp. It was early in the morning and I needed to drive from Colorado Springs to Denver to go to the Military Entrance Processing Center (MEPS). I remember leaving and looking back towards the front door of my house. I saw my mother standing there, looking out the door and waving a gentle goodbye. I could tell she was very sad, but also proud.



The last stop before you depart for boot camp is MEPS. It's a typical sterile government building. Here, they put you through a series of tests to make sure you're "suitable" to ship off to boot camp. I got my blood drawn, my vision tested, I had to duck walk and they looked for warts on my hands and feet. A guy in our group had warts on his hands, so he was excused. I passed all my tests and was "approved for departure."

That night, a group of us stayed in a hotel near the Denver International Airport. I don't remember much, other than being very sleepy and receiving a pair of "shower shoes" from my roommate. His dad told him that they were important to have.

The next morning, I woke bright and early. After a buffet breakfast at the hotel, I boarded a bus to the airport. There were 12 of us headed off to boot camp - some to the Army's, others to the Air Force's, or the Navy's. The bus ride was very quiet. No one talked.

We landed in San Antonio in the mid-afternoon and followed the signs for "Lackland AFB." There was a big waiting room filled with about 100 people; it was hot, humid and it stunk of confusion. There was a sense of unease about what was to happen. We all started to doubt our motivation. I waited in line for last names, R-Z. From that point on, I was no longer "Iggy," the carefree senior; I was now Trainee Sharpe.

At dusk, we were herded onto a pair of nondescript buses destined for Lackland. I felt like I was in a dream: not sure of what was to come, and not sure how to feel - scared, eager, ready, anxious?

Once the bus stopped, all hell broke loose. Gladiators with Smokey-the-Bear hats boarded the bus, shouting that we had 60 seconds to get off. After the plane ride, and hours waiting in the hot, emotionless staging area with not enough food or water, we were all pretty drained. I grabbed my bag and hastily made my way off the bus. There were foot prints on the asphalt painted in yellow which indicated where we needed to line up and place our feet. I stood and waited for the head gargoyle to tell us what to do. "Drop your bags," he ordered. Our possessions hit the asphalt with a thud. "Did I say make a sound?" Meanwhile, his minions weaved through the line, ripping into those who smelled most of fear. It took ten minutes for all of us all to place our bags down without making any noise. From there, we were "in-processed" and assigned a training squadron and flight number.

We got to our dorm area around midnight. We were ushered upstairs and lined up against lockers. They gave us a locker and key and said they'd become our most prized possession for the rest of our time at boot camp. The only other thing I remember from that night is the sound of men softly crying around me.

The next day began with the sound of our Training Instructors (TI) shouting at us to get out of bed, brush our teeth and make our beds. They did this while throwing garbage cans, banging metal and screaming orders to instill fear and establish dominance. It worked. My five-foot-three TI, who had qualities of Boomhower from "King of the Hill," is still one of the scariest guys I have ever met.

Though the next couple of days are jumbled, I do remember them taking us to get our hair buzzed, blood drawn, shots and uniforms. If you have ever wondered what it is like to be a cow, pig or chicken headed to get branded or slaughtered, join Uncle Sam and you'll get the original experience.

San Antonio was hot. It was July, and the sun and humidity were high. I was already messed up from not sleeping well and being made to ingest my food in less than a couple of minutes. This was compounded by marching up and down hot asphalt from location to location.

The next stop was a large building where we lined up in alphabetical order. We were there to get blood drawn and immunizations. I started to feel weak from the heat and the stench of blood, puke and fear. I lined up to get my blood drawn. I sat and watched people further down the line pass out, get smacked to wake up, and then pass out again. I was not ready. I sat in the chair, gave my social security number and, pop, I was leaking blood into a couple of vials. I had to squeeze my hand to make the blood flow; it did. The bloodsucking nurse said I was all finished. I stood up, started to walk away, and then the world closed in on me. I saw a tunnel, people's words started to blur and my ears buzzed. Someone said, "grab his blood!" I handed it off and collapsed on the ground.

I woke up to someone prodding. After being yelled at to regain my composure and posture, I was led to another room where techs administered a half-dozen immunizations, alternating arms. They took bets on who would pass out first. This was one of the most humiliating and non-empathetic experiences of boot camp. It is a direct reflection of the military's disregard for human life.



I started sleep walking because of the stress. The night guards would wake me up and ask me where I was going. I would always tell them I was trying to get out of there. I knew it was a game and I just had to play it in order to leave. People would give up and they'd go to the squadron to be discharged, but we all heard horror stories that it took a couple of months to even leave. It was easier to do the time and move on.

Everyone has a wingman in boot camp. My wingman was Thomas – pronounced Toe-mas – he was Puerto Rican, a "butter pecan Boricua," according to him. He hated that people always called him Thomas, like Thomas the Train. Thomas and I shared a room together in Denver and had the Colorado connection. He was a good friend and wingman and did a wonderful impersonation of this huge TI with Hulk hands and an equally equipped body. He would have the day room rolling. It was nice to laugh and, together, we shared some good times.

My best memories of Thomas are when we went to Warrior Week. Warrior Week is the week the Air Force dedicates to living out in the field and completing war-like tasks. If you successfully complete Warrior Week, you earn the title of Airman. Since we were wingmen, we had to go everywhere together during that week. It didn't bother me because I liked Thomas. We were good friends and I could share how I was feeling with him.

In order to graduate from boot camp, you had to properly shoot an M-16. There was a day-long briefing, followed by range shooting. Thomas had never shot a gun before and I could tell he was a little nervous. We were getting ready to shoot from the "belly on ground" position. The concrete was hot as hell and we were both dripping sweat. I remember I had to wear my "birth control glasses" because I could not see the target. The shooting is timed. You have 60 seconds to shoot a clip. We both started shooting. My spent shells were flying towards Thomas and one made it down his shirt. He yelled and jumped up, pulling his loaded gun with him. The TI hit the red "hold your fire" button and the range went quiet.

I knew Thomas was going to get yelled at and he did; the TI lit Thomas up. I felt so bad because it was my shell that made him react like that. It was however, one of the funniest things I have ever seen. My wingman's first gun experience ended with burnt skin, a bruised ego and a wingman who could not stop laughing. Thomas, however, did not think it was funny.

During that same week, there was a simulated attack on our base. Thomas and I had to post for guard duty. It was dark and we could not see anything. We sat in the bunker, keeping our eyes peeled for enemies. I started to feel like there was something crawling on me. I shined the light down and saw that I was sitting directly in an ant pile. My skin was moving because I had so many ants on me. I freaked out, jumped around and started taking off my BDU top. Of course, Thomas was on the other end of the bunker, watching and laughing. I, however, did not think it was funny.

Thomas and I survived Warrior Week and completed basic training together.



# EXCELLENCE/DISCREPANCY REPORT

29

LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL

SHARPE IAN P

GRADE

AB

ORGANIZATION

320 TRS

CLASS/FLIGHT (If Applicable)

FLT 559

EXCELLENCE/EXHIBITED DISCREPANCY (Be specific)

TIME

DATE

PLACE

PRINTED NAME OF REPORTING INDIVIDUAL

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING INDIVIDUAL

AETC FORM 341, JUL 93 REPLACES ATC FORM 341, SEP 78, WHICH WILL BE USED.

☆ U.S. GPO:1998-770-164





My family came to San Antonio for graduation. They drove all the way from Colorado for it. When we marched by the review stand, I could hear my mom shout, "There's my boy, Ian!" I wanted to smile but had been conditioned for the past six weeks not to show emotion. It is however, one of my favorite memories. We shared a couple of days together; being with them was one of the happiest times of my life. As we said our goodbyes, I started to tear-up. I wanted to tell them that I never wanted to go back to the military. I wanted to get into the car and drive back with my family to Colorado Springs. But, I couldn't. I had to be the strong son and big brother. I needed to show them that I was on my own and able to accomplish anything I put my mind to.



Was the recruiter right, is it all you could imagine and more?

I remember my recruiter, TSgt G. He drove a white Ford Bronco and was a put-together older man, probably in his 40s. Someone that you would trust with your best interest. He talked a smooth game and promised the world. All of those things sounded very attractive to a young man ready to make his mark.

I wanted to be in Space Systems Operations and the Air Force had that job available, but not when I was at MEPS. TSgt G said, “just sign up under open General Electronics and when you get to boot camp, you can request Space Systems Operations. I am sure you will have no problem getting what you want once you arrive.”

He was right; in boot camp, the people that had a “General” category all sat in a room and picked from career options. This, of course, is part of the military’s trickery; you sit in a room after you have been ordered around for the past three weeks and, then, you’re told to pick a career for the next four to six years. I, for one, was very confused during that time, but luckily, I knew what career I wanted. There were others in the room who signed up under “General” and would later be assigned to Security Forces, the Air Force catch-all.

I indicated Space Systems Operations as my number one selection and was confident and excited about my future career. That excitement turned into fierce resentment the next week when they gave out our orders. I was not assigned to Space Systems Operations, but rather Aircraft Electrical and Environmental Systems. Basically, the electrician and HVAC maintenance man on the plane. I was very upset, but there was nothing I could do. I was lied to and deceived into thinking I would get what I wanted in the military if I just followed the advice of my recruiter. From that point forward, I had a deep hatred for the lies my recruiter told me and the way I was added to a list to fill a position. The career I was assigned was not in my best interest, but rather the best interest of the military. This was a harsh realization that I learned early on in my military career; you no longer have a voice and you will go where the military needs you.



What was next?

From boot camp, I was bused to Shepard AFB for tech school, located in Wichita Falls, Kansas. I remember the day we left Lackland. I felt a weight lifted off my shoulders, but knew that this was only one small chapter in my four-year enlistment. Still, I was happy it was over. The bus ride was abnormally cold, but I finally slept without the fear of some yelling at me for closing my eyes. We stopped at a local convenience store and everyone raided it for candy, soda and junk food. I just sat in the bus and enjoyed a little slice of solitude.

Shepard is another large training base and lacks any warm feeling. The dormitories are standard Air-Force brick with brown tin roofs. These dorm structures line the streets while young, green Airmen walk back and forth to the commissary and Base Exchange (BX), buying needless goods to fill a void. The first weekend I was there, I slept for 16 hours, woke up to eat and then went back to bed. My mind and body were exhausted from the past six weeks of shirt-folding and mind games.

A couple of weeks after I got to Shepard, 9/11 struck and my military career dramatically changed. We marched to school in small staggered groups of people to avoid the detection of a routine. No matter how hard they tried, the routine was already set. Wake up for breakfast at 0600, be at roll call at 0630 and be in class at 0730. March to lunch at 1130, eat fast, nap for 30 minutes and march back to class before 1300. Leave school at 1630 and be ready for PT at 1700. Eat dinner, go to bed and wake to do it all over again.

One thing I noticed during this time was the eerie standardization of life. In the routine, there is no emotion, thought or individuality. I think they do this because if you rock the boat, people begin to get unruly and question authority. And that doesn't hold up well when you're trying to control 300,000 young people.

Tech school was interesting, mainly because of the people in my class and those in the dorm area. They were a unique breed: the country kid from Nebraska, the inner-city kid from DC, the cowboy from Indiana, the gangster from Atlanta. Despite all of our differences, and there were a lot of them, we all had one thing in common: being there. It was a temporary bond, but one that helped each of us make it through.

I stayed at Shepard for about 8 months. After graduation, I was assigned to the 660 AMS, Travis AFB, California. I was excited about being stationed at Travis because a friend from high school, and another from tech school, were also there.

What was it like finding yourself in the military?







2002

A dream becomes a thought  
A thought becomes a word  
A word becomes an action  
An action becomes movement  
A movement becomes a circle  
A circle becomes a sphere  
A sphere becomes a world  
A world becomes a universe  
A universe becomes infinity  
Infinity revolves back to the circle which  
becomes the thought which equals life.  
Get in the thought

2002

Sitting by the ocean-side of life, I ponder why  
there is so much strife.

Life is hauntingly beautiful, I just stop.

I quietly listen to the sounds of the waves  
crashing under my feet.

The salty sea air invades my lungs as a black  
crow floats motionless above.

In the silence of the moment, I sit, squeeze it and  
own it.

The wave surges green and then white as it  
crashes into the shore,

Beautiful destruction with a peaceful melody.

2003

The cool breeze of a make-shift air dispenser  
circulates my thoughts.

Rain pores heavy on the roof of my mind.

Visions of falsehood take hold.

For when I look does not necessary mean I see.



2002

Time passes, the hands of time never slowing.  
If you live life caught up in the future, your body  
may drop.

Live life for the present, for that is the truth.  
Just remember, time will not stop.





2004

To break the chain of conformity.

To think as an individual and not as an idea.

To overcome the adversity of being different.

To be me.

2002

So for all you pig-headed folk. Read a book.

2003

Remember life for the people I have touched and the memories I have created. Know this life is as precious as a thin piece of ice. It can be shattered at any moment. Life is a gift, unwrap it.

2004

The question is not how, but rather why.

Actions of the day have a direct effect on attitudes. A human is the maker of their own destiny. What environment you live in has an affect on life and goals, however, each person can have the same chance to move upward.





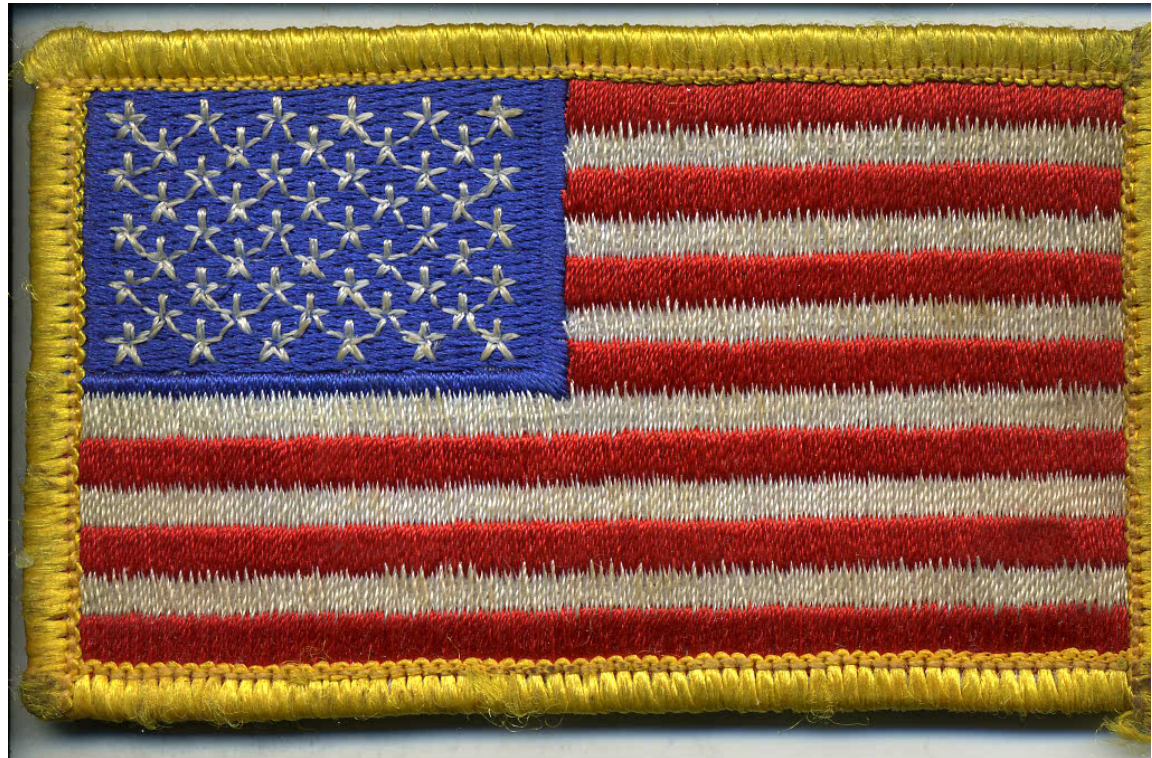
2004

My mind has not slowed, it has only become obscured by the masses. My mind and soul have been blue, my body still haunted by an unwelcomed visitor. For I need a cure and strength. I have found sorrow's cold hand once again. He walks me through the world of blue. I cannot wait till I see my wonder. The beauty of life, a dying cause, a true and supreme angel of light.



2004

The dragon has but one weakness and even it  
will be overcome.





2001

Adapt and overcome, or be swallowed by the majority.







"THERE IS NOTHING LIKE A DREAM  
TO CREATE THE FUTURE."

VICTOR HUGO



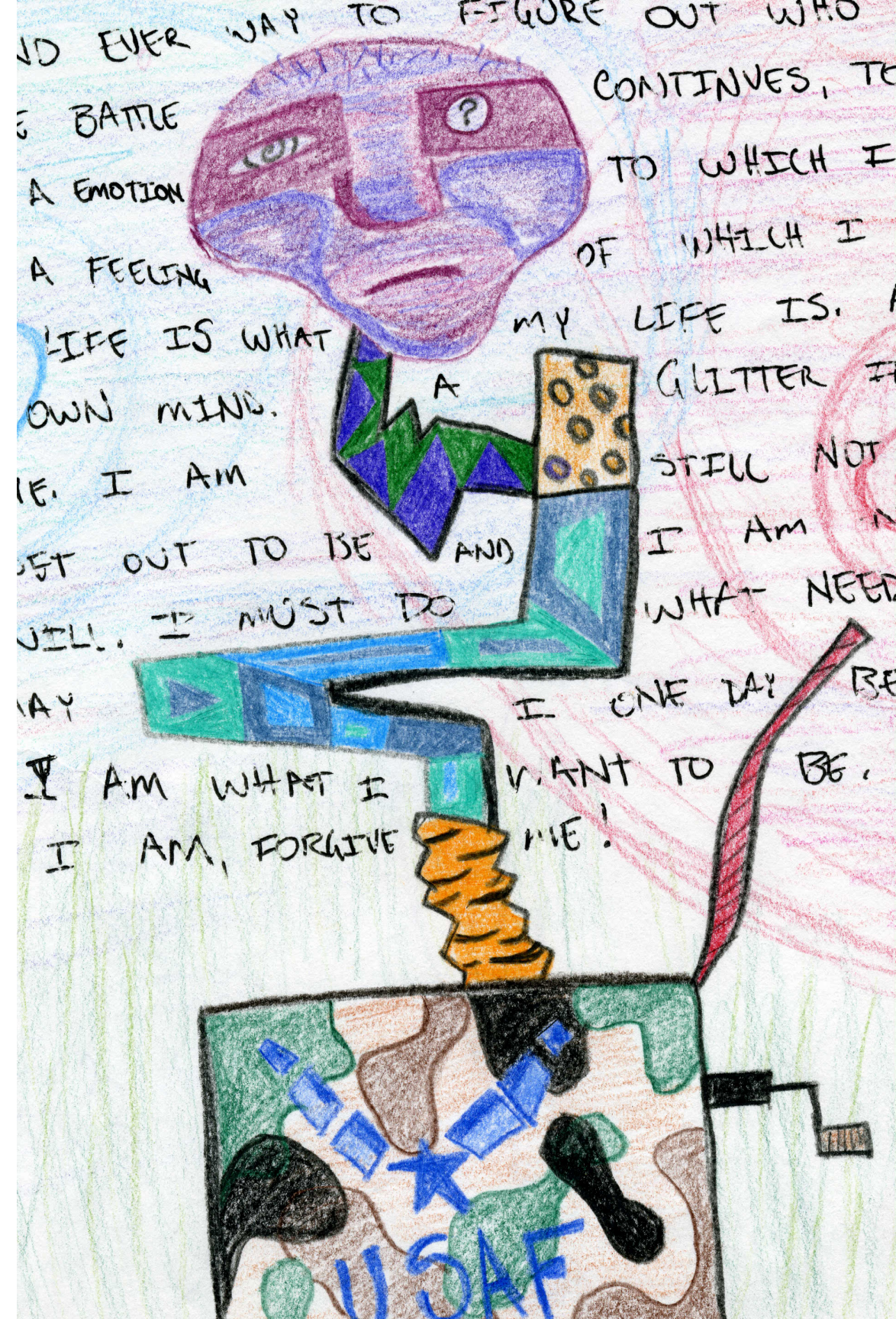


2001

Obey the laws governed by your truth and values.

2001

Wisdom is the lock you must open.







2004

My skin bears the indentations of a metal bracelet. It stands for all the pain that is wrapped around my body. I have a virus, a plague inside my blood. I am tainted with the poisons of the society I live in. It pulls at the fabric with which I function. Everyday a test and a hardship never forgotten. For I know I bear the scare of filth, of disease which my body cannot defend. My sleep is haunted by worlds in which all seems possible. Life is no more a dream in someone else's reality. Yet the pain is real and my purity has been destroyed by the eater of my flesh. The bacteria of death. The boil of endless pity. Medicine still lacks the capability of nature. For if death is coming to an end, let it be quick and spare me the agony of the tomb of destruction.





2003

I am the factor of my life.  
Through hard-work and determination.  
I can shine as bright as the stars.  
My heart can be warm as the summer sun.  
My love and compassion as vast as the universe.  
To conquer the prejudice of society.  
Stand tall and firm on righteous beliefs.  
Positive ideas invade my every thought.  
Not enough room for negative emotion.  
To have faith and understanding.  
To give selflessly to those not as fortunate.  
Live life for the day.  
For yesterday's memories are only tomorrow's  
dreams.  
To think and become.  
For I am limited only by my own imagination.  
I can dream therefore I can be.







What did you do on a daily basis?

Life in the military had an odd sense of repetition, a scripted randomness to it all. My life varied day-to-day like the moon changing; there was a routine. For the first year I was stationed at Travis, there were daily excitements and frustrations. I was excited because I was away from technical school, but frustrated because I was doing a job that I did not like. I think one of the main reasons I was so unhappy was because I felt like I was a pawn. I did not have a say in my own future. This made me less enchanted to conform with military standard.

When I started working at Travis, I was on day shift: 0730 – 1730, Monday through Friday, with monthly weekend duty. Weekend duty was a 12-hour shift from either 0800-2000 or 2000 – 0800. If your shift fell on a holiday, it did not matter: “we support the war on terror and the war on terror does not sleep, therefore we do not sleep,” an old supervisor once told me. This mentality was very prevalent when I first arrived because 9/11 had occurred only 6 months earlier.

At morning roll call, we got the day’s briefing. Usually, it was about what missions were taking off that day and what type of maintenance issues we had. On Fridays, or when someone was not being safe on the flight-line, we had safety briefings, the majority of which involved a senior-ranking staff telling us that the squadron has not had a DUI in 15 days (“let’s keep the streak going or remember to wear our seatbelts”).

From roll call, we broke into our respective shops and learned what maintenance issues we needed to deal with that day. Some of the issues I remember working on were high pressure bleed valves, fire loop activated, master caution warning lights, HVAC issues, random wiring issues, etc. All a bunch of maintenance crap that I didn’t give a rat’s ass about.

After my shift, I usually went to the gym to lift. I would lift for about an hour. This was the one time in the day that I felt at ease and that I wanted to engage with people. I made some friends in the gym and liked the environment there. In the beginning, Travis had two old gyms. They were dank and smelled like a petting zoo. Pretty nasty, but I could lift, so I really did not mind. A couple of months after I arrived, they opened a new gym that was wonderful. They had 4 squash courts, a sauna, full-court basketball and a cardio and weight area that was unrivaled. It made working out that much more relaxing.



After I worked out, I drove to the chow hall and grabbed dinner. I usually got food from the “Grab and Go” area. The food lacked everything, it was there to fill you up and that’s all it did. It did not refine my palate by any means. The main line usually consisted of meat, veggies and a starch. The fast-food line had fried chicken wings, fries, cheese fries, onion rings, basically any junk food you could think of. They also had a fridge that had sandwiches and salads. I usually had a salad and a couple of grilled chicken breasts. I could eat as much as I wanted because all I had to do was show my ID card.

Depending on the night, I would either go to bed early or party my ass off. There were no shortage of dorm parties and, because everyone worked different shifts, someone always had a day off. My aggressive drinking habits started when I moved to the dorms. Even though I was only 18, I could get beer or liquor whenever I wanted. All I had to do was ask.

During this time, I squeezed in some school, some artwork, a kind-of girlfriend and a lot of partying. I would say I went from a white-belt to black-belt in partying during my 4-year stint in the dorms.







What are your worst memories?

Roll call or Change of Command ceremonies

BDUs in the heat

Not being able to put my hands in my pockets

People thinking they are better than you  
because they out rank you

Getting shots or blood drawn

Not knowing where I would be the next year or  
the next month

Feeling like I did not matter

Feeling like I was a pawn

Shaving

Sharing living quarters with dirty people

Privacy Act Sept. 1974

PATIENT LAB INQUIRY

For: 04 Jul 01 - 17 Nov 06

Report requested by: LEAL, RHONDA

SHARPE, IAN PAUL

20/

M/23

Reg f:

Ph: 7073305843

Military Unit: 00 0660 AIRCRAFT M SQ

20 Jun 04 @ 1415 (Coll)

WOUND (GROIN)

Bacteriology Result: (Cont'd)

ON 06/22/04@0800 (PYM), SEE MI 8212 FOR SUSCEPTIBILITY RESULTS

Gram Stain:

6/20 FEW WBCs NO MICROORGANISMS SEEN. MRD.

Organism: (1) STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS

20 Jun 04 @ 1415 (Coll)

WOUND (GROIN)

ASAP

WND CULT: Amended Final Report

Bacteriology Result:

6/21 HEAVY GROWTH STAPH AUREUS; SUSCEPTIBILITY TO FOLLOW

PLEASE CALL MICRO X7755 IF USING CLINDAMYCIN TO TREAT

\*\*PLEASE NOTE: RIFAMPIN SHOULD NOT BE USED ALONE FOR CHEMOTHERAPY

METHICILLIN-RESISTANT STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS ISOLATED, NOTIFIED MAJ DELAPORT

ON 06/22/04@0800 (PYM)

Gram Stain:

6/20 FEW WBCs NO MICROORGANISMS SEEN. MRD.

Organism: (1) STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS

	(1) Mcg/ml Interp
ERYTHROMYCIN-\$7*	>=8 R
OXACILLIN	>=8 R
PENICILLIN-\$0.30	>=16 R
TETRACYCLINE-\$0.	<=1 S
TRIM/SULF-\$0.10	<=10 S
VANCOMYCIN-\$9.60	1 S
RIFAMPIN	<=1 S

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* This report has been amended, what follows \*  
\* is the log of results previously reported \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\* (INTERMEDIATE) RESULTS CERTIFIED ON 20 Jun 2004@1659 BY DONO, MATTHEW R  
\*\*\*

Gram Stain:

6/20 FEW WBCs NO MICROORGANISMS SEEN. MRD.

=====

L=Lo	H=Hi	*=Critical	R=Resist	S=Susc	MS=Mod Susc	I=Intermed
[]=Uncert /A=Amended Comments= (O)rder, (I)nterpretations, (R)esult						

=====

Military Hospitals





The smell of jet fuel

What are some of your favorite memories?

Retraining from Aircraft Maintenance into  
Information Management

Making new friends

Skeet shooting at lunch with Sgt Talha

Moving out of the dorms

Having BBQ's

Squadron Physical Training

Partying

Southern Illinois University class on the  
weekends

Working in the Bat Cave

Hanging with Uncle Matty and Colony







Working on my car





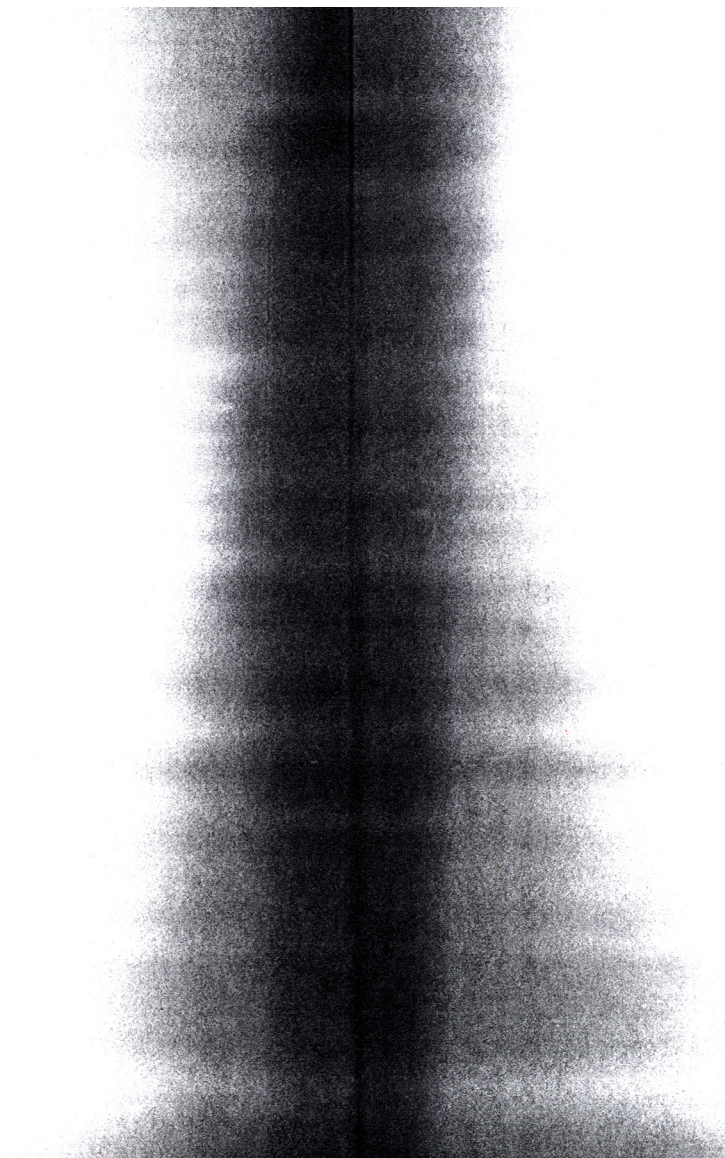
2004

The storm of my thoughts surges with the fury of thousands of armies, but I am not overcome by them. I sit calmly in my room at ease with myself.









Act Two

11 Jan 05

This is the first entry into the book I am naming "Balad". It is an account of a young man's life in a fight against another man's war. The sheets of this journal will help you better understand what goes on during a war.

The PAX terminal was filled with laughter and tears. The air was cold with truth. A truth which is about to occur. People come to send off their loved ones; sergeant and officers come to support. The stress of the deployment has only begun. The clock strikes 1500 and the time has come to board. The cheers turn into silence, fear of the unknown.





11 Jan 05

The base is a concrete maze. A hard rock and metal fortress deep inside the enemy. The sounds of movement continue at all times. The air smells of burning trash. It stings my mouth of the tastes it once was. My job will keep me busy. Sorting the packages and mail from what now seems like a different world.



Where were you?

I was stationed at Balad AB, about 30 miles north of Baghdad. It was the second largest air base in Iraq and was a major staging point for troop stabilization for field wounds. There was a constant flow of Blackhawk choppers and medical planes flying in and out.





12 Jan 05

The shadow of my hand reflects on the paper with an odd manor. My eyes burn from the dryness in the air. I breath in and exhale the stress.

13 Jan 05

Up at dawn again to the sound of war. It makes me uneasy and unable to relax. The day was hot and cold and filled with up and downs. Today was my first alarm red. There were three separate attacks today on base.

14 Jan 05

The glimmer of a blue flashlight hanging from the top bunk swings back and forth. Burning my eyes from a day of exhausting proportions. The day and night all seem to blend together in a giant state of confusion. Lack of good-quality sleep and fatigue have set in.

15 Jan 05

The loud sound of the siren shattered the quiet silence of the morning air. Another hostile attack on our base.



16 Jan 05

The smell of burning trash attacks my taste. I open my eyes to the realization that I will not be coming home for a while. This is now the life I live. A life filled with daily events that could be deadly. I try to focus on staying alive. I ask for safety and a return ticket home.



MEDICAL RECORD		CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF MEDICAL CARE	
DATE	SYMPTOMS, DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, TREATING ORGANIZATION (Sign each entry)		

**ENVIRONMENTAL/OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH WORKPLACE EXPOSURE DATA - BALAD AB IRAQ**

Purpose: To comply with the deployment health surveillance requirements of Presidential Review Directive 5 and JCSM 0006-02, Up Procedures for Deployment Health Surveillance and Readiness. CENTAF/SG officially sanctions use of this form and recommends it maintained in the individual's permanent medical record with the DD Form 2796, Post Deployment Health Assessment, and covers the period from Sept 04 to May 05 to include AEF rotation 1/2 and AEF 3/4. Balad Air Base (BLAB)/Logistical Support Area (LSA) Anaconda located in central Iraq, approximately 68 kilometers North of Baghdad in the Salah ad Din administrative area and was previously an Iraqi military. The base occupies 25 square km and has a fenced perimeter of 20 km. There are three catchments within the bounds several areas on the southern perimeter where standing water could provide breeding habitat for mosquitoes. The area surrounding the primarily rural. The base was constructed in the early 1980s and designed by a Yugoslavian firm. There are approximately 557 structures including barracks, administrative buildings, a hospital, dining facilities, bunkers, aircraft hangers, warehouses, maintenance facilities, a theater, a mosque, a gym, swimming pools and others.

**Environmental Exposure Data and Risk Assessment:**

**1. Airborne Dust:** The level of airborne particulate matter is high throughout the Middle East due to wind blown dust and sand. Eleven twelve PM-10 samples collected from 31 Mar to 6 Apr 04 exceeded the Military Exposure Guidelines (MEG) of 70 ug/m<sup>3</sup>. The result: CHPPM laboratory sample numbers RQ-ANA-PM10-04089-P through RQ-ANA-PM10-04097-P ranged from 82-330 ug/m<sup>3</sup>. PM-10 collected from 9, 10, 14, and 18 July 2004 CHPPM laboratory sample numbers IRQ\_ANA\_PM10\_04187\_P through IRQ\_ANA\_PM10\_04191\_P ranged from 177-291 ug/m<sup>3</sup>; all samples were analyzed for heavy metals with results below the lab detection limit or below the MEG. Health effects associated with exposures to airborne particulates include eye, nose, and throat irritation, sneezing, coughing, sinus congestion, drainage, and aggravation of asthma conditions.

**2. Airborne Emissions From Petroleum Production/Other Nearby Industrial/Disposal Activities:** Industrial activities, to include manufacturing, construction, fuel storage and distribution, water and wastewater treatment, concrete and asphalt production are located around BLAB/LSA Anaconda. Trash burning is a common and prevalent practice on BLAB/LSA Anaconda. Many pollutant chemicals produced during burning processes. There has been special interest paid by the US Environmental Protection Agency to one group of commonly called dioxins, which are produced in almost all burning processes--even in the household burning of leaves or paper. This toxic group of chemicals, but they are produced in extremely small amounts in fires. Personnel conducting the burning operations with greatest exposure and highest chance of experiencing these effects. Statistically significant increased cases of respiratory problems have been noted at this time. EPA Method TO-17 air sampling for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) is being conducted and results will be reported to and be maintained by the Air Force Institute for Operational Health (AFIOH).

**3. Endemic Diseases:** Leishmaniasis (both cutaneous and visceral) occurs in Iraq at a sporadic level. BLAB/LSA Anaconda sits at the active Leishmaniasis area extending to the southeast for 60 miles. On-base vector surveillance, during transmission season, yielded flies from unbaited traps, some of which tested positive for leishmaniasis. Risk to BLAB/LSA Anaconda personnel is assessed as moderate. Cases may not present with symptoms until many months after redeployment. Malaria is present in Iraq, and approximately 95% of malaria is *Plasmodium vivax*. The Army Preventive Medicine section and 332 EAMDS/Public Health Flight have not trapped any female *Anopheles* mosquitoes on BLAB/LSA Anaconda and malaria is not a significant issue here. CENTCOM reporting instructions require to treat uniforms with permethrin, apply DEET to exposed skin as necessary to prevent bites, and to bring permethrin treated mosquito netting to the country, but typically is well below U.S. standards. Consuming local food, water or ice poses a significant risk to personnel for viral and bacterial diarrhea. Personnel were advised to consume only food, water, and ice from militarily approved sources. Tuberculosis (TB) disease risk assessment for Iraq is low. Unless individuals had exposure to anyone known or suspected of having a tuberculosis skin test is not required. Upper respiratory infections and fungal/bacterial foot infections are prevalent conditions seen at the patient clinic. Acute Gastroenteritis cases are observed regularly but at low numbers.

**4. Drinking Water:** Shipments of bottled water arrive on BLAB LSA Anaconda at the Class 1 distribution point each week. Upon a shipment is inspected by a US Army vet technician, who determines if shipment is from an approved source, visually inspects, and checks expiration dates. Random bacteriological sampling is performed on bottled water shipments by the US Army 926th Medical Detachment Preventive Medicine Team. BLAB/LSA Anaconda also has two water production plants that use US Army reverse osmosis water purification units (ROWPUs) to filter and disinfect source water taken from an irrigation canal fed by the Tigris River. Water taken from the production plants is distributed to the dining facilities and the ice plant for use. It is also used in base showers and hand washing stations for personnel hygiene.

HOSPITAL OR MEDICAL FACILITY <b>332 AEW Balad AB, Iraq</b>	STATUS <b>A.D</b>	DEPT./SERVICE	RECORDS MAINTAINED AT <b>TRAVIS A</b>
SPONSOR'S NAME <b>S HARPE, JAN</b>	SSN/ID NO. [REDACTED]	RELATIONSHIP TO SPONSOR <b>Self</b>	
PATIENT'S IDENTIFICATION: (For typed or written entries, give: Name - last, first, middle; ID No or SSN; Sex; Date of Birth; Rank/Grade.)		REGISTER NO.	WARD NO.

CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF MEDICAL CARE  
Medical Record  
STANDARD FORM 600 (REV. 6-97)  
Prescribed by GSA/ICMR  
FIRM (41 CFR) 201-9.202-1

**ENVIRONMENTAL/OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH WORKPLACE EXPOSURE DATA (continued)**

**5. Soil:** All soil sampling results have shown to be insignificant for contamination. Risk from soil exposure is low. Reference Air Force City bed down soil sample results received by CHPPM on 12 Nov 03, CHPPM DLS sample numbers 2003-07322, 07325, 07328, 07331, and 07337.

**6. Hazardous Animals and Insects:** Several species of venomous snakes, scorpions and spiders have been identified on base. Genus are limited in number and personnel experience minimal sightings or contact. There have been no reported snake bites. Scorpion stings and spider bites occur occasionally. Feral cats, dogs, jackals and bats are present on BLAB/LSA Anaconda. All present a risk for rabies. Personnel present a continual nuisance and CE Pest Management is actively involved in controlling them.

**7. Waste Sites/Waste Disposal:** Household and medical waste is currently being burned in a trash-burning pit. This burning operation eventually be replaced with an industrial incinerator. Hazardous waste storage is limited to used and off-spec POL products, and small cleanup residue. Currently, proper handling, storage, and disposal of industrial waste generated on base is coordinated at the unit level. Plans call for the construction of a consolidated hazardous material/waste storage site. Airborne exposure to base personnel from waste is assessed as minimal to nonexistent. No obvious signs of major spills or tank leakage were noted when coalition forces occupied BLAB/LSA Anaconda. Latrines are pumped out by trucks and waste is disposed at off-base facilities.

**8. Nuclear, Biological or Chemical (NBC) Weapon Exposure:** There has been no evidence of any use, storage, release, or exposure of agents to personnel at this site.

**9. Agricultural Emissions:** Surrounding land is primarily used for agriculture. Many farms are adjacent to the perimeter fence, with potentially flooded fields for cultivation. While we haven't witnessed any significant herbicide/pesticide application, routine use probably exists just outside the base.

**10. Depleted Uranium (DU):** DU is a component of some aircraft present and/or transient on/through Balad Air Base. There is no DU munitions having been expended here. Abandoned/damaged U.S. and Iraqi military vehicles were surveyed for DU. None was detected. Reference to a DU survey by Balad AB, BEE on 3 Aug 04. Exposure from DU to base personnel is assessed as minimal to nonexistent.

**11. Hazardous Materials:** Personnel exposures are minimized/eliminated by removing or limiting access to the materials. Additional Bioenvironmental Engineering, Safety, and Fire inspections evaluate and educate personnel on methods to reduce their exposure to hazardous materials.

**Occupational Exposure Data and Risk Assessment**

**1. Heat Stress:** Daily temperature range: Mar - Oct from 75°F to 125°F; Nov - Feb from 55°F to 95°F. Heat injuries do occur sporadically. Personnel are continually educated on heat stress, water intake and work/rest cycles. Even though the risk to heat stress is extremely high on the ORM matrix, it appears current in place controls are effective at minimizing the risk.

**2. Airborne Exposure to Chemical Hazards:** Unless specified in a duty-specific supplement, individual exposure to chemical hazards is considered similar to duties performed at home station. On base industrial activities include routine aircraft, equipment and maintenance. Generally, the majority of the chemicals used on base are oils, greases, lubricants, hydraulic fluids and fuel. Corrosive activities are not performed on BLAB. Exposure to base personnel is assessed as minimal to nonexistent.

**3. Chemical Contact/Absorption and Eye Protection:** Unless specified in a job-specific supplement, individual exposure to chemical hazards is considered similar to duties performed at home station. Workers are provided appropriate protective equipment (i.e. nitrile/rubber gloves, safety glasses and face shields) when and where needed.

4. Medical questions concerning this document should be directed to USCENTAF/SG (F) at DSN: 318-436-4112 or to [bee@auab.aorcentaf.af.mil](mailto:bee@auab.aorcentaf.af.mil). Also, additional information may be obtained at the following website:

<https://kx.afms.mil/ctb/groups/dotmil/documents/afms/knowledgejunction.hcst?functionalarea=CENTAFBEE&checkinform=AFMS&ome>

Date of Service Member Review: 20 APR 05 Signature: TASHIRO

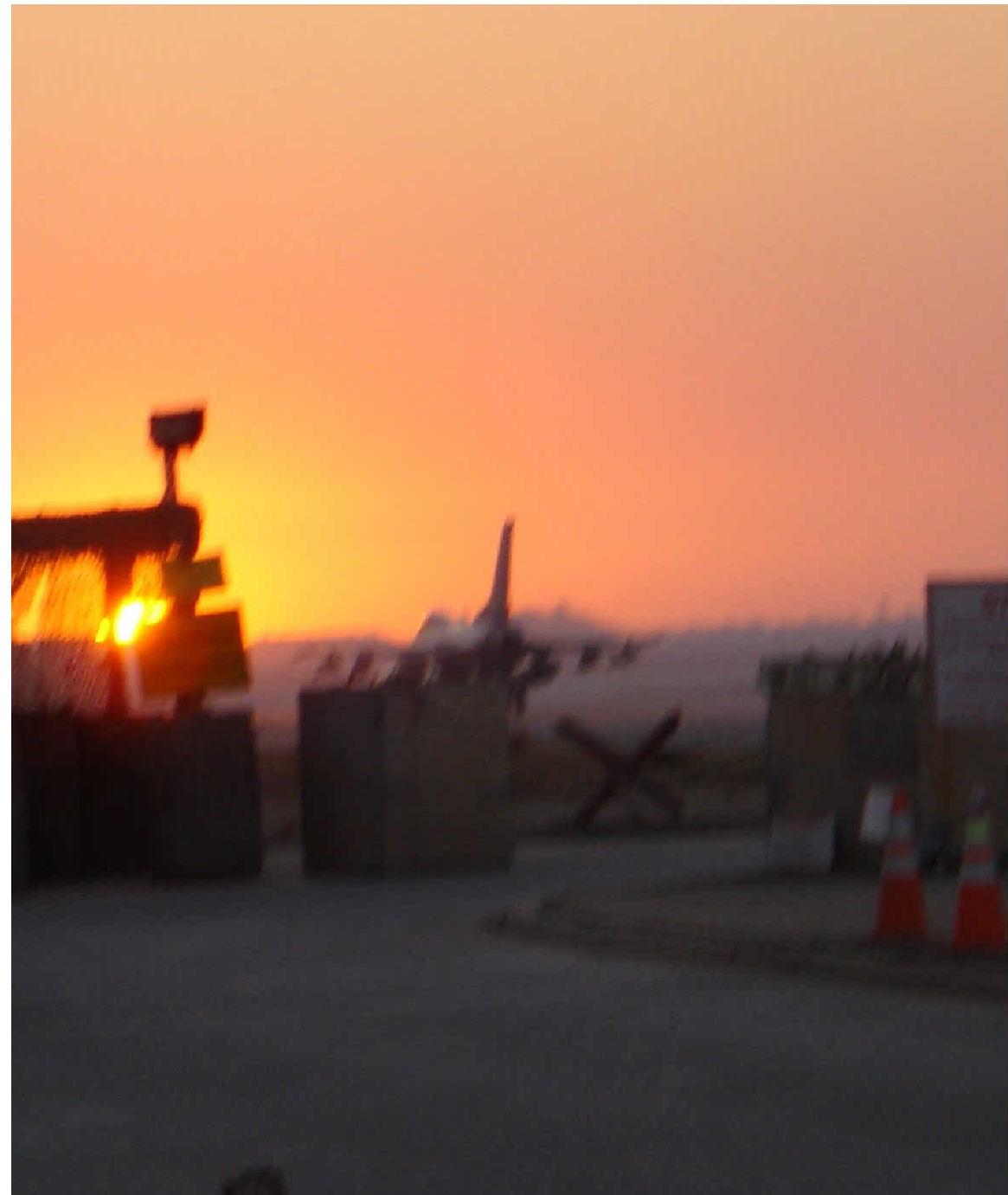
Reviewed and updated 21 Feb 2005:

KEN M. TASHIRO, Col, USAF, MC, CFS  
332 EAMDS/CC



17 Jan 05

The thundering of an F-16 shatters the morning air. The alarm sounds at 0530, yet I do not answer for I am still at my appointment with Mr. Sleepy. I fall back to a dream world, a place all my own. A place where there is no violence. I wake to the realization that I am now living a life of endless dust and a country bombed to rubble.





Were you scared?

Military answer: Fear is weakness exiting the body.

My answer: Hell yes.



18 Jan 05

Mindless bodies march to the beat of a silent rule. They are quiet with thoughtless talk, not aware of the life outside. Washed out and ruined by a regime, a place where silence is the norm and thought is a forgotten action. The ogre grunts blind, marching to the drum beat of the giant hand. A pit of complacency and forgetfulness. All the same number with no name.







20 Jan 05

I have been stung by the Iraqi crud. It left me with a sore throat and clogged nose. I wish I could kick it but its claws are deep. The day was filled with alarm reds. It is getting quite hot with activity so I remain vigilant and always aware of my surroundings. This is going to change the way I look at a lot of things.

21 Jan 05

Do not think how they thought but rather seek what they thought.

23 Jan 05

Days are counted by the pages in the book. I am just a person in a fight, no name, a body. It is a very sad thing.

24 Jan 05

The day was filled with a murky haze, the sky an odd yellow. A color I have never seen before. It was like I walked into an Albert Hitchcock movie. It was a cold, dead color, brought on by the desert. The air tasted of unease, unrest. The day of judgment would soon be upon this land, and I, a mere observer.

28 Jan 05

My eyes are on fire, burning with the unease of the time. I am in a hostile area for a time in the world when luck does not exist. The weekend will be filled with chaos, I am sure.





30 Jan 05

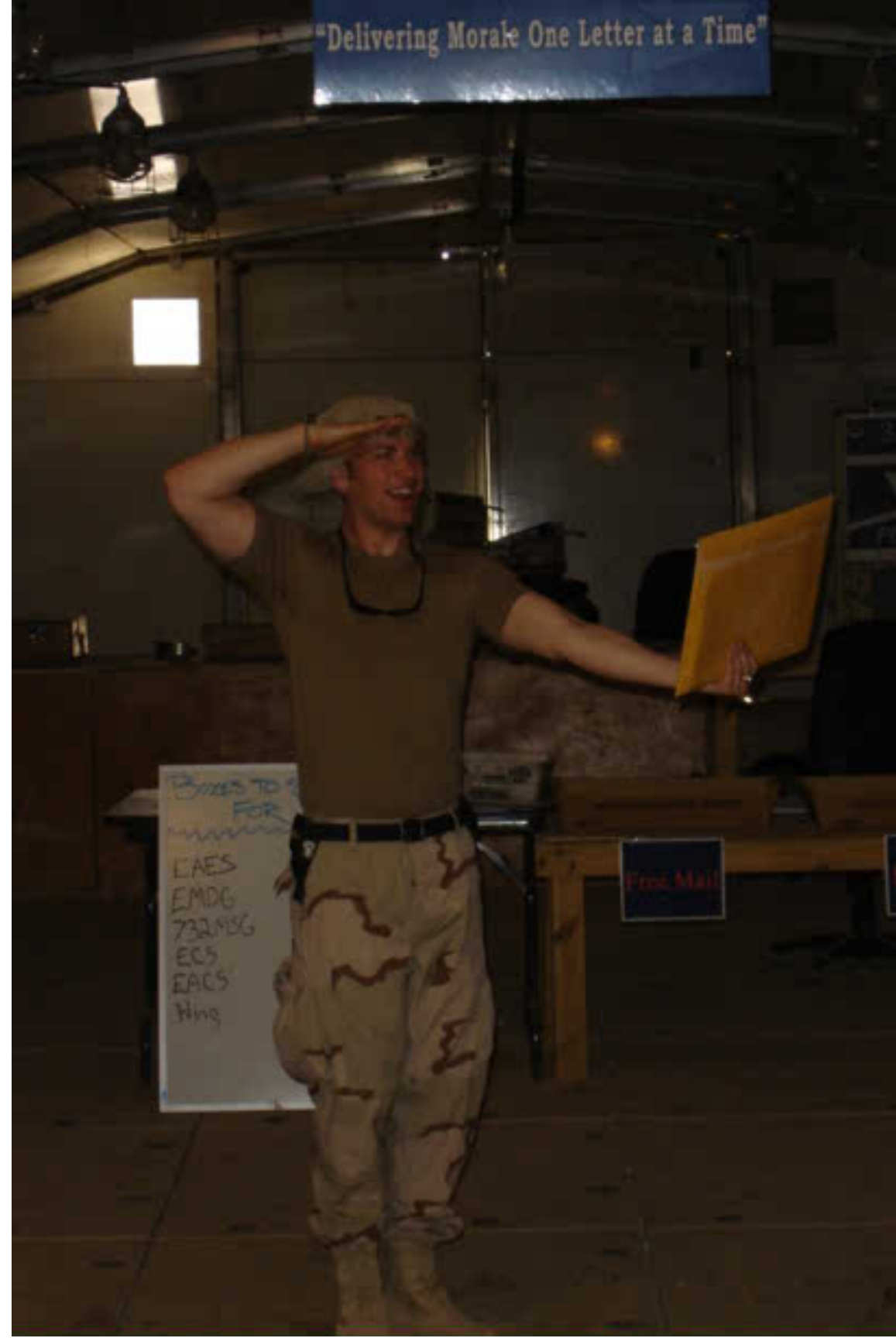
The day was feared and yet it was relatively conflict-free. I am surprised but happy. I hope that all is well throughout the world and I ask for peace.





What did you do?

I was the Postmaster for all the Air Force personnel. I delivered morale one letter at a time.







1 Feb 05

The day started off like every other, only the night was plagued with bad dreams of ghosts. I felt uneasy in the room and in my mind.

4 Feb 05

To point out each downfall in a personality would take only a few moments, but to explore the good qualities could take a lifetime. Why do people always focus on the negative aspects of a person and fail to mention the good?

5 Feb 05

I saw the most spectacular sunset in the Middle Eastern skies of Iraq. Each color was painted in the sky. The most brilliant blues, the calmest purples, the most fiery reds and oranges. All of it was bordered by deep clouds. Words cannot explain the beauty of the sky.





What were your living arrangements like?

I lived in a dorm room about 30' x 30' on the top bunk. There were 6 other grown men living there with me.

Think about the smell of a gym locker mixed with Old Spice, baby powder and ass gas.



11 Feb 05

Peaceful awareness of a time in thought. The quiet steps I make turn to a violent heartbeat. I felt love in the morning and hatred at night. The life I live here is polarized by the reaction of others. I leave it, and escape to the world of the dream. The doorway to the inner wonder of the self.

15 Feb 05

Grown men learning to take initiative and clean up. The world we live in is full of lazy people. Not competent enough to clean up after themselves. It blows my mind, yet I see it everyday. The chance to be free of ignorance and laziness is one I look forward to.

20 Feb 05

My leather-bound keeper of thoughts. Each day, I write a small adventure in my life. A conquest that I have endured. A journey about which I now write. My days here are becoming more and more mundane. They lack real passion, it is like the tan uniform I wear, ordinary. The days seem to be run-ons, there is no difference between today and yesterday.

22 Feb 05

Happiness does not hide in a billfold. You cannot find it on the internet. You must find happiness for yourself.



27 Feb 05

Racist thoughts taint the mind. They cloud the judgement and it turns the brain to mud. Dirty mud full of hatred, unable to love at all. A sad thing occurs when you close your eyes and become prejudiced. Scrub the mind of thoughts that make it stink. I hope I will be forgiven for my thoughts. I am colorblind; actions and character speak much louder than skin.



5 Mar 05

Each day here pushes my emotions. Today was filled with utter stupidity, as usual when working for the military. I hate the military and all it stands for. Mindless half-wit grunts marching to a deaf drummer. I will not obey the conformist thought. A circus of men. All of which feel like they mean shit. I am angry with what I have chosen.

11 Mar 05

This day is worse than the last. I do not know if I am just getting more frustrated or if it just sucks more. I am tired and want to be able to sleep forever.

18 Mar 05

Strength comes from hard times. Life is pain.





19 Mar 05

Take the advice of the wise old man: be not afraid to ask. Love undying, be truthful and loving, honest and caring. Live life to the fullest.

24 Mar 05

The cold hand of realization touches my body. Time here is stuck, days are slow and long, I cannot keep my mind sane, but yet I must.

26 Mar 05

Perceptions... I see a dolphin, but to you something different. A memory, a time shared, a laugh. What do you see when you look at a dolphin? Your perception of the same object could be far more different than mine. This is the beauty of life, each day, each sight, a new perception. Memories are made, smiles are had.



What brought you strength?







Will  
Work  
For  
ALCOHOL





2 Apr 05

What the hell am I doing here? I do not stand for what I am fighting for. George W. Bush can kiss my ass.



4 Apr 05

I am sure I have been here way too long. I long for my brushes and paint. I crave the inspiration of the city. I hope I will be home and fulfill my duty and become free of the military chains.

11 Apr 05

The time has come again to write in my book of Balad. I have come to the realization that my personality is far too liberal to be involved with the conformist military.



13 Apr 05

The everyday thought of life and what existence is all about. The unity and harmony between the mind and body. There is sometimes a strong clash and life is confused, unaware. Then sometimes life is harmonic and smooth. I am caught in between them. I search for some sort of reasoning. I am but a man wandering through life trying to formulate answers to the questions that haunt my night. I will one day understand and may be able to share my insights. I am just a young man searching, searching for the beauty of the unknown.





16 Apr 05  
Endurance is more mental competency than  
physical ability.





17 Apr 05  
So here I am, happy and glad I am not dead.  
Mortar attacks, close to death, hiding just  
around the corner.

Did you see any dead bodies?

Yes, and those images haunt me. From the flag-draped coffins to the innocent Iraqi children. Death is cold and reeks of confusion.





20 Apr 05

There is life or light at the end of the Iraqi tunnel. I have been here so long I have forgotten what my old life was like. I am a bit confused about what is becoming of myself.



28 Apr 05

The chaotic illusions of my life pass in front of my eyes. The drunken buzz fills my blood and I become numb to the outside life for which I live. My cheeks are rosie from the confusion for which I endure.

NSN 7540-00-634-4176

600-108

# HEALTH RECORD

## CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF MEDICAL CARE

SYMPTOMS, DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, TREATING ORGANIZATION (Sign each entry)

Date: 20 APR

### PTSD Checklist - Military Version (PCL-M)

Instructions: Below is a list of problems and complaints that veterans sometimes have in response to stressful military experiences. Please read each one carefully, put an "X" in the box to indicate how much you have been bothered by that problem in the last month.

No.	Response:	Not at all (1)	A little bit (2)	Moderately (3)	Quite a bit (4)	Extremely (5)
1.	Repeated, disturbing memories, thoughts, or images of a stressful military experience?	X				
2.	Repeated, disturbing dreams of a stressful military experience?	X				
3.	Suddenly acting or feeling as if a stressful military experience were happening again (as if you were reliving it)?	X				
4.	Feeling very upset when something reminded you of a stressful military experience?	X				
5.	Having physical reactions (e.g., heart pounding, trouble breathing, or sweating) when something reminded you of a stressful military experience?	X				
6.	Avoid thinking about or talking about a stressful military experience or avoid having feelings related to it?	X				
7.	Avoid activities or situations because they remind you of a stressful military experience?	X				
8.	Trouble remembering important parts of a stressful military experience?	X				
9.	Loss of interest in things that you used to enjoy?	X				
10.	Feeling distant or cut off from other people?	X				
11.	Feeling emotionally numb or being unable to have loving feelings for those close to you?	X				
12.	Feeling as if your future will somehow be cut short?	X				
13.	Trouble falling or staying asleep?	X				
14.	Feeling irritable or having angry outbursts?	X				
15.	Having difficulty concentrating?	X				
16.	Being "super alert" or watchful on guard?	X				
17.	Feeling jumpy or easily startled?	X				

Weathers, F.W., Huska, J.A., Keane, T.M. PCL-M for DSM-IV. Boston: National Center for PTSD - Behavioral Science Division, 1991.  
This is a Government document in the public domain

Score: 17

PATIENT'S IDENTIFICATION (Use this space for Mechanical Imprint)

Date Arrived AOR: 10 JAN 05

Date Departing AOR: 13 MAY 05

AFSC: 3A051

No. of Previous Deployments to AOR: 2

RECORDS MAINTAINED AT: <u>TRAVIS AFB</u>		SEX: <u>MALE</u>
PATIENT'S NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial): <u>SHARPE, IAN P</u>		RANK/GRADE: <u>E-4</u>
RELATIONSHIP TO SPONSOR:	STATUS: <u>A.D</u>	ORGANIZATION: <u>3560 CM</u>
SPONSOR'S NAME:		DATE OF BIRTH: <u>7-30-8</u>
DEPART./SERVICE:	SSN/IDENTIFICATION NO. <u>[REDACTED]</u>	

### CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF MEDICAL CARE

STANDARD FORM 600 (REV. 8)  
Prescribed by GSA and ICMR  
FIRM (41 CFR) 201-45.505



3

HEALTH RECORD		CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF MEDICAL CARE	
DATE	SYMPTOMS, DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, TREATING ORGANIZATION (Sign each entry)		
9 MAY 05	332 AEW Medical Clinic Balad AB, Iraq		
075D	S: 21 y/o <del>Male</del> Female c/o insomnia X 2-3 days. Pt. has been in theater 4 mo & problems. Notes last few days c trouble sleeping. Denies any depressive sx, excited to go home eating well.		
Allergies:			
NKDA			
Current Meds:	O: as per left Gen/ψ: no affect, talkative denies SE/HF		
Pain? Y (N)			
Severity (1-10)			
Location:			
BP: 148/100	A/p: 21 y.o. 5'2" insomnia		
Pulse: 73	- Benadryl 1 tab po qhs PRN #5		
Temp: 97.0	- sleep hygiene handout given		
Resp: 14	- RPE of wearing sx		
SAO2: 99%	Phil Castillo Phil Castillo 0-3, 1 FS		
PRP? Y (N)			
FLY? Y (N)			
Controller? Y (N)			
Tobacco Use?			
YES/NO			

PATIENT'S IDENTIFICATION (Use this space for Mechanical Imprint)

**Only:**

**FILL OUT INFO TO RIGHT...**

RECORDS MAINTAINED AT:		Print Your Home Base and Squadron Here	
PATIENT'S NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)		SEX	
SHARPE TAMP		Male / Female	
Date Arrived AOR/Theater:	STATUS	RANK/GRADE	
10 JAN 05	AD CIV/OTHER	EA	
Sponsor's Name:		ORGANIZATION/UNIT AT BALAD	
SELF		332 ECS	
MILITARY BRANCH	SSN/IDENTIFICATION NO.	DATE OF BIRTH	
USAF	20/ [REDACTED]	7-30-83	

5 May 05

Strange times have been lived so far in this life.

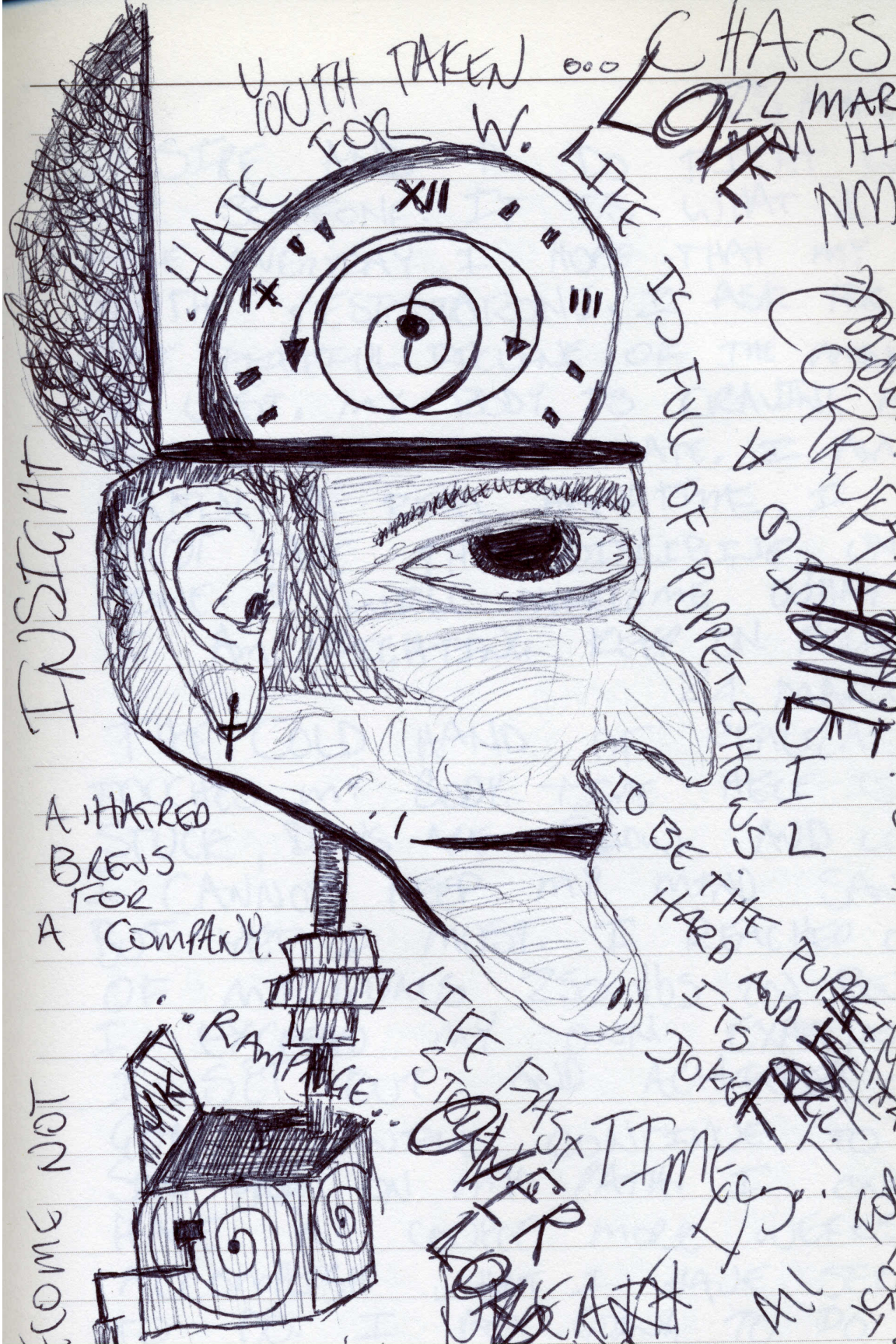
I am not sure what I am anymore. I am here, but I live somewhere else. I am just a young man trying to figure himself out. Stop living lies and sacrifice yourself to the light of truth.

Damn my tormented soul.



The days are few and my mind races. I think about what awaits me in Cali and America. What will my life turn into? I have gained much from this place. It has opened my mind more than I thought was possible. I do not know where my life will go, but I'll try and remain strong.

As I hold the memories of days past in my hand, I realize time waits for no one. The life we are given is a beautiful gift that so many let slip by. I have been lucky to find myself in thought and introspection.





11 May 05

So here I am, day 121 on what has seemed a lifetime in Iraq. I have felt all emotions here and have grown numb to some as well. I look forward to not waking up next to 7 dudes. I am so lost...how did I end up in this crazy dream? Has what has been going on lately been true or is what I see unreal? I have started to question it all.



## DEPARTURE AUTHORIZATION

For Redeployment or Forward Deployment

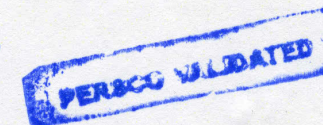


**The below listed member is authorized to depart Balad AB Iraq with the authenticated PERSCO Validation Stamp below. This member has completed all outprocessing actions required by the 332 AEW and PERSCO.**

Grade  Name  SSAN   
TDY Unit   
Home Unit      
Date Released

**I understand that I am not authorized to depart Balad AB Iraq any earlier than the release date indicated above or stated in my release letter.**

 13 May 05  
**Member's Signature and Date**



### PERSCO VALIDATION STAMP

(Member is not to be manifested on a flight if there is no PERSCO Validation Stamp above. If member attempts to be manifested without the PERSCO Validation Stamp, contact PERSCO immediately at 443-6512/6513)



# GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

IS AWARDED TO

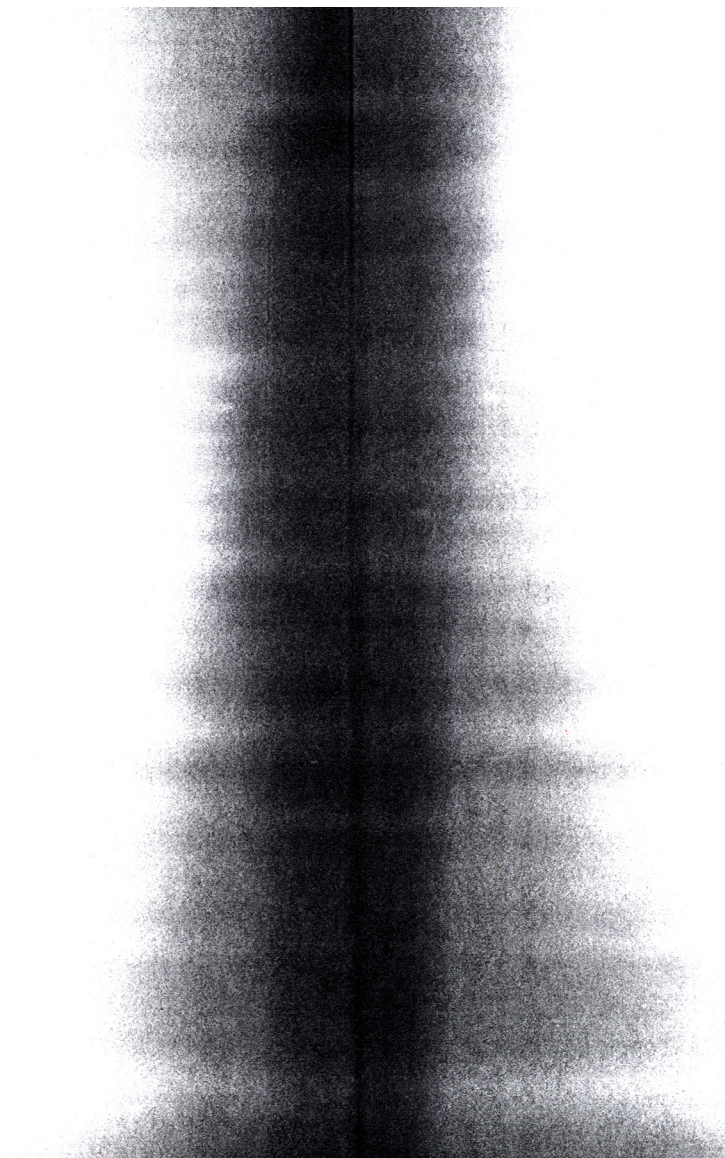
**SrA Ian P. Sharpe**  
**10 January 2005 - 13 May 2005**

**For outstanding service in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM while assigned to the 332d Air Expeditionary Wing. Your contributions were instrumental in fighting the global war on terror.**



  
BLAIR E. HANSEN, Colonel, USAF  
Commander





Act Three

Did your outlook change when you got back?

2006

My pen touches the paper. My heart and soul not connected. I continue to search for meaning but still feel empty. It has gotten bad, this black hole of despair. Some may ask why he was so strong while I am not. I am lonely and my heart is empty. I have so much sadness and despair. What will the next months bring? I am afraid I will not find out. There is a life I know I should have, happy and fulfilled, but there is only sorrow. There are grey skies when the sun is shining, a black night when the stars shine bright. I am haunted by this depression, a monster swallows my happiness. I will not be able to conquer this pain for much longer, nor do I wish to, I will soon be free from this cage of depression and heartache. No longer haunted by the darkness which is my mind.

2006

I had forgot what it was like to love. The dark place inside does not shine light to the above.



2006

I have struggled lately to stay afloat.  
Sometimes, it has been harder then getting  
Moby Dick in the boat. I try to ease my mind  
by dropping some beats, but it seems like  
nothing helps. Looking for a medical way to  
ease my mind, I take two yellow circle k's. I  
hope this anxiety goes away. My sleep is still  
haunted by the thoughts of war. My body  
sweaty from the night tremors. I ask for no  
more.

2006

The thoughts invade my mind like a dust  
storm.  
Wishing for a way to cleanse.  
Happiness is a feeling that will not come.  
Unease and thoughts of hatred collapse my  
tattered mind.  
An endless clock ticks. What will this life  
become?  
A misunderstood fence of misery.  
Is this in line with what you want to say?  
Depression.

How did you cope?

I drank.



2006

I drink. Then I question myself: why do you act in a way so unbecoming of yourself? The Mr. Mean versus Ian theory is this: after I drink, I become a subconscious person, my actions are not my own. The life I plan sober is not how I live drunk. I wish I did not use alcohol as a way to combat my emotional imbalance. I know too many things are affected when I poison my body with the fermented product. I no longer have a way to deal with my shallow life. My small day-to-day tasks are blinding me to the way I should be living. I guess it is time to figure out who the hell I am.

This is how I feel: disgusted and betrayed, broken-hearted and weak. Disgrace and lies wear on my character, my weak heart is filled with temptation. I no longer react but act on impulsive behavior. Once strong, now overcome by an Ian who is not his own. My need to figure myself out continues. I tell myself this: never falter for you are your own saving grace. The light of love is tainted by deceit. Learn and grow, be not who you are, but what you know you can become.

2006

As the sun breaks the quiet silence of the morning air, a beautiful glow engulfs the sky. The smell of a new fresh day has started. Birds sing out their harmonic melodies, with no care in their notes. The world seems to be functioning in perfect synchronization. It is as if worry and regret, depression and fear, hate and violence are non-existent. Then you realize that this is just what you want to see. This is not how it is, but rather what you want it to be.

2006

No longer shall the wondering haunt my conscience, may I sleep in peace.





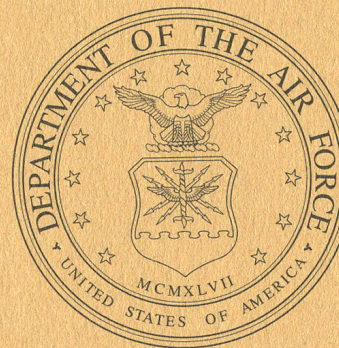


What happened in the military after your deployment?

E INSTRUCTION 36-2618  
1 DECEMBER 2004

*Personnel*

D FORCE STRUCTURE







I graduated from the Community College of the Air Force with an Associate's Degree in Applied Sciences and Information Management.



# Community College of the Air Force

*The Commander, Air University,  
by virtue of the authority vested by law  
and on the recommendation of the College does hereby confer on*

**Ian D. Sharpe**

*the degree of*

**Associate in Applied Science**


**Information Management**

*with all rights and privileges pertaining thereto*

*Given this 27th day of January 2006*

*In witness whereof the Seal of the College and our signatures are hereto affixed*




  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Air Force  
Commander, Air University

  
Colonel, U.S. Air Force  
Commandant, Community College of the Air Force



  
Chairman  
Air University Board of Visitors

  
Chief Academic Officer  
Community College of the Air Force





# From Airman to NCOs

The following list of individuals were selected for promotion to the rank of Staff Sergeant:

## 60th Air Mobility Wing

Joseph Brandt  
Tessa Cerulli  
David Jeffcoat  
Jason Pickren  
Amber Shema

## 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Wesley Alleman  
Luis Almeida  
Thomas Arthur  
James Baquie  
Jonathan Behrenst  
Josh Bryant  
Brett Burr  
Matthew Clark  
Joshua Coleman  
Nicholas Eubanks  
Justin Faulkner  
Emmanuel Felix  
Matthew Ferguson  
Jason Fiori  
William Gaither  
Roberto Garcia  
Ryan Gibson  
John Gonzales  
Tyler Gorzoch  
David Gunkelman  
Erin Hansen  
Clifton Hinton  
Donald Inman

Xavier Maldonado  
William Mallory  
Christopher Matthews  
Thomas McCallum  
Robert Mendez  
Matthew Miller  
Juan Osuna  
Randel Moser  
Richard Poff, Jr.  
Robert Sanchez  
Daniel Savelli  
Christopher Singleton  
Nicole Smith  
Ian Walker  
Caleb Woolman

## 60th Component Maintenance Squadron

Nathan Abbott  
Cynthia Arpan  
Michael Borer  
Steven Brackett  
Anthony Elder  
Anthony Hoile  
Jeremy Houston  
Avery Miranda  
Baltazar Morfin  
Joel Negron-ortiz  
Eric Ng  
Jose Pena  
Richard Rogers, II  
Billy Sasser  
Ian Sharpe  
Benjamin Tech  
Mario Velasco

Shanon Butac  
Angela Flores  
Mary Gozum  
Jason Keppert  
Narinedat Madramootoo  
Valerie Messineo  
Steven Sileo  
Lisa Thrasher  
Leah Williams  
Ronaldo Yonson

## 60th Medical Operations Squadron

Nichole Badger  
Brett Batson  
Kristine Brickey  
Yazan Bukhari  
Nestor Ebuen  
Michael Emmons  
John Garrison  
Monique Lowe  
Vanity Marshall  
Patricia Mileski  
Michael Naranjo  
Amanda Newman  
Antonio Planell  
Blesilda Poblete  
Trista Protzeller  
Verna Vida  
Rachel Wolhite  
Geneva Wilson

## 60th Medical Support Squadron

Curt Connor  
Darleen McVay  
Tonisha Gates

Douglas Herrmann  
Stephen Hickman  
Joshua Hueffmeier  
Howard Jones  
Harold Longnickel  
Ricardo Malan  
Joshua Malone  
Roeshod Ray  
Bennett Reeves  
Courtney Rommel  
Chad Tibbs  
Glenmore Vinoya  
Shawn Ward

## 60th Communications Squadron

Reziel Cayabyab  
Aaron Knowles  
Lucas Krajewski  
Dustin Lawrence  
Richard Olson  
Jennifer Pruett  
Victor Rodriguez  
Christopher Whigham  
Nicholas Wilson

## 60th Contracting Squadron

Andrew Clark  
Adam Crockett  
Rheame Griffin

## 60th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Richard Buchanan  
Michael Daniels  
Jose Escorza  
Jonathan Guzman  
Jimmy Howard

Randy Johnson  
Ebony Lowry  
Willie Morton

## 21st Airlift Squadron

Sean Desrochers  
Bradley Fox  
Ryan Gilliam  
Michael Weller  
David Wright

## 22nd Airlift Squadron

Joseph Bradshaw  
Paul Broderick  
John Cooper  
Christopher Schell  
Timothy Scully

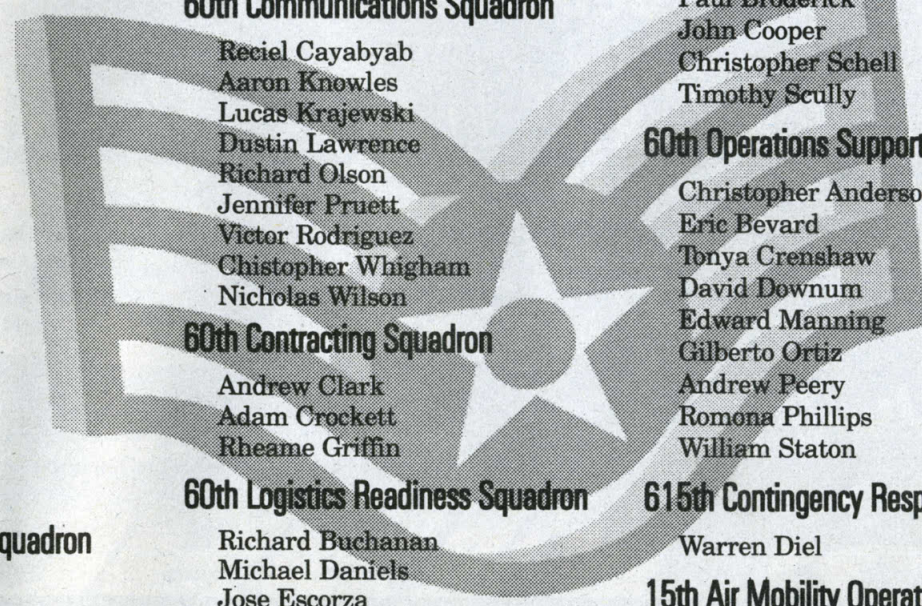
## 60th Operations Support Squadron

Christopher Anderson  
Eric Bevard  
Tonya Crenshaw  
David Downum  
Edward Manning  
Gilberto Ortiz  
Andrew Peery  
Romona Phillips  
William Staton

## 615th Contingency Response Wing

Warren Diel

## 15th Air Mobility Operations Squadron







# CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

*Having Demonstrated*

*Integrity First, Service Before Self, Excellence In All We Do*

**IAN SHARPE**

*is hereby promoted to the position of*

**NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER**

*in the grade of*

**STAFF SERGEANT**

*in the*

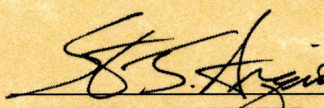
**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

*Your promotion carries with it the obligation that you exercise additional authority and willingly accept greater responsibility. Your every action must be governed by a strong sense of personal moral responsibility, leadership by example, excellence and commitment to Air Force standards. You will observe and follow such orders as may be given by superiors acting accordingly to the provisions of the United States Air Force Instructions, General Orders, Uniform Code of Military Justice, and supporting orders and directives.*

**Given on this day June 30, 2006**

*Travis Air Force Base, California*

  
CAROL M. JOHNSON  
Chief Master Sergeant, USAF  
Command Chief Master Sergeant, 60 AMW

  
STEVEN J. ARQUETTE  
Colonel, USAF  
Commander, 60 AMW





**AWARDS AND DECORATION INFORMATION****NAME:** IAN P SHARPE**RANK:** SSG**SSAN:** [REDACTED]**DATE:** 06 NOV 2006

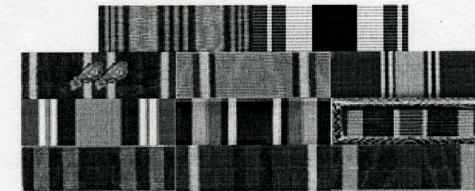
The Air Force Personnel Center files reflect that you are authorized to wear the following awards and decorations. They are in order of precedence and displayed as you would wear them on the uniform in accordance with current standards for dress appearance. There may be unique circumstances (such as prior service in a different branch of the armed forces) which may authorize you additional ribbons and/or devices. For additional information, refer to AFI 36-2803 *The Air Force Awards and Decorations Program*, AFI 36-2903 *Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel*, or visit your local Military Personnel Flight.

**AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

1. Air Force Achievement Medal
2. Meritorious Unit Award
3. AF Outstanding Unit Award
4. AF Good Conduct Medal
5. National Defense Service Medal
6. Iraq Campaign Ribbon
7. Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
8. Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border
9. AF Longevity Service
10. USAF NCO PME Graduate Ribbon
11. AF Training Ribbon

**DEVICES**

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THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION WHICH MUST BE PROTECTED  
IAW AFI 33-332 AND DOD REGULATION 5400.11.  
PRIVACY ACT OF 1974, AS AMENDED, APPLIES.

They give you awards for surviving attacks.

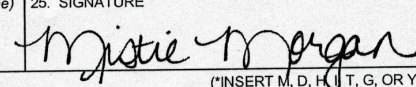
They give you achievement medals that arrive three years later.

Does this signify a successful military career?

Is this what it means to be recognized?



Applied for Early Release From Extension  
under AFI 36-3208 3.13.2

REQUEST AND AUTHORIZATION FOR SEPARATION									
1. TYPE OF SEPARATION:									
<input type="checkbox"/> DISCHARGE <input type="checkbox"/> ENTRY LEVEL SEPARATION <input type="checkbox"/> RELEASE FROM VOID ENLISTMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELEASE FROM EAD/REVERTS TO ANG <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELEASE FROM ACTIVE DUTY/TRANSFERS TO RESAF <input type="checkbox"/> RELEASE FROM EAD/REVERTS TO RESAF <input type="checkbox"/> DISMISSAL									
2. AUTHORITY: <input type="checkbox"/> BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> RESIGNATION ACCEPTED BY THE PRESIDENT									
3a. NAME (Last, First, MI)			3b. GRADE		3c. SSN		4. PLACE OF ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY OR ENLISTMENT		
SHARPE, IAN P.			SSgt				DENVER CO		
5. HOME OF RECORD (SEE REMARKS)				6. FUTURE MAILING ADDRESS 428 8TH ST #204 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103				7. UNDER 2 YEARS SERVICE <input type="checkbox"/> (E-4 Only)	
8. PAFSC 3A071		9. RESERVE AF GRADE N/A		10. MIL SVC OBLIGATION DATE YES		11. AERONAUTICAL RATING N/A		12. FLYING STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
13. EFFECTIVE DATE 15 Nov 2006		14. CHARACTER OF SERVICE:						15. CERTIFICATE ISSUED	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HONORABLE <input type="checkbox"/> UNDER OTHER THAN HONORABLE CONDITIONS <input type="checkbox"/> GENERAL (Under Honorable Conditions) <input type="checkbox"/> BAD CONDUCT DISCHARGE <input type="checkbox"/> UNCHARACTERIZED <input type="checkbox"/> DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE						<input type="checkbox"/> DD FORM 256AF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DD FORM 214	
16. RELIEVED FROM ASSIGNMENT (Unit, Major Command, Address and Servicing MPF) 60 CMS (AMC) TRAVIS 60 MSS/DPMAR (AMC) TRAVIS AFB							17. WILL PROCEED TO:		
							<input type="checkbox"/> PLACE OF ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY OR ENLISTMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HOME OF RECORD <input type="checkbox"/> HOME OF SELECTION		
18. TRAVEL BY PRIVATE CONVEYANCE (TPC) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES, WITH    DAYS TRAVEL TIME PERMITTED									
19. MEMBER QUALIFIES FOR FULL TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION ENTITLEMENT UNDER THE JFTR, PARA U5125 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO									
20. ASSIGNED TO (Check if Applicable)									
a. ARPC DENVER, CO				b. REVERTS TO CONTROL OF ANG (Name of State)			c. TYPE OF POSITION:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO							<input type="checkbox"/> MOBILIZATION AUGMENTEE <input type="checkbox"/> REINFORCEMENT DESIGNEE <input type="checkbox"/> UNIT		
d. UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT AND MPF				e. TRAINING/PAY CATEGORY		f. RESERVE SECTION CODE		g. FUNCTIONAL ACCT CODE	
				h. AUTHORIZED GRADE		i. AUTHORIZED AFSC		j. POSITION CONTROL NO.	
21a. ELIGIBLE FOR (PER 10 U.S.C. 1174):				b. ENTITLED TO SEVERANCE/SEPARATION PAY				c. CHAPTER 61, 10 U.S.C.	
<input type="checkbox"/> REINFORCEMENT DESIGNEE <input type="checkbox"/> UNIT				SERVICE FOR PAY IS:				DISABILITY:	
CREDITABLE ACTIVE FEDERAL SERVICE				YEARS		MONTHS		DAYS	
YEARS    MONTHS    DAYS								<input type="checkbox"/> NOT ENTITLED TO BENEFITS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE	
22. REMARKS (Continue on reverse) RE CODE: 1J    SPD CODE: MND.// DEPNS: NONE.//									
23. DATE 3 Nov 2006		24. ORDERS ISSUING/APPROVING OFFICIAL (Name, Grade, Title, DSN Phone) MISTIE M. MORGAN, TSGT, USAF NCOIC, RETIREMENTS AND SEPARATIONS					25. SIGNATURE  (*INSERT M, D, H, T, G, OR Y)		
26. EXPENSES CHARGEABLE TO: 5773500 327 5881.0* 875825 CODE S NONTEMPORARY STORAGE CHARGEABLE TO: 5773500 327 5888.ON 875825 CIC: 5773500 327 5888.ON 875825    TAG: F98E									
27. DESIGNATION AND LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE 60 MISSION SUPPORT SQUADRON (AMC) TRAVIS AFB CA 94535						28. AUTHORITY AFI 36-3208		29. SPECIAL ORDER NO. AB-079	
32. DISTRIBUTION B						31. TDN PCS FOR THE COMMANDER		30. DATE 3 Nov 2006	
						33. SIGNATURE ELEMENT OF ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUING OFFICIAL ROBERT J. JACKSON, CAPT, USAF MILITARY PERSONNEL FLIGHT COMMANDER			



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
60TH MAINTENANCE GROUP (AMC)



8 Sep 06

MEMORANDUM FOR 60 MSS/DPMAR

FROM: 60 MXG/MXOPL

SUBJECT: Early Separation – SSgt Ian Sharpe

1. I wholeheartedly support SSgt Ian Sharpe's decision for early separation from the United States Air Force. I have personally interviewed the member and he does not intend to make the Air Force a career. SSgt Sharpe is one of my sharpest troops in the 60th Maintenance Group Helpdesk; however, I have no reservation in allowing him to separate early. For the last 5 plus years SSgt Sharpe has served his country honorably. It is only fitting that he be allowed to separate early from the Air Force so he can pursue his dreams.

2. In December 2006, Travis AFB will form a new concept called "Pathfinder," centralizing all Information Managers (3As) on base. With this new concept, Travis will draw down its 3A manning from 54 to 26. Since Travis will be downsizing the 3A career field and SSgt Sharpe shows interest in early separation, this will be a win/win situation for both parties and will expedite the downsizing process.

3. I hope you afford SSgt Sharpe the opportunity for early separation from the Air Force.

4. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at 424-1039.

*Reny D Nunag*  
RENY D. NUNAG, TSgt, USAF  
MXG, 3A Functional Manager

**AIRMAN'S REQUEST FOR EARLY SEPARATION/  
SEPARATION BASED ON CHANGE IN SERVICE OBLIGATION**  
(THIS FORM IS AFFECTED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974.)

AUTHORITY: 10 U.S.C. 8019, Regular Enlisted Members, or 10 U.S.C. 1162, Reserve Discharge; and Executive Order 9397, 22 November 1943.				
PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: To provide information about your request to separate from service before the end of your term.				
ROUTINE USE: The processing activities and discharge authority use this information to determine whether you meet the criteria for early separation. If you separate, it is kept permanently as part of your master personnel record. In this capacity, it may be disclosed to any DOD component, including the Department of the Air Force at base, major command, HQ USAF, or Secretary of the Air Force level. It may be used for other lawful purposes including litigation.				
DISCLOSURE IS VOLUNTARY: You are not required to give any personal information. If you have information that would support your request, but you choose not to disclose it, you deprive yourself of the help it might provide.				
TO 60 CMS		THRU 60 MSS/DPMAR		
<b>I. PERSONAL DATA OF APPLICANT</b>				
NAME SHARPE, IAN P		GRADE SSGT		SSN
I request to be separated from active duty on <u>20061115</u> according to AFI 36-3208, Chapter 3 Section <u>3B</u> Paragraph <u>3.15</u>				
REASON FOR REQUEST (Supporting documentation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is <input type="checkbox"/> is not attached.) (Use reverse if additional space is required.)				
MEMBER IS APPLYING FOR EARLY SEPARATION FOR MISCELLANEOUS REASONS para 3.13 EARLY RELEASE FROM EXTENSION. ATTACHED IS JUSTIFICATION				
FUNCTIONAL MANAGER: <u>John</u>				
If this application is approved, I understand that I may be required to pay back any money I owe to the Air Force, including the unearned portion of my reenlistment bonus, advance pay, advance/excess leave, or other indebtedness.				
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT <i>IAN P SHARPE</i>				DATE SIGNED <u>28 Aug 06</u>
<b>II. AFO COORDINATION FOR POTENTIAL INDEBTEDNESS</b> (AFO Initials at right) <u>DV release debt \$2300m</u>				
<b>III. DPMQS ENDORSEMENT TO UNIT COMMANDER</b>				
TAFMSD 5 JUL -01	DATE ARRIVED STATION 20020321	ETS/DOS 4 JUN 2007	DATE & TERM OF ENLISTMENT 23 MONTHS	DEROS N/A
ADSCD/REASON N/A	CAFSC 3A051	PAFSC 3A051	DATE PTI 970 ENTERED IN PDS	
DPMH: AF FORM 418, IF REQUIRED, MEMBER HAS CANCELLED CJR, IF APPLICABLE (Clerk's Initials at right) <u>LEM</u>				
DPMUO: MEMBER HAS/HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED FOR PCS. (Clerk's Initials at right) <u>JCF</u>				
DPMPC: MEMBER HAS/HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED FOR TRAINING. (Clerk's Initials at right) <u>EDH</u>				
CONDITIONS THAT MAKE VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INADVISABLE (Use reverse if additional space is required.)				
RETURN REQUEST TO (List name, office symbol, and duty phone) ERIKA R. WILSON, StA, USAF RETIREMENTS AND SEPARATIONS CLERK 4-5029			REQUESTED RETURN DATE	
<b>IV. ENDORSEMENT OF UNIT COMMANDER</b>				
Based on info provided above, I recommend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVAL of this request for voluntary separation				
COMMENTS TO SUBSTANTIATE RECOMMENDATION (Use reverse if additional space is required.)				
SIGNATURE AND GRADE OF UNIT COMMANDER <b>JERRY G. HELMS, Maj, USAF</b> Commander, 60 CMS			DATE SIGNED <i>J. Helms</i> 15 Sep 2006	
<b>V. RECOMMENDATION OF SEPARATION AUTHORITY</b>				
APPROVED _____ Effective date of separation.		DISAPPROVED (See rationale below.)		RECOMMEND APPROVAL (See rationale below.)
RATIONALE (Use reverse if additional space is required.)				
SIGNATURE/GRADE/TITLE OF SEPARATION AUTHORITY ROBERT J. JACKSON, CAPT, USAF MILITARY PERSONNEL FLIGHT COMMANDER			DATE SIGNED	



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
60TH COMPONENT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON (AMC)



6 Sep 01

MEMORANDUM FOR 60 MSS/DPMAR

FROM: SSgt Ian P. Sharpe

SUBJECT: Request for Early Separation

1. I am applying for separation from Active Duty under AFI 36-3208 3.13.2 *Early Release From Extension*.

2. After serving honorably for the past five years and supporting both Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, I am requesting early separation from the military. Under clause 3.13.2 in AFI 36-3208, my separation would benefit me because of the following reasons.

2(a). I will be granted political freedoms. These freedoms include being able to voice my opinion on political issues that I feel affect me. I want to be able to voice how I feel about these issues without the fear of being punished under the UCMJ. I want the freedom to join political groups and movements that am not currently allowed to join due to my current position in the military. I want to have the right to voice my discontent for the current administration without the fear of being reprimanded or being considered disloyal to the United States of America.

2(b). I will be granted the liberties to pursue my personal life. I look forward to the opportunity to continue my education. However, with the grueling pace of my military lifestyle including TDY's and deployments, I am unable to fully devote myself to my studies. Pursuing a Master's degree is a full-time job. I know that I would be incapable of giving one hundred percent if I am in the military. It would also be beneficial to me to know that I can fully devote myself to pursue a Master's program.

2(c). I have recently relocated to San Francisco. The cost's incurred due to commuting has caused a lot of unneeded stress. Stuck behind the wheel for sometimes more than 3 hours a day takes a toll on my overall mental well-being. The commute is also hard physically on both me and my car. With the approval of my separation I will no longer have to endure the commute to Travis AFB. This would be extremely beneficial to me both mentally and economically.

2(d). I will be able to pursue my career. I have had to turn down job opportunities due to my military commitment. These jobs have been offered to me by employers such as: Apex, Bayside Solutions and Adecco. All of these companies's have benefits comparable or exceeding those of the Air Force. However, I am unable to secure these jobs because they are for immediate placement. If I am afforded the opportunity for an early separation I will be able to pursue these job opportunities.

2(d). The aforementioned benefits would greatly improve my overall well-being as an individual and a professional. These are the freedoms that I so desperately want and have honorably earned.

3. Under clause 3.13.2 in AFI 36-3208, my separation would benefit the Air Force for following reasons.

3(a). There is no intention of reenlistment. In April 2006, I was issued orders to Grand Forks, ND. I refused retainability for this assignment. I have no intention on making the Air Force a career. It would be in the best interest of the military to fill my manning position with an Airman that desires retainability.

3(b). My separation will benefit the Air Force because with the initiation of Pathfinder on Travis AFB my career field is cutting slots from 54 to 26. This in turn leaves people that want to stay in the Air Force vulnerable for separation. If I am approved for this separation one more manning position will be open for a member that wishes to be retained.

3(c). Furthermore, with the demand for CJR's at its peak it would be in the best interest of the Air Force to separate me. It would be one more CJR for a member that wants to reenlist.

4. I have learned many valuable life lessons while serving in the United States Air Force and will always honor these memories. I was given many great opportunities to work with exceptional people and technology. However, I feel it is time for me to start a new chapter in my life. With that I am asking that you approve my separation from the military on 15 November 2006.

5. If you have any question please call me at 424-7468.

IAN P. SHARPE, SSgt, USAF



Approved for early separation from duty.

CAUTION: NOT TO BE USED FOR  
IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RECORD.  
SAFEGUARD IT.

ANY ALTERATIONS IN SHADED AREAS  
RENDER FORM VOID

CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY				
1. NAME (Last, First, Middle) SHARPE IAN PAUL		2. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH AIR FORCE -- REG AF		3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [REDACTED]
4a. GRADE, RATE OR RANK SSGT	b. PAY GRADE E5	5. DATE OF BIRTH (YYYYMMDD) 19830730	6. RESERVE OBLIGATION TERMINATION DATE (YYYYMMDD) 20080910	
7a. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE DUTY DENVER CO		b. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY (City and state, or complete address if known) 1010 VENUS DRIVE COLORADO SPRINGS CO 80906		
8a. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND 60 CMS (AMC)		b. STATION WHERE SEPARATED TRAVIS AFB CA		
9. COMMAND TO WHICH TRANSFERRED USAFR			10. SGLI COVERAGE AMOUNT: \$400,000	
11. PRIMARY SPECIALTY (List number, title and years and months in specialty. List additional specialty numbers and titles involving periods of one or more years.) 3A071-INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CRAFTSMAN 3 YEARS AND 2 MONTHS 2A636-AIRCRAFT ELECTRICAL/ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS APPRENTICE; 2 YEARS./		12. RECORD OF SERVICE		
		a. DATE ENTERED AD THIS PERIOD 2001 Jul 05		
		b. SEPARATION DATE THIS PERIOD 2006 Nov 15		
		c. NET ACTIVE SERVICE THIS PERIOD 05 04 11		
		d. TOTAL PRIOR ACTIVE SERVICE 00 00 00		
		e. TOTAL PRIOR INACTIVE SERVICE 00 09 24		
		f. FOREIGN SERVICE 00 04 08		
		g. SEA SERVICE 00 00 00		
13. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED (All periods of service) Air Force Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Training Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Air Force Expeditionary (SEE REMARKS)		14. MILITARY EDUCATION (Course title, number of weeks, and month and year completed) BASIC MILITARY TRAINING, SEP 01; INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CRAFTSMAN, SEP 06; INFORMATION MANAGEMENT APPRENTICE, MAR 04; AIRCRAFT ELECTRICAL (SEE RMKS)		
15a. MEMBER CONTRIBUTED TO POST-VIETNAM ERA VETERANS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM b. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OR EQUIVALENT		YES X YES X		
16. DAYS ACCRUED LEAVE PAID 21.5	17. MEMBER WAS PROVIDED COMPLETE DENTAL EXAMINATION AND ALL APPROPRIATE DENTAL SERVICES AND TREATMENT WITHIN 90 DAYS PRIOR TO SEPARATION YES			
18. REMARKS ITEM 13: Service Ribbon w/gold border, Air Force Longevity Service Award, NCO Professional Military Education Ribbon, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award w/ 2 OLCs, Meritorious Unit Award, Iraq Campaign Ribbon, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Information Management Badge, Maintenance Badge. / ITEM 14: AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYS APPRENTICE, FEB 02; AIRMAN LEADERSHIP SCHOOL, DEC 05. MEMBER IS SUBJECT TO RECALL TO ACTIVE DUTY AND/OR ANNUAL SCREENING. / MEMBER HAS COMPLETED FIRST FULL TERM OF SERVICE. / ----- NOTHING FOLLOWS -----				
The information contained herein is subject to computer matching within the Department of Defense or with any other affected Federal or non-Federal agency for verification purposes and to determine eligibility for, and or continued compliance with, the requirements of a Federal benefit program.				
19a. MAILING ADDRESS AFTER SEPARATION (Include Zip Code) SAN FRANCISCO, CA		b. NEAREST RELATIVE (Name and address - include Zip Code) [REDACTED]		
20. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 6 BE SENT TO CA DIRECTOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS		YES X		
21. SIGNATURE OF MEMBER BEING SEPARATED [Signature]		22. OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN (Typed name, grade, title and signature) ROBERT J. JACKSON, CAPT, USAF MILITARY PERSONNEL FLIGHT COMMANDER [Signature]		

SPECIAL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (For use by authorized agencies only)	
23. TYPE OF SEPARATION RELEASE	24. CHARACTER OF SERVICE (Include upgrades) HONORABLE
25. NARRATIVE REASON FOR SEPARATION MISCELLANEOUS / GENERAL REASONS	
29. DATES OF TIME LOST DURING THIS PERIOD (YYYYMMDD) NONE	30. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 6 BE SENT TO CA DIRECTOR OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (Initials) [Signature]



# Honorable Discharge



from the Armed Forces of the United States of America

*This is to certify that*

**Staff Sergeant Ian P Sharpe, USAFR**

*was Honorably Discharged from the*

## United States Air Force

*on the 10th day of September, 2008 This certificate is awarded  
as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service*

*Eric W Crabtree*

Eric W. Crabtree, Brig Gen, USAFR  
Commander



What happened after you were discharged?

For the entire five years I was in the military, all I thought about was getting out. Then, the day came and I thought, “oh shit, have I been institutionalized?” I spent more time in the military than in high school. During that time, I took the first steps towards my adult life. And it’s not like they give you time to explore your individuality. I can see how people re-enlist and stay on. What are the next steps? What do I do? Is this happiness?

I am still searching for the answers. But these are some of the activities that have helped along the way.











IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR presents

bay area

# winter soldier

IRAQ & AFGHANISTAN

WS took place on March 15th, 2008 in Wash. DC where Iraq and Afghan vets testified to members of congress about the cold TRUTH as told by boots on the ground.

Join the newly formed San Francisco chapter of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) as they gather to hold a Winter Soldier for the public. This event will feature testimony from local Iraq and Afghan vets as well as screenings of testimonies from the Winter Soldier in DC.

\$5-10  
suggested donation  
NO ONE TURNED AWAY

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 20 7:00pm

STATION 4  
3030B 16th St at Mission

benefit for IVAW travel costs to protest 2008 DNC, RNC and to attend the IVAW



# why not peace

perspectives from the front lines, on the realities of war and the meaning of peace


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## peace soldier

[photo](#)
[video](#)


### Ian | 24 | San Francisco, California Stationed in Iraq, 2005

Ian is a 6 year Air Force veteran who was deployed to Iraq in 2005, where he served with the Expeditionary Communications Squadron. Ian was honorably separated from the Air Force in 2006 and is currently the Treasurer for Iraq Veterans Against the War, Bay Area Chapter and an active member of Vote Vets.

Photography by Matthew Reamer

## peace quote

**My last thought** before I boarded that plane was, please let me come back. I did. I think about how I can make a positive change for those less fortunate and I look inside myself and search for peace.

## interview

**Question: Why did you join the armed forces?**

I joined the military for a multitude of reasons, to build a solid foundation, to get an education, to travel the world travel. But what sticks out in my mind the most was wanting to serve my country and to sacrifice some of my personal luxuries

to give back to this country that gave me everything I could have asked for. I felt it was my duty as a young American.

**Question: How would you have described yourself the day before you went to war?**

I joined the Air Force two months out of High School in 2001. I had no idea that the tides of war would change so quickly and without warning. I was only four weeks into my technical training when 9/11 occurred, and that event shaped the rest of my military career. I didn't deploy to Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom, but supported combat operations from a small island off the coast of India. It was an extremely grueling couple years due to the Ops tempo

within the Air Force, and we routinely worked 12-14 hour days. On December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004 I was notified by my commanding officer that I would be leaving for Iraq in 3 weeks and that I needed to start prepping myself for deployment. I was informed that I would be deploying to a base that was also known as mortar-itaville. My time had come. It was my turn to fill my C bags and leave my life behind. I didn't have the heart to tell my mother over the phone and asked to take leave before I left for Iraq to see my mother and family. Somewhere in the back of my mind I thought this could be the last time I saw them, and that thought ate me up inside. I returned from a tearful trip home with every prayer bead and guardian angel my family and friends could find. I promised them that I would keep my head down and return home. The day I left for Iraq, the weather was gloomy and rainy; eerily reflecting how I felt. My last thought before I boarded the plane was, "please let me come back."

**Question: What about you has changed the most since that day?**

Since that day I have thought a lot about my life, the lives of others and how we all indirectly affect one another. I have questioned why I joined the military in the first place and asked myself if there was anything I could have done to not go to war. After coming back, I now think about how I can make a positive change for those returning from the war who were less fortunate. I think about the failing VA system and a public that has been spoon fed so many mistruths about the war. Being in war has changed everything for me, the way I handle relationships, how I see the world, what I eat. War has made me question reality, it has made me question life. Most of all it has made me question the faith I had in America.

**Question: Now that you have returned, what does peace mean to you?**

I look inside myself and search for peace. I search daily and I hope one day that my search can bring me self-awareness and peace. But for now I struggle with my hardships. These hardships are insignificant when compared to the hardships Iraqi civilians endure every day, with bombings, kidnappings and government corruption. I wish that we as a global community could come together and share peace with our Iraqi brothers and sisters. We could bring back laughter and learning. We could observe, think and philosophize on the streets without fear. We could share peace harmoniously, without inequality, injustice or war.

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Swords to Plowshares





Ideas and action for a new generation

## War Is A Racket: An Iraq Vet Speaks

By Ian Sharpe, WireTap

Posted on March 18, 2009, Printed on September 10, 2010

<http://www.wiretapmag.org/stories/44072/>

Has it been six years since we invaded Iraq?

I remember getting a call from one of my good friends, a fellow Airman, who was stationed in Al Dhafra, United Arab Emirates in support of Operation Enduring Freedom letting me know that March 20 was going to be a "big day" and to "get ready." This was in January 2003. I was a young man, barely 19, and had only been in the military for a little more than a year. Wow, I thought to myself, what the hell did I sign up for? I thought that joining the Air Force was going keep me out of trouble not put me in the line of fire.

I think back to the day I left for Boot Camp, July 4, 2001. I was a patriot, a determined yet troubled teenager that was looking at a way to better himself. Little did I know that my military career would start with a war and end that same way.

I served for five and a half years in the United States Air Force with the rank of Staff Sergeant. I was honorably separated in November 2006 after I found a contract clause that stated that early separation (leaving the service) could be approved "if it was to the benefit of the Airman and the Air Force." Why would I dig so deep in my contract in order to get out early you may wonder?

After a 127 day tour to Balad Airbase, Iraq it did not matter how deep I had to dig or how hard I had to fight, I was determined to get out. After my deployment, I began to question the validity and necessity of the war and soured on the military complex. Hearing the agonizing screams of young Iraqi boys and girls that were injured and labeled collateral damage and giving final salutes to flag draped coffins, I was no longer willing to remain part of the machine.

I wanted nothing more than to be free of the nightmares that were a result of this unforgiving and unnecessary war. I wondered if I was the only military member that thought the war was unjustified, so I began to research military anti-war movements.



I found Iraq Veterans Against the War on the web and read about other young men and women like me that were sent to do unthinkable acts for the greed of few. They spoke out and it made me want to share my experiences with others. I am now one of many IVAW members in the Bay Area Chapter.

Our chapter has lead anti-war marches in San Francisco on the fourth and fifth anniversaries of the war, read the names of 4000 of our fallen brothers and sisters in front of City Hall, hosted a Winter Soldier event to tell our stories, lead marches at the DNC and RNC and brought Operation First Casualty to the streets of San Francisco on Black Friday.

It has been six years, six long years. There have been 4259 American military casualties, tens, if not hundreds of thousands Iraqi casualties and we have a Veterans Administration that cannot deal with the survivors and countless Iraq war veterans on the streets.

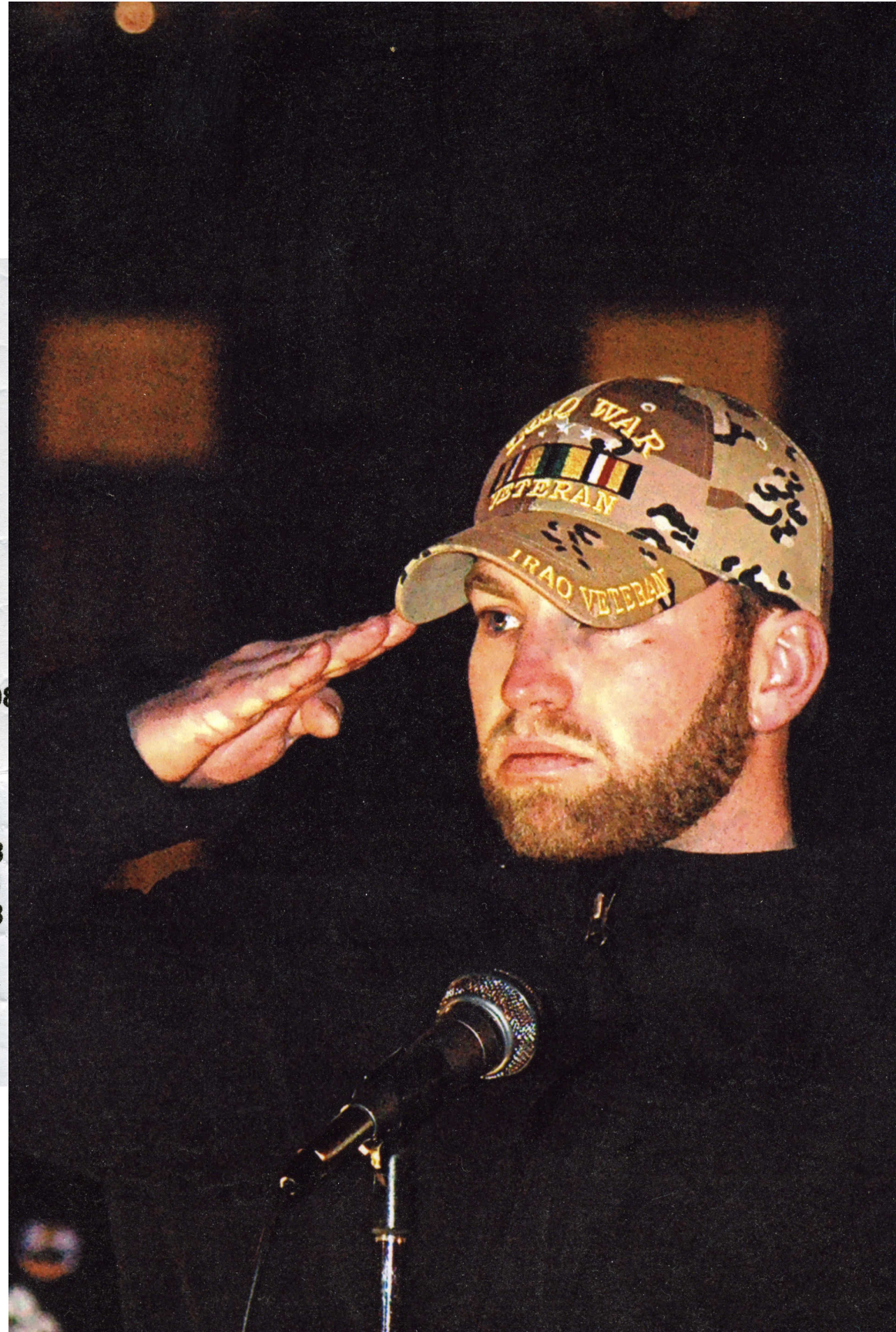
I believe Major General Smedley D. Butler said it best in 1935, "War is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily the most profitable, surely the most vicious."

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David D. Julian, 31, Army Staff Sergeant, Mar 10, 2008  
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Dustin C. Jackson, 21, Army Specialist, Mar 12, 2008  
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Gregory D. Unruh, 28, Army Sergeant, Mar 19, 2008  
Tyler J. Smith, 22, Army Private 1st Class, Mar 21, 2008  
II, Thomas C. Ray, 40, Army National Guard Sergeant, Mar 22, 2008  
David S. Stelmat, 27, Army National Guard Specialist, Mar 22, 2008  
David B. Williams, 26, Army National Guard Sergeant, Mar 22, 2008





This is my final salute.



## COLOPHON

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PHOTOS  
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TEXT  
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COPY EDITING  
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TEMPLATE DESIGN  
Matthew Rezac, Monica Haller

SOFTWARE DESIGN  
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PRINTING  
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Bush Foundation  
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Monica Haller

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Ian Sharpe served in the United States Air Force from July 2001 to November 2006 as an Information Manager assigned to the 60th Maintenance Group, Travis Air Force Base, California. Ian was sent to Diego Garcia and United Arab Emirates in support of Operation Enduring Freedom after the 9-11 attacks.

In January 2005, he was deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq and served as a Postmaster with the 332 Expeditionary Communications Squadron. Ian was honorably discharged in November 2006 with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

In 2006, Ian obtained an AAS in Information Management from the Community College of the Air Force and a BS from Southern Illinois University, School of Engineering in 2007. Ian currently works for a technology company in San Francisco and is an active member of many community organizations.



