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INTERVIEW OF


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FT. LESLIE J. MCNAIR
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AT

THE PENTAGON
Alexandria, Virginia

October 31, 2001

TAPE TRANSCRIPTION

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 [REDACTED] -- 1 Bravo -- and I'm going to start
3 this tape, and the -- I'm going to identify myself, you
4 identify yourself, and then we'll get into the interview.

5 My name is [REDACTED]. I'm with
6 the 305th Military History Detachment. We're assigned to
7 Task Force Noble Eagle with the Army Center of Military
8 History, and we're here, at the Pentagon. Approximately what
9 room are we in?

10 [REDACTED]: It's [REDACTED] but there's no
11 number for it because it's a reception room.

12 [REDACTED] Okay. And today is 31, October, 2001,
13 at approximately 1212 hundred hours. Thank you for being
14 here during lunch.

15 And what we're going to do is talk with you and ask
16 you some questions. And who are you?

17 [REDACTED] Okay. I'm [REDACTED]
18 I'm with the Network Infrastructure Service Agency, and
19 detailed right now with the Information Management Center.
20 And I'm in the reception room with [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED] Okay. And could you spell your name
22 phonetically, please?

1 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - you know,
2 [REDACTED] I don't know, some
3 people like the, you know -- some people don't.

4 [REDACTED] I understand. As long as the people
5 who are transcribing understand what you're saying. It's
6 important.

7 Can you, again, tell me your duty position, please?

8 [REDACTED]: Executive administrative assistant.

9 [REDACTED] And what office was that again?

10 [REDACTED]: Network Infrastructure Service Agency.

11 [REDACTED] And, briefly, what is the Network
12 Infrastructure Services Agency do?

13 [REDACTED] They fall under the Secretary of the
14 Army, [REDACTED] office, under the -- he's administrative
15 assistant to the secretary of the Army, and they fall under
16 him. And they take care of all the computers, technology,
17 repairs, set ups; things of that nature.

18 [REDACTED] Okay. And what is your -- let me start
19 -- let me back up a little bit. You are how old?

20 [REDACTED] I'm 30.

21 [REDACTED]: And when did you enter the service?

22 [REDACTED] In 1996.

1 [REDACTED] And you entered service where?
2 [REDACTED]: I came in in North Carolina.
3 [REDACTED] That's where you're from?
4 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.
5 [REDACTED]: Okay.
6 [REDACTED]: I came in the regular Army at -- I in
7 processed at the MEP's station in Maryland, in 1996. But I'm
8 -- I was prior service National Guard, came in, in North
9 Carolina.
10 [REDACTED]: So you were in the National Guard how
11 long?
12 [REDACTED]: Not very long.
13 [REDACTED]: You decided you liked the Army, so
14 you --
15 [REDACTED]: Yeah, I liked the idea of the
16 traveling and doing jobs in different areas. I liked that
17 idea so I switched.
18 [REDACTED] What is your primary MOS right now?
19 [REDACTED]: 71 LIMA, administrative specialist.
20 [REDACTED] And have you always been 71 LIMA?
21 [REDACTED]: Always.
22 [REDACTED]: Okay. And so you've been in the

1 service active duty since 1996?

2 [REDACTED]: Yes.

3 [REDACTED]: Okay. And where have -- where has your
4 career taken you so far?

5 [REDACTED]: I've been to Texas, Germany, and here.
6 This is my next duty station here at the Pentagon.

7 [REDACTED]: So tell me about a typical duty day for
8 you?

9 [REDACTED]: It depends. Here, it's very busy. So
10 things are flexible as far as APFT, like your normal day when
11 you're in a field unit. You have your APFT. You have, you
12 know, a lot of different things.

13 But here it's the -- the mission is technically
14 first. So APFT is flexible. It depends on when they're able
15 to do the APFT, but most of the point is taking care of the
16 administrative side of the soldier and civilians. It's high
17 priority here.

18 [REDACTED]: Okay. Can you recall September the
19 tenth, what you would have been doing that day?

20 [REDACTED]: Well, actually, I hadn't too long --
21 had my son. Had him on the third of July, but I had a
22 complicated surgery. So I was on convalescent leave before

1 the eleventh.

2 I had a provider in place for my son, but she had
3 an emergency, and she had to go to the hospital, and, you
4 know, she wouldn't work out because I had to go back to work.
5 So, you know, I was in the middle of looking for someone for
6 my son.

7 [REDACTED]: So you found somebody?

8 [REDACTED]: Yeah, after the attack. The Navy kind
9 of stepped in. They wanted to find out what our needs were
10 when I was in the hospital, someone from the Navy was there.
11 And they put me in touch with this person because no one was
12 sure if the Pentagon daycare was going to be opened back up
13 again.

14 [REDACTED]: But on the tenth you had -- you were
15 home?

16 [REDACTED]: Making preparations, waiting for my
17 supervisor to sign a letter so I could get him in the
18 Pentagon daycare because there was a waiting list.

19 [REDACTED]: So you went to work on the eleventh.

20 [REDACTED]: On the eleventh.

21 [REDACTED]: And, again, the PT?

22 [REDACTED]: No PT that day. That day was just to

1 focus on getting my letters done so I could try to go ahead
2 and get my son in the daycare.

3 [REDACTED] Okay.

4 [REDACTED] And what happened that day?

5 [REDACTED]: Well, actually, I -- I talked to my
6 first sergeant before she went to her meeting, and to let her
7 know I have received my letter from my director.

8 I sat down at the computer, at 1 echo 517. And as
9 soon as I was about to turn the computer on, boom. Okay.
10 There was such a great impact at that moment. I didn't even
11 get to turn the computer on. You know, the computer blew,
12 and just everything changed.

13 It went from a light, pleasant environment to just
14 total dismal darkness, flames, fire. It happened that fast.
15 There was no -- you know, slow motion about it. It just
16 happened so fast. You know, when it hit, it was like
17 everything crumbled, walls, the computer blew fire. It just
18 all happened really instantaneously.

19 And I wasn't covered all the way. I was just
20 covered from my waist down. So I was able to like move
21 around, look and see what in the world happened.

22 [REDACTED] Covered in debris?

1 [REDACTED] I was covered in debris.

2 [REDACTED] How many people work in your office?

3 [REDACTED]: Well, there's a number of people that
4 work in that office. The total number, I don't know. I
5 don't know the total number, but there were two other
6 military people there that day. But when there was the hit,
7 people fell down from the other floors. I don't know how
8 many people it was. I don't know how many people worked that
9 day. I just could hear them screaming, hollering. Stuff
10 like that.

11 [REDACTED]: Again, you were on the first floor?

12 [REDACTED] I was on the first floor.

13 [REDACTED] On the E ring?

14 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

15 [REDACTED] And so you're covered in debris up to
16 your waist. It's mostly black in there?

17 [REDACTED]: Black, but by -- you could see things
18 by the fire that was in the back. You were able to just see
19 like certain things, you know, by the light of the fire
20 because the flame -- but it was dark in there.

21 Smoke, you know, a lot of smoke, and the flames
22 wasn't so big and you wouldn't have been able to really see

1 very much except like right in front of you.

2 [REDACTED] Now, your supervisor, who is your
3 supervisor?

4 [REDACTED] At that time my immediate supervisor
5 was [REDACTED], and he was in Rosalind.

6 [REDACTED]: How do you spell that?

7 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED] But he wasn't there?

9 [REDACTED]: No, he was in Rosalind. Our first
10 sergeant was located down the hallway from my office. And I
11 really needed her endorsement before it went up higher. I
12 was just going through protocol.

13 And she had to rush to a meeting. So I was just
14 going to get it ready for her and leave.

15 [REDACTED]: Who were the other military people in
16 the room?

17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]: You'll have to spell that one.

20 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED] So it was a corporal, and a sergeant?

22 [REDACTED]: And a sergeant, yeah.

1 [REDACTED] And yourself.

2 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

3 [REDACTED] And some civilians?

4 [REDACTED] Now I don't know who was in the back,
5 but the room is large. And I don't know if there were people
6 in the back, or not. I just was turning on the computer to
7 do the letter for the first sergeant.

8 I really wasn't paying attention to -- you know,
9 who was back there, who -- it wasn't even -- my thing was my
10 letter before the first sergeant get back. That's all I was
11 thinking about. I don't know if there were people like in
12 the back, or anything like that. I really wasn't paying
13 attention to the environment.

14 [REDACTED]: So back to the debris. What did you
15 do?

16 [REDACTED]: I took a deep breath first, because I
17 was like, whoa, that happened so fast. To go from a room
18 like light, to just something like that. You have to pinch
19 yourself and say, oh, my God, is this real.

20 And then I had my son with me. So my newborn baby
21 was with me, and so I was trying to maintain myself so I
22 would not freak out.

1 [REDACTED] I didn't know you brought your son to
2 work.

3 [REDACTED]: Yeah, mm-hmm. I brought because I
4 couldn't leave him home.

5 [REDACTED]: And he was right next to you?

6 [REDACTED]: He was right to next me in his
7 stroller.

8 [REDACTED]: Was he okay?

9 [REDACTED]: Yeah, but I didn't think so at first
10 because his stroller got caught -- caught on fire. So I
11 thought when he was crying that he was crying because he was
12 burning. That's what I thought. You know, and it's -- first
13 I had to get myself together emotionally before I thought
14 about, okay, what's my next step.

15 Because I can't believe this happened. My son, my
16 son, you know, but I calmed down and I just was thinking,
17 okay, I needed to do something. You know, I see over that
18 side and the stroller, and I'm like, my God, that's why he's
19 crying.

20 [REDACTED]: He wasn't next to you?

21 [REDACTED]: No, he was blown. He was blown. It
22 was like --

1 [REDACTED] He was next to you, but --

2 [REDACTED]: Next to me, but when the impact hit
3 the stroller was blown in one area and when I did finally
4 find him he was farther from the stroller, under debris.

5 But I thought he was in the stroller at first, and
6 then when I turned to look back I could see people from the
7 ceiling. I could see people -- I could hear people, a lady
8 in fire. I could just see different things when I looked to
9 the back.

10 Because the office is normally big, where you would
11 be able to see everybody. But when the stuff fell it was
12 like there was two sections. Sectioned off by debris, and
13 stuff like that.

14 So it was rough in there. It was rough.

15 [REDACTED]. So you've got your son --

16 [REDACTED]: I crawled out, got the stuff off from
17 under me and I crawled out. And I went to the stroller, that
18 was my first thing because I thought he was crying because he
19 was in the stroller. He wasn't in there, and I was like, oh,
20 my God, where's my son.

21 I heard this guy --

22 [REDACTED] Your son's name?

1 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] And I didn't
2 see him. I heard this guy, help me, save me. That's what I
3 heard him. There was other people, but it's not like you're
4 really not focusing on everything the whole time.

5 So I say, you know, you help -- I'll help you,
6 please help me find my son. And he got out. He was
7 bleeding, had been burnt.

8 [REDACTED]: Do you remember who it was?

9 [REDACTED]: I don't. And he had to have come from
10 another floor because I didn't even know who he was.

11 [REDACTED]: You never saw him before?

12 [REDACTED]: No. I didn't even know who he was. I
13 was like, whoa. You know, that's how I could tell it was --
14 must have been really, really bad whatever had happened
15 because I didn't know who those people were.

16 [REDACTED]: Civilians?

17 [REDACTED]: I believe so. I believe so, because
18 military are allowed to wear civilian clothes on particular
19 days. So they may have been military, or they may have been
20 civilians. I never thought of asking his name.

21 So he's digging through the debris trying to find a
22 way out because the area we were in normally there's a door

1 where the area I was sitting at was. But the way that stuff
2 was, nothing. Fallen walls, ceilings, stuff. You know, you
3 weren't thinking. You know, you weren't thinking like, okay,
4 let me just take my normal exit out or anything like that.

5 Eventually I find him, find my son in the debris.
6 He's in a ball, like that. But when I picked him up he was
7 like laid out like that. So I was thinking, oh, my God, his
8 bones are broken. I was just thinking so many things,
9 crying, like, oh, my God, I can't believe this happened.

10 Then I hear this other lady. She was screaming,
11 and --

12 ██████████: (Inaudible.)

13 ██████████: Okay. And I hear this other lady
14 further back. And once I had him, I was like, okay, and I
15 looked further back, and there was people further in that
16 area. I don't even want to call it an office anymore because
17 it was a mixture of a lot of things. Stuff had fallen
18 through, people were trapped.

19 But the flames were too big. They had gotten too
20 big. And I mean for sure she was engulfed by the flames.
21 Because I had nothing to cover my body. You know, I couldn't
22 see anything. There was no way I could get her. There was

1 no way I could get her.

2 So I was dealing with that trauma, you know, that
3 there was just nothing. Nothing I could do to help this
4 lady. It sounded like a lady, it could have been a man later
5 on, who knows. But there was a body.

6 And she had already been -- or he, had already been
7 burned. You know, so it was -- it was a lot, people bleeding
8 and you see that, and, you know, you see a hand. But it's
9 just too much stuff. You can't even get anybody out.

10 So there was a lot of emotions going on. Anger,
11 fear, helplessness all at one time, and then you know you got
12 to get out. You know, and stuff is still falling. Boy --
13 you know -- so the guy, he was trying to find a way out the
14 area. And then that's when I heard [REDACTED].

15 Well, I didn't know exactly who it was at that
16 particular time but it was a male and a female saying where
17 you all at. We found a way. You could hear them talking,
18 but I could bits and pieces because I thought for sure we
19 were going to get burned up next.

20 Because even though we were free from the debris,
21 we didn't see a way out. There was no way out. I didn't see
22 a way out, and he didn't see a way out.

1 So I was like, wow, we get out to get burned up.
2 That's what I felt. You know, I didn't want to say it out
3 loud because I knew it was -- you know, but that's what I
4 felt.

5 So if they didn't some kind of way -- I don't know
6 what they did. They made a little groove, or a little way,
7 and we got over it. They helped us climb over it, and [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED] from -- [REDACTED] explained to me, found a way
9 further out. A hole, so we could follow him to get out.

10 So they helped us get out of our trapped area, and
11 then they helped us get the way out. And after that they
12 said I passed out because I was just so glad to be out of
13 there. You know, I passed out with my baby. They said
14 somebody helped, somebody had my baby.

15 At that point -- I believe it's going to come back
16 to me after a while. But I don't remember from the time we
17 actually got right outside of the building. That part is
18 still a little not with me yet.

19 So --

20 [REDACTED]: You don't recall at what point you
21 passed out?

22 [REDACTED]: No. No. I just remember coming to at

1 the hospital wondering where is my son. It's the first thing
2 I could think of.

3 So when I did wake up I really thought it was a
4 dream actually. I thought I was having a bad nightmare. But
5 when I woke up there were people in the room and that's when
6 I knew it was not a nightmare.

7 And then they looked so somber. I thought, oh, my
8 God, my son, are they waiting to tell me -- you know, I had
9 no clue. So the first thing I was like where's my son. So,
10 he was okay. So I was fine. He was in the middle getting
11 x-rays and stuff like that.

12 So I calmed down after that. I calmed down a
13 little bit after that.

14 ██████████: Did people tell you later things that
15 you did, or saw, that you weren't aware of? Did you run into
16 anybody else since then that was in that area?

17 ██████████: Not really, being detailed out. The
18 first time we all really got to really, really talk was at
19 the awards ceremony. Seeing how everybody was doing. And
20 then we really didn't even go into details. We just were all
21 happy. Happy that you made, you made it.

22 You know, that was really what the majority of our

1 conversation has been. We really don't go into details a lot
2 about this and that, and this and that. We might mention it
3 a little teeny bit, but not a whole lot.

4 You know, it's just normally a lot of -- a lot of
5 hugging and smiling and patting on the back, and how's the
6 baby, and that type of thing.

7 But I guess, you know, I don't think that's
8 something you just get over, and I know it's been a month
9 later. But coming here, that's a major task, you know, to
10 come in here everyday. I know when I first came back and I
11 found out that I was detailed and tasked out it was hard for
12 me to walk in the building. I stayed outside for almost two
13 hours before I walk in.

14 You know, it was just little things I had to come
15 -- you know, (inaudible) a little work. You know, and then
16 seeing the actual building. I never looked back, you know,
17 but to see the building later when it was damaged it was
18 like, oh, my God, that really happened. And then to know we
19 were at the bottom. You know, that took some getting used
20 to, to be able to face it. To actually look at it, and face
21 it. That was something (inaudible).

22 And then later, piece by piece, certain like

1 flashbacks. I would have a lot of flashbacks, and that's how
2 I started recalling certain things, because I was having a --
3 I went through a period the first couple of weeks I had a lot
4 of flashbacks.

5 You know, I could be in the middle of -- because I
6 was on convalescent leave, and I'd be in the middle of doing
7 something and I'd have a flashback. You know, and I'd see it
8 all over again in an instant. You know, and then I would
9 remember again.

10 So it was rough the first four weeks. It was
11 rough.

12 ██████████ Is there anything more that you want to
13 tell us?

14 ██████████ You know, no warning. You know, no
15 warning whatsoever. Because I felt like maybe if we did --
16 I'm not saying that if we did get one it doesn't mean that
17 wouldn't happen, but maybe, maybe, if we had a warning we
18 would have had a chance to get out of that building.

19 And then me with my son. I was very -- I dealt
20 with a lot of anger behind this. Not saying, oh, it's
21 anybody's fault, but just a lot of anger. I just had my son,
22 and, you know, I was a little bit angry everything happened

1 with no warning. I would have tried to -- took the nearest
2 evacuation route, or something. So I was dealing with that
3 for a little bit.

4 And if there's some type of scene -- I try to think
5 of something, some movie I've seen with that (inaudible). I
6 couldn't even recall any scene I've seen to recall that
7 actual event. The way it was inside of there. There's no
8 way -- I haven't recalled anything to help say this is what
9 it was like.

10 You know, it just seemed like if you thought about
11 hell -- I don't know if you've ever pondered or thought of
12 what hell would be like, but I actually was thinking like,
13 you know, is this hell on earth because it was just so bad.
14 It was so bad in there. People really don't know maybe to
15 explain it where people can really get a true grasp, but it
16 was bad in there.

17 ██████████ So really there was no -- the only
18 leadership who took charge were the sergeant or the corporal
19 that were there?

20 ██████████ Mm-hmm. And I don't have -- I don't
21 have any idea what happened to them on that side because,
22 like I said, when the stuff fall, we were sectioned. We were

1 blocked in, like trapped in.

2 So who knows what went on on their side. I have no
3 way of knowing because like I said I only could see within my
4 parameters, and further back. So who knows what was going on
5 with them.

6 And I still can never figure out how in the world
7 they found a way out, because, like I said, we were trapped.
8 I didn't see any light. I didn't see any -- I didn't see
9 anything except fire, and there was smoke, debris, office
10 stuff that had fallen.

11 You could hear people, but you couldn't see them
12 all, except the people that you could see in the fire. You
13 know -- I sometimes wonder, you know, how they get -- how did
14 they actually find a way out. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], I
15 always wonder how did they find a way out.

16 [REDACTED]: Have you talked to them about it?

17 [REDACTED] I asked them one day, when I saw them
18 in passing. You know, he just was pretty much responding to
19 the situation. I don't think it was something where he just
20 thought all the way through. I think he just was responding
21 to what happened and just thought maybe he had to get out.
22 But he found the way, and he helped other people, which was

1 great because he could have kept on going and just got out of
2 there.

3 [REDACTED]: That was [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
5 evidently was on the side where he was evidently. I don't
6 know if he helped her, or I can't recall. I don't know, I
7 wasn't over there. I really can't say, but I know they both
8 helped the people that were able to get out on our side get
9 out of the trapped area we were in.

10 [REDACTED] I apologize, but I don't have a list of
11 the awardees from the 10/11 ceremony. Was [REDACTED] there?

12 [REDACTED]: He was there.

13 [REDACTED] I --

14 [REDACTED] And [REDACTED] was there.

15 [REDACTED] I would like to talk to [REDACTED] and

16 [REDACTED] If you could help me?

17 [REDACTED] Mm-hmm.

18 [REDACTED] Afterwards you blanked out, woke up in
19 the hospital. What hospital was that?

20 [REDACTED] George Washington University.

21 [REDACTED] And your family was there?

22 [REDACTED]: My mom came later that night.

1 [REDACTED] How long were you in the hospital?

2 [REDACTED]: I don't even know. It was a long time
3 to me. During that time I wasn't thinking about space, time.
4 I wasn't thinking about anything. I just was holding my son
5 and making sure he got fed. I really wasn't even paying
6 attention to what people were saying.

7 Really, that's really, really how it was. I mean
8 all I was thinking was my son, I have my son, and nothing
9 else. Who knows, I could have been there all day and all
10 night. You know, but I wasn't even paying a time -- any
11 attention to that.

12 I know when I left it was day time.

13 [REDACTED]: Do you remember what day you left? You
14 don't remember even that?

15 [REDACTED]: No.

16 [REDACTED]: And did somebody take you home?

17 [REDACTED]: Yeah, my mom. My mom took me home to
18 her house, not to my home. We went to her house because I
19 was put on bed rest for like seven days.

20 [REDACTED]: Your mother lives near by?

21 [REDACTED]: In Arlington, mm-hmm. So I went to
22 her house, and --

1 [REDACTED]: Was it up to you to decide when to go
2 back to work, or --

3 [REDACTED]: No. That was not my choice. Like I
4 said, the Pentagon was like hot during that time, and the
5 office I'm detailed to now lost a lot of their people.
6 Admin, and so they needed people -- they needed soldiers to
7 be detailed out.

8 If it was my choice, I would have waited until I at
9 least emotionally recovered and just was able to deal with
10 going back, but it wasn't my choice. So --

11 [REDACTED]: Sometimes they say it's good to get
12 right back, not to go away and recover. Do you disagree with
13 that?

14 [REDACTED]: Most definitely. Most definitely.
15 And that's probably easier for someone to say who was not
16 there. It's very easy for someone to say who was not there.
17 Who wasn't in the midst of it, and then I guess it was more
18 so with me because of my son. It was almost my life and my
19 son's life.

20 And I think a person -- it depends on that
21 individual and what kind of trauma, or how they responded to
22 the trauma. That's what it depends on. It doesn't depend

1 just go ahead and do it because of this, this, and this.

2 It depends on the person and the emotional state
3 that they're in. And I know when I find out about a detail
4 while I'm on convalescent leave and bed rest, if I had a
5 choice, I would not have done it, because I (inaudible) this
6 place again, and just get back into doing everyday stuff.

7 ██████████: So you were talking about the trauma
8 and the recovery period.

9 ██████████: Mm-hmm.

10 ██████████: Anything else you want to talk about
11 that particular subject there?

12 ██████████: Not really. I just think that if a
13 person is not in that emotional state, rushing to them to try
14 and go ahead to get back to normal, hurry up and get back to
15 normal will delay their healing, and delay their recovery.

16 That's pretty much all that it is, you know. And
17 then there was some people just out of their gladness of
18 being alive they felt better going to work. So it depends on
19 the individual, and it depends on where they are emotionally
20 based off of what happened.

21 As far as me, no way. You know, it's been
22 something to deal with. It's been a day to day process, and

1 day to day actions, literally day to day process.

2 [REDACTED] Do you find because of the way you are
3 assigned to different duties almost routinely that it -- a
4 lot of people have -- they're back to work with people
5 they've been working with all along. You're not in that
6 situation?

7 [REDACTED]: Hm-mm, no. And then I'm with people
8 who lost almost their entire office. So that was even harder
9 because you hear that, oh, I used to work with this person
10 and I can't believe it happened.

11 And -- and initially it was a lot of grief. It was
12 hard coming -- not only coming back, but then coming to an
13 area where people -- these people lost almost all their
14 people.

15 You know, I was thinking I was going to be detailed
16 just to -- who knows, help something, but in the area where
17 they practically almost lost all their people, that was even
18 harder. It was even harder. You know, I cried a lot. I
19 dealt with a lot of emotional up and downs.

20 So it was difficult. It was really difficult to
21 keep my military bearing and continue to do what I needed to
22 do, and it just took a lot of reaching down way, way, way

1 down, you know, to get it done. It took a lot of reaching
2 way down.

3 [REDACTED] Are you stronger?

4 [REDACTED] Definitely. Definitely, and I see
5 things totally different. I see things totally different,
6 and priorities, you know, are so different now. Where I --
7 you know, I'm happy just to be his mother. You know, I'm
8 happy just to be my son's mother. I'm your mother, and I'm
9 here, I'm here to take care of you.

10 That, alone, weighs everything. Like I don't even
11 think about anything that possibly went wrong because all I
12 know is I'm here to be my son's mother, and that makes me
13 happy. And making sure I'm there for him, and being there
14 with my mom, and it's like -- I don't know, it seems like
15 family just -- not that family was at the bottom of the list,
16 but they're just outweighing everything after that attack.
17 Priorities change. Family is just the main focus, mainly my
18 son.

19 And I feel like if I heal from that incident, I can
20 heal from anything. I mean that's the way I feel. I can
21 recover and I can heal from something as major as that, then
22 I can heal and recover from anything.

1 [REDACTED]: How is your son?

2 [REDACTED]: He's doing well. Initially he was --
3 in the middle of the night he would scream in the middle of
4 the night. (Inaudible), and the doctor was just taking it,
5 the impact, and that eventually it would -- he would go back
6 to normal, and he has now. So I'm happy about that.

7 [REDACTED]: How old is he?

8 [REDACTED]: He's four months.

9 [REDACTED]: So he was three months at the time?

10 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. So they were just thinking
11 when he got blown, or from the impact he just would remember
12 at certain points, and he just would (makes sound), because
13 it would just out of nowhere while he was sleeping.

14 He's back to normal. He doesn't do that anymore.
15 So I'm happy about that. He's smiling a lot, and that makes
16 me even more happier. He's doing good.

17 [REDACTED]: Anything else that I haven't asked you
18 that you've been wanting to tell me, or you would like to add
19 before we finish?

20 [REDACTED]: Just that incident, and I can't think
21 of anything, unless there was something in particular you
22 might have thought about. Something I might have missed, or

1 -- I don't know.

2 [REDACTED]: What I'm going to do is give you a
3 document here to look over.

4 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

5 [REDACTED]: It's an access to oral history
6 materials. As I explained earlier this is an interview for
7 the purposes of the Army, The Army Center of Military
8 History, and I ask you to review this, and then ask you if
9 you have, you know, any concerns, or any objection, that sort
10 of thing. And then sign and date it, and I want to make sure
11 that I get your contact information for you, phone numbers,
12 in case we need clarification on the transcript.

13 And think about some people that you would like me
14 -- you feel I should talk to also after we're done.

15 [REDACTED]: Okay. Okay.

16 [REDACTED]: Okay. And I thank you for meeting with
17 me today.

18 [REDACTED]: Okay. I hope I've been helpful.

19 [REDACTED]: You've been very helpful.

20 [REDACTED]: I hope so.

21 [REDACTED]: What's the date. I know that's
22 something I'll never forget. I'll never forget.

1 So when it says right here, where we relinquish all
2 our rights and interest in the tapes, that just means we
3 can't have a copy?

4 ██████████ No. It doesn't mean that. That means
5 you're saying that that's my tape, not the Army's tape. I
6 want it back.

7 ██████████: Okay.

8 ██████████ You will have the right to ask for a
9 transcript of the tape, but we want permission to use this
10 tape. That's why we're asking.

11 ██████████: So when you say none, or other?

12 ██████████ You have no objections, or you have
13 some caveats. Okay. And if I might get your picture also?

14 ██████████: Sure. And you're done.

15 ██████████ All right. If you could stand up,
16 probably right there. Over this way, please, and a little
17 bit -- right in the middle, between the picture and the
18 corner.

19 ██████████: Okay.

20 ██████████ That way we don't get -- we don't get
21 -- I'll do it this way here. Do you remember me taking
22 pictures?

1 ██████████: There were so many people taking
2 pictures, and actually I was there I was really looking out
3 and at my son. So I was like -- I was really like just
4 making sure he was being a good boy, and, you know, I was
5 looking at him.

6 (The interview was concluded.)