

Transcription:

Interviewee's name: Javier Guerra

Interviewer's name: Melissa Calderon - MC1

Interviewer's name: Maria Cordada - MC2 I

Interviewer's name: Ursula Kuterbach -UK

Transcript ~ 0:01 - 15:06

10/28/2016

Ursula Kuterbach: Hi, We are the daylight group and we're here to interview our student veteran Javier Guerra Serna.

Melissa Calderon: Thank you for being here today. My name is Melissa and I'm just going to start with a few questions. Who are you? And What is your name? Age?.

Javier Guerra: My name is Javier Guerra. I'm a 12 year marine corp veteran and I'm 32 years old.

MC1: We're briefly going to be interviewing Javier about his life before the service, during, after, and the transitions from serving for our country and becoming a student at MCC. What branch of the service were you in? What was your rank?

JG: I was in the United States Marine Corps and I was a E-6 staff sergeant. MC1: What exactly is a E-6 staff sergeant?

JG: Basically the marine system starts from E-1 - E-9 and 9 being the highest in the enlisted side and 1 being the lowest. E-6 would be right in the middle. I had enough I don't want to say power, but responsibility and control of what needed to be done on a daily basis.

MC1: Can you give us a brief description of your life before enlisting? Your family size? Family background? Education?

JG: Definitely, I come from a big family 7 boys and 4 girls. 11 of us.

When it comes to education all I had was a high school education. My family really didn't focus much on education, My mother didn't go past fourth grade and my dad past third. So education was not very important when it came to my family because they were successful people although they didn't have an education. We migrated into the U.S back in 1993 when we got our legal residency cards and we have lived in the U.S since.

MC1: What part of the U.S did you live in? JG: New Mexico, Las Cruces New Mexico. MC1: What were some of your life goals before enlisting? What kind of life were you headed towards?

JG: I've always leaned towards school but I also felt like I wanted to give something back to this country. Initially I wanted to go to college after high school but things went a different direction and I joined the military. But my life goals, My mom always wanted me to be a pilot. I've always like math and languages so I wanted to be a linguist or a pilot things kind of changed a little bit.

MC1: You said things changed a little bit, What exactly happened that changed your life vision into enlisting?

JG: Even as a freshman in highschool I was in ROTC. So I knew I wanted to join the military from the gecko I knew it was something I was going to do before or after college. It was one of my goals, But 9/11 happened and that was kind of the thing that said Hey I'm doing it. After that happened there was no question in my mind that that I was joining the service. It was just a matter of knowing the branch I was going to join

MC1: You brought up ROTC, Did you start ROTC since freshman year and all through high school? JG: Yes, I was in air force ROTC for four years. MC1: Could you give us a brief description of what ROTC is?

JG: It's a program to teach you how the life in the military would be but not exactly the way it is. It teaches you discipline you know, Proper uniform attire, how to properly dress, a lot of leadership skills in the program.

MC1: When did you first realized you were going to be enlisting? How old were you?

JG: I was 17 years old, well when I knew I was going to do it whether it was in after high school or after college it was in 9th grade. I knew it was going to happen, It was just a matter of time. When I knew I was going to do it I was 17 years old.

MC1: You brought up that your mother wanted you to become a pilot, So when you did finally decide you wanted to enlist? Was your family supportive about your decision?

JG: No. My mom was against it until the day she died. She never agreed with me enlisting. She always used to tell me " Why are you going to defend a country that is not yours?" She really had something against that but I don't understand why. I was raised in the U.S the one that was really supportive was my dad and I believe it was because he [Javier's dad] was a marine in the Mexican Military. I think he understood more than my mom did.

MC1: Could you elaborate more on your mom not being supportive because she [Javier's mom] didn't want you to defend a country that you weren't born in?

JG: Well she [Javier's mom] knew from my dad being in the military in Mexico she knew the risk of joining the service and then 9/11 happened. She definitely knew we would go to war, so the fear I believe any mother has the fear of her child being killed. My mom's fear I believe was greater because for one I wasn't born in the U.S because I wasn't American. In her eyes I was a Mexican living in the U.S. So she really had that fear of me leaving my life away for a country I wasn't born in or a country I wasn't a citizen in. I was just a resident.

UK: But your mom wanted you to be a pilot?

JG: Yeah she did, She wanted me to go to school and become a pilot and I think she got that because I was in the air force ROTC program. That's all the air force does, She always pushed me to get my aerospace

degree and be a pilot. 9/11 happened and there was nothing that would stop me from joining.

MC1: Were there any other factors that delayed your decision? If so, Who? What ? and Why?

JG: Major factor was my mother. I tried to enlist at 17 but you need parental consent and there was no way in hell that my mother would sign. There was no way that was happening so I waited until I was 18. Even after I turned 18 the fear of my mother being scared was still there. I still waited 6 months and then finally said you know what this is what I want to do its what im going to do might as well grow up and make my own decisions. So, I asked my dad to take me to the recruiting stations so he dropped me off and it went from there.

MC1: So when you got dropped off at the recruiting stations were you initially trying to sign up for the air force?

JG: No, Actually I was going to speak to all the recruiters. I actually was going to start Army, Airforce, Marine and Navy. I went to Army and it was Saturday they weren't working, I went to the Air force door they weren't there, and then I opened the Marine Corps door and I didn't see anybody in there so I started walking and I just hear somebody yell "Get your ass in here!". So I walked back in there and that's how I ended up as a Marine. I didn't even make it into the Navy's office I knew I was joining the Military I didn't care what branch.

MC1: Alright, So we are going to be shifting to the time while you were enlisted. What was your MOS?

JG: Initially I enlisted as a Cryptologic Linguist which is coding and decoding listening to conversations because I am quad lingual I speak 4 languages. I speak German, Spanish, French and English. So that was my initial job. Unfortunately I had a new recruiter that didn't know what he was doing. I didn't qualify for that job because I was a legal citizen of the United States so I wouldn't qualify for a clearance. So I ended up going in as a combat support (----) 09:21 which falls under either you'd be the artillery tanks or tracks refills and I went into the artillery fills.

MC1: Before I continue with why you were enlisted. I have a quick question about the four languages you speak. Did you learn those in high school?

JG: Yes, I started German when I was in highschool, I started with spanish...I'm Mexican and was raised speaking Spanish, learned English through school and high school, then my freshman year I started taking German and I picked it up pretty quick. So my sophomore year I was taking French as well. So, I have 4 years of German and 3 years of French. I actually became a foreign exchange student in Germany through a scholarship for 6 months for one part of my highschool years.

MC1: Awesome ! That sounds great. Did you like being over there? JG: Yeah I loved it. MC1: So back to while being enlisted, How many years did you serve in the Military? JG: A total of 12 years and 3 months. MC1: While you were in the Military what really inspired you?

JG: A lot of Marines, A lot of service members inspired me. There is one that I would remember he's a captain now actually about to retire, Captain Guerra. He has the same last name as I did. After my first enlistment 4 years it was actually around my 3 year mark I was like okay I did my time 4 years and 2 combat deployments. I did my time and it was around the time to decide to get out. I was a sergeant at the time and we had a Staff Sergeant Guerra. Some Puerto Rican guy comes to our unit and I got to know him a little bit. I was in the back burner because I wasn't doing anything anymore because they were going to deploy again. He [Staff Sergeant Guerra] sat me down and said "Look, I just came from my special duty assignment. Being an instructor at a radio school, I have no combat experience, nobody in the unit that has gone back has combat experience. You were the only one that has combat experience that's in there. Wouldn't you want to at least train us or go back with us? So we can have somebody experienced there". (Staff Sergeant Guerra). So he talked to me for a while and I decided to expand for a year and I expanded for a year to deploy to Iraq for my third time. Thanks to him I stook around longer than I thought I would stick around.

UK: How did he get you to enlist for another year? ` JG: Well it's just the fact that in the Marine Corp you build such a strong brotherhood even though you don't know a marine, Just the fact that he is a Marine and you're a Marine you want to take care of them and the fact that he said those words kind of motivated me and I said it was kind of fucked up for me to be selfish and say hey I'm done sorry good luck guys. I just couldn't do that to those Marines. So, I decided to go back.

UK: You didn't want to let them down.

JG: Yes.

UK: You were really loyal to him then.

JG: Not just him, The marines in general.

MC1: You brought up getting deployed to Iraq for the 3rd time. So you are a Combat Veteran, Could you describe a little bit of that? If possible.

JG: I could describe the good times. It crazy living with Marines for 7 months straight 24 hours a day and every second you build this great bond. I have friends all over the United States that I can depend on. I have friends that I haven't spoke to where I'm sure that if I picked up the phone and called them and tell them I need something they are going to be there for me. So that's the beautiful part about it. Not just in combat but deploying anywhere around the world with somebody that you build that bond with is so strong that it's unbreakable. I can pick up the phone and ask somebody for a favor in Chicago and I know they would do it just because we have that bond.

MC1: I'm a little curious about when you were deployed. Were there any type of journaling that you did ? Letters?

JG: No, I didn't do it on purpose. All in my head. UK: What kind of records did you keep? What kind of writing did you do?

JG: I didn't keep anything in writing, Everything I experienced was in my head it's one of those things I don't like to talk about.

MC1: Yeah of course understandable. What was your most difficult job? What were some difficulties you noticed while serving our country?

JG: Most difficult job as a Marine, My third deployment which is my third combat deployment. I did a total of 4 another one after that I was actually the Platoon Sergeant for a good half of the deployment. Basically you're the second one in command to me that means that if anything happens I'm the one accounted for. We were fortunate enough nothing happened even though we got into firefights on the daily basis but the thought of knowing something happened to one of the 70 marines you were in charge of its you that has to write a letter to the parents saying that hey your child got murdered under my command. So that was one of the most difficult things. 15:06

[Transcript ~ 15:07 - 29:17](#)

MC1: Did you have any thoughts of furthering your education while enlisted?

JG: I actually did I always thought about it, But unfortunately in my job field it's such a fast tempo even if you wanted to you just wouldn't have the time for it. I mean the money is there the Government has it for you to do it it's just having to be able to do your job, training, and school it's I mean, I know Marines that have done it so it's just too much for me it was too much at once that I decided to focus on my Marine Corp career and when college came, college came.

MC1: College came of course.

UK: When you had to communicate with your family or you wanted to talk to your friends back home, Did you mostly use the telephone? And how was that done? Did you have certain time and place? How did you work that out?

JG: It's funny, Throughout the first deployment I had no contact what so ever. We were able to write letters but honestly we weren't able to receive them after the invasion was over. So there was really no communication until “ Hey we've completely invaded Iraq we are on

our way back”. That's when we first initially got time to make phone calls to our parents home and actually whether they received our letters or not I don't know. I do know they received them but we didn't receive their mail till like 6 weeks after we were done.

UK: Wow.

JG: Yeah, It's just we were going to a brand new country. The adjustments is not set up for us to receive things like mail. Things are more focused to food, ammunition, water. During the second deployment we had a basis established in Iraq so it was a lot easier there was a steady flow and took about 6 weeks to get a letter and the third deployment to Iraq it was like within weeks you'll be getting a care package and letters. We had phone and internet access, we had webcams, so everything was lit up. It was like you go into Japan and in matters communication, If you wanted to call your parents everyday you could.

MC1: What positive experiences have you had in the military that prepared you for school?

JG: Just the dedication, And the not quitting. As marines we believe mission accomplishment is a priority it's number one so no matter how things get accomplished a mission and now as getting my education in my school it's, hey nothing is going to stop me I've been through worse.

MC1: Did you have any negative experiences that could have done the same?

JG: Yes there is, There's actually (giggle) It's funny cause in most of the schools that I went to in the marine corps we were trying to, How to do things through the book but once you get to the unit or execute what we were trained we were told “Hey what you learned at school don't worry about it this is how we're actually going to do it here”. So it's kind of we got trained to go to formal school for no real reason. Just to get officially certified but once we got to the unit where we were going to be exercising what we learned there was going to be a different way that needed to get things done. It's kinda a waste of time in a sense but it needed to get done, as I always like to call it the datadump you learn

something okay forget about it this how you're going to do it.

UK: The what?

JG: I call it the datadump, Basically hey you're taught how to do this, this, and that and then you get to where you're going to use it and it's like don't worry about it that's not the way we do it here. The first

couple semesters here in Mira Costa. Its that okay I learn this for a test I don't need that stuff anymore the test is over. Which is not true because all subjects build upon themselves. So I had to learn that Hey I can't do datadump in school. I can't just say hey I just learn for this month took the test I can't throw that away because I need it for the next test. That's the bad part of it of every school I went to and then I got to the unit like hey don't worry about it that's not what we do here and I tried to do that just out of habit I tried doing that here in school and it wasn't working.

MC1: You said every school you went to. So pretty much that's just how you learned?

JG: Basically, You learn the basics in schools but the basics wasn't what got the job done.

MC1: It's more on hand.

JG: It's more on hands especially for my job. We don't care how book smart you are as long as you can do it physically thats whats important.

MC1: While you were in the military did you ever have any regrets in joining?

JG: Not at all actually, I'm not going to say that I had bad times because I'd be lying but to say *what did I do? Why did I enlist?* That never crossed my mind. To be honest with you I do regret getting out sometimes but not I've never regretted enlisting.

MC1: You said you regret getting out?

JG: Just the you know getting out missing Marines around and people

being trained kinda the same way you were. Just having that second family it's not existent in this world. You miss that, especially for me I live right of Camp Pendleton, San Luis Rey gate as I'm leaving my house I see marines going into there everyday and that used be me for nine years going into Pendleton.

MC1: What happened that made you realize it was time to discharge from the Marines?

JG: The biggest part is politics. It came to be a do as I say not do as I do mentality. That's the main thing when I came in it was like hey you messed up you're going to pay for it. We believe that pay returns even a suffer you learn not to make the same mistake again. Now a days you look at a marine wrong you yell at him. When I messed up you know I knew I was going to pay and now a days its all paper work they mess up we're going to do paperwork and put it in your record and that how you messed up careers. The Marine Corps has gotten very weak.

MC1: What was the last job you were doing prior to discharging? JG: I was a recruiter for 3 years in the state of Tennessee. MC1: How did you become a recruiter?

JG: That's a funny story actually, As a Marine you want to do a special duty assignment which is in a recruiting duty becoming a Drill Instructor becoming a Marine Combat Training School Instructor or become a MSG Security Guard I decided not to do any of them for the first 9 years of my career. Normally once you enlist the first time the Marine Corps wants you to do that. They want you to get outside your comfort zone from doing the same thing and do something different get you more well rounded. I decided to stay in my unit. Well in my 7 year mark I had a Sergeant Major who used to be my first Sergeant and he was my first Sergeant when I was in Fox Battery and I was a Corporal at the time becoming to be a Sergeant. He [Staff Sergeant Major] left came back like 3 or 4 years later and at that time I was already a staff sergeant so I was on duty and I had to report to him basically 24 hour watch make sure the marines stay out of trouble and nothing happens. So I reported to him "Good afternoon Sergeant Major, Staff Sergeant Guerra reporting for duty". He was like "Staff Sergeant

Guerra, Staff Sergeant Guerra, Where do I know that name? “ I kind of chuckled and I said “ You used to be my first sergeant when I was a Corporal”. He[Staff Sergeant Major] said “ Damn you're already a Staff Sergeant already? You went and did your special duty assignment? And you got promoted that's awesome congratulations”. I said “ Actually no sergeant major I've been here the whole time.” Two weeks I got a phone call saying “ Hey you're going on recruiting” (Sergeant Major). The Marine Corps wants you to get out of your comfort zone and I never did that. Some how some way I slipped through the cracks and stayed in the fleet and he's the one that picked up the phone and was like “Hey you know you have a Marine in the same unit for 9 years How does that happen?” So he's the one who made sure I went on recruiting duty.

MC1: So you haven't gotten caught.

JG: *Giggles* I wasn't hiding my purpose I just was not volunteering.
Laughs MC1: How were you taught to be a Recruiting Officer?

JG: You go to formal school in San Diego. You go through school they teach you sales, how to approach people, and not use bad words that you're used to using on fleet. You go through a course and same thing you learn and later its like hey forget what you learned. The recruiters that were out there were the ones that trained me how to be a successful recruiter.

MC1: Did your recruiting job have anything to do with your final decision of discharging?

JG: No actually I loved recruiting, You won't get that from any recruiting because recruiting is known to be the worst thing you could do in the military it's very stressful but I was successful and I loved the area. So it has nothing to do with me getting out of service.

MC1: What did have to do with you getting out of the service?

JG: The fact that the Marine Corps had changed a lot. You know when I was gone from the fleet for 3 years on recruiting duty a lot of things changed and I just don't want to go back. You know I've had friends

who were getting in trouble for dumb ...**... like yelling at a Marine excessively or making them do physical exercised because they messed up. You're not allowed to do anymore So I was like *what's going on?* So it changed to drastically for me. That was the maine thing and the other thing I have a daughter who's in middle school now so I can't tell her hey you need to go to school and be good and get good grades if she's never seen me. I mean I don't have a college education so like okay how is dad telling me to do this if he doesn't have a college education. That is my thing now, You need to do good in highschool now so you can get a scholarship to go to college. I don't want her to have the same mentality and say well you didn't go to college. I want to show my kids look mom has an education and I have an education you should aswell.

MC1: Of course, So discharging from the Marines led to you knowing it was time to start your education?

JG: Yeah, Luckily I was very financially stable getting out. I've actually gotten confiscated pretty good to get out because I was into the point where I can retire even if I didn't get promoted no more. So they were like hey if you get out we'll give you extra money to get out because the Marines is downsizing so I was like hey I'm getting out anyways why not take some money. I knew I was going straight into school I didn't think about finding a job I was just going to go to school.

MC1: When did you know it was time to enlist in school?

JG: I'm very proactive, Well I gotta say I officially left my unit November 24. I was not a civilian I was still under contract until May or March 16. As soon as I got back to California I was already here in Mira Costa trying to get a form filled out and talking about getting into 4 year Universities and what the process were. Unfortunately at the time when I officially got out to apply to a 4 year institution was too late because I got out in November and didn't get back here until March. So I couldn't go straight into a 4 year college. So I came to Mira Costa and my wife came to Mira Costa

MC1: Is that why you picked Mira Costa?

JG: Yes and it's the nearest one here to my house.

Transcript ~ (29:17 - 46:40)

MC1: We're going to be transitioning to your college life now. How was it like to go to college?

JG: It's the dedication instilled in me from the Military. It's the never quit mentality, I have a friend who never opened a book. I asked how did he get his grade.

UK: What was your first day of college like?

JG: I won't say it was nerve-wracking. A lot of it came from - I have a different demeanor. My vocabulary is different. I say a lot of bad words. If you go to the Veterans office, we all say a lot of bad words.

UK: There's a difference in the way you talk in college. What would be the consequences of using the Military language in the classroom?

JG: We use a lot of acronyms, Other students wouldn't understand what we were saying. Maybe the prof would say to not use profanity.

UK: Are there different teaching and learning styles in college compared to the Military?

JG: Every teaching style is different, You have to adapt to which one is being used. You learn differently in the Military than in college.

UK: Do you take a lot of notes?

JG: Yes I take a lot of notes, I copy my notes over and over. I go over power point slides.

UK: Yes, So you actually learn by doing things.

JG: Yes. I could sit down and look at powerpoint. I will learn better if I write the power point.

UK: If you complete the assignments in college, What are the consequences?

JG: You'll be successful.

UK: And if you don't do the assignments, What are the consequences?

JG: I don't feel like I'd be letting myself down, I'd feel like I was letting my family down.

UK: Is it the same way in the Military? What is the difference?

JG: If you fail a course it could be a career ender. In the Military if you take a course and fail it - that's on your record. So that doesn't look good on you. Here it doesn't matter as much.

UK: You were promoted all along in the Military?

JG: Yes. UK: How well do you think you have adjusted from being a Marine to a Civilian at school?

JG: Pretty well. I've always liked school, I've adjusted, I have perfect attendance. My friends say, "Let's go and get a drink." I tell them [Javier's Friends], "Hey, I'm paying for this, I have 2 hours of education to take now, and I'm paying for it. I'm not going to leave just because you want me to leave - so I want to get my worth for it". He thought I was kidding - I was serious.

UK: Do you ever try to change their minds and say -Why don't we wait til Friday night or Saturday night?

JG: No, College is Big Boy Status. Nobody needs to hold your hand and tell you hey, you wait 'til Friday - hey, you're a grownup. If they want to go get a drink this afternoon, that's fine, but you're missing out.

UK: So college is Big Boy Status?

JG: You're on your own. No one is holding you by the hand and walking you to it. You have to make sure you do everything.

UK: Do you feel you're more independent in college and no one is constantly telling you what to do?

(35:32)

JG: No, it's just me knowing I'm not going to have someone there saying -There's nobody telling you should do this - It's more - if I want to do this, I have to do this. I have to find out what this school requires. If I have to make an appointment with counseling, Oh shoot, I've been at MCC 1 1/2 years. I have to start my transfer application - stuff like that. I've always been proactive it's easy for me. Before school started, I walked the campus, so I know where's the easiest place to park, closest to my classes, and I had to find where all my classes were before the classes started, and how to make life easier on me.

UK: You made good use of a map. Do you prefer GPS or paper maps to find your locations?

JG: Either way - I'm old school. I'm very good with directions. I don't need GPS. I memorize a lot of things. When I have to go places, I don't need to remember the street names. I memorize distances, I memorize STOP signs, I memorize directions - Take this exit,..., turn here...

UK: So you memorize your directions - you don't have to write it down. Do you like to do any kind of writing outside of school? Have you kept any of your writings?

JG: No. I've never really been a reader or writer.

MC1: You brought up that you're a very hands on person. Were you always like that or did the military make you that way?

JG: Through all the schools I've been through, It's always been this way with what the schools say. People say - Well, the book says this - and they'll be doing it this way 45 minutes, but I'll be done in 5 minutes.

UK: What makes you a good hands on learner? JG: I don't know *laughs* That's just the way we came. Maria: When your class ends short, what do you do - are you staying on campus?

JG: I stay on campus from 8 in the morning and stay until 10 at night. But I work here when my kids are in school. The only time I leave

campus is to pick up my kids at school, cook dinner for them, then I come back to campus because I work here.

UK: In the military or in school - have you been in charge of groups?

JG: Yes, both. In the military, I did a lot, that's part of the job. If we have assignments in school, I'd rather sit back and let someone else take the lead. If nobody takes action then I take the initiative. I'll take over and lead it. I don't want to be the boss all the time just because I was in the Military. I tend to sit back and see who takes the initiative.

MC1: Becoming a student led to your working here at MCC. What exactly do you do?

JG: I'm a peer advisor at the Veterans office. Basically, when new students come in I give them direction. I order their Military records and transcripts from other schools. I explain how to use Surf [online app for college]

UK: Are there students or profs on campus that you admire and/or that have influenced you?

JG: Prof. Towers, who retired last year, I believe. He's the first math professor I had at MCC and he shed a lot of light for me. I placed in Pre Cal. I haven't taken that in 12 or 13 years. Even though I took Pre Cal in High school, I was skeptical if I should take Pre Cal. But somehow I remembered it. I asked should I just not take this class. I emailed him and told him I enrolled in the class. I told him my situation, that I have not been enrolled in school 12 years and had not taken any math since high school. I was wondering how he [Prof. Towers] felt about that. He [Prof. Towers] asked, "What's your major?" I told him mechanical engineering. He said that's a lot of math. You placed into this math class, so you'll be OK. He [Prof. Towers] told me, "If at some point you do not understand, just raise your hand, and I'll explain. I don't care if I have to take more time with you than other students. I'll break it down for you. I'll make sure you learn it the right way." He was by far my favorite Prof.

MC1: You brought up mechanical engineering. Is there any thing that

persuaded that decision?

JG: Yes, two things. I'm a math guru - I like Math - and Mechanical Engineering is a lot of Math. I have two members in my family that are engineers - one mechanical engineer, one chemical engineer. The brother-in-law, the one that manages a company said, "OK, you like math, you're pretty smart, if you take engineering I'll have a guaranteed job lined up for you." I said, why not; I've learned in life it's not what you know, it's who you know - connections...

UK:: If you could have any job, what would you do?, and where would you live?

JG: I want to go into development - just mechanical development. I'm into cars a lot. Where? it doesn't matter, I could travel. I've been all over the world, so anywhere.

MC1: What are your plans after college?

JG: I have a house - I have 11 years on it. I want a house in Mexico, and a house in Rosarita. I plan on retiring when I'm 52. If I can pay off my house here, and lease it out -I can live like a king in Mexico. I don't plan on living there until my wife retires. She'll be 57 then, by the time she retires. My wife has a Master's degree. We have money in the bank. The kids are on their own. Bye bye, little birdies! *laughs*

MC2: You were raised in New Mexico. Once you got out, why didn't you go back?

JG: I married a California girl! *laughs* I've learned it's easier to keep them away from the past. In New Mexico I knew a lot of people. Both my parents passed away. I have a sister still there. There's no real reason for me to go back to New Mexico. *So why go back?* I'm not going to take my wife away from beautiful California - *why should I take her to the desert?* If anything, I'd go back to Tennessee. I really liked it there.

MC1: I think that wraps up our interview. Thank you for the time you have given us. MC2, UK: Thank You! We really appreciate it!

JG: Actually, I have one more thing. When you get older and you have kids. If they want to join the military just support them! It's not a bad thing - it's a great stepping stone. It's good - builds discipline. Whether they want to do 10 years, 4 years, let them.