

Interviewee's name

Tamicka Sargent

Names of Interviewers

Ana Madera, Germaine Germundson, Tania Camarena

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Location of interview

Miracosta College - Library

Start of Transcription

Germaine G: Hi everyone, we'll be interviewing Tamicka Sargent for our focus oral history in transition from service to academic setting. My name is Germaine.

Tania C: My name is Tania.

Ana M: And my name is Ana.

GG: We are performing this interview on October 27, 2016 at 1 P.M. We are going to start with your experience before enlisting, then during, and then after enlisting. Please let us know if there is anything that makes you uncomfortable, and feel free to ask us any questions that you have for us.

TC: Okay well I am going to start your life before the military, can you tell me a little bit about yourself as a child?

Tamicka S: Oh oh my god. Are you just going to cut it?

TC: Yeah just go ahead and say whatever.

[Laughter]

TS: As a child I grew up and I was a twin, and I had a older sister. As a child I was really reserved as a child. And I don't think I started getting a lot of personality or showing who I really was until I was in high school. I was a pretty shy child.

TC: What did you enjoy your childhood?

TS: Well my childhood was really rough. So it was rough in the sense. I don't know how much you guys want me to tell you.

TC: As much as you want to say.

TS: When I was younger I was molested by a relative and I grew up and I think that affected how I was. I was shy and I was reserved and I finally broke out of that, I went through a really deep depression when I was a child. And I'll fall back into it now. Yeah I don't know.

TC: That's crazy and I just want to check up on that. And this depression is from the relative that did that to you or has it been in you for so long that-

TS: I can't say exactly. Because I went through therapy and everything when I was a child but I don't think it, I think I was really reserved because I grew up in a family where we just didn't talk about it and I didn't want to talk about it at all, so it was just something that I dealt with.

TC: And how was your life in Chicago? How would you explain living in the city.

TS: I think it was pretty okay, I think i had a normal childhood. Aside from what happened,I think it was okay. I lived in the inner city for a while and then I moved to the suburbs and then

after that I was just in the suburbs for a while. And then I moved to Wisconsin for a few years and I moved right back to the suburbs of Chicago.

TC: Did you switch schools?

TS: Yeah I switched schools.

AM: Can I add something? Going back to that cause I went through something very similar. Did you. What would you. Because I know if that when that happened to me that I turned to reading and writing. I was quite too as you said. Is there anything that you turned to?

TS: I think I was really into drawing when I was younger not so much anymore. I have better outlets now when I do want to talk about it, my husband he's a great listener whenever I have any issues I talk to him. He's the only one I talk to, my twin I didn't talk to her before but I also can talk to her more now she does really understand because she was really close to the relative that did that to me so she didn't understand before. But now she is coming around to it and it's still hurts when she would say, "Oh no, they're a good person". There are some things that my family will say and it hurts and I will find myself falling back into that depression. I try not to turn away from my family or anything but I find myself distancing myself from them and then I will come back later to family reunions.

AM: When you were younger did you have anything that you could confide in about that sort of stuff, someone that you generally looked up to in order to deal with that, someone who held your hand through it? A friend or something?

TS: No because when it did happen, I was put in therapy and I didn't really want to talk about it. I did not want to talk to a therapist about what happened because it was so we mostly would go over, "Oh how are you doing in school?" and "How's school today?". And because my mom has always been really reserved and she had always been kept as if she doesn't want to tell her

business or what happened or anything. So I didn't really have her to go to talk about what happened.

AM: So did it affect your school?

TS: It did, It affected my school work. They called it "Friendship Class" and I would go to that for three hours out of my day. And we would just sit there. At first I was quite, I was very quiet and I didn't want to speak to anyone and then they put me in this friendship course and there was another girl who had gone through what I had gone through. And after a while we would speak and then she just thought that it was completely normal and I'm just like, "what?". We had two different experiences about it. And we became friends but it was a weird friendship and she turned out pretty bad. She was having sex at a early age, her outlet was sex, drugs and alcohol. So we lost our way, our connection during highschool I don't know what she's doing right now but other than her and the woman who ran that class no I didn't talk to anyone about it.

TC: Wow that must of been hard.

TS: Yeah it was.

TC: Do you feel better about it now?

TS: Now I can speak about it.

TC: Yeah you are so strong for that.

TS: *[Laughs]* Yeah I can speak about it now but before when I was high school. It hit me really hard again in highschool and I was really depressed so I mean It helps to speak about it more. especially when other people have gone through the experience because I know there's not a lot of people you can trust to talk about the situation.

TC: It's crazy when you find out how many people have gone through it. I've been through it and I just found out you've been through it. And it's just crazy.

TS: Yeah it's a lot, it kinda sad to hear how common it is.

TC: That directs me to another question I had for that. What were your views about the roles women played and how men treated them? How was that growing up?

TS: How I viewed it as a child? Or how I view it now?

TC: As a child. How did it effect you, Would it be unfair?

TS: My mom was pretty strong she would say, "If I'm not going to get it then I am not going to wait for someone to give it to me". That's the type of person she was. So I never really seen it as gender roles and a man has to do this and a woman has to do this.

TC: Okay cause a lot of people grow up with that so I was wondering what your view was. So did you ever see yourself joining the navy?

TS: No I didn't actually, For a long time I actually wanted to be a social worker. And I started to look into it and what was required. And the area that I wanted to move at too but the pay wasn't too well. And I was talking to a social worker and she said, "It sucks, It's really sad to try and separate your life in the office and having to separate your work from home". And she would want to help the children and she would give them her cell phone so they could call her. and it became, and that was when her work and home life started to mesh and it started to affect her relationship with her husband and her children. She wanted to help so much that it was affecting her life. And she said the pay was not worth the effort that you put in. That a lot of people would say, "Okay I am going to go here and make a job and then I'm going to say I checked up on this

family or these children” and they just doing because they just don't have the time. I would think *I understand that*, that she doesn't have the time because there are so many cases that she has to go through. You would have to say, “Oh yeah I checked up on this or I made a call and left a voicemail, I can't just pop up at this person's house because I have so much other things to do”.

TC: What were some details of you hating school or you liking school. What is a event that stand out?

TS: I liked school for the most part I liked math, english and history, those subjects came easy to me and other things just didn't seem interesting to me. I don't know I think I did pretty well in school. But all the way up through high school, my freshmen and sophomore year I fell into a depression. For the most part I was skipping school and I wasn't really attending. And my mom said, “No you gotta get your shit together”. So we moved and I went to a different school. And I found a good group of people that I am still actually in touch with to this day. They helped me get through school and would say “Hey are getting up? are you coming to school today”. So yeah we didn't really have a lot of classes together but they made sure I was good and we spoke in between classes.

TC: Did your friends know about what happened to you? About the depression?

TS: They knew about the depression but they didn't know about the cause of it. And how bad it was.

TC: And how did you come to meet them? They seem like really good friends.

[Laughter]

TS: My good friends Shany I think she was getting bullied one day and I just stepped and said “No we're too old for this, you're too immature”. So we became friends after that. And there was

another girl kelly, she's cambodian and she's just Cambodian. *[Laughter]* and no one else was. Our school was primarily white and hispanic. And there was maybe ten black kids there. It was diverse in the sense that there was a lot of hispanics. It was hispanics and whites and ten black kids. And then she's the only cambodian here and that's crazy and we just meshed together.

TC: Where you ever bullied?

TS: No I was never bullied, I was always. Freshmen year I was kinda a little bit but not much because my older sister she was the pretty popular one, had things going for herself and and she said, "Hey don't mess with my sister" and that's what it was. But no I pretty much held my ground in high school. As I said that's when I really started to find myself. I would say, "No you're not going to talk to me like this". I was always the outspoken one.

TC: That's a really good trait. *[Laughter]* especially in high school. Did you feel like there was enough opportunity for you?

TS: Yeah. I mean as far as?

TC: Did you have the outlets, good teachers?

TS: Yeah I had some pretty good teachers. I mean it was chicago so there was a lot of white teacher and they understood, they were there because they wanted to be there and they knew that they wanted to work with. Kid, children, teenagers from different backgrounds. So they understood. Most of my teacher were pretty young and they were easy to relate to.

TC: Did you have a specific teacher that helped you?

TS: My english teacher, I can't remember his name, I just remember that he was tall white and just so skinny. And he was just a really good teacher.

AM: Do you remember any experiences with that certain teacher, in your english class? Does anything specific jump out at you?

TS: He was just really hands on. He wanted us to write about experiences. And how we relate to certain books we read and how we related to characters. And how would we think we would live in a certain era or how we would adjust to a certain time. But other than that he gave a lot of his life experiences and he resonated with me. He was pretty good teacher I liked him.

AM: What was your favorite book when you were a kid through high school? Do you have one in particular that you remember reading?

TS: Oh wow, reading in high school. I read the same books in highschool that I do now. It's so repetitive, I guess in high school. My favorite book has to be either huckleberry finn but I just read a book in my last class it's called Death of a Salesman. It just everyday life, the harsh truth of what goes on in a family that's trying to make it.

AM: So you can say that what you enjoy most about reading and writing is writing about experiences.

TS: Yeah I like raw, uncut truth. I don't care for the sugar on top.

TC: So now I'm going to talk about you deciding to go to the military. Could you describe what triggered that?

TS: I didn't really know what I wanted to after high school. My senior year I was thinking *What am I going to do, do I want to go to college? I don't want to go to school.* Like I literally just spent 12 years in school and I don't want to go to school again. I'm an adult now and I can make these decisions. So okay I'll do military and work and gain some experiences and then decide if I

want to go to school later. That's what I was told anyway, oh yeah choose a career first and see if you like it and get a feel of different things and then go to school and then there it is, your career i guess.

TC: What were your motivations, did the G.I. [Government Issue] bill, did any of that motivate you? The benefits.

TS: Yeah It was my whole reason of going into the military. I'll do four years first and then I'll be ready for school and then I did four years and then I thought *maybe one more*. I don't know and the money is good and I'm just I don't know. And after a while, when I was starting going through that first year, it was sad because I already had signed on for that extra time and I would think, *I don't want to do this anymore*. And I guess that's when I was really finding out I'm ready to go to school. I know for sure I'm not going to make a career out of the military. And yeah the military definitely was a cushion that I could sit and relax on and I know it's not going anywhere. And when I'm ready to go then I can go.

TC: And what caused you to choose your occupation?

TS: Because I went to MEPS [Military Entrance Processing Station], And I scored well on my ASVAB [Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery] test. But they said, "Well it's kinda unfortunate that you came at the end of the month cause there's no jobs left, you can choose Engineman or Gunner's mate" and the descriptions of enginemen was terrible It just sounded as if I was going to be in a boiler room for the rest of my time in the military. So I chose gunners mate.

TC: What were your sentiments or your feelings while you were signing that paper?

TS: I was scared but I was excited at the same time because my recruiter said "Oh my god you're going to have so much fun, you're going to travel and meet all these awesome people".

TC: What were some of the reactions you had from people when you told them you were going to go?

TS: I actually didn't tell that many people I was joining the military. Yeah I just signed. And the only people who knew I was going to military was my immediate family and my boyfriend at the time.

TC: How'd they react to it?

TS: My mom wanted to go, and my twin was in college and she said, "I don't want you to go". And she ended up joining four months after I did. She said, "No college is not for me right now". *[Laughter]* My boyfriend was upset, but at the same time he would say, "Okay I guess you can do whatever". He wanted to go and join the military but he had tattoos all over his neck and they told him, "No get that removed and then come back and see us".

TC: Right. So you felt support?

TS: Yeah I had a decent support system joining the military.

TC: And did you have a idea of the difficulties that you were going to go through? Did you think it was going to be as hard as it was?

TS: No, as I said my recruiter, he gave me all the sugar candied, sugar coated, bullshit and when I see him after I got out of bootcamp. He happened to be in my first duty station, he was one of the first people I ran into. And I wanted to tell him, "You lying sack of shit". *[Laughter]* I was just really pissed. I was really upset and he would say, "Aw it's not that bad". And it wasn't in the sense but it wasn't what I was used to. And I kinda expected that too but it was really. Everyone would tell me, "The military is very cut and dry" but it's not. It's a lot of

favorites about who you know in the military. And I didn't expect that. So if you have this person backing you then it's going to happen. So yeah its pretty much like who you know.

GG: Is there thing that he told you that you later found out was like not true?

TS: He said "Oh yeah you are going to travel". And I would be excited and think, *Oh yeah I'm going to travel to different countries and stuff*. So he ment underway. He didn't say deployment. Deployment kinda, if you are on a ship for five years you'll be sent on deployment maybe one or two times. And we would go underway for weeks at a time and come back and then go out for weeks at a time. And I'm thinking, *Oh we are actually going to do something when we are underway* but we were just sitting in the middle of the ocean. For three weeks at a time. *[Laughter]* Just running things and stuff and I'm thinking, *Again you are a liar*. But that's what recruiters do, they have to lie and make stuff sound good so that people would want to join.

TC: Yeah that's true, well those are all my questions for before your military.

GG: Okay I'd like to just know more about your experience during the military and everything. When you joined what was that Like for you?

IT'S: Like boot camp? It sucked. *[Laughter]* It that negative. It really sucked. And it was in great lakes Illinois. And I go there and It was really cold. They told me, "Sit right there" And I was sitting there for hours and they would ask, "Do you have to pee?". And there were just a bunch of people just sitting there just waiting too, And I thought, "I don't want to sit here too" so I said "yeah I have to pee." And I went there and there was someone literally standing over your shoulder screaming at you, "Are you going to peeing right now?" and I would be thinking, "Back up off me" *[Laughter]* " Maybe then I can". But that was quick and I actually ran into my childhood best friend. And we had actually gotten into a fight before we joined the military and neither one of us knew we were going to join. And she was right there and she said, "Oh my god" her eyes just lit up. "What are you doing here? Oh yeah I joined like what a coincidence

that we came on the same day". Yeah the first day was hectic, we didn't sleep for the first 48 hours. It's like strip put on these clothes.

GG: Did you have a lot of fitness testing too?

TS: Yeah we did P.T., physical training every day and every other day but when we weren't doing that we were just studying the ranks and military lingo, stuff like that.

GG: What was your job in the navy?

TS: Gunner's Mate

GG: Can you explain what you would do?

TS: We pretty much ran the armory, inventory, maintained ammunition weapons. We trained people how to shoot. It sucked. *[Laughter]* Cause some people would go out there and would be pointing their guns everywhere. I would think, *Come on now you gotta know it's like the target is right in front of you [Laughter] what are you doing with the gun in the air?.* But we went on deployment and that sucked, a lot of ammunition would come on and sometimes`the job was extremely easy. Sometimes the job was like really like laboros. And hard on my back. I was really frail when I went in. Like you can't tell now cause I've put on weight. But I was really skinny when I first joined. And it was hard on me, it was hard on my body and I didn't help. Like when I told you I was suffering from depression I was also struggling with anorexia for two years. Really deep I was a hundred and ten pounds. Yeah it was a struggle and I had to put on the weight in order to keep up with the work.

GG: Did you need any schooling to get to that position of Gunner's mate?

TS: Yeah actually I went to school for four months in two different school and when I got to california it was my “C school”. The first school was like basic electronic stuff and then my second school was called “A school”. It was the basis of that you needed to know about the job and then my “C school” was specific gun systems and stuff like that.

GG: Like you said you also went to school at the same time while you were enlisted. What was that schooling like?

TS: It was pretty much like this, a small classroom with three or ten other people. The teacher represented the school they would teach us like basic stuff, it was pretty easy.

GG: And you said your credits transferred? Were you deployed and for how long?

TS: Yes. I wouldn't call my first one a real deployment because I caught the end of it. My second deployment was when I was getting out. I was on deployment for like may to october and then they pulled me out in October so I could have enough time to do my paperwork and transition out of the military. So that was last october. around this time actually.

GG: And that was ot Oman? And Djibouti you said?

TS: Yup. Oman, Djibouti, Thailand.

GG: Can you take me through a typical day on the ship?

TS: So usually the day would start at seven thirty. You have quarters, and quarters is like you have a meeting of what need to be done for the day with the rest of your division, people you rank with, your chief, Your department head, everybody. That's usually like ten minutes. On our down time we would sit in the office and just twiddle our thumbs until we had to do some actual work. I can't speak for the navy .

GG: What was your perception of the Navy while enlisted ? You mentioned that it wasn't what you expected. The recruiter told you something ,what caused it to change?

TS: I hated it, at first it was fun because it was new but once you got the hang of things and you started to see the way people acted. For me it was really not my cup of tea. Everything was cut and dry and everything you had to do, you read in a manual, but having to deal with different people's personalities. As I said I had some people, my first ship was something I hadn't experienced before. My whole division was hispanic men and then my first class was hispanic my chief was just simoan everyone else were hispanic men and then here comes a little black girl. It was just awkward they would say, "Oh no don't touch anything". They treated me like men treat women like they are flimsy and can break easily and stuff like that so I didn't do much in my first command and I was pretty much sexualised while I was there too so that sucked, I mean there is nothing you can do about it.

GG: How long were you there?

TS: I was there for a year and some change. I was only there for a year and a half because I got pregnant and then I worked for a shore command and I worked in the armory. I stood watches for checking people's IDs when they came into the gate and cleaned guns. Pretty much for people who are on shore duty clean guns from gun shoots and put them together fix them and stuff like that.

GG: Where you prepared for what you experienced, because you mentioned earlier that you would stand your ground did this help you when the people would say any sexist or racist things to you did that kind of prepare you for this ?

TS: At first I was more of I want to be liked and I don't want anyone to hate me. I completely dropped everything I believed in before because It was this new environment and I didn't want to step on people's toes. I didn't say much about what was going on even though *I probably should have* but by my second command people would say, "Watch out sergeants coming". I had a "No bullshit" persone. I didnt tolerate anything from anyone my third command I would say, "Look this is what's going to happen". I think they were taken back and they would say, "You're new here and you laying down the law?". But at the same time, you had to tell people upfront what you will and won't tolerate. Because they would say, "Oh let's play with her" and then say, "I was just joking I thought we were cool like that" and it's like no we're not. Sometimes you have to be like that.

GG: How did you utilize reading and writing?

TS: On deployment I had a kindle and I had read books and when we hit ports. I would download books so I could read while we were underway, but there wasn't any reading or writing going on. People were sharing hard drives and sharing movies and stuff like that we looked forward to new movies coming out so they could play it on the ship because we were completely just isolated.

GG: What was the atmosphere like during your service while you were deployed?

TS: Pretty much it was how you make it, how you make it like usually surrounding yourself with people most like you. That's how people would group themselves in the ship. The atmosphere was just what it was, I mean when your with your division you have to work. You have to deal with those people. When I had the racist issue I reported to the CMC [Command master chief] and the guy got a warning. And I thought, *This guy has been doing this forever and nobody noticed it*. And other people started saying he said something to me too. And for him to get away with a warning it just showed how the military wouldn't budge for you. That's when I really

noticed that this was not a place for me because i'm not going to tolerate it and I didn't so I just said ok it's the end of the line.

GG: Did the warning change anything for him.

TS: No he kept making his jokes and comments and he just didn't say them in front of me.

GG: Who did you stay in contact while you were deployed?

TS: My husband, my mom, my son, my sister, and that's pretty much it because I had deleted my facebook by then .

GG: So you wrote mostly emails to them?

TS: Yup, emails.

GG: Was this kind of writing timed or anything because you mentioned that the phone call in the pre interview you said that the phone calls had to be quick and timed could you write as long a you wanted to ?

TS: Emails were basically first come first serve, They [Shipmates] would go back and forth saying, "Hey are you on the computer? Yea I'm doing work right now. No I was here first. Or just have to wait for a computer". And sometimes your chief or your first class would come in and say, "Get up I need to do something",and you think that they are gonna do work but they are on their writing emails. Rank proceeds anything else.

GG: It was just not worth the argument.

TS: No it wasn't.

GG: What kind of teaching styles did they kind of have in the navy.

TS: Whenever we go to big navy whenever they needed to pass something down to us it needed to be like training and pass out emails and someone would put together a powerpoint slide that was thrown together and we would sit there and do our training like that.

GG: How would you describe your role in the military compared to school

TS: I think in the military it was just so easy and by the book and some people didn't go by the book and they usually got caught. But here with college it's pretty much the same thing like you study your stuff and if you know it you know it. If you dont you dont and in the military it's in the book so go buy the book if not there's no critical thinking because it was right in front of you.

GG: What were some consequences during your service like what was at stake?

TS: If it was genuinely a mistake but it caused damaged you would go to DRB called disciplinary review board and held by chiefs and they probably give you a slap of the hand and would say, "Oh it was honestly a mistake if they didn't feel like it was a mistake" and it could have honestly been a mistake they would go to to the Executive Office and he could drop it there. And if he felt it wasn't an honest mistake it would go to the C.O. [Commanding Officer] and the C.O. had the final say in the decision and would say like, "Oh he fucked up". And they would go into your past and would probably say, "Oh this sailor has been good up until here we think it was an honest mistake". Sometimes they can take away your rank and things that you've earned. And the extreme is getting kicked out with dishonorable discharge and say like you served your term like your four years or mandatory five years, you would get kicked out but with an honorable discharge. Or if it was so terrible that you messed up you were under four years in and just like you get kicked out and no benefits toward school or anything.

GG: What made you decide to leave?

TS: I decided to leave because, I was tired of the environment the slow change in the military and progress was so slow everything was just like we understand your point of view and this has to happen for your point of view to be heard. It was like lawmaking, all this stuff had to happen for a change to be made. I didn't want to tolerate it, like I have natural hair and that was a thing in the military and wasn't popular because the book said nothing unruly or unkempt. This is the hair that grows naturally out of my head and unkempt it was disheartening because they were saying you could do this to your hair and it did change a little bit when I was there but I pushed and bended a little and it was black and white and they told me that I was in the gray area and to make it either black or white. Wasn't enough change happening for me to want to stay in.

GG: Did your son have an impact on why you left?

TS: Definitely he did and I was sick of being away from him and I just wanted to be a mother so I felt bad because nobody wants their mother to have to raise their child especially when you are fully capable of raising your child, so that really sucked.

GG: And you'll never get that time back.

TS: Exactly.

GG: After your five years of service is there any advice you'd like to give someone who wants or is thinking of joining the navy?

TS: If you're going to join definitely go to school first that way when you go in you can become an officer or someone who has a voice you don't want to come in the lowest ranking person in the room. It takes time and hard work to build up and I feel bad for people who come in at thirty and my chief or department head is younger than me and they're making absolutely no sense and you

have to listen to them. When you're older and you join everyone is straight out of high school so it's degrading they respect you because you're older and you have work experience and your at the bottom of the totem pole. So if anyone you join come I with a degree so you could run shit even junior officers come in and are like this is my territory and they can say that because they went to school and have their way.

AM: How was military school different than non military school?

TS: In the military I wanna say its non comparable because i was working and going to school but now I'm part time and kinda working and full time student and now it's the complete opposite. I think now it's easier but I feel like i'm more exhausted and get home and want to go to bed at seven or eight o'clock while before I could get home at five and work from eight to five and then take care of my son and have so much to do .

AM: What motivated you to keep going and not just be a stay at home mom?

TS: I've seen people that do the stay at home mom thing and that's not me. I don't want my husband to have to work and me reap the benefits of him working. I want my own money and I don't want to have to ask you for money or I would say, "I don't want to dig into your bank account you earned your money and I want to earn mine".

AM: Did you join any military veteran organizations after the military?

TS: After the military no I haven't and the closest I've done is working in the admissions and records office veterans side but when I was out I didn't want to see another military uniform again. For a while my husband would change at work because I didn't want to see another uniform for a long time.

AM: Do you remember the day that you left the military?

TS: The day I left and actually stopped working were two months before the actual last day of active duty day was. So the day I left it was to actually get my DD214 my discharge paperwork was like the guy sign here sign here my heart was beating and I was sweating like am I really doing this and I was really nervous and everything and I was sad but once I got in the car I was like fuck this shit i'm about to go 80 all the way home but it hit me the next day when I couldn't get up and go to work I was up at six o'clock in the morning and I was depressed for a while because I didn't know where I was going to start for a while and I didn't have that time anyone else would have to house hunt and to job hunt because I just got out of deployment and in the states and I didn't know what to do with myself so it was really hard

AM: What is the degree that you plan on acquiring here at miracosta?

TS: I'm studying for my degree in business administration ,but i'm also looking at entrepreneurship maybe down the line. I don't want to be working under anyone when I become 35 years old I want to be the boss of my own company or store.

AM: What was your first day at Miracosta like?

TS: My first day at miracosta was nerve wracking it was like my first day of middle school and I was wondering how should I wear this what should I wear and how should I wear my hair. I was really nervous because I was 124 years old and everyone around me was fresh outta high school. I guess I had to blend in I didn't look too old yet I was really worried about the age gap and I was like these kids are gonna be so much smarter than me because I hadn't gone to school in so long. I hadn't really studied or anything in awhile.

AM: Was the discipline that you learned in the military an advantage or disadvantage of using?

TS: It was an advantage because before I would meet a complete stranger an older person and I address them by ma'am and sir Im way more polite and I guess it was an upper hand.

AM: Did it affect how you did your schoolwork?

TS: I don't think you can really tell who is a veteran in the classrooms really and in my economics class there was a lady who retired from the Marines as a master gunnery sergeant and she is really kept the haircut and she wears the short hair. You can tell she still wears her military bearing and she's more relaxed and well talk to another and she's retires like 60 and we relate in a lot of ways and even though she's in her sixties now she's youthful because I dont think anyones really act their age in the military and their really youthfull.

AM: Did you have any predisposition for school? What were your thoughts about going to school right after the military?

TS: I was thinking I wasn't ready, I had spent a year off after I came back from october. I just wanted to see what I wanted to do organize my thoughts and career plans and focus on my career goals and study.

AM: Did anyone in your family push you to go back to school?

TS: Not at all my mom would say to work and keep trying to get me jobs. I don't wanna be around military at all so I'm sorry but no. No one pushed me towards school. It was just something I wanted to do.

AM: Does your experience make you act a certain make you act a certain way towards your family?

TS: Actually I didn't do as much school as I would have liked and I tell my husband to get a degree from and tell him to get his education because they pay you for going to school after and before and he loves the military. Get a couple degrees and he loves the military shit and he doesn't know if he wants to get out and now he's working towards a career in the military.

AM: What kind of responsibilities do you have at the admissions and records office?

TS: Vets come in and dependants come in and they have the G.I. bill montgomery and post 911 and we lay out the steps that we need to take to attend miracosta college?

AM: How do you feel about school after being out for so long?

TS: I felt a way about it that's why I took a year off because I didn't want to come in without a clear head and when summer came in I wanted to get back out there and I'm getting my footing

GG: When you were talking about getting back to school you said that you were worried about the age difference, did you see that to be true?

TS: In my english class I do because kids are bright these days enrolling from the womb knowing about the abcs and I think that experience helps when we are talking about certain books. People tell me you look 18 and i'm like thank you. Once I got back into class it took a little time to get back into the class a lot comes back. And there's nothing I can't get if I don't already have that.

AM: What do you see in your future right now?

TS: I want to hurry up and get this degree so that i can take a little break and start to work on my bachelors in a university. That is my main goal right now is to get into a university. I do want to start a business, talking with my neighbors daughter starting a business.

AM: What do you plan on installing on your son?

TS: As far as the military goes take the easy route unless you have to learn it the hard way I have enough experience to not let him completely fall on his ass and go from there. Cal vet veterans children can go to school in california tuition free so I tell him to go to school in california and then get a degree and join the military. Because men run shit in the military just by being a man in the military he has the upper hand. Hopefully it changes in 15 years and I hope it's not a male dominated organization.

TC: What is some advice you would give yourself regarding joining the navy?

TS: I would definitely tell myself don't alter who I am just to fit in or try to fit into someone's way of what i'm supposed to be just because i'm in the military and join the military with a no bullshit attitude and people won't mess with you.

GG: Thank you for letting us use this recording for our project.

TS: No problem.

End of Transcription