

## MiraCosta College Student Veteran Oral History Service Learning Project

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Acronyms:

Z.H.: Zach Hardcastle (Interviewee)

Z.C.: Zoe Connelly (Primary Interviewer)

A.T.: Andrew Thomton (Secondary Interviewer)

K.O.: Karla Balderas Orozco (Secondary Interviewer)

### **0 - 5 minutes**

Z.C.: Okay, so we are here doing our interview with Zack Hardcastle. The interviewer is Zoe Connelly. We are here with Andrew Thomton, and Karla Orozco. Okay so, what made you want to join the service?

Z.H.: I don't know, I kind of always wanted to since I was a little boy. I just wanted to get the experience I guess. Something, I don't know, I just I just know I always wanted to.

Z.C.: So, your family always knew you wanted to do that?

Z.H.: Yeah, it was never a guaranteed thing that I was going to. It's kind of funny how it all got set up. So, I was getting ready, I was getting ready all my football stuff. In my junior year, I was about to make game tapes and everything to send out to colleges and stuff. Then the marines called me, the recruiter asked and I was like okay and I said, "okay". I'll go in and I signed up right there.

Z.C.: Really, so you knew when you were seventeen.

Z.H.: Yeah, I knew I had to wait until I finished school but yeah, I was in.

Z.C.: How did your family take it when you told them about it?

Z.H.: They were upset.

Z.C.: Did they want you to play football?

Z.H.: No, they just didn't want me to leave. So my Dad said, he wouldn't sign the papers. My Mom was fine with it and my Mom signed. I can't remember now if both signed, I just remember my Dad said he wouldn't.

Z.C.: Where were you living at the time?

Z.H.: I am from Missouri.

Z.C.: What branch of the military?

Z.H.: The Marines.

Z.C.: And why?

Z.H.: Because if you're going to join the military you might as well join the best. That's the Marines.

A.T.: Why are the Marines the best?

Z.H.: The hardest boot camp and they are the first ones in last ones out, there just in my opinion the best.

Z.C.: So that's why the Marines make fun of everybody?

Z.H.: Yes, that why the Marine's make fun of everybody.

Z.C.: Okay, what was your MOS?

Z.H.: I was a field radio operator so I provided communication throughout my battalion, my command.

Z.C.: Can you recall your first days in the service?

Z.H.: Hectic, bootcamp was just a blur.

Z.C.: Did you have two or three days where you could not go to sleep?

Z.H.: It's called the Crucible, I think it's like three or four days. I can't remember, it was so long ago like six or seven years. You got like one MRE, a meal ready to eat, one a day. Later on in life, we got one for every meal, but in that training we only got one for the day. Just like a meal and it has bread, main course, dessert all that stuff. You only got one a day. I was really hungry and maybe they give you an apple every couple of hours.

Z.C.: And did you do the gas chamber stuff?

Z.H.: Yes, and it was not fun.

Z.C.: Do you have to talk and do a cheer during it? You can't just try and hold your breath the whole time.

Z.H.: It's not fun. that was probably my least favorite out of everything in the military. You had to do it yearly. The one time in bootcamp is the time that it sucks the most. Redo it yearly and it's not fun.

Z.C.: Did you leave directly after you swore in?

Z.H.: No, because I swore in when I was seventeen. I didn't leave until September of 2011 and I graduated May of 2011. I was just waiting on bootcamp day. Once I graduated high school I was just waiting on a day for them to send me.

Z.C.: Do you remember your instructors?

Z.H.: I remember them but I don't know their names. I can't think of her names.

Z.C.: In all war movies and stuff, they just seem awful are they like that bad or worse?

### **5:01 - 10 Minutes**

Z.H.: So it is what it is, who's like the Drill Instructor in charge he was cool. We had McDonald's like twice with him. There was the Drill Hat, he was funny. Also you didn't want to make him

mad, and the Kill Hats is what they're called and he was just mean twenty-four seven. As a Kill Hat, you were supposed to be mean it was your job.

Z.C.: How long were you in boot camp?

Z.H.: Thirteen weeks. three months. Yeah I think that's right.

Z.C.: Were you homesick a lot?

Z.H.: Oh yeah, all the time.

Z.C.: Did you make a lot of friends were you allowed to have that camaraderie?

Z.H.: Oh yeah, but I wasn't really friends with them after that.

Z.C.: So you didn't end up seeing them after boot camp?

Z.H.: Yeah.

A.T.: What kind of rooms did you stay in? What were they like?

Z.H.: In bootcamp it was just one giant room. It's called the squad Bay. It has a bunch of double racks all the way through, bunk beds.

Z.C.: Like twins, super small?

Z.H.: Oh yeah.

Z.C.: How do you think you got through boot camp ?

Z.H.: I just took it one day at a time. You're on a schedule you know when you are going to eat, sleep. So you just take it I guess. I just took it one hour at a time. I knew this hour I was going to eat and the next hour I was going to do this. So that's just how I took it.

Z.C.: Was it hard relinquishing the control you had on your own life and having someone tell you everyday this is what you are going to do?

Z.H.: Yes it sucked and it wasn't fun. If you had to go to the bathroom you had like thirty seconds, brush your teeth by twenty seconds, stuff like that. Eat you'd have like a minute and they would count down. You know like to get dressed in the morning and you are on a countdown.

Z.C.: That's crazy! Where did you go like after, were you deployed?

Z.H.: After bootcamp.

Z.C.: Yeah

Z.H.: After boot camp is your MOS School. It is your job school. Oh no, I lied it is MCT which is combat training. That is everybody, everybody goes to that. Then after that, I was stuck there for a while and then MOS School and that's where you learn about your job. You made it from there you go to the fleet. I went to Okinawa for two years.

A.T.: How long is the MCT and the MOS?

Z.H.: So it took me probably a year for all of that. Boot Camp, three months MCT two months or so. I was stuck there for a couple more weeks and then MOS School for ten weeks or so. It took me like a year to get everything done and go to Okinawa.

Z.C.: Do you choose your MOS before you sign up?

Z.H.: Kind of, you choose. I chose communication and that could be anything like a radio operator, data, wire, and they choose what you're going to be.

Z.C.: What does that have anything to do with how well you do on your ADSVABS ?

Z.H.: Yes and no, obviously if you score too low you couldn't go. I don't think. The ADSVABS also decides what jobs you can get. I got like a fifty something. I obviously couldn't do counterintelligence because you needed like a ninety, which is just insane.

Z.C.: When you were deployed did you see any combat?

Z.H.: The most I did was when I was in Japan. I was a radio operator attached to the engineers. which was demolition, from there we went to twenty-four which is a grunt unit, infantry. From there we went to Australia, (cont'd.)

**10:01 - 15 minutes**

Z.H.: (cont'd.) Hong Kong and then came back and then there was a tsunami or something that hit the Philippines. So I went with three-six, another ground unit and we deployed out there to help with humanitarian help. Our government felt if we got involved they wouldn't do anything.

Z.C.: The grunt unit is just Marines?

Z.H.: That is the Infantry.

Z.C.: The people with the guns.

Z.H.: We all have guns, but they are like the fighting force.

Z.H.: I am support like in the movies, I would be the guy behind them with the radio on of my back. They would be all the guys shooting. If you see any explosives besides grenades that would be the engineers, then the people driving tanks.

Z.C.: So what were a couple of your most memorable experiences?

Z.H.: Australia, it was so much fun. I would go back in a heartbeat if it wasn't so expensive.

Z.C.: Tell me some stories about Australia?

Z.H.: We were there on a Marine Expeditionary Unit which is a patrol. It is a set course and ours was Australia. We almost went to Saudi Arabia because of gas attacks, but we weren't the closest ones. I was like I didn't bring my gas mask. So, we went down to Australia and it was just fun. I don't know how to explain it. I've always wanted to go to Australia. Just being there was awesome. We did three days in Brisbane, which is like a college town. We did three days in Sydney and then we went to Darwin and did five days of training and the three days off. So, we did eight days in Darwin. Darwin was ok, people were nice kind of, they did not like all the Americans there. They called us she Yanks and just asked, "Why are all these Yanks here?"

Z.C.: My Dad's side is all Australian so I understand that.

Z.C.: So for your transition back to your civilian life, how did you stay in touch with your family afterwards? Did you go home to Missouri?

Z.H. : After I got out, yeah, I went back to Missouri, for a couple months. My girlfriend at the time was pregnant so I came back out here, got married and had a little one. Now we're just living here.

Z.C.: So that is what brought you out here?

Z.H.: Yeah that's what brought me out here. I was already set A+ program in Missouri which was to two free years of Community College that is what I was going to do and then she rang. I

came back out here, took time off so we didn't have to hire a babysitter. I was the stay-at-home Dad and still kind of am, technically. Took a year off and then came here last semester.

Z.C.: Why did you choose this school?

Z.H.: It was the closest to where we live. Not really big on doing a lot of research it was a college, it's close.

Z.C.: We have some more questions from back when you were in the service.

Z.C.: What was the food like? Was it MRE's all the time?

Z.H.: You only got MREs when you were in the field. So when you were sleeping in a tent or whatever. So otherwise, there was a Chow Hall and if you are not married the Chow Hall was paid for. You don't see that money come out of your check and you can go there three times a day depending on where you're at breakfast, lunch and dinner. It wasn't great. I guess cafeteria food at your school. This school is kind of good but more like at the high school. Yeah, it's not very good. The eggs were powdered and the milk is not real milk.

**15:01 - 20 minutes**

Z.H.: It always gave a stomach ache every time I drank the milk. Yeah, it was not very good. When I got back to California from Okinawa, my secondary station is San Diego. I just went shopping for food.

Z.C.: After you got stationed did you make close friends or buddies that you were stuck with?

Z.H.: In Okinawa, I had these two guys Sean Dre and Ethan Dino: we went to Okinawa together and we made pretty good friends. When I switched over to the engineers I made great friends. Their camaraderie is ridiculously strong. It was a bond that you could not break. When I came here I did not know anybody, and that kind of sucked, but I was only here for year. I made a couple friends, but nothing crazy.

Z.C.: While you were in the service did you feel the pressure or stress a lot, a little or was it just kind of chill?

Z.H.: Oh no, it was never chill. In Okinawa in my COM Shop, well engineers are chill. Which is weird because you are dealing with explosives all the time but is super chill. There is stress 24/7. I remember when we first got there we slept in the shop for like a week.

Z.C.: What is a COM Shop?

Z.H.: It is like work. It is a building with separate shops. You have your radio office, maintenance, there was the wire, they do all the wire. Data does computers and stuff. Basically we were there for the first month, we did not really leave the shop at all because they are just all paperwork and everything had to be perfect, because they were having an inspection coming up.

Z.C.: So were you active duty?

Z.H.: Oh yeah.

Z.C.: Do you recall any particular humorous or unusual events while you were in the service?

Z.H.: There are a lot of funny ones but there is probably some I can not repeat. Let me think. I remember when we used to have tsunamis we would have to wear are flack and Kevlar, which was a helmet and our flack to go smoke, which I always thought was funny. Obviously, you have

your helmet but what is the flack going to protect you from, nothing. I do remember that the power would go out the storm was too long and we used to have glow stick fight in the hallways. We played glow sticks soccer in the hallway we did a lot of funny stuff during tsunamis. All the other funny stuff just happens. People making jokes, it is different because you get people from all different states with all different kinds of humor. It is pretty funny when you all get it together.

K.O.: What did you find that was a similarity between all of those people that wanted to join? Did you find a common thing that you all had?

Z.H.: I met a lot of rednecks. There is all different kinds of people and I would say that there were no two people that were the same. They all have their different reasons. There is one guy to join because he had so many student loans.

Z.C.: Why did you leave the military?

Z.H.: I was going to re-enlist. So I did my four years and I was coming up onto my last year and was going to re-enlist into the EOD. The EOD are like the guys to go out and defuse a bomb. I got to that unit (cont'd.)

**20:01 - 25 minutes**

Z.H.: (cont'd.) in San Diego and I hated it. The camaraderie was not good and the people really did not know or like what they were doing. Our boss, attention supervisors were just kind of winging it. I did not want to go to another place like this so I just got out.

Z.C.: Do you think you'll go back ever?

Z.H.: No probably not but they keep calling me. I'm like no, it's cool I'm good.

Z.C.: When you would get on leave what would you do?

Z.H.: I would go home to Missouri.

Z.C.: Did your parents want you to go back in?

Z.H.: I do not think we ever talked about it.

Z.C.: You were like, hey I'm not going back in okay.

Z.H.: Kind of.

Z.C.: So talking about you being a student what is like the main difference from being in the military and now being a student? Like the freedom?

Z.H.: Yeah, it would be the freedom because you can choose if you're showing up for class. You're paying for it. Yeah, I guess it would be the freedom. You do not have a set thing that you're doing. You're in school and you can choose if you want to do your homework today, tomorrow when you want to get it done, when it is due. I guess it would be the freedom.

Z.C.: Why did you decide to go to school at all?

Z.H.: Because you have to, to get a job now you really have to go to school. My job does not transfer from the military. The only way it would is with a contractor, those are the people that the government hires to do outside work. Like working for the radio company. I have to go to school to learn a new trade, that is why I'm here.

Z.C.: What are you going to do after here, a four year or just community college?

Z.H.: I am doing three years here. Well two or three years and then from here there's a school I don't remember the name of it. I don't have my backpack here. It is a program through MiraCosta where you're going to their school but you take your classes at MiraCosta. They have their own course and everything so that's what I'm doing.

Z.C.: What for?

Z.H.: Computer Networking, but I'm also trying to get my Associates in Psychology and Behavioral Science.

Z.C.: And where do you want to go with that?

Z.H.: Which one? Computer networking.

Z.C.: Well, both I guess.

Z.H.: Computer program that comes through here. They work tightly with jobs so basically when you finish your bachelors you have a job. Computer networking is basically the networks down, fix it. So that's basically it. So I wanted to do psychology and the computer networking. and I my leave here I think I'll have enough credits for Behavioral Sciences. So if I come back I would have a stepping stone with the psychology. I wanted to be a counseling for school. I chose this path because it's basically a guaranteed job.

Z.C.: How is the workload in college?

Z.H.: Last semester was kind of easy, I had six classes and it was easy. This semester I have English and it sucks. I'm not good in English. I'm just not. That's why i'm into English classes actually, both with Strona.

Z.C.: What do you think is the hardest part of being in college?

Z.H.: Well there's two, I wouldn't say writing, it would be reading. I'm good at writing it is reading the assignments and getting up for a seven a.m. class. I've never been a morning person ever. Even when I was in the military I was not a morning person. Getting up, getting my daughter ready (con'd.)

**25:01 - 30 minutes**

Z.H.: (cont'd.) dropping her off at the babysitter and then driving here, that sucks, it's horrible.

Z.C.: Do you have a different perspective military now that you're not in the service?

Z.H.: Not really.

Z.C.: So, if you child wanted to join the service would you be like?

Z.H.: I think everybody should go in service.

Z.C.: Really why?

Z.H.: Because they teach you more than just how to shoot a gun. They teach you morals. Like the Marines is integrity, honor, courage, commitment. It would teach people that there is a way to do something and a way to act. I'm pretty sure, I think it's Australia does everybody have to join in Australia? It is somewhere, I forget where it is that you have to do two years. I just think it would be good for everybody.

Z.C.: So what would you say are the pros and the cons of being in the military?

Z.H.: Pros, I could go either way, you go straight out of high school you're living on your own but you're kind of not on your own. They give you a room, electricity, water. You learn how to live on your own without really being on her own. My mom would have kicked me out at eighteen. So it was kind of a nice stepping stool. Pros, if you're on your own and older and maybe living with a lot of debt you could use that to join the military. Can you use the military to get back on track.

Z.C.: Is it because you're not spending anything while you're in there.

Z.H.: You can still spend money, but you don't have to. Your rent, food, electricity this stuff is kind of paid for, you don't need a phone.

Z.C.: Would it be hard to just like take your money and hold it?

Z.H.: No, it wouldn't be hard. I had buddies who had saved like ten grand while in Okinawa. I knew this Russian guy that I was in Okinawa with and he has like \$70,000 saved up.

Z.C.: Just because he's not spending money?

Z.H.: Yeah, but he also has two jobs. He's got the military and he works part-time at Domino's. As long as it's not on their time and it's on the weekends. Weekends are kind of your time unless you're in the field. That's a Con by the way. I didn't get to the cons so the pain is you don't have a set eight hours that you are working.

Z.C.: So it's kind of just random?

Z.H.: It could be eight hours or could be a lot longer. when I was in Okinawa before I went with the engineers I was working twelve, thirteen, fourteen hours I'm still getting paid the same. it's not right. Our it's by year, you get a set amount per year.

Z.C.: It doesn't matter how many hours you work?

Z.H.: Nope, you still get paid \$19,000 a year.

Z.C.: Oh wow, I didn't know that.

Z.C.: Did you have a job before that?

Z.H.: I've had like five or six. I have been working since I was fifteen. From a small town I feel like small town people start younger. I started out with my step dad and we had a weekend grass lawn service. From there, I worked at my school doing maintenance on the next one I don't remember. My last job was with the ice company delivering ice to gas stations.

### **30:01 - 35 minutes**

Z.C.: We are all the questions does anybody else have any question?

Z.H.: Don't worry, I'm kind of fast in my fifty-two class. I will ask questions and have a report that was supposed to last four minutes and mine was like a minute thirty and it took all my power to make it longer.

Z.C.: So we have twenty-one minutes left.

Z.C.: So how where the inspections?

Z.H.: It was very stressful. It really was because everything had to be perfect. There's all sorts of different inspections, room inspections, field day inspection, that is when you clean a set day. In Japan, it was Thursday. You clean all day and the next day they inspect it. If you fail it you have



to redo it on your time. Work you have general inspections and stuff, you have to go through all the record jackets the paperwork and make sure everything's perfect. Go through all the maintenance logs make sure everything's perfect. Make sure the gear you have what you actually say you have. it's very long hours, when one of those inspections come up.

A.T.: What kind of physical training did they do?

Z.H.: Boot camp you would run, sit-ups, push-ups, run more and then run some more. March everywhere see, everyone. and if you're near the mountains you are going to be hiking. There are some hikes in boot camp it just depends where you go.

Z.C.: Do they make you carry stuff?

Z.H.: Yeah, if you're hiking you gotta pack. The pack his forty-ish to fifty pounds. They have the scale thing at the Museum after you when you're walking around with your family. You could weigh your pack. MCT it was heavy I don't know how much. Then when you're actually in the fleet of your job, usually you'll do some type of PT, physical training in the morning like run. I have carried logs for miles. Did swimming exercises, I have done everything orr just played sports. I was really big into working out, so I would just do that, and then in the afternoon after work I would go work out too.

Z.C.: Were you really fit when you were in the military?

Z.H.: Yeah I was. I was like 210 pounds, with eight percent body fat, or something. Then I got out and now it's like my body is broken. So I'm just like I'm good.

Z.C.: So do you still work out?

Z.H.: No, I haven't worked out since I got out it's been like three years.

Z.C.: How long has it been since you got out?

Z.H.: Last two and a half.

Z.C.: So you just started college?

Z.H.: Last semester.

Z.C.: So last semester, so you've just been with your little girl?

Z.H.: Yeah, yeah for a year, because childcare is expensive. I think that if we wanted to put her in a daycare this year it was going to be like two grand a month.

Z.C.: A month?

Z.H.: Yes

Z.C.: That's insane.

Z.H.: Let's talk about ship life. So if we're talking about ship life obviously we are on a ship. we were on the big ship. Don't remember what we called the big one like the aircraft carrier. So you're in so you're in the coffin racks, that is where you slept.

**35:01 - 40 minutes**

Z.H.: You lift it up put your stuff and then put it down and that was your room. Somewhere stacked three high, but ours was four. You're supposed to have little things that hook on so when is high tide you don't fall out but ours didn't.

Z.C.: Have you ever fallen out.

Z.H.: No, I have had people above me. I've been on the bottom bunk. you're just really cramped. The hallway for your coffin racks is about as wide as me. They were four deep, four high, sixteen on each side, Then four deep, three high on the other side, twelve. So twenty-eight, people in that area and then about fifteen rows. There were like two hundred people in that small area.

Z.C.: Where did you get dressed and stuff?

Z.H.: Wherever you could find room. In your rack really. You just throw on your pants. Your little hallway opens up into a bigger hallway and then into like a lounge area and then the bathrooms, then just an open area again and then some more racks.

Z.C.: How long were you on the boat for?

Z.H.: Too long. Yeah, like a couple weeks and that was just going from like here to Australia.

Z.H.: I was in the Marine Expeditionary Unit. Once I got with the engineers I wasn't allowed to go anywhere else. My Company really needed me I was only supposed to be gone for six months and I was gone for a year-and-a-half. They were pretty mad at me because as soon as I got done with the MEW. I had to go to the Humanitarian Aid to the Philippines. Yeah, they were pretty upset. Yeah I think we had one person and rotation every six months.

Z.C.: You left directly after? So you went from here to Australia to the Philippines?

Z.H.: Japan to Australia, to Hong Kong was the same boat, and back to Japan. I was there for a couple days and then from there to the Philippines.

Z.C.: So you didn't do anything in the Philippines?

Z.H.: It turned into that we were going to pick up debris and anything that wasn't supposed to be there. Then it turned into we were just going to go chill and check it out. Then it turned into we are just staying here and if anything else bad happens we will go.

Z.C.: So Australia was?

Z.H.: Australia was just a training exercise. Sydney and Lisbon we're not training that was Liberty we were just there. Darwin was pretty much a joint training I believe we were with Australians obviously, I think the Brits were there too. I think. I don't know I wasn't there a lot I was out in the wilderness.

Z.C.: Did you make friends with any of the Brits or the Australians?

Z.H.: No, I really didn't talk to him too much. Got to shoot their gun it was an OGG automatic. It was completely plastic except for the barrel. You take it apart but the plastic and some water and it's already clean. It's pretty sweet.

Z.C.: Did you have to do anything where you take apart a gun and put it back together?

Z.H.: Oh yeah, all the time.

A.T.: It takes hours to clean guns like that.

Z.H.: Yeah, I'm from the sticks I had an AR before I was even in the military.

Z.C.: So you were just like yeah okay whatever?

Z.H.: I'm a redneck.

Z.C.: I've never even like touched a gun. So if that was me it would not go well.

**40:01 - 45 minutes**

Z.H.: They obviously teach you sort of by yelling at you.

Z.C.: How did you deal with that everyday?

Z.H.: Just listen to what they say obviously and just ignore the yelling. And then there's those people who say if they get in my face and I'm going to punch him. I have never seen anyone try and punch someone. If you punch one there is going to be like three on you. That's just how it is. I remember one time, I was watching over another Squad bay for a different unit. I was doing something for them, I don't know. I was putting tags on something. Every time a Drill Sergeant comes in you're supposed to yell good morning or good afternoon, Sir. One walked in from the bathroom and I didn't see him and I didn't say anything, before I knew it I was getting yelled at and there were four of them surrounding me. I was like this escalated quickly.

Z.C.: I was just doing my job.

Z.H.: I was just doing what I was told and getting yelled at. It is all mine games is really all it is.

Z.C.: Are they allowed to hit you?

Z.H.: No, not really. In my time they did, but things have really changed since then.

Z.C.: Oh really, like in the last couple years?

Z.H.: I went seven years ago and even by the time I was getting out of the Marine Corps it had changed.

Z.C.: What exactly has changed?

Z.H.: They were not allowed to hit you but it was really no big deal, no one made a fuss. Hazing was that was a thing when I was in. It is not anymore, you will get in serious trouble for that.

Z.C.: Did you get hazed?

Z.H.: Oh yeah, all the time.

Z.C.: What did they make you do:

Z.H.: I do not remember boot camp but I remember that we had to buff the ceilings. Stuff like during field day. Field days were the worst, there was work, like silly pranks. This was just whoever was there. I had a buddy get JP'd a non-judicial punishment. One of his Marines lost his chow so he tied an MRE box to him and he had to carry it around with him. He got in trouble for that and had another buddy get JP'd for losing a blue body, which is a simulation grenade. It is blue and sounds like a firecracker. They were hazed if full gas mask gear. He had somebody pass out or something and he was JP'd for that.

Z.C.: What happens when you get JP'd ?

Z.H.: Lose rank pay, maybe confinement, restricted to certain areas, Camies twenty-four seven.

Z.C.: When you say restricted pay?

Z.H.: So if they take your Rank, you are losing pay for that. It is how much you get paid? Then they do a fifty-fifty. So you may only get half your pay for that week or month.

Z.C.: How does rank work? When you get in waht are you called?

Z.H.: You are called a Private, then Private First Class, Lance Corporal, Corporal, Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, and so on.

Z.C.: Is the pay a lot different of the ranks?

Z.H.: Yes, I do not know the difference for Private First Class and Lance. Lance to Corporal is like fifty a paycheck so it like one-hundred dollars a month.

**45:01 - 50 minutes**

Z.H.: Corporal to Sergeant may be the same. Basically, a hundred a month. I do not know past Sergeant I never made it that far. I got the sergeant that's it.

Z.C.: How long or does it take some people longer to get to that point?

Z.H.: Pretty much Private, Private First Class and Lance are all kind of guaranteed. Then from Lance to Corporal you have to have certain things done. You have to do a certain class like a Corporals course maybe, and then you have to have the score to pick Corporal. That basically takes your pros and cons and gives you some score. You can also do MCI's which are classes kind of. You read a book and take a test, but those give you points. MAP (Marine Corp. Martial Arts) those give you points. There are some other things but it is all point based. Your time in service and grade.

Z.C. How does it work you can only get so high if you do not go to a school ? To be an Officer?

Z.H.: Officers have to have a college degree to be an officer. I'm not sure how Warrant officers work they are like unicorns, you know nothing about them. I know their prior enlisted and then they did something that thing got them promoted to Warrant Officer. I do not know what a warrant officer does. I do not know what it is except they know a lot. I do not know the process I really do not know what they do. I think they are supposed to know every job in their area of work. In communications you know all the position not just the radio operator, wire.

Z.C.: Are they really high ranked?

Z.H.: Like I do not know. Like, I do not know if they are above Lieutenants or below. They are just their own thing. They do whatever they want too. I had one with me in Okinawa and he pretty much did just whatever he wanted. Well I spent a lot of time when I really did not ask any questions. I was gone for like a year and a half and then he was there.

A.T.: What was it like in the Philippines seeing the disaster?

Z.H.: Like, I said I did not really get to see it. We were just chilling on the boat and we did not get off. Because they would have wanted us to do all the work. We were just chilling I do not think we could see the land we were just next to it.

Z.C.: That probably sucked?

Z.H.: Yeah, we went there and then we just sat there.

K.O.: Once you got out of the military will you open with people about your experience in the military? Or you did not really talk about it?

Z.H.: If they asked I would say something but other than that no, not really. Not really looking to make conversation it is just who I am. I will answer if people ask and if they are not being rude or it was stupid.

Z.C.: Would you say that you had PTSD or because you didn't see combat?

Z.H.: I've got a sleeping disorder but it is nothing crazy, it's like an insomnia.

**50:01 - 50:38 minutes**

Z.H.: I just can't sleep.

Z.C.: Do you think that is because of your sleeping patterns in the military?

Z.H.: Nope, I have no idea it just happened. Even now I'll stay up till like three a.m. and then come to school.