

MiraCosta College Student Veteran Oral History Service Learning Project

Interviewee: Brad Milton

Interviewer: Morgan Townson

Interviewer: Megan Ferry

Interviewer: Stephan Smith

Interview Date: November 7, 2017

Interview Location: MiraCosta College Library

Acronyms:

SS: Stephan Smith (interviewer)

MF: Megan Ferry (interviewer)

BM: Brad Milton (interviewee)

SS: My name is Stephan Smith.

MF: Megan Ferry.

BM: And I'm Brad Milton.

SS: This is the student veteran interview. We are interviewing Brad about his duty in active military, and his transition to civilian life. Alright, what were you like as a student in high school?

BM: Uh, well, high school I was pretty... I wouldn't call myself a student. I was more of a troublemaker. I didn't go to class all the time. I kinda knew in the tenth grade I had planned to join the military. So my junior and senior year were... I didn't care. School didn't interest me at all. It didn't keep my interest, so I felt like it was a waste of my time. I almost flunked out of school. I got a very low grade point average. Not that I was stupid, but I just, it was not a thing for me. And because of that, I almost did not get to go into the Marines. I pulled it out at the end, and I joined the Marines.

SS: So you weren't really interested in school?

BM: There were some things that I was interested in. I mean I like history, and that was one of my first classes. I would go to class, and I would read what section we had to do that day, and I would put my head down and go to sleep. And the teacher, Mr. Blackman, whenever he'd call on me I'd lift my head up and give the answer, and it'd be the right answer. He was just like, "What can I do?" you know, "He's got an A in the class." I think that helped bring my average up, but it was... yeah. He even signed my yearbook. History, I liked history. I did sports. That was the main thing for me. I wrestled in high school. Other than that, school did not do anything for me. I'm good with numbers. I've got pretty decent brain in my head, but school just didn't do it for me.

SS: Did you have any job experience before going into the military?

BM: I did. Uhh, I had been... I mean this was back when the world was a safer place I guess you could call it. I had a paper route from the time I was probably about ten years old until I was a junior in highschool, and I also did some summer work for some people.

I worked at Kentucky Fried Chicken for a short bit until I... the pressure vat didn't release all the way, and the oil sprayed out on me, and I got burned. I didn't go back after that. Uhh, little jobs. I worked at Pep Boys for a little bit, and from there I went into the military. Mostly, the jobs were just a holding place, you know, until my day to ship came in for the military. I already knew what I wanted, and I had already signed up. Some of the jobs, they knew I was only going to be there for a short period of time, so it was, you know, just stocking shelves and helping customers at Pep Boys. That was the last job I had before I went in.

SS: What made you want to join the military?

BM: What made me want to join the military. Well, like I said, I was a hell-raiser. I mean I did some pretty bad things. As a matter of fact, my mom even had to come pick me up from jail, and the judge let me off because I said I'm moving down to Albuquerque, New Mexico to live with my dad and then I'm joining the service. He's like, "Alright well... Alright we'll just throw this away and let you go on your way since you're leaving." And I knew I was in a bad place. My brother was already in, and I saw the changes in his life. I knew that they could... it sounded intriguing to me... and I knew that they could help fix my attitude, I guess is what I had. The typical teenage attitude of I'm gonna do it my way. It didn't work out so well for me so I knew that was the best thing.

SS: Does your family have any military background?

BM: My family has a pretty rich military background on one side, the other side not so much. My mom's family side my grandpa was in WW2. One uncle was in the Air Force; he retired. Another was in the Navy. My brother was in the Marines, and he completed thirty years. We kind of served together. I did twenty years. I got nephews... or not nephews... I got cousins that were also in the military. I got Air Force, Army, Navy. We kind of covered all the bases there except for the Coastguard. The other side of the family, no military at all. They were more of the farmers, and they worked the farm; that's what they did.

SS: Did this influence your decision to join, all of the family background and stuff?

BM: I think the biggest influence for me to join was my brother, and seeing what he had gotten out of it. You know, more than just working the job at McDonalds like everyone else was doing. You know, it was getting educated in a field that was still blossoming at the time. The job opportunities if you got out after four years were a lot better than working at McDonalds. Originally, I was going to go in for six years then I was going to get out. I was going to get the experience, get the education, not the college education. I was just going to use the military schools for education and get out and get a job. Life changes.

SS: How did you go about applying for the military?

BM: Applying for the military. Well, for me, I knew it's what I wanted to do, so I went down and... and I knew I wanted to join the Marines. There was no question about what branch I wanted to join. That's the branch my brother was in. I walked into the recruiter and said,

“Hey. I wanna sign up.” He’s like, “Okay, well let me do some paperwork here. Let me get your information.” He goes, “Well do you know what you wanna do?” And I said, “Yes, I wanna be an avionics technician.” And he looked at me and my grades and said, “I don’t know, your grades.” And I said, “Don’t worry about the grades. I’m not as dumb as my grades say I am.” And he’s like, “Okay, well we’ll give you the ASVAB test which is to test your mental capacity I guess is what they want to do. I scored really well on that and he said, “Well you can have any job you want.” And I was like, “Well, I told you I want avionics so there we go.” That was it. Signing up for the military was pretty easy for me, and I was already over the age of eighteen, so I didn’t need my parents’ consent. They already knew what my plan was anyway, so it wasn’t a surprise to them.

SS: You already answered this, but we're your friends and family supportive of your decision to join?

BM: I think my mom was happy that I was leaving. Like I said, I was not a star student. I was not a good son at the time, you know. I was rebellious. I was difficult. My mom and dad had adopted my sister. I was fourteen when they adopted her, and she was three months old. It was difficult. Then she had issues as well. Didn’t know that she had come from addicted parents. She’s had issues her whole life that they’re still dealing with her. I think my mom was just happy to see one of her problems go away because like I said I was not a... looking back there were things that I was like... man I was just a horrible son. And not really doing it on purpose, you know. At the time I didn’t look at it as I’m doing it to get at you. I was just... I thought I was doing the right thing, but it wasn’t. Even though they said, you know, listen to your parents. I learned once I had my own kids. Sometimes you don’t listen to your parents because you... you listen to other people before you listen to your parents. I learned that after the fact. Parents are wiser than we give them credit for.

SS: They really are.

BM: They really are.

SS: Okay, so what were your thoughts, and how did you feel when you first went into the military?

BM: Well, I had a pretty good idea of what the military would be like. In the summer, I guess it was two summers before, I went out to California, and I snuck into the barracks with my brother, and I don’t have a picture of it. I might. I’ll have to send it to you. I got a picture of me wearing camis and I’m like sixteen years old in the barracks, you know. So I kind of got an idea. I went to where he worked and saw what they did. I kind of knew. Bootcamp was a little bit of a shock. My brother tried to mess me up on that, but it worked out to my favor. He’d send me empty beer cans and stuff in the mail. Typically when you receive that you get punished. You get physical PT. They also sent me naked pictures of girls because he was over in Korea at the time. I didn’t pay for any of it. The senior drill instructor let me keep the pictures. He’s like, “But whenever I call for them,

you bring those pictures up here right away.” So it worked out to my favor. I did pretty good in bootcamp. The schooling, like I said, I wasn’t a stupid person. The schooling was kind of a shock because it moves really quick. You’re talking three and a half years of college level math in like six months. So it moved really fast, and if you didn’t catch it, you in trouble. But all of the other military ins and outs, that wasn’t an issue. I did have a little bit of struggle with the math because I hadn’t really paid attention in high school, but I caught back up and did okay with that.

(15 mins) SS: Was there ever a time where you second guessed or regret your decision to join the military?

BM: There was. There’s been a couple times. There actually have been a couple times. The first time I was in bootcamp, and I came out to MCRD San Diego, and just before I went to bootcamp, I went up and saw my family up in Iowa. Saw all of the grandparents and everything, and shipped out to bootcamp. I think it was like January, we had just gone up North to rifle range and weapons field training and found out my grandmother died, which was a shock. It hit me pretty hard. I was like I know where I am. I’ve been out here before. I know I can just go out here, jump the thing, right here is the freeway. I’m out of here. I ain’t got to deal with this. Then I stopped myself and said better not do that. It’s not a wise choice. And uh... I would say the other time was when promotions were not going that great and it was difficult because a lot of the senior people aren't getting out, so the people below were not getting promoted. I had this one friend who got kicked out at 13 years, and at that point I was like ugh do I stay or do I go. This was back 1995-1996 time frame, and it's like do I get out or do I stick it out, you know I had a lot of friends that were getting out or were getting forced out and they were getting great paying jobs, like I said the training that we got was top notch, these guys were getting out of the military walking into \$80,000 paying jobs doing simple easy work and I was like “The draw was there” but you know, having invested 10-12 years already it was like only 8 more to go, you know maybe I should finish and so I went ahead and decided to reenlist and continue on my career.

SS: Did they have any reenlistment bonus at the time?

BM: Well they did, but I always seemed to miss them. There were always people getting money and I was like “damn I reenlisted 2 months ago, I reenlisted a week to early” If had waited another week I would've gotten like \$15,000, It was heartbreaking but by that time I knew I was in it for the long haul, so it really didn't matter. I was to continue the military experience for the job afterword and retirement. I had not planned on retirement in California I had planned for the midwest where I can actually afford to retire on my military pay.

SS: Do you remember anything important that you learned at bootcamp?

BB: Well bootcamp is a different kind of monster. I learned things in bootcamp that helped in my military career during the beginning, which is immediate response to orders, like you

know, don't ask questions, just do what they tell you to do to the best of your ability. That was the probably the biggest thing in bootcamp. Bootcamp was primarily a mental exercise you know, we want to make sure you can withstand the stresses placed against you, not just physical stresses, although if you weren't in physical condition it would be difficult, but being a wrestler I think I came out of bootcamp in worse shape than I went in. Just do to the fact that I was always running but the mental exercise of having all the noise and commotion and the immediate attention to orders. You know you were always told to do this and do that immediately or you could be dead or your platoon mates could be dead. So that was probably the biggest thing, the mental aspect. Funny I was the PRAC guy and had to help those who were slower at learning the material, they even sent me to other platoons to help guys learn things, so that was kinda funny coming from my almost getting kicked out of highschool.

SS: Did any of your leaders have an impact on you?

BM: I would say every leader has an impact. You as a person, everybody as a person, if it was a good leader you could learn from them, if it was a bad leader you can sit back and learn and how they treat you as a person. If you don't like that then don't treat people that way. I had a few senior guys who were on me all the time. "You have to have them do this, have them do that" and he's chewing my ass, and walks out ahead of me and well I am behind him and he sees people messing around, so he turns around, yanks me back in the office and he chewed my ass again, i'm like" what the, you got to give me a few minutes to get out there and fix the guys" and stood up for myself and said "hey you got to give me five minutes to figure out what's going on so I can get these guys assigned to there jobs and make sure their doing it. You can't just walk out ahead of me and tell me this persons not doing their job, ya know" That was a trying time, that was a time frame where I was like do I stay or do I go, I was like it all can't be like this. I also had great leaders who were the type of people that I tried to emulate and ya know, "you don't understand something, here let me help you out". I had a lot of leaders that they had the knowledge and they wouldn't share it, knowledge is power, when you know something and others don't, that makes you feel valuable, but in the end the only thing your doing is hurting the unit as a whole. So if I knew how to do something easier or better, I shared it right away. I was on the drill field and yelling screaming is a big thing and uh being hectic and chaotic, but in the workplace, there's a place for it, I worked electronics, I was in a bow fixing electric equipment, so it's a different mentality, I just lost my train of that but it will come back to me... I never really had one, well I do have one it was my brother, he was kinda my inspiration a lot of people didn't like the way he did business, you hold people to high standards you yourself have to do the same thing or better and that's what I did. I would go early and stay late. There was rarely a time where I had people working when I wasn't there, if there gonna be there i'm gonna be there, a team effort. Always looking squared away, have a good haircut.

SS: What was your job in the military?

BM: I work on deceptive electronics countermeasures for the most part, throwing off enemy radar, you know missiles, ugh some of the aircraft could black out cities. That was a big thing in the 80's, turning on the equipment in the wrong areas, but most of the time we worked in a shipping container like on a cargo ship, and we worked in those so they were portable, so if anything happened we could put those on a ship and transport those wherever we had to go. Work on them on the ship and repair parts and drop them off wherever.

SS: Wow that's convenient.

BM: Yeah it was, and depending on where you are it could be a pain because we have a lot of corrosion, Japan a lot of rust, always scraping rust, painting. The upkeep on the facility's was a big job. I was also a drill instructor for two years, down here in San Diego back in 92' 94', I still filled different billets although I still had the title of an avionics technician/Supervisor. I worked with operations for a year, dealing with people getting ready for deployment and making sure they have all their wils before deployment. I worked as the squadron first sergeant for a while, big job, a prep job for the next promotion was looking at but I got out before it came. It was taking care of all the duties, ceremonies, ram corporals course, barracks maintained properly, making sure all the duties are doing there job, assigned and being where they're supposed to be and I did that for one of the larger squadron in the marine corp, I did family readiness officer and legal officer at the same time, kinda is what it sounds like, processing all the paperwork for the guys that got in trouble. I have to go visit the guys who were in the brig and make sure that they don't have any crazy request, and family readiness was dealing with spouses making sure there all ready for when the marine gets deployed and when their deployed offering support for them through different organizations on the base and what not, other than that I worked on electronic equipment a long time.

SS: Do you think there is anything you could contribute to schooling that you learned in the military?

(30 mins) BM: Ugh, most definitely, probably the biggest thing is time management allowing enough time to get the job done, not procrastinating, I do a little bit but I still have that internal clock ticking saying "you got to get this done" and ugh knowing approximately how long it's gonna take me, first semester was difficult, I stressed it, a lot of that internal stress was trying to get everything done on time the way they expect it to be done and I think time management and procrastination. Initiative, like if your working on a group project like this one you know if someone is lagging don't wait for them to pick up the ball. Pick up the ball and run with it yourself, you know its your grade and the ownness is on you to get it done. It's your grade and that goes with all your classes, you get what you earned. IT's not "oh you're a good guy, here I'm gonna be nice and give you a little extra points", no it's not gonna work.

SS: Okay so, we often hear about a sense of brotherhood in the military did you ever feel that, and if so what was it like?

BM: Uh the brotherhood, comradery, uh just uh, it's really difficult to put into terms it's just knowing that your fellow marine is going to be there to back you up no matter what the situation is. You know whether at work, or at play you know, it's just a bond. The shared experience of going through bootcamp, become a marine. The marine corp is a pretty small branch of the military so you get a tight knit group, you know, everything's broken down into smaller groups where you have a squad with like 4 people and you get really tight. It's just like a family you know, I still keep in contact with a lot of the guys that I used to work with, and it's just I don't know how to describe it. It sounds like it would be easy but it's hard to put into words. Just knowing that if you needed a shirt then I'd give you the shirt off my back, if your in trouble ask for help and it will be there. I've never been in that position and I had a friend that recently committed suicide and it took everyone by surprise, the hardest part is, once you get out you get a little bit of a disconnectedness from those people, I mean with facebook and everything else it's a lot better but its still hard because when your on the other side of the country, he was in Pennsylvania, there's not a lot that I can do where I am that could help him. But I do have some people that are out here in the local area and if they needed something they can call me and they know I'd be there.

SS: And Vice Versa?

BM: And vice versa, I had spouses call me when I was a marine, I had a spouse call me say “hey Bills acting really weird”, alright its like 1Am on a saturday and I get in my car and I drive down and “hey what's going on let's go for a drive, let's talk”. So things like that where you can help someone that is in need you know there's. I don't know how the army and other services do it, but its just being there for people in there time of need, I think is probably the biggest thing and it's sad when their a long way away and you think everything's okay. After the fact me and some friends did some research on our friend that committed suicide and not Bill but we found out that he went through some tough times and some people are to proud to admit that they need help. You gotta take the help that is there for you cause if you dont you can't do it on your own, you life, it just isn't meant to be that way. This guy was trying to do it all on his own and his girlfriend broke up with him and that was it so you have to have more than one person in your life.

SS: Are you still on contact with the people you serve with?

BM: Yes, yes I am. I am not able to get out and do all the things I'd like to. I got some friends down here in San Diego like I said earlier, they stayed in the area, when they got out they got some good paying jobs., Most of the people that I've served with have moved back home but we do keep in contact on facebook and things like that, sometimes I'll get a

phone call. I got a gentleman that I worked with and he comes out every year for nascar races out here in Fontana and he's like "hey I got tickets you want to go?" And I'm like "sure" you know. I'll take him out to eat and we'll chat and catch up and we'll go out and have a good time. I got some other guys that I uh, I'm not a big facebook person but i've found a couple more people here in the local area that I plan to hook up with when things calm down a little bit, maybe after christmas break or during spring break time, but yeah I keep facebook contact with them, I'm not on it much but I still like to know how they're doing, what they're doing.

SS: Did any of them have an influence on you?

BM: Most of the people I stay in contact with, I was their boss, so uh there's a few that had influence on me and maybe with the way I deal with people, but id say with the majority of the people the influence was from me to them, you know I hope I had a good influence on them. My daughter has posted something on one of my friends post and he's come on and said "Yeah your dad was a great leader, best leader i've ever had whether it was in the military or civilian" and so like I said, i've had influence. I demanded a certain level of professionalism from all my people, and I always had to be at that level or higher. I had never demanded of my marines something that I had not done or that I was willing to get in there and do it at that time. So I hope I was more of an importer of things rather than a receiver.

SS: Do you know if any of your friends that you are with went back to school?

BM: Yes actually I just talk to one the other day on facebook, I uh afforded my marines the opportunity to go to school while they were in using tuition assistance and one of my marines got his diploma from Point Loma Nazarene and he got out like 2002 2003 and I was like man I'm pretty sure he went there, so I called him up, no I didn't call him I messaged him on facebook and said "Hey you went to Point Loma NAzarene right?" because they are opening the business degree here on campus and I just wanted to get his feel for it, he just went back to school to uh he got his masters in business and he's doing well enough with his degree from Point Loma that he was flying from San Francisco to Austin Texas like every other weekend, so I talked to him and he said it's a very good program, smaller classes, even down at the main campus, So I picked his brain a little bit and I got, like I said I let a lot go in school while we were in, put my people on a shift that would work with their schedule and ugh I think most of them have gone back to school, maybe not a full degree, some people school isn't for them, a lot of guys are using their knowledge from the military to get jobs, I did that, I worked before coming back to school.

SS: What was your life like right before you went back to school?

BM: Haha well, I was taking a break, haha, I was actually living a retired life. I was working for General Atomics in the High Desert, working on AUV's. The work schedule just got so hectic, we would go across seas and work 7 days, come back here and work 6 sometimes

7 days a week and it was just too much for the commute. I gave them my two week notice, and I left there. I didn't work for a while then I said, I don't really need a high paying job, I just want a nice easy paying job. I got a job at UPS and you know putting boxes in trucks not too difficult but had to have a little bit of brain power putting boxes in the right places, but a week before I started work I hurt my shoulder out playing with my boat, I lasted about a month and a half and I just couldn't do anything. I had a shoulder operation and I was out for, including everything it was almost a year and it didn't work so I had another operation, so I was out for a year and a half of shoulder operations, so I couldn't do anything, but right before I started I was helping my brother with a handyman business, we would go out paint houses, lay flooring, baseboards, this wasn't really... I enjoyed it but it was labor intensive. I had already two operations on my shoulder, it was ready to go out again and it wouldn't be the best thing, although I enjoy it and was good at it but probably not the best thing, I got to thinking you know, they changed the GI bill, I only got 10 years, I'm coming up on that limit, let me take advantage of the GI bill while I can, so that's what I'm doing and I'm working towards business degree, I worked in business shortly after I got out, actually right when I got out, I got out of the military on December 31st, I went to work at General Dynamics January 2nd. I was doing processing analysis and I really liked it, I just had a falling out with my direct boss, so I decided I had to go. It sounds worse than it is, I just didn't agree with how he was conducting business with people, being from a leadership position it was like he can't treat people like that and I was working for Vice president for operations. He was like #2 man at the business there. He would send me out to help out other vice presidents, and a job opened up and I was really interested in the legal compliance for import export, no problem, did the interview got everything done, let my boss know, and the job disappeared. It was a dead end, I was never gonna be able to move in the company to something else and that's when I decided it's time to go. You don't treat people like that you know.

SS: So what made you want to go back to school?

BM: Well a lot of the jobs I am interested in are even though you have the experience they want the piece of paper that says you have a degree. And that's the main reason I am coming to get that piece of paper, so I have the degree to apply for the job that I don't even know how to do. And I've done it for many years in the military already. And it's just today day and age that wants the piece of paper, and I don't know if it's to see the commitment to completing. But you would you think that you know the military, competing 20 years in the military which is a pretty big commitment. But I think that's the main thing. I am older than most and I think it's a sign of commitment that they're looking for. I mean piece of paper doesn't tell you what kind of knowledge you have, you might have, may have been exposed to a thing, and to a lot it doesn't matter the degree you have you know a lot of the jobs they are going for don't correlate to the degree they have. But a lot of them just want to see the commitment and completion they have to a long term degree.

SS: What are you currently studying?

BM: currently well, this is my third semester now and first semester I was all about bio tech. And I you know, it's technical, and I'm top with technical and I really didn't want to do a lot of research at the time, but I was like hey biotech. San diego is huge for biotech let me get into that. And after I started getting into it I was like its a lot of math, i'm pretty good at math but its just I dont... my wife was probably my biggest one to say do you really want to be sitting there at a lab you know doing the same thing day after day and I was like no I've already done that so I decided to shift over to to business because it's something I kind of already know and I think I am pretty good at it. So just marching down that path of getting a business degree .

SS: So why did you choose this area of study?

BM: I like business. I'm a logical thinker and uh I like to process things and make them as efficient as possible and business is about getting the most out of your money and I think I try to do that with everything i do. I don't jump into anything like I did my first semester of school, but other than that business decisions I... so i just. It intrigues me i look more at a operations slash production management position and its real similar to what I did in the military, you know being in charge if people, and producing a product as efficiently as possible, and I kind of did that with the process of improving general dynamics.. I enjoyed it and I think I'm pretty good at it. I get back into that you know being in charge of something, and of people.

SS: Do you think the military was beneficial to you? Why or why not?

BM: Um military was very beneficial to me it got me out of my hellraiser stage it kind of put me in a mindset of making good decisions thinking through things before jumping in. Doing how do I put this...Can you read it again?

SS: Yea. Do you think the military was beneficial to you? Why or why not?

BM: Probably the biggest thing with the military is dedication, uh seeing things through. Always giving things 100%. I talked about, I used to really stress myself out and that used... and I think that was more on both internal to do as well as I can you know. I'm not just passing but to do as well as you can on anything you do, and if you go into it half step your going to fail you have to be fully invested in whatever you do and uh I have... I don't procrastinate, and I take help where help is available, I mean writing center I use them all the time I haven't used the tutoring yet because that's probably, i'm not a stupid guy

SS: Like math tutoring?

BM: Yea, I'm pretty good with numbers and accounting, but I'm pretty good with that. But writing, english was the worst subject, I hated english I don't even remember taking english in high school. I don't, maybe I didn't go. I do not remember english at all in high school at all, like all 4 years I just, its not there.

SS: It's just not there.

BM: I just don't remember taking one english class my entire high school. And I really wasn't a big reader unless it interested me. History I thought was interesting but other than that I didn't read and uh now its I mean the writing center knows me by now. I see them with every major paper that i'm doing, sometimes I'll see them twice if i have to do a major rewrite, or I'll just see them one time to smooth it out and make sure i've got it down, and I fix the strong spots, and I used it for my next class. I take the help when it's available, when it's available take it. Take the help that is afforded and make the most of it.

SS: Okay so, if you could do it would you still go into the military before you got perfect education?

BM: Yes, I would because like I said I did not , I was not in the mindset of going to school when I got out. Uh, a little bit of a different time, I had a lot of friends that went to school and joined the military to, get out from where we were , and uh what I would do different I would not go to school , while I was in, I had the opportunity to do that but I always that I was too busy and i you could always be deployed at anytime, and I did not want start something that I could not finish i didn't do well in school I didn't do good in military school or school, I always performed I was always one of the top three graduates in the classes that I did. It just um but that was part of performing in the military education and then there was to improve her career, advancement opportunities but not to approve me so much that makes sense, I always push in whatever class, I always push since joining the military I have always pushed myself but before I joined the military i did not have that desire I already knew it, I knew it all. But, now I am like a sponge now i am like, i mean late, pretty late for me to be a college student. But, I am taking the standpoint with this as I did with my military school. So far, I am pulling A's and I am in my third semester, I had A's all last year, and it is just doing , I just before no, I couldn't see myself I didn't have the discipline, to do it. I was too busy . I probably would not have had the discipline to do it in the first five years I was in . I saw the other guys it. But i saw them they were taken away from their military jobs to do their schoolwork, and to me that wasn't right an internal thing of I am being paid to be here to work you know I am not being paid to be here doing schoolwork. He don me wrong. And that is one thing i would not allow my guys to do. When I was a boss, hey you can go to school all you want, but when your at work, you go to work. We have a job we have a mission we have to fix this equipment, if I catch doing schoolwork on my time, I'll let you go to school and finish that course. I would say not, i had the final recommendation , I would say no. he should have been performing his military school and typically that would have been enough to say okay you do not geet to go to school and no do your military work.

SS: If you can give any advice, or say anything to man or women in your shoes, what would you say?

BM: Uh school is good, uh real life is different than the school atmosphere. Don't uh.. Well that wouldn't be advice because most people in my shoes, well I'm 49 so I've had a career and

jobs before going to school. So if I was talking to new students i would say real world is a lot different than what college is and kind of how are business professor is, he wack but he kind of tells it like it is, i remember this thing a while back a person shows up to work late you're fired, you can't fire me i'm only 15 minutes late. And here at college you can get away with being late you know the professors are just there to impart the information, they could care less if your in the class or not, you can get some professors that care like this semester's been pretty good the professors are like what is your long term goal not just jeres the information, it's more of what are your long term goals. Have you looked at all these other things to get where you want to go. You know i here a lot of people student even on the military side of the ouse C's get degrees that is true C's do get degrees but you got to get into the school to get degrees. Be aware that c average here is probably not going to get you into the your choice school to get the choice degree you want. So you got to really think about the best thing you got. This is a great school. My son is going to san marcos hes I.. I think he's still overwhelmed he's in his 3 year, and he still overwhelmed. I mean we got small classes uh professor pretty much know who you are and you can go and ask questions. Where at the big schools your going to hit the TA to talk to, and not the professor. And uh you can take advantage of it, and the professors know they teach other places and they know there's a difference in the college this is the best community college you just have to take advantage of it. Like point loma is coming here no to start their business degree and if it goes well they're going to expand it. And it's great thing to not have to commute so far and still get a degree from a very well respected school. And more and more community colleges are starting to offer degrees. You gotta take advantage of those opportunities when they come.

SS: What would your advice be to military to school?

BM: Wooh.

SS: Like active duty to civilian life?

BM: The transitions are hard, I mean being in the military we do transmissions all the time moving from california to north carolina, I mean that's a big transmissions. For the most part there is a transmission for how you behave, and how you can and can't associate with it's not a new thing to the military but being in transition but coming from the military and the way were used to interacting with each other and our brotherhood. Because we can get pretty rude and crude with each other and know that were joking. And you can't do that here because its offensive but being from the military it normal it's an everyday thing and it's very different to come into this situation. Like I said I applied a lot of stress to myself and pretty institutional lies and everything was structured and here it's like you can take what you want and figure it out and what the best course of structure is for you. I tend to bite my tongue a lot and there's a lot of things people do in the classroom that I don't like. And the other side where the military person blows a gasket in the classroom and start dropping F-bombs and I was like wow you lost your

bearings because, and I'm like woah can you calm down you instead of you F***** stupid A** MotherF*****. And it was loud and professor stopped it quickly and I don't know if he's ever. And that class was weird for the rest of the day, and he toned it own. But now biting your tongue, you see people doing stupid stuff and you don't do anything and in the military we would have snatched up. And you can't do that here, it's just the first semester are the toughest and it gets easier. I don't know if the workload is easier yet I don't know, but it seems to be and quicker. You know you use your military discipline time management and college is actually pretty easy, and using the resources available to you. Those three things will get you through college. The discipline of what you have to do and how to do it. And making sure you have enough time to get it done, and using those resources. The free tutoring, the free writing center, you know like our professor said it's all out of pocket. If he wanted to get tutoring you had to pay for it. Take advantage of it. We have a large, I think we have a pretty large military presence on this campus, and between the military and the independence. So I think there's a lot of people who understand the military, they've been around it so the interaction isn't that bad. At other schools not in the san diego area, it would be alot different. They complain about the mentality.