

Personal Essay

I am a Staff Sergeant in the Wisconsin Army National Guard. I am currently in the process of finishing a deployment to Iraq. I serve in a variety of capacities. I am qualified to operate as a combat medic and as a military policeman. A majority of my time in Iraq has been in the primary classification of military policeman. During my downtime, I study. I am in the process of finishing a bachelor's degree in English with an emphasis on writing at the University of Wisconsin as well as pursuing a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice at Grantham Online University with a concentration in Homeland Security. I have plans to pursue a Masters Degree upon the completion of these programs.

My civilian work has been widely varied. I worked as a nurse in numerous correctional and civilian environments, as a freelance writer, a mail clerk in a law firm, a tape operator at major television network, a factory worker, and in food service. I spent a year on state active duty working at the headquarters of the Wisconsin National Guard. I worked closely with numerous state agencies providing statewide emergency response when local infrastructure was overwhelmed at the Joint Operations Center. Currently I am in the end stages of the application process at a local police department.

Travel has also been important to me. I have spent time in Alaska, California, Washington, Florida, Massachusetts, Georgia, Oklahoma, Illinois, Texas, Wisconsin, Mexico, and England. Travel has always been appealing to me as I love to experience new things, new people, new environments, new languages, and gain a greater understanding of people, the world, and myself. I have studied Spanish and Italian. Although I am not fluent in any foreign language, language study is becoming more and more important to me.

Deployment to Iraq has been an honor and a privilege. It is the realization of a lifelong goal to serve in the military as my grandfather and step-grandfather did in World War II. In addition to that, my brother was nearly killed in the terrorist attacks of September 11.

Two experiences during this deployment which have significantly impacted me include working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation doing biometric evidence collection and my personal study of counterinsurgency operations. Working with special agents was eye-opening and appealing. The study of counterinsurgency caused me to realize that even the lowest ranking private was not merely a soldier but an American diplomat whose actions has the potential to effect serious global and political change for the better or worse.

I view a career in National Security and National Defense as a high calling. Maslow's Theory of the Hierarchy of Needs states that before human beings can advance toward self-actualization, they must first have food, water, and other basics of life. Just beyond these most basic needs comes security. Without security, concepts like love, belonging, confidence, achievement, respect, lack of prejudice, problem solving, and unity are unattainable. As globalization unifies people across the earth, greater and greater cultural conflict is to be expected. Merging ideologies and paradigms compete for supremacy in producing quality of life, the preservation and flourishing of natural resources, and social justice. Security has never been so essential in producing a stable and glorious future for the human race. To contribute to America's National Security is to have contributed to every scientific and technological advancement, to every child's walk to school performed without fear, to the topping of family dinner tables with simmering foods purchased by money earned by stable jobs. It is an honor.

I request this Essay to be published on the Lint Center for National Security Studies, Inc website without my name published.

BCB 27 FEB 2010