

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:07,640

This is a story that's not a horror, but a real story.

2

00:00:07,640 --> 00:00:10,360

An Air Force officer on a top secret mission

3

00:00:10,360 --> 00:00:12,680

sees unusual lights in the sky.

4

00:00:12,680 --> 00:00:16,960

When I looked up, I saw something I will never forget.

5

00:00:16,960 --> 00:00:19,000

None of the training that I had ever gone through

6

00:00:19,000 --> 00:00:21,040

prepared me for this.

7

00:00:21,040 --> 00:00:25,100

An infantryman encounters an otherworldly presence.

8

00:00:25,100 --> 00:00:28,400

I've seen a decent bit over my time in the military,

9

00:00:28,400 --> 00:00:31,280

but I've never heard anything like it before,

10

00:00:31,280 --> 00:00:33,720

and I haven't heard anything like it since.

11

00:00:33,720 --> 00:00:37,100

A marine is haunted by the sins of the past.

12

00:00:37,100 --> 00:00:39,680

I can still hear the scream even 16 years later.

13

00:00:39,680 --> 00:00:41,120

Still this day I have no idea what

14

00:00:41,120 --> 00:00:42,200

may or may not have happened.

15

00:00:59,400 --> 00:01:03,160

I see this shadow figure.

16

00:01:03,160 --> 00:01:09,400

It hit me and lifted me up and threw me back into the trench.

17

00:01:14,720 --> 00:01:18,400

Fort Polk in Louisiana is the foremost infantry training

18

00:01:18,400 --> 00:01:21,400

center for the United States Army.

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00:01:21,400 --> 00:01:25,040

Fort Polk provides some of the toughest, most realistic,

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00:01:25,040 --> 00:01:27,560

simulated combat training for US soldiers.

21

00:01:27,600 --> 00:01:28,520

It's huge.

22

00:01:28,520 --> 00:01:32,120

It's well over 100,000 acres of various terrain for training.

23

00:01:34,920 --> 00:01:38,440

In 1941, the government evicted hundreds of families

24

00:01:38,440 --> 00:01:41,400

from their homes to build the fort.

25

00:01:41,400 --> 00:01:43,280

I will die before I leave my home.

26

00:01:43,280 --> 00:01:46,120

You have to get out.

27

00:01:46,120 --> 00:01:48,440

But not all homeowners left willingly.

28

00:01:53,320 --> 00:01:56,400

When I saw this shadowy female figure,

29

00:01:56,400 --> 00:01:58,400

I was definitely scared.

30

00:01:58,400 --> 00:02:01,720

There's nothing I can think of in my mind

31

00:02:01,720 --> 00:02:03,000

that can justify that.

32

00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:12,240

I think my gauge of traumatic might be a little bit different

33

00:02:12,240 --> 00:02:13,680

than other peoples.

34

00:02:13,680 --> 00:02:15,240

I'm a staff sergeant and a squad leader

35

00:02:15,240 --> 00:02:18,000

in the United States Army.

36

00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:20,200

As an active member of the US Army,

37

00:02:20,200 --> 00:02:24,000

Tom risks a censure or demotion for sharing his story,

38

00:02:24,360 --> 00:02:27,440

so we cannot reveal his true identity.

39

00:02:27,440 --> 00:02:29,720

It is a risk coming forward, especially when you're

40

00:02:29,720 --> 00:02:31,160

in a leadership role.

41

00:02:31,160 --> 00:02:34,120

I love my job a lot.

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00:02:34,120 --> 00:02:38,680

Tom has been an infantry paratrooper for eight years.

43

00:02:38,680 --> 00:02:43,000

Serving my country to me means actually doing what you know

44

00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:44,000

you have to do.

45

00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:45,920

The pride in defending my country

46

00:02:45,920 --> 00:02:49,000

played into the decision to enlist.

47

00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:51,360

After two years deployed overseas,

48

00:02:51,360 --> 00:02:53,800

Tom is stationed at Fort Polk.

49

00:02:53,800 --> 00:02:56,520

More than a million soldiers have trained at Fort Polk's

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00:02:56,520 --> 00:03:02,040

Joint Readiness Training Center, known as the JRTC.

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00:03:02,040 --> 00:03:03,920

The Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk

52

00:03:03,920 --> 00:03:07,720

is the closest thing to an actual combat environment.

53

00:03:10,240 --> 00:03:12,360

In the military, there are what are called training periods

54

00:03:12,360 --> 00:03:15,360

where active soldiers will be constantly trained,

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00:03:15,360 --> 00:03:16,840

usually for combat scenarios.

56

00:03:16,840 --> 00:03:18,840

It's referred to as a rotation.

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00:03:18,840 --> 00:03:22,560

Rotational units fight against the JRTC's elite infantry

58

00:03:22,560 --> 00:03:25,760

training team, which plays the role of the enemy.

59

00:03:25,760 --> 00:03:27,520

Tom leads one of those teams.

60

00:03:30,800 --> 00:03:34,680

Being assigned to the opposing forces unit at Fort Polk,

61

00:03:34,680 --> 00:03:37,000

we represent the bad guys.

62

00:03:39,520 --> 00:03:43,640

In May 2021, Tom's unit starts a new training assignment

63

00:03:43,640 --> 00:03:48,240

in a section of the JRTC called the box.

64

00:03:48,240 --> 00:03:52,360

The box is what we call the training area, kind of a nickname.

65

00:03:52,360 --> 00:03:56,640

It's a very, very large area where the rotational unit

66

00:03:56,640 --> 00:03:59,240

conducts simulated combat operations.

67

00:03:59,240 --> 00:04:02,880

There are parts of the box that are pretty creepy.

68

00:04:02,880 --> 00:04:06,000

It can be a pretty unsettling place.

69

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:08,840

It was a multi-day training exercise.

70

00:04:08,840 --> 00:04:12,720

The first night, we're moving through really dense,

71

00:04:12,720 --> 00:04:20,640

thick vegetation and one of our squad automatic weapon gunners.

72

00:04:20,720 --> 00:04:23,800

Caught a root, fell to the ground,

73

00:04:23,800 --> 00:04:29,720

and gets his ammunition box pulled off of his weapon.

74

00:04:29,720 --> 00:04:31,400

He reaches down and picks it up, and we all

75

00:04:31,400 --> 00:04:35,120

start making jokes, poking fun at him.

76

00:04:35,120 --> 00:04:36,400

You got to lead that.

77

00:04:36,400 --> 00:04:40,480

I can't believe you just picked that up.

78

00:04:40,480 --> 00:04:42,880

You want to deal with the box, witch?

79

00:04:42,880 --> 00:04:45,720

One of the oldest legends at Fort Polk

80

00:04:45,720 --> 00:04:50,240

is that if you drop something that you don't absolutely

81

00:04:50,320 --> 00:04:54,000

have to pick up in the box after dark,

82

00:04:54,000 --> 00:04:57,760

you leave it sort of as a tribute to the box, witch.

83

00:04:57,760 --> 00:05:01,760

The legend of the box, witch, has been at Fort Polk

84

00:05:01,760 --> 00:05:05,720

for probably as long as anybody can remember.

85

00:05:05,720 --> 00:05:09,440

The story of the box, witch, is that when the army was

86

00:05:09,440 --> 00:05:12,160

establishing Fort Polk, the US government

87

00:05:12,160 --> 00:05:13,920

enacted the right of imminent domain

88

00:05:13,920 --> 00:05:16,120

so that they could build the fort.

89

00:05:16,120 --> 00:05:20,920

And there was a young woman there who refused to leave

90

00:05:20,920 --> 00:05:23,240

because that was her family land,

91

00:05:23,240 --> 00:05:25,240

and she didn't know anything else.

92

00:05:25,240 --> 00:05:29,920

She cursed the land and hanged herself,

93

00:05:29,920 --> 00:05:34,560

and she became the box, witch.

94

00:05:34,560 --> 00:05:36,400

You hear stories about the box, witch,

95

00:05:36,400 --> 00:05:39,600

but you don't ever really put any stock into it.

96

00:05:39,600 --> 00:05:42,920

But being assigned to the opposing forces unit at Fort

97

00:05:42,920 --> 00:05:46,160

Polk, we kind of use the legend of the box,

98

00:05:46,160 --> 00:05:48,400

which to mess with the rotational units

99

00:05:48,400 --> 00:05:52,600

sort of is like a fear thing, sort of a psychological weapon.

100

00:05:52,600 --> 00:05:55,560

Our job is to put them under the stress

101

00:05:55,560 --> 00:05:57,720

that they're going to be facing in combat.

102

00:06:00,200 --> 00:06:03,840

Fear sets off our fighter flight system,

103

00:06:03,840 --> 00:06:06,960

and our whole nervous system is triggered in a different way.

104

00:06:06,960 --> 00:06:09,000

One of the most important things for soldiers

105

00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:11,720

is to train themselves emotionally

106

00:06:11,720 --> 00:06:15,360

to not panic when they become frightened.

107

00:06:18,560 --> 00:06:22,160

The second night in the box, our mission

108

00:06:22,160 --> 00:06:27,000

was to cut off an armed convoy of the rotational force

109

00:06:27,000 --> 00:06:28,520

coming towards us.

110

00:06:28,520 --> 00:06:31,400

We had set up an ambush at this choke point

111

00:06:31,400 --> 00:06:34,160

in the road waiting.

112

00:06:34,160 --> 00:06:36,160

It's about 2.30 in the morning at this point,

113

00:06:36,160 --> 00:06:40,360

almost pitch black, and I am scanning with my night vision

114

00:06:40,360 --> 00:06:47,200

equipment, and I start hearing some rustling in the foliage.

115

00:06:47,200 --> 00:06:49,840

So I immediately turn around and start

116

00:06:49,840 --> 00:06:52,600

looking for the source of the noise.

117

00:06:52,600 --> 00:06:57,720

I can see this small series of bushes moving.

118

00:06:57,720 --> 00:07:03,080

It looked like someone was grabbing the bases of these bushes

119

00:07:03,080 --> 00:07:07,280

and shaking them back and forth.

120

00:07:07,280 --> 00:07:10,600

There is no wind to shake bushes like this.

121

00:07:10,600 --> 00:07:13,840

I was worried that the noise could have maybe

122

00:07:13,840 --> 00:07:16,320

been the soldier from the rotational unit,

123

00:07:16,320 --> 00:07:19,200

and somehow they had worked their way around us.

124

00:07:19,200 --> 00:07:21,840

I can't really tell what it is in my night vision,

125

00:07:21,840 --> 00:07:25,920

so I grab a handheld thermal imager,

126

00:07:25,920 --> 00:07:30,920

and I notice something extremely strange, which

127

00:07:30,920 --> 00:07:34,400

is whatever is moving these bushes

128

00:07:34,400 --> 00:07:35,840

doesn't have a thermal signature.

129

00:07:37,400 --> 00:07:41,920

Thermal imagers work by capturing infrared light that

130

00:07:41,920 --> 00:07:43,880

is invisible to the human eye.

131

00:07:43,880 --> 00:07:45,600

The thing about a thermal imager is

132

00:07:45,600 --> 00:07:48,200

that it captures temperature differences.

133

00:07:48,200 --> 00:07:51,600

So if you have an animal or a human being,

134

00:07:51,600 --> 00:07:55,480

a warm object among a plant, that object

135

00:07:55,480 --> 00:07:58,280

will glow like a spotlight in there,

136

00:07:58,280 --> 00:08:00,840

and you should definitely be able to see it.

137

00:08:00,840 --> 00:08:02,760

Just to make sure I'm not crazy, I

138

00:08:02,760 --> 00:08:06,520

give my partner the thermal device just like me.

139

00:08:06,520 --> 00:08:10,360

He can't see any sort of thermal signature

140

00:08:10,360 --> 00:08:12,040

behind this series of bushes at all.

141

00:08:16,840 --> 00:08:18,880

We're trying to figure out what we should do.

142

00:08:18,880 --> 00:08:21,680

We're starting to formulate a plan.

143

00:08:21,680 --> 00:08:26,240

We heard the most horrifying blood curdling scream

144

00:08:26,240 --> 00:08:31,080

I have ever heard in my entire life.

145

00:08:31,080 --> 00:08:34,600

I've heard men screaming while they were dying that didn't

146

00:08:34,600 --> 00:08:36,000

scream like that.

147

00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:37,040

I was terrified.

148

00:08:37,040 --> 00:08:38,840

I've never heard anything like that.

149

00:08:43,320 --> 00:08:45,680

During a combat training exercise,

150

00:08:45,680 --> 00:08:49,600

Staff Sergeant Tom Anderson hears a startling sound.

151

00:08:49,600 --> 00:08:53,360

The scream, it comes from exactly where those bushes were

152

00:08:53,360 --> 00:08:54,720

being rustled.

153

00:08:54,720 --> 00:08:58,400

It was loud enough and close enough that it hurt my ears,

154

00:08:58,400 --> 00:09:02,400

and then everything stopped and was perfectly quiet.

155

00:09:03,400 --> 00:09:05,520

There were no sounds of wildlife.

156

00:09:05,520 --> 00:09:06,800

There was no wind.

157

00:09:06,800 --> 00:09:10,320

There were no more leaves rustling.

158

00:09:10,320 --> 00:09:11,480

There was nothing.

159

00:09:11,480 --> 00:09:14,080

Everything just went dead quiet.

160

00:09:14,080 --> 00:09:17,480

Everyone in my unit heard that scream.

161

00:09:17,480 --> 00:09:20,600

We didn't really know what to think.

162

00:09:20,600 --> 00:09:25,480

We combat locked all the doors so that nothing could get in.

163

00:09:28,000 --> 00:09:31,000

At that point, I didn't want to know what it was.

164

00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:35,200

I didn't want to know what it was anymore, because whatever it

165

00:09:35,200 --> 00:09:38,080

was that made that sound was not human.

166

00:09:38,080 --> 00:09:43,360

We still had about three and a half hours left until sunrise,

167

00:09:43,360 --> 00:09:48,280

and we stayed in the vehicle the rest of the night.

168

00:09:48,280 --> 00:09:52,280

About three or three and a half hours later, the sun comes up.

169

00:09:52,280 --> 00:09:55,080

We exited our vehicle and walk over

170

00:09:55,080 --> 00:10:00,440

to the bushes that were shaking the night before.

171

00:10:00,440 --> 00:10:04,000

And there's nothing there.

172

00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:05,920

There's no boot prints.

173

00:10:05,920 --> 00:10:10,120

There's no signs of anything having been there.

174

00:10:10,120 --> 00:10:12,560

There was no disturbed earth.

175

00:10:12,560 --> 00:10:17,280

There was nothing, which is weird.

176

00:10:17,280 --> 00:10:19,800

I wasn't sure exactly what it was,

177

00:10:19,800 --> 00:10:25,240

but I knew whatever happened was definitely not natural.

178

00:10:25,240 --> 00:10:29,760

If that scream had been something that a human could make,

179

00:10:29,760 --> 00:10:31,040

it would have been different.

180

00:10:31,040 --> 00:10:34,280

There's no way that a human could have made that noise.

181

00:10:34,280 --> 00:10:37,880

I told everybody not to tell anybody about what happened,

182

00:10:37,880 --> 00:10:42,000

because I didn't want anybody thinking my soldiers were crazy,

183

00:10:42,000 --> 00:10:43,960

you're making things up, or anything like that.

184

00:10:47,680 --> 00:10:53,640

Couple of nights later, we are going into the last big fight

185

00:10:53,640 --> 00:10:56,880

before the end of the exercise.

186

00:10:56,880 --> 00:11:00,680

Inside the box, there are a number of mock villages

187

00:11:00,680 --> 00:11:05,160

built to replicate villages in the Middle East.

188

00:11:05,160 --> 00:11:10,040

Our objective at this point is to push into the mock village

189

00:11:10,040 --> 00:11:15,040

of Genon and clear the rotational unit.

190

00:11:15,040 --> 00:11:17,480

I don't really like going around Genon.

191

00:11:17,480 --> 00:11:20,960

It is actually close to where the box switch

192

00:11:20,960 --> 00:11:23,080

allegedly hanged herself.

193

00:11:23,080 --> 00:11:25,120

Genon is very well known for the fact

194

00:11:25,120 --> 00:11:27,360

that animals don't make sounds in Genon.

195

00:11:27,360 --> 00:11:29,600

Birds don't chirp, dogs don't come near it.

196

00:11:29,600 --> 00:11:31,160

Even the wild pigs avoid it.

197

00:11:31,160 --> 00:11:34,400

The animals don't like Genon.

198

00:11:34,400 --> 00:11:39,520

Sometimes animals can sense danger or impending disaster

199

00:11:39,520 --> 00:11:42,080

coming, and they become silent.

200

00:11:42,080 --> 00:11:46,560

Certain animals' senses actually can be up to 1,000 times

201

00:11:46,560 --> 00:11:48,320

more sensitive than humans.

202

00:11:48,320 --> 00:11:49,680

So it's very instinctual.

203

00:11:49,680 --> 00:11:54,000

And you can even see sometimes before an earthquake or a tsunami,

204

00:11:54,000 --> 00:11:56,440

like all the animals flee.

205

00:11:56,440 --> 00:11:58,040

They sense something is happening.

206

00:12:03,160 --> 00:12:05,720

We make it to the bottom of the hill

207

00:12:05,720 --> 00:12:10,320

where the rotational unit is supposed to be dug in at.

208

00:12:10,320 --> 00:12:14,320

And we are moving forward into a trench line,

209

00:12:14,320 --> 00:12:19,800

and they start firing at us.

210

00:12:19,800 --> 00:12:23,240

I take my squad and maneuver around outside

211

00:12:23,240 --> 00:12:25,840

of their line of fire.

212

00:12:25,840 --> 00:12:30,880

I come out of a trench and get engaged

213

00:12:30,880 --> 00:12:35,360

by a group of rotational unit soldiers.

214

00:12:35,360 --> 00:12:40,240

I turn and start engaging them from my peripheral vision.

215

00:12:40,240 --> 00:12:46,400

I see this shadow figure approach me

216

00:12:46,400 --> 00:12:50,200

at a ridiculous speed from nowhere.

217

00:12:50,200 --> 00:12:57,920

It hit me and lifted me up and threw me back into the trench.

218

00:12:57,920 --> 00:13:00,160

And I landed in the bottom of the trench

219

00:13:00,160 --> 00:13:02,680

and laid there for a second.

220

00:13:02,680 --> 00:13:07,760

At that point, the only thing I could think of was, what was that?

221

00:13:07,760 --> 00:13:09,760

One thing to be clear about scientifically,

222

00:13:09,760 --> 00:13:12,800

our minds were created as a processor

223

00:13:12,800 --> 00:13:15,160

to keep us alive and help us reproduce.

224

00:13:15,160 --> 00:13:19,560

So our peripheral vision is tuned to catch motion.

225

00:13:19,560 --> 00:13:22,000

So if you see something through your peripheral vision,

226

00:13:22,000 --> 00:13:25,680

that signal is not being sent to the part of your brain

227

00:13:25,680 --> 00:13:29,160

for creating a clear image.

228

00:13:29,160 --> 00:13:34,640

I looked up, and there was this shadowy female figure

229

00:13:34,640 --> 00:13:37,680

with dark hair standing at the edge of the trench.

230

00:13:37,680 --> 00:13:42,000

And she looked at me for maybe a second or two

231

00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:43,160

and then disappeared.

232

00:13:46,280 --> 00:13:49,400

There was no way it was a soldier.

233

00:13:49,400 --> 00:13:53,640

I've never seen anything move quite that fast.

234

00:13:53,640 --> 00:13:57,120

It looked like it was 50 feet from me one instant

235

00:13:57,120 --> 00:14:01,120

and then right on top of me the next.

236

00:14:01,120 --> 00:14:05,080

I don't know of any single person that

237

00:14:05,080 --> 00:14:08,320

would have been able to pick me up and throw me backwards

238

00:14:08,320 --> 00:14:08,920

like that.

239

00:14:08,920 --> 00:14:15,000

I probably tipped the scales over 300 pounds with all of my kit.

240

00:14:15,000 --> 00:14:18,600

It lifted me probably a good 18 inches into the air

241

00:14:18,600 --> 00:14:23,200

and threw me backwards, 3 and 1 half or 4 feet.

242

00:14:23,200 --> 00:14:24,920

I was scared after it happened.

243

00:14:24,920 --> 00:14:26,600

I just really want to get out of here.

244

00:14:26,600 --> 00:14:29,760

So I climbed out of the trench.

245

00:14:29,760 --> 00:14:34,080

And my boot prints were the only boot prints in the dirt

246

00:14:34,080 --> 00:14:37,040

around that trench.

247

00:14:37,040 --> 00:14:40,000

Later in the night as we're wrapping things up,

248

00:14:40,000 --> 00:14:45,280

I happen to look up at the tops of the trees.

249

00:14:45,280 --> 00:14:49,120

This same sort of dark shadowy female figure

250

00:14:49,120 --> 00:14:52,000

was there just kind of looking down at what we were doing.

251

00:14:52,000 --> 00:14:54,400

I couldn't really see her face.

252

00:14:54,400 --> 00:14:59,240

I could see wisps of long, dark hair.

253

00:14:59,240 --> 00:15:02,760

That was about the most features that I could make out.

254

00:15:02,760 --> 00:15:05,320

I was definitely scared and unsettled.

255

00:15:05,320 --> 00:15:11,320

And it just wasn't something that I could explain

256

00:15:11,320 --> 00:15:14,200

with any sort of normal logic.

257

00:15:16,160 --> 00:15:18,120

Seeing is believing.

258

00:15:18,120 --> 00:15:20,480

The only answer that I could come up with

259

00:15:20,480 --> 00:15:24,720

was this had to have been the box switch.

260

00:15:24,720 --> 00:15:28,720

I've seen a decent bit over my time in the military.

261

00:15:28,720 --> 00:15:32,680

Experiencing something that you can't explain like this

262

00:15:32,680 --> 00:15:34,920

is a whole different level.

263

00:15:40,800 --> 00:15:43,720

Since that last night, I haven't had any more encounters

264

00:15:43,760 --> 00:15:45,760

with the box switch.

265

00:15:45,760 --> 00:15:48,280

I do think about it every time I still go in the box.

266

00:15:48,280 --> 00:15:49,840

You always kind of have that feeling

267

00:15:49,840 --> 00:15:52,560

like you want to look over your shoulder

268

00:15:52,560 --> 00:15:53,840

just to see if something's there.

269

00:16:00,040 --> 00:16:03,080

That night in the desert absolutely changed my life.

270

00:16:06,200 --> 00:16:10,120

Since 1980, the United States has had a permanent military

271

00:16:10,120 --> 00:16:12,520

presence in the Middle East to safeguard

272

00:16:12,520 --> 00:16:16,680

against aggression and regional instability.

273

00:16:16,680 --> 00:16:20,360

And when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991,

274

00:16:20,360 --> 00:16:23,240

fear grew in the West that the arms race would

275

00:16:23,240 --> 00:16:26,960

turn into a fire sale, with nuclear weapons and secrets

276

00:16:26,960 --> 00:16:30,000

from the former Soviet Union potentially finding

277

00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:32,440

their way to the Middle East.

278

00:16:32,440 --> 00:16:35,640

I thought that the biggest threat was what was left

279

00:16:35,640 --> 00:16:38,400

after the fall of the Soviet Empire.

280

00:16:38,400 --> 00:16:42,280

But then I saw something very strange

281

00:16:42,320 --> 00:16:46,240

and there is nothing in military training

282

00:16:46,240 --> 00:16:48,400

that prepares you for this.

283

00:16:51,960 --> 00:16:53,960

My name is Jeremy McGowan.

284

00:16:53,960 --> 00:16:56,080

I was a member of the United States Air Force Security

285

00:16:56,080 --> 00:16:58,520

Police for 12 years.

286

00:16:58,520 --> 00:17:01,840

Everything was duty, honor, country.

287

00:17:01,840 --> 00:17:04,760

I grew up very patriotic.

288

00:17:04,760 --> 00:17:07,760

Coming from a military family, I would bleed red, white,

289

00:17:07,760 --> 00:17:08,960

and blue.

290

00:17:08,960 --> 00:17:11,880

The Air Force fulfilled all the check boxes

291

00:17:11,880 --> 00:17:12,880

that I was looking for.

292

00:17:15,800 --> 00:17:19,800

In 1995, after two and a half years in the Middle East,

293

00:17:19,800 --> 00:17:22,200

I had gone into the Air Force Reserves.

294

00:17:22,200 --> 00:17:24,400

My first deployment with the reserves,

295

00:17:24,400 --> 00:17:26,240

I was told that we were being deployed back

296

00:17:26,240 --> 00:17:27,360

to the Middle East again.

297

00:17:27,360 --> 00:17:29,000

But nobody is telling us where we're going.

298

00:17:32,320 --> 00:17:36,840

We get on the plane and we were airborne eight, nine, 10 hours

299

00:17:36,840 --> 00:17:37,600

worth of flight time.

300

00:17:38,200 --> 00:17:44,960

When the plane landed, we get out of the airplane

301

00:17:44,960 --> 00:17:49,720

and I look around and we are definitively in the Middle

302

00:17:49,720 --> 00:17:54,400

East, but I still don't know where.

303

00:17:54,400 --> 00:17:59,560

We're greeted by this guy and I don't know who he is.

304

00:17:59,560 --> 00:18:01,840

He's wearing a sterilized uniform,

305

00:18:01,840 --> 00:18:06,320

desert camouflage, no patches, no insignia.

306

00:18:06,360 --> 00:18:09,400

First words out of his mouth are welcome to Jordan.

307

00:18:09,400 --> 00:18:11,760

Jordan had been a longstanding American ally

308

00:18:11,760 --> 00:18:14,920

in the mid 1990s and it had been a friendly and stable

309

00:18:14,920 --> 00:18:18,000

nation in an area which was not very friendly and not very

310

00:18:18,000 --> 00:18:20,920

stable and also as a country next door to Iraq.

311

00:18:20,920 --> 00:18:25,520

It's very strategic, so very key ally for the US.

312

00:18:25,520 --> 00:18:26,880

We finally know where we are.

313

00:18:26,880 --> 00:18:28,920

We still don't know why we're there.

314

00:18:28,920 --> 00:18:32,520

Normally, we get two binders when we're deployed.

315

00:18:32,520 --> 00:18:35,000

One is your special operating procedures

316

00:18:35,000 --> 00:18:37,200

and the other one is your rules of engagement.

317

00:18:37,200 --> 00:18:38,560

That was all missing.

318

00:18:38,560 --> 00:18:40,400

I still don't know what's happening

319

00:18:40,400 --> 00:18:45,000

and then they do something that's never done.

320

00:18:45,000 --> 00:18:47,640

They separate our team.

321

00:18:47,640 --> 00:18:50,480

Nothing about this is normal.

322

00:18:50,480 --> 00:18:52,520

After we get separated, I'm driven out

323

00:18:52,520 --> 00:18:54,880

into the middle of the desert.

324

00:18:54,880 --> 00:18:56,080

It's dark.

325

00:18:56,080 --> 00:18:59,360

We're driving for quite a long time.

326

00:18:59,360 --> 00:19:00,320

There's nothing around.

327

00:19:00,320 --> 00:19:01,360

There's no infrastructure.

328

00:19:01,360 --> 00:19:02,320

There's no roads.

329

00:19:02,320 --> 00:19:05,840

It's just sand.

330

00:19:05,840 --> 00:19:08,720

Pulling up and I have no idea where we were.

331

00:19:08,720 --> 00:19:12,720

I get out of the Hummer and the only thing that I see

332

00:19:12,720 --> 00:19:14,640

is this big tent.

333

00:19:14,640 --> 00:19:16,880

There's a few cables running out of it.

334

00:19:16,880 --> 00:19:19,240

There's a generator off to the side of it

335

00:19:19,240 --> 00:19:21,520

and some satellite equipment antennas.

336

00:19:24,200 --> 00:19:27,760

I'm introduced to another security forces officer,

337

00:19:27,760 --> 00:19:29,400

but I have no idea who this person is.

338

00:19:29,400 --> 00:19:30,600

I've never met this person.

339

00:19:30,600 --> 00:19:34,520

I don't know what base they're from.

340

00:19:34,520 --> 00:19:38,080

And he takes us around the backside of the tent

341

00:19:38,080 --> 00:19:42,560

and he shows us just this wooden crate.

342

00:19:42,560 --> 00:19:44,560

No markings, no stickers, no placards,

343

00:19:44,560 --> 00:19:47,000

no indication of what's in it.

344

00:19:47,000 --> 00:19:48,440

And he says, that's your priority.

345

00:19:48,440 --> 00:19:50,280

That's what you're guarding.

346

00:19:50,280 --> 00:19:53,640

I ask him, well, what happens if somebody gets near the crate?

347

00:19:53,640 --> 00:19:56,720

He replies, shoot them.

348

00:20:01,560 --> 00:20:03,760

As an Air Force Security Forces Officer,

349

00:20:03,760 --> 00:20:07,840

we are tasked with guarding everything from personnel,

350

00:20:07,840 --> 00:20:12,640

to nuclear weapons, to other types of priority resources.

351

00:20:12,640 --> 00:20:16,200

And this was just this wooden crate sitting

352

00:20:16,200 --> 00:20:18,800

in the middle of the desert.

353

00:20:18,800 --> 00:20:23,000

It was definitely something that I had not encountered before.

354

00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:26,240

And it did certainly suggest this was classified.

355

00:20:27,240 --> 00:20:29,640

Our first night on post, my partner and I

356

00:20:29,640 --> 00:20:32,240

are just walking around this crate.

357

00:20:32,240 --> 00:20:34,240

We don't speak much to each other

358

00:20:34,240 --> 00:20:38,240

because it's hard to earn people's trust in the military.

359

00:20:38,240 --> 00:20:40,240

I have no idea who this guy is.

360

00:20:40,240 --> 00:20:42,240

He has no idea who I am.

361

00:20:42,240 --> 00:20:43,240

He and I aren't from the same base.

362

00:20:43,240 --> 00:20:45,240

We're not from the same team.

363

00:20:45,240 --> 00:20:46,240

We haven't trained together.

364

00:20:46,240 --> 00:20:50,240

We're just kind of both thrust out there for unknown reasons

365

00:20:50,240 --> 00:20:53,240

and there's not really a whole lot to talk about.

366

00:20:53,240 --> 00:20:54,240

We don't see anybody.

367

00:20:54,240 --> 00:20:56,240

It's just nighttime in the desert.

368

00:20:56,240 --> 00:20:58,240

It's actually quite boring.

369

00:21:03,240 --> 00:21:05,240

That next morning, as the sun's coming up,

370

00:21:05,240 --> 00:21:07,240

we get picked up to get some sleep

371

00:21:07,240 --> 00:21:09,240

and ready for the next night.

372

00:21:09,240 --> 00:21:12,240

At the Chow Hall, I look around and I see

373

00:21:12,240 --> 00:21:15,240

there's the 75th Ranger Battalion.

374

00:21:15,240 --> 00:21:17,240

There's Naval Special Warfare.

375

00:21:17,240 --> 00:21:20,240

There's Air Force Combat Control, Parar Rescue.

376

00:21:20,240 --> 00:21:22,240

And there's people from the FBI.

377

00:21:22,240 --> 00:21:27,240

And for the first time in any deployment

378

00:21:27,240 --> 00:21:29,240

that I have ever done,

379

00:21:29,240 --> 00:21:34,240

there's obvious civilians wearing military uniforms.

380

00:21:34,240 --> 00:21:37,240

The only things that they had were a name tape

381

00:21:37,240 --> 00:21:40,240

that just said Department of Energy.

382

00:21:40,240 --> 00:21:42,240

It started to click.

383

00:21:42,240 --> 00:21:46,240

All of these units have very special

384

00:21:46,240 --> 00:21:48,240

and very specific missions.

385

00:21:48,240 --> 00:21:52,240

When it comes to the recovery of nuclear weapons.

386

00:21:52,240 --> 00:21:55,240

To me, duty is personal responsibility.

387

00:21:55,240 --> 00:21:59,240

And I've got questions because I don't know what's happening.

388

00:21:59,240 --> 00:22:00,240

I'm always told what to do

389

00:22:00,240 --> 00:22:02,240

and what the roles and responsibilities are.

390

00:22:02,240 --> 00:22:05,240

And this is very vague, very open, very...

391

00:22:05,240 --> 00:22:07,240

what's going on.

392

00:22:07,240 --> 00:22:09,240

The second night, boredom starts to set in.

393

00:22:09,240 --> 00:22:13,240

You tend to do things that you normally wouldn't do

394

00:22:13,240 --> 00:22:15,240

and I'm curious.

395

00:22:15,240 --> 00:22:18,240

So I walked up to the crate,

396

00:22:18,240 --> 00:22:21,240

kick it a few times, knock on it a few times,

397

00:22:21,240 --> 00:22:22,240

listen to what it sounds like,

398

00:22:22,240 --> 00:22:25,240

really trying to figure out what's in it.

399

00:22:27,240 --> 00:22:30,240

And then I climbed on the crate.

400

00:22:30,240 --> 00:22:33,240

I laid down on the crate.

401

00:22:33,240 --> 00:22:37,240

I've got no idea what's inside this crate

402

00:22:37,240 --> 00:22:40,240

and it's driving me nuts.

403

00:22:40,240 --> 00:22:44,240

So at that time, I started walking away from the crate

404

00:22:45,240 --> 00:22:48,240

and I remembered I had a pair of night vision goggles.

405

00:22:48,240 --> 00:22:50,240

So I put them on.

406

00:22:55,240 --> 00:23:01,240

And I noticed that the crate has an effect.

407

00:23:01,240 --> 00:23:06,240

Like there was this shimmer right over or around the crate

408

00:23:06,240 --> 00:23:10,240

that when you took the goggles off, it wasn't there.

409

00:23:10,240 --> 00:23:13,240

I'd never seen anything like that before.

410

00:23:13,240 --> 00:23:15,240

It was just weird.

411

00:23:15,240 --> 00:23:18,240

Could this mysterious crate hold a nuclear weapon?

412

00:23:18,240 --> 00:23:22,240

One the U.S. military has intercepted.

413

00:23:25,240 --> 00:23:28,240

While guarding a mysterious glowing crate

414

00:23:28,240 --> 00:23:31,240

in the middle of the desert, Air Force Security Officer

415

00:23:31,240 --> 00:23:34,240

Jeremy McGowan sees something in the sky

416

00:23:34,240 --> 00:23:36,240

that he can't explain.

417

00:23:36,240 --> 00:23:42,240

There was this shimmer right over or around the crate.

418

00:23:42,240 --> 00:23:44,240

I'm sitting there trying to figure out

419

00:23:44,240 --> 00:23:48,240

why I'm seeing what I'm seeing and I don't have a reason for it.

420

00:23:49,240 --> 00:23:51,240

What is shimmer? Shimmer is light.

421

00:23:51,240 --> 00:23:54,240

When you have different temperature air layers,

422

00:23:54,240 --> 00:23:57,240

light will change its path and do weird things.

423

00:23:57,240 --> 00:23:59,240

And sometimes we experience this driving down a road

424

00:23:59,240 --> 00:24:02,240

and we see a shimmer in the distance that looks like water

425

00:24:02,240 --> 00:24:06,240

when really it's just the temperature variations

426

00:24:06,240 --> 00:24:09,240

in air layers close to the road

427

00:24:09,240 --> 00:24:12,240

are causing light to change its path

428

00:24:12,240 --> 00:24:15,240

and we see that as the mirage.

429

00:24:17,240 --> 00:24:20,240

So I get taken to the same place the next night

430

00:24:20,240 --> 00:24:24,240

and I'm several hours into the shift.

431

00:24:24,240 --> 00:24:26,240

I've got my night vision goggles,

432

00:24:26,240 --> 00:24:32,240

so I put them on and the night sky in the desert is brilliant.

433

00:24:35,240 --> 00:24:37,240

And I'm looking up.

434

00:24:40,240 --> 00:24:47,240

And then I see something.

435

00:24:47,240 --> 00:24:50,240

There's this bright point of light.

436

00:24:50,240 --> 00:24:56,240

This ball of light was absolutely the brightest thing in the sky

437

00:24:56,240 --> 00:25:00,240

by magnitudes over any of the stars that I could see.

438

00:25:00,240 --> 00:25:05,240

This thing comes from my six o'clock position

439

00:25:05,240 --> 00:25:09,240

and it shoots straight up over top of me

440

00:25:09,240 --> 00:25:13,240

and it makes a 90 degree left hand turn to my nine o'clock

441

00:25:13,240 --> 00:25:19,240

and it went from horizon to horizon in under two seconds

442

00:25:19,240 --> 00:25:24,240

with a perfectly executed 90 degree turn

443

00:25:24,240 --> 00:25:28,240

just at top dead center right above my position

444

00:25:28,240 --> 00:25:33,240

and then it starts happening over and over and over again

445

00:25:33,240 --> 00:25:36,240

repeating the same pattern in the sky.

446

00:25:36,240 --> 00:25:40,240

I don't understand what it is I'm seeing.

447

00:25:40,240 --> 00:25:44,240

My gut tells me that the appearance of this object

448

00:25:44,240 --> 00:25:47,240

is related to the contents of the crate.

449

00:25:47,240 --> 00:25:50,240

Everything goes through my head

450

00:25:50,240 --> 00:25:55,240

that it could be in rational explanations.

451

00:25:55,240 --> 00:25:59,240

At first I think that's some sort of reflection.

452

00:25:59,240 --> 00:26:02,240

Somebody is messing with a laser pointer somewhere

453

00:26:02,240 --> 00:26:07,240

and then I start picking apart why it's not those things,

454

00:26:07,240 --> 00:26:09,240

why it's not a bird, why it's not an airplane,

455

00:26:09,240 --> 00:26:12,240

why it's not a satellite or a meteor or a drone.

456

00:26:14,240 --> 00:26:19,240

So after I eliminate all the possibilities of what it could be

457

00:26:19,240 --> 00:26:22,240

I'm left with two solutions

458

00:26:22,240 --> 00:26:25,240

and one is I'm hallucinating

459

00:26:25,240 --> 00:26:29,240

or the other is this is a legitimate UFO.

460

00:26:29,240 --> 00:26:32,240

This was a no fly zone.

461

00:26:32,240 --> 00:26:34,240

Pretty sure it's not our tech

462

00:26:34,240 --> 00:26:39,240

because I don't know of anything that can do this.

463

00:26:39,240 --> 00:26:43,240

I think maybe it's a problem with the imaging tube.

464

00:26:43,240 --> 00:26:47,240

In the night vision goggles it's sand rolling across the lens

465

00:26:47,240 --> 00:26:49,240

and I try to clean out the lens

466

00:26:49,240 --> 00:26:52,240

and I screw the imaging tube back in

467

00:26:52,240 --> 00:26:55,240

and I put it back on and I lean back

468

00:26:55,240 --> 00:26:59,240

and it repeated this flight pattern over and over again.

469

00:27:02,240 --> 00:27:06,240

It's my assumption that the fact that it executed that 90-degree turn

470

00:27:06,240 --> 00:27:08,240

directly at my top dead center

471

00:27:08,240 --> 00:27:11,240

is directly related to the content of the crate

472

00:27:11,240 --> 00:27:17,240

and that 90-degree angle to me eliminates terrestrial technology.

473

00:27:17,240 --> 00:27:22,240

I feel that the last thing left was alien technology.

474

00:27:22,240 --> 00:27:25,240

My partner comes up and I tell him to look.

475

00:27:25,240 --> 00:27:28,240

Just look and tell me what you see

476

00:27:28,240 --> 00:27:33,240

and maybe a minute goes by and I'm watching him.

477

00:27:35,240 --> 00:27:40,240

I know he saw the UFO because of the way that he moved his head.

478

00:27:40,240 --> 00:27:44,240

He saw the exact same pattern that I saw it do

479

00:27:44,240 --> 00:27:46,240

over and over again.

480

00:27:46,240 --> 00:27:48,240

And I was thinking, yep, he saw it.

481

00:27:48,240 --> 00:27:51,240

But it was weird.

482

00:27:51,240 --> 00:27:54,240

My partner just shuts down, doesn't say anything,

483

00:27:54,240 --> 00:27:56,240

doesn't acknowledge the event,

484

00:27:56,240 --> 00:27:58,240

never says anything about it.

485

00:27:58,240 --> 00:28:02,240

His reaction was cold.

486

00:28:03,240 --> 00:28:05,240

Very cold.

487

00:28:07,240 --> 00:28:09,240

I'm very confused.

488

00:28:09,240 --> 00:28:12,240

I don't know how to react to the situation.

489

00:28:14,240 --> 00:28:17,240

Everything is going through my head.

490

00:28:17,240 --> 00:28:19,240

We're in the Middle East.

491

00:28:19,240 --> 00:28:23,240

There's an obvious threat or we wouldn't be in that posture.

492

00:28:23,240 --> 00:28:25,240

I don't know what to do.

493

00:28:26,240 --> 00:28:29,240

I just gripped my weapon a little tighter,

494

00:28:29,240 --> 00:28:34,240

kept my finger a little closer to the trigger and just watched.

495

00:28:36,240 --> 00:28:40,240

The night truly seemed to last forever.

496

00:28:41,240 --> 00:28:46,240

When you're in the military and you see something that's outside of the norm,

497

00:28:46,240 --> 00:28:51,240

there's not really procedures or guidelines or even encouragement

498

00:28:51,240 --> 00:28:56,240

to step forward and talk about what you saw or what you experienced.

499

00:28:56,240 --> 00:28:59,240

They just don't expect you to say much.

500

00:29:02,240 --> 00:29:06,240

If you saw a UFO, you were immediately put into

501

00:29:06,240 --> 00:29:12,240

the contingent of folks that are mentally unstable,

502

00:29:12,240 --> 00:29:15,240

you don't want to be the UFO guy.

503

00:29:15,240 --> 00:29:19,240

If Jeremy had come out with his story in 1995,

504

00:29:19,240 --> 00:29:22,240

I really don't think anyone would have given him any credibility.

505

00:29:22,240 --> 00:29:26,240

But given the fact that there was so much declassified information

506

00:29:26,240 --> 00:29:31,240

in 2021 from the US government about unidentified flying objects, UFOs,

507

00:29:31,240 --> 00:29:33,240

this gives credence to what he says.

508

00:29:33,240 --> 00:29:36,240

The 2021 reports prove that Jeremy is not alone.

509

00:29:36,240 --> 00:29:39,240

There have been hundreds of these, and who knows how many other people

510

00:29:39,240 --> 00:29:42,240

like Jeremy didn't come forward.

511

00:29:42,240 --> 00:29:45,240

That night in the desert absolutely changed my life.

512

00:29:45,240 --> 00:29:51,240

19 years after everything is said and done and over with,

513

00:29:51,240 --> 00:29:56,240

I was diagnosed with a very specific type of skin cancer

514

00:29:56,240 --> 00:30:01,240

caused by an exposure to radiation.

515

00:30:01,240 --> 00:30:08,240

And it was on my right inner thigh,

516

00:30:08,240 --> 00:30:14,240

and there's nothing else other than me crawling on and sitting on

517

00:30:14,240 --> 00:30:21,240

and lying down on that crate 19 years before that could have caused this.

518

00:30:21,240 --> 00:30:29,240

And to me, whatever was in this crate was emitting a radioactive signature.

519

00:30:31,240 --> 00:30:38,240

Maybe what's in that crate was actually a recovered nuclear device

520

00:30:38,240 --> 00:30:41,240

that had been stolen.

521

00:30:41,240 --> 00:30:46,240

If the crate is some sort of fissile material with a nuclear signature,

522

00:30:46,240 --> 00:30:52,240

that object could have been there because of the contents of that crate.

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00:30:52,240 --> 00:30:55,240

In what aspect, I have no idea.

524

00:30:55,240 --> 00:31:00,240

But to me, they're linked.

525

00:31:00,240 --> 00:31:05,240

I'm coming forward now because I want to know what I saw.

526

00:31:05,240 --> 00:31:10,240

It's natural in human nature to be interested in things that we can't explain

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00:31:10,240 --> 00:31:15,240

because our brains sort of evolved in an ambiguous environment,

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00:31:15,240 --> 00:31:20,240

and we've developed these mechanisms to make us curious to want answers to things.

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00:31:20,240 --> 00:31:26,240

So it makes sense that we are attracted to phenomena that has an unknown origin.

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00:31:26,240 --> 00:31:30,240

We can't quite explain it, and then we seek answers.

531

00:31:30,240 --> 00:31:32,240

Something is happening.

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00:31:32,240 --> 00:31:35,240

Something is flying in our skies.

533

00:31:35,240 --> 00:31:40,240

I saw something that changes everything.

534

00:31:40,240 --> 00:31:42,240

I want to know what it is.

535

00:31:42,240 --> 00:31:47,240

It's about getting the information out there and lowering the stigma

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00:31:47,240 --> 00:31:50,240

of speaking about these events.

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00:31:56,240 --> 00:32:03,240

I can still hear the scream in my head even 16 years later.

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00:32:03,240 --> 00:32:08,240

Still this day I have no idea what may or may not have happened.

539

00:32:08,240 --> 00:32:10,240

Baghdad, Iraq.

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00:32:10,240 --> 00:32:16,240

For over 30 years, Saddam Hussein ruled over it with an iron fist.

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00:32:16,240 --> 00:32:20,240

One of Saddam's biggest strongholds was Al Fah Palace,

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00:32:20,240 --> 00:32:22,240

where he welcomed guests and supporters.

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00:32:22,240 --> 00:32:26,240

But Saddam's henchmen also brought his enemies to the palace,

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00:32:26,240 --> 00:32:29,240

torturing anyone who dared to oppose him.

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00:32:29,240 --> 00:32:32,240

After Saddam Hussein's capture in 2003,

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00:32:32,240 --> 00:32:36,240

the U.S. military took control of Al Fah Palace,

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00:32:36,240 --> 00:32:42,240

but the memories from decades of terror are permanently etched into the walls.

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00:32:42,240 --> 00:32:47,240

The U.S. military has been in the hands of the U.S. military

549

00:32:47,240 --> 00:32:49,240

for over 30 years.

550

00:32:49,240 --> 00:32:52,240

I'm not sure if anyone would even believe that it happened,

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00:32:52,240 --> 00:32:57,240

but it's not something that I'll ever forget.

552

00:32:57,240 --> 00:33:01,240

My name is James Gelston.

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00:33:01,240 --> 00:33:04,240

I was a Corporal of the United States Marine Corps.

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00:33:04,240 --> 00:33:07,240

I served nearly 10 years.

555

00:33:07,240 --> 00:33:08,240

I came from a military family.

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00:33:08,240 --> 00:33:10,240

My dad served in the Air Force.

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00:33:10,240 --> 00:33:12,240

Both my grandfathers were in the Air Force,

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00:33:12,240 --> 00:33:15,240

and I always grew up wanting to be in the military.

559

00:33:15,240 --> 00:33:18,240

The military absolutely runs up my blood.

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00:33:18,240 --> 00:33:20,240

I joined right before 9-11 happened,

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00:33:20,240 --> 00:33:24,240

and I was just even more ready to go in after that point.

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00:33:24,240 --> 00:33:28,240

In 2005, James is deployed to Baghdad,

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00:33:28,240 --> 00:33:30,240

where he is assigned to Camp Victory,

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00:33:30,240 --> 00:33:35,240

formerly known as Saddam Hussein's Al Fah Palace.

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00:33:35,240 --> 00:33:38,240

The U.S. government was using Al Fah Palace as a command center

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00:33:38,240 --> 00:33:40,240

for all Iraqi operations.

567

00:33:40,240 --> 00:33:44,240

The office that I worked out of was the U.S. military.

568

00:33:44,240 --> 00:33:48,240

The office that I worked out of was the Iraqi Ground Forces Command

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00:33:48,240 --> 00:33:50,240

military transition team,

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00:33:50,240 --> 00:33:53,240

helping teach the Iraqi Army how the U.S. military operates.

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00:33:53,240 --> 00:33:56,240

The relationship that we had between the local Iraqis

572

00:33:56,240 --> 00:33:58,240

was always fairly tense.

573

00:33:58,240 --> 00:34:02,240

There's just not a huge amount of trust between us.

574

00:34:02,240 --> 00:34:05,240

Inside of the art office, we had a secret computer,

575

00:34:05,240 --> 00:34:08,240

and we always kept the room guarded.

576

00:34:08,240 --> 00:34:11,240

The secret computer had access to what was called the SIPRnet.

577

00:34:11,240 --> 00:34:14,240

There's always, like, battle damage assessments, travel requests,

578

00:34:14,240 --> 00:34:18,240

and military route plans that you don't want the enemy to see.

579

00:34:18,240 --> 00:34:20,240

There's always one U.S. troop guarding the building at night

580

00:34:20,240 --> 00:34:24,240

to make sure that the secret computer isn't tampered with.

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00:34:27,240 --> 00:34:29,240

During night shift, once the last person leaves,

582

00:34:29,240 --> 00:34:32,240

you close and lock the gate and then the front door behind them.

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00:34:32,240 --> 00:34:35,240

You'll walk through the building to make sure there is nobody

584

00:34:35,240 --> 00:34:37,240

that's remaining in the building,

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00:34:37,240 --> 00:34:40,240

making sure all the doors are locked and secured.

586

00:34:40,240 --> 00:34:45,240

You're set in for the night, and then you'll stay and guard the computer.

587

00:34:48,240 --> 00:34:51,240

Every time I did the night shift, I never felt comfortable in that building.

588

00:34:51,240 --> 00:34:54,240

When you're alone guarding the building at night,

589

00:34:54,240 --> 00:34:58,240

the building is completely silent except for the low hum of the computers being on.

590

00:35:00,240 --> 00:35:02,240

There's always kind of a creepy feeling in there.

591

00:35:02,240 --> 00:35:05,240

I would say it could feel like you were being watched.

592

00:35:06,240 --> 00:35:09,240

It was just a general feeling of unease.

593

00:35:10,240 --> 00:35:13,240

The Iraqi said that that building had been used to prepare feasts

594

00:35:13,240 --> 00:35:16,240

for Saddam Hussein and visiting dignitaries.

595

00:35:17,240 --> 00:35:21,240

The room that we worked in had drains in the floor.

596

00:35:21,240 --> 00:35:26,240

It looked like something that you would expect them to use for slaughtering animals.

597

00:35:31,240 --> 00:35:35,240

I heard from various sources that that room specifically was actually used

598

00:35:35,240 --> 00:35:38,240

to torture enemies of Saddam Hussein.

599

00:35:38,240 --> 00:35:41,240

I absolutely believe the room could have been used as a torture chamber.

600

00:35:44,240 --> 00:35:48,240

I think that knowing that people had been tortured in the room

601

00:35:48,240 --> 00:35:51,240

could be why you would feel eerie there.

602

00:35:52,240 --> 00:35:58,240

One night, five months into his tour, James encounters something bizarre.

603

00:36:00,240 --> 00:36:03,240

Around midnight, I would have been working 18 hours.

604

00:36:03,240 --> 00:36:06,240

I didn't feel tired because we were always drinking a lot of these little drinks.

605

00:36:06,240 --> 00:36:09,240

They're very high caffeine, so you get kind of wired.

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00:36:10,240 --> 00:36:12,240

At one point, I was doing some work on the computer,

607

00:36:12,240 --> 00:36:15,240

and I felt a chill kind of pass over me.

608

00:36:15,240 --> 00:36:18,240

It mixed the hairs on your arm to stand a little bit.

609

00:36:19,240 --> 00:36:23,240

It did seem a bit odd because there was no AC or anything.

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00:36:29,240 --> 00:36:33,240

Sometimes in high-stress environments, like for example, here, it's at night,

611

00:36:33,240 --> 00:36:36,240

he's in the palace of the former president Saddam Hussein.

612

00:36:36,240 --> 00:36:39,240

You know, it's scary. That affects your nervous system.

613

00:36:40,240 --> 00:36:44,240

There could be a decrease in body temperature, you can get chills.

614

00:36:44,240 --> 00:36:48,240

It's a neurological process that's based on a fear response.

615

00:36:49,240 --> 00:36:54,240

There's been some reports that low frequency sound, like below 20 hertz,

616

00:36:54,240 --> 00:37:01,240

that can be emitted from computers, have given people the sensation of being watched.

617

00:37:03,240 --> 00:37:07,240

So around 1 a.m., I was watching a few videos on the computer with just subtitles.

618

00:37:07,240 --> 00:37:10,240

I would typically have the speaker off at nighttime,

619

00:37:10,240 --> 00:37:13,240

just so I could hear if anyone was walking around the building.

620

00:37:16,240 --> 00:37:19,240

Out of nowhere, I hear a very loud screaming.

621

00:37:20,240 --> 00:37:22,240

The scream sounded like a pained voice,

622

00:37:22,240 --> 00:37:25,240

and it sounded like someone was yelling in the room that I was in.

623

00:37:25,240 --> 00:37:28,240

It was as vivid as if I had someone in front of me screaming.

624

00:37:34,240 --> 00:37:40,240

What started as a routine night of guard duty in one of Saddam Hussein's former policies

625

00:37:40,240 --> 00:37:44,240

has taken a surprising turn for Corporal James Gelston.

626

00:37:45,240 --> 00:37:48,240

The scream was unsettling, it did cause my drill in the kick-in.

627

00:37:48,240 --> 00:37:51,240

It sounded like someone was in pain or possibly being tortured,

628

00:37:51,240 --> 00:37:53,240

but it lasted two, maybe three seconds.

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00:37:53,240 --> 00:37:55,240

The scream was very loud.

630

00:37:55,240 --> 00:38:00,240

I jumped my feet and I was looking around because I thought someone was very close to where I was.

631

00:38:01,240 --> 00:38:03,240

I didn't see anyone.

632

00:38:07,240 --> 00:38:11,240

At this point, I just completely believed that someone had gotten into the building.

633

00:38:11,240 --> 00:38:15,240

I was expecting at any moment I would run into someone that I would have to shoot.

634

00:38:17,240 --> 00:38:21,240

Slowly and methodically, I go and I clear every room in the building to see if someone's in there,

635

00:38:21,240 --> 00:38:23,240

and I don't find anybody.

636

00:38:24,240 --> 00:38:26,240

Someone's there, make yourself known!

637

00:38:27,240 --> 00:38:30,240

But, uh, there's nobody there.

638

00:38:33,240 --> 00:38:36,240

I can't think of any way they could have come from anywhere else.

639

00:38:37,240 --> 00:38:39,240

The building was 100% soundproof.

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00:38:39,240 --> 00:38:42,240

The noise could not have possibly have come from outside.

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00:38:43,240 --> 00:38:46,240

I did check my computer to make sure the noise couldn't have come from there,

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00:38:46,240 --> 00:38:48,240

but I had the speaker turned all the way off,

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00:38:48,240 --> 00:38:51,240

and I double-checked to see if there were any of the computers were on.

644

00:38:51,240 --> 00:38:53,240

They were all turned off.

645

00:38:53,240 --> 00:38:55,240

I'm just kind of sitting there dumbfounded.

646

00:38:55,240 --> 00:38:58,240

It makes no sense at all to me. It was completely baffled at what was going on.

647

00:39:01,240 --> 00:39:06,240

Raddled by what he just experienced, James makes a difficult decision.

648

00:39:07,240 --> 00:39:12,240

After that, I don't call anyone because I'm not sure if anyone would even believe that it happened.

649

00:39:12,240 --> 00:39:15,240

They might just think that I'm going crazy.

650

00:39:17,240 --> 00:39:21,240

In the military, it's more what you can see, what you can prove is there.

651

00:39:21,240 --> 00:39:27,240

And at this point, I feel like every rational logical explanation for it was, uh, exhausted.

652

00:39:28,240 --> 00:39:30,240

For the rest of the night, I stay on alert.

653

00:39:30,240 --> 00:39:35,240

I didn't hear anything. It was just the, uh, same low hum of the computer.

654

00:39:36,240 --> 00:39:38,240

The first person to come in was a major.

655

00:39:39,240 --> 00:39:41,240

Probably around 530.

656

00:39:42,240 --> 00:39:44,240

I decided to tell the major about it.

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00:39:44,240 --> 00:39:48,240

The major's reaction is that he, uh, seems to take it seriously.

658

00:39:48,240 --> 00:39:50,240

He goes by and he checks around as I had done earlier.

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00:39:52,240 --> 00:39:55,240

And he comes up empty as well.

660

00:39:56,240 --> 00:40:00,240

The major agreed that he doesn't believe anyone was able to get into the building.

661

00:40:03,240 --> 00:40:09,240

After this point, I'm in Iraq for, uh, another three to four months, but, uh, I never hear the scream again.

662

00:40:10,240 --> 00:40:14,240

I served nearly 10 years and nothing like that has ever happened.

663

00:40:14,240 --> 00:40:17,240

And, uh, still this day, I have no idea how that could have happened.

664

00:40:18,240 --> 00:40:21,240

There is a known history of what we call directed energy weapons.

665

00:40:22,240 --> 00:40:25,240

We normally interpret pressure waves in the air as sound.

666

00:40:26,240 --> 00:40:38,240

So is it feasible that you could create a directed energy device that could create the equivalent sound of a scream some distance away? Perhaps.

667

00:40:39,240 --> 00:40:44,240

Maybe the scream James heard was part of a test of some classified weapon.

668

00:40:45,240 --> 00:40:51,240

Throughout history, people have used different technologies and different strategies to dishevel their enemies.

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00:40:52,240 --> 00:40:55,240

The idea of acoustical weapons has proven historically.

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00:40:56,240 --> 00:41:06,240

In today's world, we talk about, you know, uh, attacks where people in some of our western embassies abroad have complained of being sick, of, you know, having bad headaches.

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00:41:07,240 --> 00:41:11,240

Supposedly from acoustical devices used by somebody against them.

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00:41:15,240 --> 00:41:17,240

This is another means of warfare.

673

00:41:22,240 --> 00:41:31,240

My mother and my wife are convinced that I heard the spirit of one of Saddam's torture victims, but, uh, I'm not 100% into the belief that that's completely possible.

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00:41:32,240 --> 00:41:37,240

My views on the paranormal, um, if I can't see it and touch it, it's not real. I can't explain what happened.

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00:41:38,240 --> 00:41:44,240

I still feel there's a rational explanation out there that I was just unable to uncover.

676

00:41:45,240 --> 00:41:53,240

People can choose to believe my story. They can choose not to. I know what happened to me and there's no doubt in my mind what I heard. It's not something that I'll ever forget.