

11/6/2010

HELLO WORLD!

I'VE BEEN GIVEN THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE VIA "BLOG" FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE. WHILE THIS MAY BE A SIMPLE PROCESS FOR MOST OF YOU, I AM INCARCERATED. IN OTHER WORDS I AM LOCKED UP IN JAIL AND TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, THIS REALLY SUCKS.

LET ME ENCOURAGE ANYONE WHO HAS SERVED IN COMBAT OPERATIONS IN IRAQ OR AFGHANISTAN TO SEEK HELP IF YOUR SENSING PTSD SYMPTOMS. PLEASE... MAN UP AND FACE IT BEFORE YOU LOSE EVERYTHING. OR WORSE, END UP HURTING SOMEONE ELSE.

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO JAIL BEFORE AND DID NOT LIVE A CRIMINAL LIFESTYLE. IN FACT I WAS (AM) A LAW ABIDING CITIZEN. AS A SERGEANT I SERVED OVER 12 YEARS IN THE U.S. MARINE CORPS. RECEIVING 2 HONORABLE DISCHARGES I HAD A TOP SECRET CLEARANCE AND 4 TOURS IN COMBAT ZONES. AFTER 9/11 I REINLISTED AND RETURNED TO IRAQ IN 2004. SO WAS IT THE HALF

DOZEN, EAR RINGING, CLOSE CALLS?

SEEING A PASSENGER FILLED BUS DRIVE
OVER A LAND MINE INTENDED FOR ME
AND DISINTEGRATE 30 YARDS AWAY? OR
WAS IT THE IMAGE OF A FELLOW SERGEANT
SET ON FIRE BY A PHOSPHEROUS I.E.D.?

MAYBE IT WAS KNOWING THE BLOODY
PANCAKE WHICH USED TO BE A SIMPLE
TRUCK DRIVER WOULD NEVER TALK TO HIS
KIDS AGAIN, AFTER HIS OWN TRUCK FLIPPED
ON TOP OF HIM? PERHAPS IT WAS
THE 14 YEAR OLD KID SCREAMING WHILE
SWINGING THE STUMP OF HIS ARM IN THE
AIR PAINTING EVERY THING WITH HIS BLOOD?
MAYBE IT WAS THE FACT THAT WE
LAUGHED ABOUT THESE THINGS. TO NOT
GO INSANE WITH RAGE YOU LAUGH AT
SUCH HORRORS LIKE IT WAS STAND UP
COMEDY. CAN YOU RELATE?

BEFORE BEING ARRESTED MYSELF I THOUGHT
ANYONE IN PRISON WAS SCUM AND GETTING
WHAT THEY DESERVE. THE EXPERIENCE HAS
SHOWN ME THAT WHILE WE SUFFER THE
CONSEQUENCES OF POOR DECISIONS, MOST
OF THESE MEN ARE NOT SCUM. THEY'RE
JUST LIKE YOU, BUT MORE ON THAT
LATER.

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO HEAR NOW.
YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS MAY STEP IN
AND TELL YOU, "SOMETHINGS WRONG". YOU
NEED TO LISTEN EVEN IF YOU FEEL
OKAY AND IN CONTROL.

I KNEW DEEP DOWN I HAD SYMPTOMS
OF PTSD, BUT FEARED BEING LABELLED
AS CRAZY OR LOSING MY JOB OR BEING
REJECTED BY MY LOVED ONES.

I CERTAINLY COULDN'T TALK TO THEM
ABOUT IT. WHILE I THOUGHT THOSE
DARK MEMORIES WERE BURIED FOREVER
I UNDERSTAND BETTER NOW. A FRESH
COMBAT EXPERIENCE WILL REKINDLE THOSE
SMOLDERING MEMORIES YOU NEVER
DEALT WITH.

WHATEVER THE CAUSE, I ENDED UP
IN AN ALTERCATION WITH POLICE AND
NOW IN MY 4TH YEAR OF A 16 YEAR
PRISON SENTENCE.

THE BATTLE RAGES ON.

"SEMPER FI!"

David