

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kyle Morris and I first met Robert Bales in March of 2005 at Ft. Lewis which is now called Joint Base Lewis McCord. When I arrived at Charlie Company 2nd Battalion 3rd Infantry Regiment Robert Bales which was Specialist Bales at the time helped me to my room and put my belongings away then showed me around. Robert Bales ended up serving as my Team Leader off and on until we deployed to Iraq in early July of 2006. From what I could see serving as a lower enlisted in Charlie Company at that time is that, Robert seemed to be one of if not the best Team Leader in the Company. He would always take personal time if needed to assist us with anything we needed and took it upon himself to contact the entire squad during the weekends to see how we were doing. Before the deployment what really separated Robert above the other Team Leaders is Robert always had us conduct training to further prepare for the upcoming deployment. Even if we had no range or unable to draw weapons that day Robert would have us go outside to practice tactics instead of playing halo in the barracks like the rest of the Platoon which, led to our huge success during every training mission the Battalion conducted before deployment. We deployed in early July of 2006 to Iraq it was my first deployment but I remember feeling really confident that nothing would happen to us thanks to the training Robert ensured we got.

During the deployment Robert would go out of his way as much as he could to ensure that the squad's moral stayed as high as could be. At times he did seem to be over the top but he did this to amuse everyone around him and keep the squad that we considered to be a family in high spirits. One of the most influential traditions of the deployment was started by Robert that consisted of on the first of every month he would get the entire squad a cigar and we would all sit out watch the sun set, have a cigar, and talk about what we would do when we got back. During the deployment one event stands out most of all. One morning we were getting ready to roll out on a mission at this time we had two squad members down on leave SSG Farris the Squad Leader and SPC Martelle which made Robert the Squad Leader. While one of our SAW gunners was prepping his position in one of the rear hatches he had what is called an accidental discharge and fired his weapon wounding our interrupter. Now while everyone was shocked Robert took charge with applying first aid to the interptitor until medics arrived then began clearing all the weapons. I remember that during this entire process which took 15 to 20 minutes Robert never lost control of the situation or let his anger get the best of him simply applied first aid, cleared the weapons, briefed the Squad to ensure all was well and then took us out on mission.

After the Deployment I was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and was moved out of the squad but kept in contact with Robert. As a newly promoted Sergeant I would seek out Robert any time I had a problem I couldn't handle on my own. Our relationship grew from professional (supervisor and subordinate) to more of a personal. At this time in my life I consider Robert to be my closest friend. When I was getting married he stood as my best man, when I discovered I was going to be a new father he kept me from freaking out and prepare for the new addition for the family. As of now my biggest regret in life is that I wasn't there in Afghanistan when Robert really needed a friend to see that he was

struggling and pull him from the edge. I hope this letter gives you an insight that Robert was a good leader, great friend, and even better family man.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Morris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

SSG Morris WTU Cadre