

13AUG2013

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Support for Staff Sergeant Robert Bales

1. I am writing to support the best possible outcome for SSG Bales who is scheduled to be sentenced by court-martial in August 2013.
2. My name is SFC David Lundby, I have been in the Army for just under 11 years. I was assigned to C Company, 2-3 Infantry Regiment from April 2003 until May of 2013. I am currently assigned to B Co 4-10 Infantry at Fort Jackson where I help run the grenade range. I deployed to Iraq for a total of 39 months during the same time as SSG Bales. I have been awarded the Purple heart, the Army Commendation Medal with Valor, 4 Army Commendation Medals, 4 Army Achievement Medals, and 3 Good Conduct Medals, along with all of the other "deployment medals" (GWOT, ICM, etc...). I have served as a Rifleman, Sawgunner, Stryker driver, Team Leader, Stryker Vehicle commander, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, and Platoon Leader. I have participated in numerous fire fights, been hit by over 19 IED's, and have seen more than my fair share of suffering and death.
3. SSG Bales and I grew up together as privates in 2-3 IN, and as such I have known him for over 10 years. SSG Bales and I were on three deployments together to Iraq in 2003-2004, 2006-2007, and 2009-2010. I remember one event in which the Stryker vehicle shared by SSG Bales and SFC Moss was struck by an EFP (explosively formed projectile). I was in another vehicle in the convoy; and saw that the only thing that saved their lives was the engine block. It was one of the largest I.E.D's I have ever witnessed and remember the members of that vehicle were visably shaken. That being said SFC Moss and SSG Bales got the sensitive items report, reported BDA (Battle Dammage Assessment) to the commander, and ensured that all members of the vehicle were infact okay to continue mission. I continue to suffer from sporadic headaches, bouts of sleeplessness, and to hear audible I.E.D noises that have woken me up on several occasions. I would rather not describe the horrible dreams that continue to disturb my sleep. These are some of the effects I still experience after the common experience of war that I shared with SSG Bales.
4. In garrison, SSG Bales and my relationship would best be described as purely professional. During the time SSG Bales and I grew up together in the Army I had a lot of work related interactions with him. We would always share Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) or just different ways of doing things with each other. I always held his opinion in the highest regard as I knew he was tactically sound and a consummate professional. When in the field and playing OPFOR against each other it could always be trusted that he would keep his eyes on my guys and give me a look at my Platoon from a different angle. What I mean by that is, sometimes as a leader we focus so much on the mission and how we see things that we lose focus on what the enemy might see. SSG Bales provided me with valuable insight to just that, by letting me know what he saw from his side and what I might be able to do to remedy some things that I did

not see. His insight and help will be sorely missed.

5. The SSG Bales that I knew before the events of March 2012 can be summed in two words, "CONSUMMATE PROFESSIONAL." There is no way else I could even begin to describe him and even those words fall short. His care for Soldiers was unparalleled as was his knowledge and ability. As a Platoon Sergeant I always hoped he would "come home to Charlie company" (as we used to say) so that I could have worked more closely to him.

6. I truly believe that SSG Bales could be an integral part of society again. In my mind what happened in March 2012 must have been a culmination of multiple events, and with help he can be rehabilitated. Believe me when I say I am still in shock over the unspeakable acts SSG Bales committed. That is not the Bobby that I know. Please understand, and I cannot stress this enough, it MUST have been spurred on by some unseen stress, or just everything that we have been through having become completely overwhelming. I understand I am not a psychiatrist, however I know SSG Bales as a Soldier and professional. As such I would ask that, as you decide his fate, you look at a couple of things. He has a family; a young family. He has seen some amazing atrocities. Look up the battle of Najaf or Battle of Zarqa, in which 350 Iraqi's were killed in under 24 hours, and we had to clean up afterwards. Have you ever picked up an infant that has rigormortis? Imagine what that does to your head. And finally up until this point look at SSG Bales service record and what he has done for the Army. With all that in mind I ask that you please grant him the possibility of parole. Please give SSG Bales hope and the motivation to rebuild himself to once again be a model member of our society.

7. If you have any questions or would like me to elaborate on anything PLEASE call me at [REDACTED]

David Lundby
SFC, US ARMY