

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Kelsey Snyder

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Veterans Remember Oral History project

Interview # VRT-A-L-2011-063

Kelsey Snyder, who served in Basra, Iraq with a Reserve Military Police unit from 2009 to 2010, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember – War on Terror* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location: Macomb, Illinois

Date: Nov 19, 2011

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Robert H. Deveraux, Contract employee of Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:33 / 1.55 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 26, 2012.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Kelsey Snyder, *Veterans Remember*, VRT-A-L-2011-063

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Sergeant Kelsey Snyder was born on June 28th, 1989 in Jacksonville, Illinois. She was in 7th grade in Jerseyville, Illinois during the 9/11 Terror Attacks and made a decision to become a soldier and joined the Army in 2007. She was a Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet and Law Enforcement major at Western Illinois University when she deployed with the 354th Military Police Company, U.S. Army Reserve, to Basra, Iraq from October 2009 until October 2010. Her unit was tasked with training Iraqi Police Transition Teams. Convoying from base to the police stations proved dangerous and difficult. This interview highlights the tense relationship between U.S. soldiers and their Iraqi interpreters. Snyder retells experiences including IED attacks and other dangers involved with moving within Basra, and shares her observations on conditions within the country and the problems with Iraqi law enforcement personnel. She praises the role of interpreters and the risks they take in behalf of U.S. troops. Sergeant Snyder also unique challenges faced by female soldiers in a culture that devalues women.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Army ROTC at Western Illinois University; 354th Military Police company; predeployment training for war in Iraq; Iraqi interpreters with U.S. forces; Iraqi police forces; dangers of IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) and convoying; life at Camp Basra; patrolling Basra; reaction of Iraqi populace to U.S. troops; female soldiers; Iraqi election security; providing school supplies for Iraqi children; returning home and to civilian life; Jerseyville; Illinois; Ft. Leonard Wood and Ft. Dix.

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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