

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Scott Blomberg

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

Interview # VRT-A-L-2011-003

Scott Blomberg, an Army optometrist who participated in a deployment to Kosovo in 2001 and the initial occupation of Iraq in 2003, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jan 24, 2011 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Date: Jan 31, 2011 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Date: Apr 11, 2011 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Cheryl Wycoff

Total Pages: 88 Total Time: 1:18 + 1:16 + 1:54 / 1.3 + 1.27 + 1.9 = 4.47 hrs.

Session 1: Early life, training as an optometrist & assignment to 101st Airborne Div

Session 2: Deployment in 2001 to Kosovo with the 502nd Airborne Regiment

Session 3: Service during the initial occupation of Iraq with 101st Airborne in 2003

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 08/04/2011.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Scott Blomberg, *Veterans Remember*, VRT-A-L-2011-003

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Scott Blomberg was born on June 22nd, 1974 in Burnsville, Minnesota, and grew up experiencing a typical suburban childhood. Upon graduating, he attended Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, where he majored in biochemistry. He also met Kimberly Schoby there, and the two were married following graduation in 1996. Scott attended the Ohio State University, where he studied to be an optometrist. Concerned about his college debt, he enrolled in the Health Professional Scholarship Program, which required him to serve in the U.S. Army as an optometrist following graduation. Blomberg graduated in 2000, and soon was getting immersed in military traditions and army culture at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. Following that school, he was assigned to Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, home of the famed 101st Airborne Division.

Blomberg was originally assigned to the post hospital, but was eventually transferred to the 801st Main Support Battalion, part of the 101st Airborne Division. In March of 2001 he deployed to Kosovo with the division's 502nd Brigade, where he took part in the unit's nation building mission, with much of his time spent working with the indigenous population, both Christians and Muslims. He returned to the states in July of 2001, and tells of the division's response to the 9/11 attacks that year. As the end of his military term approached, the entire division was mobilized for the liberation of Iraq in March of 2003. Blomberg was retained on active duty as part of the military's Stop Loss program, and spent the next several months in Iraq, moving up from Kuwait with the main occupation forces, then traveling to the Mosul area, where the unit performed occupation and nation building missions, with Scott splitting his time between treatment of American troops and Iraqi nationals. He returned to the states in August of 2003, and eventually set up a private optometry practice in Springfield, Illinois.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Optometrist in U.S. Army with service in Kosovo; service in Iraq during occupation in 2003; 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Ft. Campbell, KY; Ft. Sam Houston, Texas; U.S. Army paratrooper culture; The Ohio State University medical school; Bradley University in Peoria, IL; 801st Main Support Battalion; Stop Loss retention program

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