

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with SPC Sasha Phillips

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

Interview # VRT-A-L-2012-043

Sasha Phillips, an Army National Guard aircraft mechanic serving in Afghanistan in 2009-2010, 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:

Date: 23 June 2012 Location: Macomb, IL (Western Illinois University)

Interview Format: Digital audio/Digital video

Interviewer: Robert H. Deveraux, ALPLF contract employee

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:20 / 1.33 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on January 24, 2013.

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

© 2012 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Sasha Phillips, Veterans Remember, VRT-A-L-2012-043

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: SPC (Specialist) Sasha M. (Briggs) Phillips was born in Macomb, Illinois on September 20th, 1987, and graduated from high school in 2006. She was in 8th Grade when the 9/11 Attacks occurred and enlisted in the Illinois National Guard at age seventeen. She completed Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Eustis, Virginia, and began duty with B. Company, 2-238th Aviation in 2008 as a 15F (Aircraft Electrician) servicing CH-47 Chinook helicopters. Deployed to Afghanistan in January 2009, she served nine months altogether, with time spent in Kandahar, at Forward Operating Base Shank, and at Bagram Air Base from March to November of that year. Under mortar fire while serving in a combat zone, she was awarded the Combat Action Badge. Her future husband, whom she met during her Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Ft. Eustis, Virginia, was deployed to Iraq while she served in Afghanistan. The two were married after Marcus's return in October, 2010.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Afghanistan; Army Aviation; Chinook (CH-47) helicopters; 9/11; Illinois Army National Guard; Kandahar; FOB Shank; Bagram Air Base; Kyrgyzstan; Basic Training; Ft. Eustis; aviation electrician; Female Soldiers; Mortar Attacks; returning veterans.

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.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955

Table of Contents:

*Interview was conducted at Western Illinois University in the Malpass Library.
Bold italicized clips are of particular interest*

00:00:32	Background and family
00:05:00	Memories from 9/11 (in 8th grade)
00:06:25	Relatives in the military
00:07:15	Joining the military as a Chinook (CH-47) mechanic

00:08:15 Description of job as sheet metal

00:09:55 Basic Training at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina (summer 2005)

00:10:20 *Male and female recruits training together (anecdote ends 00:11:45)*

00:11:45 Returning to high school after basic training

00:12:30 *Returning to civilian life after training (anecdote ends 00:13:40)*

00:14:25 Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Ft. Eustis, Virginia (summer 2006)

00:16:35 Future husband gets in trouble at for sleeping on duty

00:18:05 Returning to unit in Peoria after training (has to switch jobs)
 (previously F. Co. 106th Aviation Regiment in the Illinois Army National Guard; transferred while in AIT to B. Co. 2-238th Aviation)

00:19:05 Returns to Ft. Eustis to train as an electrician, summer 2007 (“Hotel Company”)

00:20:42 Rumors in unit that they will be going to Afghanistan (summer 2008)

00:22:30 Pre-mobilization training (MOB) at Fort Sill, Oklahoma (Nov., 2008-mid. Jan. 2009)

00:25:25 Family’s reaction to deployment and community support

00:27:05 Combat Life Saver training, convoy training, aviation training, etc.

00:33:45 Journey to Afghanistan (March 2009)

00:35:40 *C-130 Flight from Bagram into Kandahar (anecdote ends 00:37:35)*

00:37:45 Italian troops’ bar in Kandahar, and other NATO troops

00:41:45 FOB (Forwarding Operating Base) Shank

00:47:20 Difficulties with a father and son in unit who had deployed together
 Issues of rank versus experience.

00:51:45 Movement to Bagram Air Base (October 2009)

00:55:15 Events at home while deployed (parent’s divorce)

00:56:45 Types of Chinook missions for which they had to be prepped.

00:58:55 Few travels within Afghanistan, impressions of villages from the air

01:01:25 Return trip to the United States (November 2009)

01:02:50 Post-deployment experiences

01:03:38 Marriage to Marcus (concurrently deployed to Iraq), married October 2010

01:04:30 Reaction to return from deployment.

01:05:40 *Remembering Afghanistan (anecdote ends 01:06:17)*

01:06:17 *Mortar attacks; circumstances surrounding her Combat Action Badge (CAB)
 (anecdote ends 01:19:20)*

01:09:50 *Mortar Attack on September 10, 2009 “The scariest day of my life” (anecdote
 ends 01:12:15)*

01:12:15 Fears during holidays (i.e. during Ramadan)

01:13:12 Anger issues coming home; understanding from grandfather (Vietnam Veteran)

01:14:25 Themed questions about the War on Terror;

01:16:30 Observations on war protestors and answering questions about experiences

01:19:02 Future plans

01:20:12 **End of Interview**