

Interviewer: Alright now first question is you are aware that you are being recorded for the use of my thesis on the logistics of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division for my master's degree at Austin Peay?

Hardwick: Correct

Interviewer: Okay now please state your name and former rank.

Hardwick: Jack Hardwick former rank is Command Sergeant Major.

Interviewer: Infantry U.S. Army?

Hardwick: Infantry U.S. Army.

Interviewer: Okay and today's date is?

Hardwick: It is the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2009.

Interviewer: Thank you. Now the first question that I have for you is when you were assigned to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division when were you assigned first of all?

Hardwick: In April of 1990.

Interviewer: Okay and what unit were you assigned to?

Hardwick: I was assigned to 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion 187 battalion which is part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> brigade 101<sup>st</sup>.

Interviewer: Okay now what were your duties in peace time and war time when you were in your position?

Hardwick: Initially peace time I was the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion 187 command sergeant major which his responsible for the unit and the commander on the things that they do and fail to do. In war time I was the 3<sup>rd</sup> brigade sergeant major same thing duties and responsibilities pretty much the same as what the commander had.

Interviewer: Okay now I have to ask how did that bump happen you went from being the battalion to the brigade CSM I mean what happened?

Hardwick: The brigade command sergeant major retired prior to the war actually kicking off.

Interviewer: Do you remember how soon that happened?

Hardwick: We got there in Saudi Arabia in September and he retired in November.

Interviewer: Huh do you remember if he was sad to go?

Hardwick: If he was sad to go?

Interviewer: Yeah

Hardwick: I don't know.

Interviewer: Okay and what was your very first impression of Saudi Arabia when you stepped off the plane?

Hardwick: Hot it was 120 degrees.

Interviewer: I would melt into a puddle man.

Hardwick: Yeah

Interviewer: Good Lord and that's a reoccurring motif that I have read that it was brutally hot.

Hardwick: Yeah

Interviewer: How long did it take for you to get acclimated to that?

Hardwick: It probably took us about two to three weeks to really get I'd say with activities and everything going.

Interviewer: Do you remember what sort of things you had to do in order to get acclimated?

Hardwick: We just did the normal PT training army things.

Interviewer: And did you do PT in the morning or in the middle of the day?

Hardwick: PT in the morning.

Interviewer: That's what I thought so it was like a comfortable what like 70ish or something?

Hardwick: Probably about 80 or 90.

Interviewer: Okay so

Hardwick: But it was comfortable yeah compared to U.S.A. like they say Arizona has a dry heat.

Interviewer: Yeah

Hardwick: That was pretty much Saudi was kind of dry heat very low humidity. But hot is hot.

Interviewer: Did you ever get the impression that while some places had an oven to bake things Saudi Arabia had an entire country to do so?

Hardwick: All I know if just the place where we were at was that way. And then as we went to of course as the months went along and the temperature changed and then we went to a different location it was cooler. But of course the seasons were changing so.

Interviewer: Right okay well speaking of when did you arrive in Theater?

Hardwick: In Saudi Arabia?

Interviewer: Yes in Saudi Arabia.

Hardwick: Yeah we arrived there in September.

Interviewer: Okay and how long after you received notification did you get sent out?

Hardwick: Oh I guess it was about a month.

Interviewer: Okay so you had the usual cycle?

Hardwick: Well actually my battalion was in Panama going through jungle school when we got notified that we were supposed to be on a plane coming back to Fort Campbell because of the things that were happening. So we had about a week over in Panama or two weeks in Panama before we actually came back to Fort Campbell and began the pre-deployment training and everything.

Interviewer: Actually how did the pre-deployment training correspond to the you know actuality of arriving in the dessert and that whole jazz?

Hardwick: Basically just going off what information we had the intelligence information what Iraq had and what Saddam had done to his own people. And the training was to make sure we had everyone up to date on their chemical knowledge how to combat that and how to work their chemical gear train for it. Done road marches those kinds of things wearing chemical gear. And that at Fort Campbell even in the end of August early September it's pretty humid and pretty hot so that was quite difficult at times for soldiers.

Interviewer: Yeah oh man my home state is Connecticut so when I moved down her to go to Austin Peay and Good Lord I couldn't believe how you people how people live here. And it must be worse down there too.

Hardwick: Yeah

Interviewer: Oh man okay now the three places that you were at Far Bastogne, Camp Eagle Two TA Campbell you know first how did the supply situations differ between them?

Hardwick: Well at Camp Eagle Two it was not back because the whole division was right there so the supply. So it wasn't that far to go requisition to get to make sure it got to the units where it needed to go. As we went to different locations of course supply a further distance away so it took a while it took convoy movements to go to the distribution points and come back. The requisition is the same throughout the army so that wasn't too bad.

Interviewer: Okay now concerning the movement of supplies do you remember how often ground transports were used to transport men supplies and how often helicopters were used to do the same?

Hardwick: Most of the time supplies were done by ground. Once we went up into Iraq then it was done by air.

Interviewer: Okay alright pardon me.

Hardwick: Uh huh

Interviewer: Okay now before the ground war and during the ground war was there ever an over or under abundance of any type of supplies? And you can feel free to take your time and divide it up however you wish.

Hardwick: Under supply on the first I won't say the first day but probably about the third day we were in Iraq because the weather had gone real bad with.

Interviewer: With the smarm from hell.

Hardwick: With the different sand storms and all so we had no air at all for about three or four days. So supplies were kind of limited then. But once the air once the sand storms subsided we were able to get air and get resupplied and everything was good.

Interviewer: Actually yeah I will definitely want to get more on when you guys were actually in Iraq on Highway A. Now what was the what was your units assignment during the ground defensive and what was your role within that?

Hardwick: We were to block Highway A from the enemy coming back to get back to Bagdad.

Interviewer: Right and your role within that?

Hardwick: Basically my role as the commander was just to make sure we had the block in position set that each battalion had their engagement areas. And we were able to get around and ensure those things were accomplished.

Interviewer: Okay now pertaining to the blocking now the actual plan do you remember if the actual plan had you guys going up there on G plus 2?

Hardwick: Which actual plan? There was about three of them.

Interviewer: Yes I forgot about that huh.

Hardwick: Yeah my brigade what we did was I went up and inserted by air some scouts from the 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion 187 so that they could go the ground route that the battalion was going to go that battalion was going. The rest of the brigade we went by air on ground plus 1 which was February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Interviewer: Okay

Hardwick: Into our area by complete air assault.

Interviewer: Okay so the brigade deployed by air assault on G plus 1?

Hardwick: Correct.

Interviewer: Okay and was there any provisions for a land lock between FOB Cobra and AO Eagle?

Hardwick: Any provisions?

Interviewer: Yeah like did they plan for a land lock or was it just going to be you know everything comes in by helo?

Hardwick: No everything was going by helicopter.

Interviewer: Okay

Hardwick: Up to where I was.

Interviewer: Now concerning the anti-armor task force that had to be dropped off at LZ Sand the first question is

Hardwick: LZ Sand that was Cobra but my unit went beyond Cobra.

Interviewer: Right but LZ Sand was it was like 30 miles short of Highway 8 correct?

Hardwick: No

Interviewer: No?

Hardwick: Not to my knowledge.

Interviewer: Was there a drop zone that was 30 miles short for the anti-armor task force?

Hardwick: There was one from 1<sup>st</sup> brigade that was that short I think.

Interviewer: Okay but do you remember why it had to be short and if there were any trouble with them getting up to you guys?

Hardwick: It was short just because of the number of vehicles that were air lifted into the unit and there was no problem as far as I know linking up.

Interviewer: Okay when you landed on Highway 8 did your entire brigade's combat power manage to get up there in time?

Hardwick: Yes

Interviewer: Okay so the entire brigade okay. Because you know I was looking at the numbers and it looked like small but did they leave a lot of the supply and you know noncombat units at Cobra or at Campbell?

Hardwick: They left them where did we leave them we left them in our \_\_\_\_ post area.

Interviewer: Yeah at Campbell okay. So then the guys who landed on highway 8 were solely combat?

Hardwick: Yes

Interviewer: Okay and I just had a question. Alright now let's see a little bit of a change of topic. Do you know how often nontraditional transport assets like assets from core or theater or other just non 101 units do you know how often you know non 101 units were used to support the 101?

Hardwick: No not really I know that there were some set up in the core area fairly close to us.

Interviewer: Okay the vehicles from the coscom?

Hardwick: No like from we had a transportation unit from out of one of the reserve units that was there a transportation unit that was also there. Up in the tack assembly area there was a unit from Puerto Rico. So I mean it was units from all over.

Interviewer: Okay now how did the wind storm affect your units operations?

Hardwick: It pretty much brought them almost to a halt. But if it was bad for us it was also bad for them so.

Interviewer: That's a good point.

Hardwick: We kind of dug in and covered up and weathered the storm.

Interviewer: Now you mentioned that all your supply when you guys were cutting Highway 8 was coming by helicopter.

Hardwick: Uh huh

Interviewer: So can you just give me an overview of what sort of things were coming in?

Hardwick: Water, food, ammunition.

Interviewer: All the usual?

Hardwick: Right

Interviewer: But did you guys keep you know some classes of supply back at fobs or at the assembly area or were you guys getting everything?

Hardwick: It was just dependent as to what I needed up front as to what all we got if I didn't need it then I didn't have it come forward.

Interviewer: So then for you guys it was operating as a pull system where you got sent what you needed and you didn't get sent mounds of ammunition that you didn't need.

Hardwick: Right

Interviewer: Okay

Hardwick: If I needed building material which came up to help construct little more stabilized areas like the operation center that would come up. If I didn't need it I didn't call for it.

Interviewer: How quickly would that stuff generally come up?

Hardwick: It would take if we made the request it would be in from 12 to 24 hours.

Interviewer: That's pretty good and did it really matter on time of day or was it just generally 12 to 24?

Hardwick: It was just within 12 to 24 hours.

Interviewer: Okay would some classes of supply take longer than others?

Hardwick: Generally they were all about the same.

Interviewer: Okay alright let's see now what was the supply situation of your unit at the cease fire?

Hardwick: What was the condition of the supplies we had on the ground?

Interviewer: Yeah

Hardwick: We were at a comfortable level not too much not too little. By that I mean we were able to load what we had supplies that we had on the vehicles that we had that had come up to transport them back without having to use air.

Interviewer: Okay now when you guys air assaulted in how much supplies did you air assault in with?

Hardwick: We took three days' worth in with us.

Interviewer: Okay three days of fuel no not fuel but three days of

Hardwick: Water

Interviewer: Okay water

Hardwick: Food, ammo

Interviewer: Okay so really just the big three 1, 3, 5.

Hardwick: Yeah

Interviewer: The artillery units well first off you guys artillery units air assault in with you right?

Hardwick: Yes

Interviewer: And how did that work in term of having artillery units air assault in?

Hardwick: It worked great we were able to sling load the guns the ammo with the guns it was good at that time of course we beat the weather in so.

Interviewer: Right right

Hardwick: And once the weather cleared then we were able to move them around a little bit.

Interviewer: So air assault artillery is provides a lot of flexibility and mobility for tube artillery you might say?

Hardwick: Correct and we had our boarders with us.

Interviewer: Yes yes now do you remember how did you air assault in?

Hardwick: With one of the units.

Interviewer: Okay did you come in on a Blackhawk or a Schnook?

Hardwick: Blackhawk

Interviewer: And were you in the first lift or second lift?

Hardwick: In the first lift

Interviewer: Okay

Hardwick: For the units I went with.

Interviewer: And what was your impression when you stepped off your Blackhawk?

Hardwick: What was my impression when I stepped off?

Interviewer: Yeah

Hardwick: That it was mighty muddy. Where we landed was like I said muddy there was we had passed over some nomads there and landed in big open fields. And everyone of course offloaded very quickly the weight that we had that everybody was carrying was quite a bit. I mean where we landed was good in that we did not have to walk a great distance to get into positions that we had already preselected. Did have a couple of interpreters or civil affairs folks who went over and talked to the people and they were picking up and moving out so that was good.

Interviewer: Okay and did that mud really affect any of your operations?

Hardwick: No

Interviewer: It was just a minor inconvenience?

Hardwick: An inconvenience.



Interviewer: Okay and what sort of reception did you get from people who were in the area?

Hardwick: They were kind of scared to death mostly of the helicopters.

Interviewer: I don't blame them I'd be kind of weird out by having helicopters full of armed guys.

Hardwick: Yeah

Interviewer: Okay

Hardwick: One guy was driving his vehicle and a helicopter sat down in front of him and he looked in his rearview mirror and there was a helicopter sitting behind him and he just jumped out of his vehicle and started running. Didn't even turn it off or anything.

Interviewer: And he was just a civilian?

Hardwick: Right

Interviewer: Yeah it would happen. Let's see here what sort of now was there any enemy contact?

Hardwick: That evening we fired on some traffic that was coming back across the bridge.

Interviewer: Okay and how frequent were how frequently did you have air cover aside from the Schmoll?

Hardwick: Once the weather cleared the air was on call whenever we needed it.

Interviewer: Okay so there's always helicopters you know?

Hardwick: There's always something there and I would say there were probably no more than ten minutes away.

Interviewer: That's good so the question I have to ask then is how capable do you think how well do you think you could have defended against an Iraqi you know a determined Iraqi thrust?

Hardwick: After the sand storm?

Interviewer: Yes

Hardwick: I think we could have held our own even though we were light and the guards were the mechanized force. We could have held our own I don't think we needed some support coming in as well.

Interviewer: Right but again you said you had that orbiting.

Hardwick: Right

Interviewer: Okay then so do you think then that the air assault doctrine proved itself?

Hardwick: Oh yes

Interviewer: Okay

Hardwick: We were back behind their considered lines before they even knew what was going on.

Interviewer: That is something that I've read that the Iraqis that were taken prisoner at Fob Cobra one of the things they said they were like basically we didn't expect to see you guys for like four or five days.

Hardwick: Right now one of my units on the day before Ground Day captured 400 people.

Interviewer: Huh that was your unit. Do you remember where that was?

Hardwick: I just know it was off the TAA there.

Interviewer: Okay

Hardwick: Basically they said we didn't fight so fair. We continued to fight at night and we had the helicopters.

Interviewer: Interesting you didn't fight fair.

Hardwick: Yeah

Interviewer: Okay now did you have any concerns about the ground operation?

Hardwick: Did I have concerns?

Interviewer: Yes

Hardwick: That things would not go well those kind of things?

Interviewer: Yeah things that you were worried about yeah or things that you thought would go well things that you thought wouldn't go well just you know things that were on your mind things that you were thinking about.

Hardwick: No the only thing I was thinking was you know about the soldiers their reaction a lot of them having never been to combat before and all. What they may think once they got there. I had no reservations at all that they would not do well every soldier would do well. And that he does not want to let his buddies down.

Interviewer: So that's pretty core.

Hardwick: Right

Interviewer: Okay and were there any problems once you got up to Highway 8 I mean beside again from the sand storm?

Hardwick: The normal problems of readjusting the plans what was briefed what was rehearsed making adjustments to actually being on the ground. Doing the link up insuring all units were tied together.

Interviewer: Could you detail what was different?

Hardwick: I think where we looked at putting one unit the ground was not quite the same I think it was some power lines or something within there.

Interviewer: And power lines would be hazardous for an air assault unit?

Hardwick: Yeah

Interviewer: Yeah okay alright let's see here. Now how did the mail system work for you? We're shifting obviously back from the ground defensive and you know when you were deployed in Saudi Arabia still. How did the mail system work?

Hardwick: They were not they being the postal they were not quite ready to handle the volume of mail that was coming. And that being a lot of patriotic Americans sending letters to any soldier. When you hit 5,000 or something like that the unit the mail unit only has about 30 people. And they've got to work 24 hours a day and tie in the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas where you've got packages plus letters plus any soldier mail you know that's a big burden. I think the postal folks once they really you know understood how things were running but they did very well.

Interviewer: So do you have any idea of the scale of the mail that was coming on or the scale that was going out?

Hardwick: There was one day I think there was about four 18 wheeler truckloads of mail coming in.

Interviewer: Wow

Hardwick: Like at one time. Going out not quite as much but it was quite a bit that went out too.

Interviewer: And did these soldiers write home did they write home more at certain points in time or was it a fairly steady you know dribble out?

Hardwick: No I think it was pretty steady once we got into camp there in Saudi Arabia kind of settled down training they understood what was going on. The difficulty was when we first got there there was no lights in the tents. So of course all letters and all had to either be written under a flashlight or in daylight hours. So

Interviewer: And thinking about now shifting to your arrival now what sort of things were scarce when you first arrived?

Hardwick: Well there was no hot meal everything was MRE ready to eat. Water was bottled water we ran out of that so King Fott had purchased water for us in bags the bags. It was alright but it had a nasty gas taste to it we you know got rid of those as fast as we could.

Interviewer: Okay so then I guess was water a problem?

Hardwick: Water was a problem only in the amount of exertion that someone did. We tried to ensure that they had to drink like six bottles of water in the early stages every day. And that's quite a bit of water.

Interviewer: That is quite a bit of water yes.

Hardwick: Until they get clematises and go down. But not only drink the water you also need the water if you want to make your own coffee boil that to clean up in those kind of things.

Interviewer: Okay so then after a climatization there would you say there wasn't a problem with water?

Hardwick: No water wasn't a problem.

Interviewer: Okay one of the things that Sergeant Nichols mentioned was that there was wells like everywhere.

Hardwick: Out in the towns there was wells. To utilize those wells though or to have access to them someone had to talk to the town elder \_\_\_\_ whatever they called them.

Interviewer: Right

Hardwick: And then he had to give the okay. And that became a problem one time that I heard just as a rumor that one of our units had broke a pump which meant that that entire town village was out of water because that was where they also got their water. SO we had to of course go in and replace the pump and get everything fixed back up for them.

Interviewer: Okay now on a similar vein is I have to ask about contracting. Did you have any experience any encounters with contracting you know for \_\_\_\_ contactors I guess for anything?

Hardwick: Personally I did not the division did in that they contracted to have the wash area constructed the showers constructed the latrines constructed. They had to have someone contracted to come and of course pump out the latrines and they had people contracted to put up the tents.

Interviewer: What was that?

Hardwick: They had people contracted to put up the tents that we stayed in.

Interviewer: Now was that Camp Eagle Two?

Hardwick: Right Camp Eagle Two.

Interviewer: Okay and Bastogne and Campbell \_\_\_\_\_?

Hardwick: There we had no contractors we did it ourselves.

Interviewer: Okay so then in that respect how much did contractors help you know I mean comparing how it was at Bastogne and Campbell to at Camp Eagle Two when you had contractors? Like was it a noticeable difference in the amount of work you guys had to do?

Hardwick: No and I say no in that the soldiers needed to do something anyway.

Interviewer: That's true

Hardwick: Had to stay busy and dig in a position or going out and burning the waste at the latrine it was all a part of you know burning the actual paper waste and all that and the trash all that. It was something that needed to be done soldiers having to do soldier things that was good.

Interviewer: Okay well then so then what sort of things did you do for fun?

Hardwick: For fun?

Interviewer: Yeah did you have any fun first of all?

Hardwick: Every day is a lot of fun in the army.

Interviewer: Ha ha go on.

Hardwick: Basically just read write letters home. Sit around just kind of BS with each other those kind of things.

Interviewer: Did you have a favorite book?

Hardwick: Me no I didn't.

Interviewer: Okay or a favorite topic of conversation to BS about?

Hardwick: Well the guy that I kind of shared my tent with he had a of Reba McEntire at that time and we just kind of listened to it over and over and over. I did have a Sony radio that was able to pick up BBC and we would listen to some of the news broadcasts from that.

Interviewer: Was there ever a disconnect between what you were hearing on BBC what you were hearing through camp scuttle bug and you were hearing officially through your chain of command?

Hardwick: What I heard on BBC was basically what I heard through the chain of command as far as rumors, rumors were always flying. As soon as we touched down in Saudi someone starts a rumor oh we're going home next week everything's over. And of course I had to squelch all those types of rumors real quick.

Interviewer: Okay did you have a particularly memorable rumor? You know like one that just stood out as being so you know funny or crazy or anything like that?

Hardwick: Men said we would be going home by Christmas and were telling this on Christmas Eve.

Interviewer: Well soldiers will be soldiers.

Hardwick: Yeah

Interviewer: So roughly when did the thinking become you know home id through Kuwait or home is through Bagdad? Do you know roughly when that became you know?

Hardwick: No our mind as far as my unit when we left I had soldier to come up how long are we going to be there Sergeant Major and basically I said we'll be there until it's over. And I'm not going to give you time frame whether it's one year or two years three months we're going to be there. And we are going to take care of business and once it is done then it's done so there was no you know the way home it this a way or that a way okay we're here to do something and as soon as we get it done we're out of here.

Interviewer: Very task oriented.

Hardwick: Right

Interviewer: Okay now let's see concerning the meals you had mentioned when you initially deployed that all you had was MREs.

Hardwick: Correct

Interviewer: So first question is did you have a favorite or did you get tired of them really quick?

Hardwick: We got tired of them. You have MREs for 60 days straight you know even when they came out with the t-wrap meal everybody was happy to get a t-wrap meal. Until we started eating it and that's just a bigger MRE.

Interviewer: So what sort of things were in t-wraps?

Hardwick: Almost the same thing that's in MRE but you had the big square you boil them in water to eat them to heat them up. You had like square eggs you had eggs and sausage all in one square like when they cut it out to serve you.

Interviewer: And would those be prepared at the mobile kitchen trailers the MKTs?

Hardwick: Correct

Interviewer: Okay

Hardwick: But again all the was was boiling water putting them in the water.

Interviewer: Yeah so

Hardwick: Two big meals that the cooks did real well were Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Interviewer: Well you kind of expect them to do that because.

Hardwick: Well on Christmas Day my unit was up north in a training area and we had a big sand storm that actually came in about two in the morning and lasted until about 11 or 12 that day Thanksgiving

Day. We stopped and everybody could eat but the cooks had to put up with all that sand it flying and preparing food and all of that and that was a great meal.

Interviewer: Yeah I can imagine. Now concerning foods that you got from the natives how often did you eat you know fresh food you know supplied by natives?

Hardwick: None except when everything was over and we went back to Saudi Arabia. Then we had contract people cooking.

Interviewer: Okay do you know if that differed from the other units or.

Hardwick: I don't know

Interviewer: Okay Sergeant Nichols told me a story about how the rest of his guys got sick because of the lettuce that they had for their salad yeah okay. Now concerning training how often did you guys go up to train?

Hardwick: Well we trained there in Saudi at Camp Eagle Two daily. And then when we actually went up north a little bit to another training site then of course we trained there. Did some live fires as well as just normal training that was going on.

Interviewer: Okay and so what sort of things did you train for or was it you know the gamut of soldier things?

Hardwick: Just a gamut of everything.

Interviewer: Okay now oh and now when you were forward deployed you know during Dessert Shield when you were forward deployed to serve as a defense what was that like in terms of whatever?

Hardwick: What was it like?

Interviewer: Yeah in terms of whatever you'd like to speak about you know supplies or how it was or whatever.

Hardwick: it was just for one it was good that we had that amount of time to get acclimated and let soldiers continue to train where they felt a little more confident not only in their abilities but in their leader's ability to get them through whatever need to be gotten through. So that was a good part. It was stupid on Saddam's part allowing us to take that long to build up to go against him.

Interviewer: But I'm sure neither one of us is complaining that he did give us the time.

Hardwick: Oh no I'm glad.

Interviewer: Okay now it's time for a very much miscellaneous scattered questions. Was there any culture shock when you arrived in Saudi Arabia and the way you were operating in Saudi Arabia?

Hardwick: Basically since we were isolated from the populous it wasn't any big thing. The only problems the only people that came in contact with those contractors came like to clean up the latrines.

Interviewer: Right

Hardwick: But very limited talking to as far as that went. So training out there was limited as far as the unit the entire unit talking with any other foreign. We did at one time while training talk with the Saudi army a little bit because they were in the training site. But not all the soldiers talked with them and that was different. The other part was just the normal customs that they have that are different than ours like don't look at the women bla, bla bla,

Interviewer: Right.

Hardwick: But again it did not have that big a problem because we were not exposed that much.

Interviewer: Okay now what about tobacco products were there any problems with tobacco products and if so, how did you solve them?

Hardwick: Well as far as myself I had no problem because I don't smoke or dip or anything like that. But as far as the soldiers they were of course sending home getting care packages from home. Care package come in with cigarettes we would do that I know when we was up in the tactical assembly area sergeant majors of the battalions collected money because they were able to go into one of the little towns and they bought a lot of cigarettes, Skoal those kind of stuff tobacco products to take back to the soldiers before we actually went out.

Interviewer: Alright okay now when you arrived in Saudi Arabia again could you remind me when you arrived in Saudi Arabia?

Hardwick: September

Interviewer: Okay now when you did arrive how much of your brigade's equipment was there? Either flew in with you or arrived on a ship or was supplied through prepositioned supplies or what have you?

Hardwick: I would probably say about eighty percent.

Interviewer: Eighty percent of what?

Hardwick: Of the equipment was there.

Interviewer: And arrived on ship?

Hardwick: On ship and what we brought.

Interviewer: Okay and were there any deficiencies in what you had when you arrived?

Hardwick: No not really.

Interviewer: No major deficiency it was just a little bit of everything was missing?

Hardwick: Yeah a little bit of this got messed up in the movement in the ship or something but nothing big, mission stopping.



Interviewer: Okay let's see okay the question I have to ask now is what did you think the logistics guys did right?

Hardwick: What did they do right?

Interviewer: Yeah and conversely what do you think they did wrong? It's a very vague question so feel free to take your time.

Hardwick: As far as my logistics folks they were very good at trying to forecast and get what was needed prior to being requisitioned. And knowing that things were going to come up because they were proactive in getting things from discomb to try and get it out to the soldiers.

Interviewer: Is that unusual?

Hardwick: No that's them doing their job.

Interviewer: Or at least doing their job well right?

Hardwick: Right

Interviewer: Okay so that's what they did right and was there anything that you feel that they could have done better?

Hardwick: Sometimes they could have. They could have again been able to talk to discomb to see about what other comfort items could have been available for soldiers.

Interviewer: Oh yes and on that you know concerning care packages concerning you know you might call them you know luxury items like soda pop or chocolate or what have you.

Hardwick: Uh huh

Interviewer: Were they in short supply for your guys?

Hardwick: You mean short supply?

Interviewer: As you should have been getting more than they actually did?

Hardwick: No I don't think we should have been getting anymore because water was more important than trying to get sodas. Even you put like the Kool-Aid in the water or something.

Interviewer: Right

Hardwick: That's better for you than the sodas so the soda stock that was okay.

Interviewer: Okay and let's see here. So here's an extremely broad question. Are there any questions you think should be asked about Desert Storm? You know what sort of issues do you think need to be addressed?

Hardwick: I think pretty much everything has been addressed over the years. The one thing though that I will say that supply messed up on was boots. We never got our desert boots until we got back to Fort Campbell. And then they wanted us to do a parade in those boots and we said no.

Interviewer: Yeah and correct me if I'm wrong but the uniforms were they they weren't necessarily desert uniforms either. They could have been the greens?

Hardwick: We had the desert uniform most all of my unit had those. They were two per soldier at the time and while we were over there we got issued another two I think.

Interviewer: So you got issued two desert uniforms.

Hardwick: Right

Interviewer: But you got issued zero desert boots?

Hardwick: Correct

Interviewer: That's interesting.

Hardwick: Uh huh

Interviewer: I'm sure it makes sense to somebody somewhere but it doesn't make sense to me.

Hardwick: Well at that time the desert uniform had been used before. Desert boots were not even a thought as people were using mostly jungle boots. But jungle boots in the desert is okay but in jungle boots you have a little islet in there to let water out. Well if you have an islet in there it lets sand in.

Interviewer: Yes

Hardwick: So that was the problem. I wore jungle boots most of the time anyway.

Interviewer: And the sand getting let in was it just an inconvenience or were there actually

Hardwick: If you're going for a long walk with a heavy load it doesn't have to be real long and you have sand coming in those inlets then you have friction not only with your socks but your feet on there which is almost like glass you're walking on.

Interviewer: So were there people who were you know injured enough to the medics by this?

Hardwick: Oh no

Interviewer: Okay

Hardwick: Again that's due to the small unit leader the team leader squad leaders constantly checking their people being with them.

Interviewer: Okay so the responsibility of the squad leader kept your guys in fighting shape.

Hardwick: Correct

Interviewer: Okay correct me if I'm wrong but isn't that a hallmark of well really any unit in the army?

Hardwick: Yeah

Interviewer: Well like you said earlier they're all good.

Hardwick: That's right they're all good.

Interviewer: Okay alright

Hardwick: Alright

Interviewer: I think that's pretty much it.

Hardwick: Okay

Interviewer: Unless you can think of any oh actually I do have another a couple more questions that I just you know thought of. Well first again do you think that there are any questions aside from you know where the deficiency in boots are there any other questions that you feel should be asked?

Hardwick: No

Interviewer: Okay now how about you know swapping out of broken equipment you know repair parts swapping out exchanging broken equipment? How did that work?

Hardwick: It was slow but that was because everything was being built up to come there so it had to come by ship most of the time. You know it was big parts or things like that that were critical then they'd get them by air. But you know that's just the price that you pay for being away from your normal supply areas.

Interviewer: Right and do you know if there was anything that was more or less a show stopper in terms of you know repair parts not being there?

Hardwick: No

Interviewer: Or equipment that you know couldn't easily be swapped out. Was everything slow or were some things slower than others?

Hardwick: No I think everything was slow. Like I said if it was real critical then it was flown in. So I mean the supply system of the army is just the way it is.

Interviewer: Yeah that's how it is but now here's a thought. How did the supply situation the logistics you know yeah how did the supply situation differ between Vietnam and Desert Storm?

Hardwick: Vietnam I was only there during the early stages 66, 67.

Interviewer: Okay

Hardwick: And as a private up to sergeant I didn't see any problem with supplies, vehicles, ammunition any of that other stuff at my unit. And anytime we needed something if we needed to replace something that was no problem at all just you know just turn in the broken get something back.

Interviewer: Okay

Hardwick: Now later units later in the war there may have been some problems.

Interviewer: I was asking because you know I didn't know just thought of it as a comparison.

Hardwick: Yeah

Interviewer: But basically now when you were in Vietnam though the logistical network it was more or less set up and had been operating for a couple years right?

Hardwick: It had been set up because the first unit went in 65 May of 65 the first Army combat unit which was the 173rd went in and they were stationed in Okinawa. So basically as far as supplies getting it into Vietnam out of Japan, Okinawa, Korea those were fairly close so you could get those in.

Interviewer: Whereas getting supplies in the Gulf the only real place that might would have supplies would be like what Diego Garcia? I'm sure you could get fuel from Saudi Arabia.

Hardwick: Uh huh

Interviewer: But I mean in terms of other supplies.

Hardwick: Yeah

Interviewer: Everything came in so essentially in Vietnam it took you know roughly it took about two years. And with you know at least two major places to draw upon and you had a pretty good supply network.

Hardwick: Uh huh

Interviewer: Whereas in the Gulf you had a you know a decent if not I mean would you say pretty good supply network you know running right off the ground without any major suppliers anywhere close?

Hardwick: It was pretty fair but you had Europe that was close.

Interviewer: Oh yes that's true.

Hardwick: So I mean you could get stuff out of there it was just the politics of playing with the state department and all of that but.

Interviewer: Okay oh and did you have any contact with Saudi officials or was it really like you said you didn't have much contact?

Hardwick: Uh huh

Interviewer: Okay alright now do you have anything else to add about anything at all?

Hardwick: No

Interviewer: Alright

Hardwick: Alright

Interviewer: Well thank you very much.

Hardwick: Sure

Interviewer: And again I'll be emailing or I'll be mailing this form to you.

Hardwick: Okay

Interviewer: Shortly

Hardwick: Alright

Interviewer: Alright well thank you very much.

Hardwick: Okay hope you get an A.

Interviewer: I hope I get well it's for my thesis you know so it's supposed to be a good 80 to 100 pages so.