

“Protecting American Warriors”

United States Army Sergeants Major Academy

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# Table of Contents

Introduction: Life as an Assistant Inspector General	page 3
Part 1: A Garrison Soldier	page 4
1. Event that Changed the World	page 5
Part 2: Force Protection Delta	page 6
2. On Point, for the Nation	page 7
Part 3: Protecting American Warriors	page 8
3. The Aftermath	page 9
Conclusion: The Verdict to Maintain Stability	page 10
Lessons Learned	page 11
Appendix	page 12

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# INTRODUCTION

## Life as an Assistant Inspector General

As I venture out to become a world famous Army Assistant IG, an extension of the eyes, ears, voice, and conscience of the commander. I'm an honest broker and a consummate fact finder. My primary function is to training, inspecting, assisting, and investigating.

I can remember when sandy, dust blowing surrounds me as I drive through the greatest sandbox marvel in the world. An overseas deployment both peacetime and war, is an experience not to be missed, and no one can bring it to you quite like Uncle Sam. We're history in the making and I check it off my "must do" list. This is my journey to a place one will never forget, a true adventure.

## Part 1

### A Garrison Soldier

## Event that Changed the World

On 11 September 2002, I had the opportunity to serve as an Assistant Inspector General, Headquarters, V Corps, Heidelberg, Germany. Early that morning, I just came back from Poland, from a major Joint Exercise called “Victory Strike”; to enroll in a test college program called “E Army University”. As I arrived thru the Patton Main Gate, I parked my car, and heading inside the education center. As I entered the room, I noticed the television had just reported that an airliner hit one of the Twin Towers, in New York City. The Fox News station reported it as an accident, as later on we found out different. As I looked upon in awe, helpless, the first thing that was going thru my mind was getting those people out of that building.

I immediately called by boss, SGM Medina, Assistant Inspector General but he was not home. I then proceeded to call the Staff Duty Officer, to see if they were watching the news, they were not. I called COL Ballard, “Ranger Rick”, the Inspector General, HQ, V Corps. He too, was not available. By now, I’m pulling my hair out, and calling my family to see if any of our relatives or friends that we know of, are in the building. It took a while for the phone to go thru, because it kept stating, “All circuits are busy now, please try your number later”. I imaged everyone was trying to do the same thing. What seemed like a few moments later, a second plane hit the Twin Towers. I picked up the phone and called the Military Police, and asked if they had watched what just taken place. They too were watching. I asked if they had improved ThreatCon, and the desk sergeant, stated

“nobody is here at this time. I told him my duty position and who I was, then stated he needs to contact his supervisory. I then called back my supervisor, and he stated that I was over-reacting. I then asked if anyone from our office contacted the Commanding General, General Wallace. They stated, no.

A total of four hours went by, before anyone started to put things together. Intelligence reports were very slow. Nine hours later, we finally went to “Threatcon Delta”. I had tried to convince my peers and subordinates that this was real at the time, but nobody listened. Life as we know it as a garrison Soldier, was about to change. Everyone to include sergeant majors on down were pulling gate guard, roving patrol, security forces, quick reaction forces, my GOD, the list went on. Coming in and out of areas, commissary, gates, PX, gas station, took 1-2 hours just to get in. Security was in full force, as well as ever Soldier wearing full battle rattle.

## Part 2

### Force Protection Delta

## On Point, for the Nation

My job as an assistant inspector general had now changed over. We quickly formed teams at our office. We were sworn in, to include badges, as special agents, under the military police. This authority was ordered by three, luitenits general, to perform other duties as well. Our mission as special agents became an integral part of effort. To root out any terrorist before they act. My role in combating terrorism from the traditional IG mission was one that was clearly needed in the Department of Defense infastructure. I did multi prong approach searches with anti-terrorism group, Joint Task Force, Federal Bureaur of Investigations, Central Intellengce Agency, Defense Intellence Agency to name of few. We worked together on interviews, record checks, searches and the list went on. Our IG team helped many higher Department of Defense organizations piece strategies and shared information threats, to the Department of Justice, cyber infrastructure, weapons of mass destruction, Department of Energy and Defense Threat Relations to include Department of Engineers.

My role expended into other foreign countries, such as Turkey, Israel, Poland, Czech, Kuwait, and of course Iraq. Some of my team members deployed with other groups to these locations to start establishing immediate stage bases, and as Ambassadors from the USA.

Our community came under fire with anthrax scares and numerous bomb threats, to include in front of our buildings. Biological agents overseas became hot issues. I looked

into all government buildings to see if they had any type of deterrence. I could not find anything. I did some research on bomb proofing and found that the Embassies had curtains that absorbed the blast, so I contacted the manufacture. We established a contract for all US Military facilities to get filmcor put on all the windows. I was proud of myself for identify a systemic problem. My caseload increased, not just from Soldiers, but now the commanders, from all over, to include our IG hotline. Many leads from calls were unanimous, but all were taken serious. Each incident was looked at as an allegation. Deterrence was the key! If that weren't enough, next we had cyber hacking in our databases. Our system had been compromised, and now was vulnerable too. Terrorist had declared war. But America stays vigilant, till this very day.

## The Aftermath

The lives of our war fighters were at stake. Worldwide weapons of mass destruction and ingredients were being passed via internet and of course smuggling. Me and my team started to work with US Immigration and Custom law enforcements agency, both in Europe and Iraq. We called for research and development programs that helped identify leaks within airports, to include, coming in and out of military installations. Some of the programs were very costly, but they worked. We helped develop ID scanners with your ID card, to cut back on the amount of time coming in and out of areas. It also processed the information into a database, that other agencies had information too. We also came up with the X-ray machine that scanned big trucks. Emerging public awareness of collection data was growing. We had to keep it unclassified without attribution.

In other leads, we tracked the Iraqi banks financial transactions records and found many Swiss bank account deposits. Everything we touched had blood money written all over, it seemed. Just like contracting, many received kick backs. We even had Unauthorized illegal purchases with government credit cards. Some Soldiers thought it was okay as well as the commanders to buy things, because we were at war. Most stated “it beats stealing it”. It was very hard to prove that the Soldier, knowing and willing fully, committed a crime without the intent. Bottom line, without hard evidence to make a case, it was very difficult to dispute.

## Conclusion

### The Verdict to Maintain Stability

In June 2003, HQ V Corps, led the way to capture Baghdad, a new Coalition Joint Task Force was formed to replace its predecessor. It composed of 130,000 troops from 36 countries. Our new mission was to conduct offensive operations against anti-Iraqi forces to secure the nation and pave the way for the establishment of a democratic government, as well as to organize and train the Iraqi armed forces to ultimately take on the responsibility for the nation's security. Rotations have began since 2003, and will continue till mission is complete. (Currently projected till 2010).