

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: USAF EOD Technician

SUBJECT: Hyperbaric Treatment for TBI

1. August 2010 I was assigned to a patrol base in Helmand Province Afghanistan. While accompanying the Troops back to Camp Leatherneck my 4 wheel MRAP struck an 80lb IED. The MRAP was lifted into the air during the detonation. After it came to rest we made sure everyone was alright in the vehicle then cleared around our vehicle for any secondaries. There was a Navy corpsman in the convoy and he quickly cleared to our position to make sure that we were alright. I was diagnosed with a grade 1 concussion and we were brought back to Camp Leatherneck to get a new vehicle. I was dazed and had some headaches after the explosion but I did not lose consciousness. We were outfitted with a new MRAP and met up with the Georgians to return to our patrol base. 44 hours later on the way back to our patrol base our 6 wheeled MRAP struck a 40lb IED, I did not lose consciousness during this IED strike either but had some pains due to striking an IED 44 hours prior. We were brought back to base and examined and told to stand down for 24 hours to let our bodies rest. Three months later I was at a new patrol base and while responding to an IED found, I was in the turret due to imminent danger in the area. Our vehicle struck an 80lb IED and I was told by my teammates that they were yelling my name and I was not answering. When I came to, I turned my 240 and realized that it was aiming at the ground. I had been struck in the face by the butt end of the 240. After this explosion I was getting headaches more often and I would forget setting something down and would find it a bit later. A month later we were on an IED call and started taking accurate small arms fire. During this engagement one of our US forces stepped on a IED and was KIA around 25 meters away from us. I was struck by the blast wave but was not knocked to the ground and I think the adrenaline kept me going until we made it back to our patrol base. After the adrenaline wore down I was feeling extremely dazed.

2. On the way back to the states we went to the deployment transition center set up for USAFEOD. I was having a lot of difficulty remembering things like who I talked to and places that I went. On numerous occasions I went to the BX or a shop and then when I got back to my room I would ask my roommate if the bags were his and he would tell me that I had bought it and I had no idea. My leadership was noticing that I was not remembering things, and was having problems concentrating and speaking. I would be in mid sentence and I would forget what I was talking about or could not think of words that I knew or to describe things. I was getting headaches that were making me sit down or have to stop in my tracks and not move. The lights at night were giving me really bad headaches and my vision was going blurry on several occasions. I also had a constant pressure in my head and felt like I was

in a fog. I was also experiencing sleep problems and irritability. Upon arriving back in the states it took me several times to remember people that I would meet to include my First Sergeant. I had met her several times according to her and did not remember her at all.

3. I arrived home in January 2011, and my leadership told my wife and I to make sure that I made a appointment immediately. I went in and the doctors told me that I may have TBI and they sent me off base to a clinic. The off base clinic referred me to Dr. Zant's for possible HBOT treatment. I went in to his office and he started me on the HBOT treatments. After three weeks the pressure in my head was all but gone and my mood was getting better. After the 5th-6th week I noticed a great change in my speaking ability and I was remembering some of the conversations that I had. After the 8th week I was allowed to drive again because I had not blacked out in 5 weeks. My leadership and my wife noticed a drastic change in my mood and my ability to carry out conversations. I believe that the HBOT has helped me tremendously and that I owe my ability to stay in the military and continue to serve this great country to it.

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USAF EOD Technician