



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS TRAINING CENTER (AFSOC)

04 Aug 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: USAF Special Tactics Combat Controller

SUBJECT: Hyperbaric Treatment for TBI

1. In January of 2005 I was assigned to a fire base near the Afghanistan/Pakistan border. I was in an over watch position on the perimeter of a small village when we came under intense enemy fire. I was forced to drop ordinance in close proximity to my position (within 100m). Once the ordinance hit the enemy position I was thrown across the court yard into a small wall. I never lost consciousness, but definitely dazed for a few days after. A week or so later after this engagement the SF team I was supporting set up a checkpoint to search traffic coming across the border from Pakistan into Afghanistan. On our check point perimeter we set up a string of claymore mines in case we were engaged by insurgents. We were engaged by a small insurgent force. As I moved to get cover from enemy fire the string of claymore mines were initiated. I was located close to the backside of the claymores as they went off and the concussion pushed me head first into a bolder leaving me dazed but conscious. Three weeks later I was operating a landing zone at the fire base when a 107mm rocket hit the LZ close to my position and threw me backwards into a barrier. I remained conscious but extremely dazed.

2. Shortly after returning from this deployment I found it hard to sleep and stay asleep, drastic mood swings, bad temper, and poor hand and eye coordination. I contributed this to a high operations tempo that had me on a crazy travel and work schedule, traveling back and forth to the US and England. In other words "Jet Lagged". In 2008 I was reassigned to Hurlburt field as an instructor. I still had problems sleeping, mood swings and problems with hand and eye coordination. I chalked this up to the fact that my wife and I had 3 kids in three years and this is how it will be for a while until the youngest gets on a schedule and I can get my sleep schedule back.

3. In March of 2010 I had my annual flight physical. I was talking with Doc Ward and slurred my speech a little and he had asked if that happens a lot. I opened up to him with all the problems I had been having since early 2005. He informed me that I might have TBI and referred me to Doc Eddie Zandt for HBOT treatment. Within the first week of treatment I was able to fall asleep quickly and stay asleep for 7-8 hrs compared to 4-5 hours that I was getting before treatment. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> week my wife noticed a definite change in my attitude. I wasn't as grumpy, and my bad temper was nonexistent. After the 5<sup>th</sup> week I noticed a drastic change in my coordination. My typing had improved, I could play lacrosse better, and my combat pistol shooting had increased immensely. I do believe that the chamber therapy has improved my quality of life. I do not know how or where I would be without it.

*Turning Airmen into Air Commandos*