

1 TRANSCRIBER NAME: David Detwiler

2 Date: 5/9/2020

3 Participant #: 23

4 Interviewer (Code in blue): CDR Andrew Ledford

5 Participant (Code in black): #23

**6 CDR: Record. OK. All right, I'm here with student twenty three. Time is
three Thirty one pm. Andrew Ledford and it is five December. And we
are gonna talk basically just some background question basically your
experiences. What makes you tick? How you grew up, so we got some
softball questions first, siblings.**

7 23: Seven

**8 CDR: Seven siblings. All right. This could take a while here. All right. So
where are you in number?**

9 23: Middle

**10 CDR: You're right in the middle. So let's go through one, two, three, four,
five, six, seven. So, lets go**

11 23: Three younger sisters

**12 CDR: So three younger sisters. You're number four. You're right in the
middle. Is**

13 23: One younger brother than I'm, then me.

14 CDR: Which, which one are you.

15 23: Ahh, I guess, well there's, since there's eight, I guess I'd be

16 CDR: There are seven kids in your family. Or theres eight of you?

17 23: Eight of us

18 CDR: Oh there are seven siblings. Okay.

19 23: I have seven siblings

²⁰ CDR: Okay, yep good point. So, and you're number.

²¹ 23: I guess I'd be number 5.

²² CDR: You're the fifth one. So let's start with your older siblings the four older ones. First one is, how many years older sister, brother.

²³ 23: He's uh thirty nine.

²⁴ CDR: Brother.

²⁵ 23: I guess he's uh eleven years older.

²⁶ CDR: He's eleven years older. Okay, And then your next.

²⁷ 23: He's thirty...

²⁸ CDR: Brother.

²⁹ 23: Six.

³⁰ CDR: Thirty six, and how many years older?

³¹ 23: So eight years older.

³² CDR: Eight years older.

³³ 23: The next one's one year older.

³⁴ CDR: Brother?

³⁵ 23: Sister.

³⁶ CDR: Sister, and she's how many years older?

³⁷ 23: One.

³⁸ CDR: One year older, okay so she is, and how old are you?

³⁹ 23: Twenty-nine

40 CDR: You're twenty nine. So she's 30?

41 23: No, she's twenty nine, I'm twenty eight.

42 CDR: Okay, she's twenty nine, and you're twenty eight. And then

43 23: Twenty four.

44 CDR: Oh wait. So you're the fourth one. You've got a brother, two older brothers, an older sister.

45 23: Oh yeah. I guess if you do it like that. Sorry, that's I was going the other way.

46 CDR: Okay yeah, yeah. Kay, so you're twenty eight. Alright and then under nether you.

47 23: My little brothers twenty-four

48 CDR: Brother.

49 23: And his three sisters and it's twenty-four.

50 CDR: Oh wait, twenty-four. So he's four years younger.

51 23: Yeah

52 CDR: Younger, and then after that is.

53 23: Twenty four again

54 CDR: Another twenty four. Are there twins

55 23: No, there like nine months apart.

56 CDR: Sister, so the bottom three sisters.

57 23: Yeah. The bottom three are all sisters.

58 CDR: Wow dude that's crazy. So twenty four. What about number, the two bottom? What

⁵⁹ 23: Twenty-two and twenty.

⁶⁰ CDR: Yes. So that is four years younger. And then, six years younger, and then eight years younger. Okay, and parents together? Not together?

⁶¹ 23: Uhh my, my dad died when I was nine, and my older brother's dad died when they were six and three. And then uh.

⁶² CDR: Okay

⁶³ 23: Then my little sister's dead Mom when they were younger too.

⁶⁴ CDR: Older brothers Dad died when they were.

⁶⁵ 23: My older brother's Dad died when six and three. So long before I was born.

⁶⁶ CDR: Yeah, six and three.

⁶⁷ 23: And my little sisters mom died when they were younger too. I think it was when they were nine and then I guess nine, seven, and five.

⁶⁸ CDR: They were seven and five. Okay. So, your little sister's you guys have the same, Dad?

⁶⁹ 23: No they are step sisters, my little ones, my brothers. I only have two full siblings.

⁷⁰ CDR: OK. Were you pretty much raised?

⁷¹ 23: Yeah, I'm the only one who was in the house with every single sibling.

⁷² CDR: All right. So you're looking through your life, was there a critical piece that you, that you, kind of changed your life, that really affected you more than anything?

⁷³ 23: Umm. Yeah. I mean, I guess, I guess most people would probably say when my Dad died. But I'd probably say when I was in high school I got in trouble, my sophomore year and uh my mom grounded me and

locked me in my room when I got off school. So I'd get off school and lock was on the outside.

⁷⁴ CDR: Oh jeez

⁷⁵ 23: And uh, and then she'd put trays of food in like I was a prisoner. And I wasn't allowed to talk to anyone in the family and I wasn't allowed to play sports or workout.

⁷⁶ CDR: So how long did this last?

⁷⁷ 23: A month.

⁷⁸ CDR: A month.

⁷⁹ 23: And uh yeah, and she took the TV, so I started listening to the radio and she took the radio out of the room too. So all I, and then she took all the books out, so I just did my homework and would stare at the wall until I fell asleep.

⁸⁰ CDR: What did you do?

⁸¹ 23: I egged two cars.

⁸² CDR: Okay, we're gonna, we're gonna come back to that one. In just a little bit. How did you, how do you feel like these experiences affected you with BUD/S?

⁸³ 23: I mean you decided what matters.

⁸⁴ CDR: Just that you, decided what matters? Like...

⁸⁵ 23: Like something like what I experienced.

⁸⁶ CDR: Hey guys, you just keep it down just a little bit. We're almost done. Decides what matters. What about your personality that you think is specific for you that helped you get through?

⁸⁷ 23: I don't know, I mean, I guess people telling me I'm not going to do it. Pretty easy for me to focus.

⁸⁸ CDR: So people tell you, what that you're not going to get through,

⁸⁹ 23: Yeah.

⁹⁰ CDR: And then what, how would you respond to that?

⁹¹ 23: I don't know, I knew I was going to make it, so didn't really have a response.

⁹² CDR: Okay, so going from that a little bit more back into your childhood, then, so you talked about your mom doing that. What other ways would they discipline you?

⁹³ 23: I never needed discipline.

⁹⁴ CDR: You never needed after that, so after that. So before that, like would they spank you, would they?

⁹⁵ 23: Uh I never did anything wrong.

⁹⁶ CDR: So that was really the first out.

⁹⁷ 23: That was really the only thing I ever did.

⁹⁸ CDR: So no real spanking.

⁹⁹ 23: Uhh I mean, potently I might have been whipped with the belt at one Time.

¹⁰⁰ CDR: With the what?

¹⁰¹ 23: With the belt. Most the time like more of a threat. Maybe it happened once, but there was definitely that overarching fear of the belt.

¹⁰² CDR: Of the what?

¹⁰³ 23: The belt

¹⁰⁴ CDR: Oh the belt. And how would you describe they were they strict not, strict?

105 23: Uhh maybe, I don't know average.

106 CDR: Average maybe, now your teenage years did you guys move around a lot, stay in the same town? Same house?

107 23: I switched high schools once.

108 CDR: Switched high schools, switched high school just once?

109 23: Yeah, just once.

110 CDR: When?

111 23: My sophomore year.

112 CDR: So why did you guys switch?

113 23: We moved in with my stepdad.

114 CDR: Moved in with stepdad. And umm sports, like did you?

115 23: Played football, baseball, and basketball.

116 CDR: Which one did you play mostly like, in high school?

117 23: I played 'em all since I was nine.

118 CDR: Baseball and basketball?

119 23: Yeah

120 CDR: And that was all through high school? So five years before BUD/S, what would you say you did you go from high school right to boot camp, to BUD/S.

121 23: No, I, I went to college.

122 CDR: Okay, so you went from high school to...

123 23: To junior college and then I went to four years...

124 CDR: To junior college. For how long?

125 23: Two years, or a year and half and then uh three and a half years at College

126 CDR: Then you went to... Uh what college? Like.

127 23: Weber State, it's a school in Utah

128 CDR: What was is it called?

129 23: Weber State

130 CDR: Oh okay. For three years right, and then you end up graduating from there.

131 23: Yeah

132 CDR: And then from there?

133 23: Uh, I was in a teaching credential program for a semester.

134 CDR: So this is after Weber State?

135 23: Yeah

136 CDR: For how long were you in that teaching program?

137 23: Just one semester.

138 CDR: Okay, one semester and then what? And then what?

139 23: Then I did two years in a prerequisite for nursing school

140 CDR: Oh two years of prereq for nursing

141 23: Yeah

142 CDR: Okay

143 23: Then I had a year off. Then I started nursing school

- 144 CDR: So for one year what did you do?
- 145 23: I started lifeguarding.
- 146 CDR: Lifeguarded, wow. And after that one year of lifeguarding?
- 147 23: Nursing school for two months, and then uh, then I joined the Navy.
- 148 CDR: Then boot camp?
- 149 23: Yep straight through to now.
- 150 CDR: So that's a pretty long journey there. What you think motivates you on a daily basis?
- 151 23: Uh I've already tried everything else. [Inaudible] I thought I could be...
- 152 CDR: What do you think was the most challenging component of BUD/S? Like, what thing did you kind of struggle with the most overall specifically?
- 153 23: Pistol
- 154 CDR: Pistol was...
- 155 23: Yeah.
- 156 CDR: Would you say that your hardest day would be when you were working with the pistol?
- 157 23: Yeah.
- 158 CDR: Why was that?
- 159 23: I can't see very well out of my right eye.
- 160 CDR: Oh really
- 161 23: And uh it was hard to move fast and every, and you can't really fake

a pistol shoot. And I guess I can, I mean, I'm here.

162 CDR: Interesting. What do you think got you through that?

163 23: Uh, I knew how to pass the test, and I did what I needed to do.

164 CDR: Did you, was there a practice that you did on a regular basis daily. Like a spiritual, mental, physical practice, at all?

165 23: I read a couple of pages of a book before I go to sleep every night.

166 CDR: Of what? You read...

167 23: Like before I go to sleep every night, I think helps like resets you, and reminds you what happens in BUD/S and in life doesn't suck.

168 CDR: What kind of books did you read?

169 23: Mostly like girly love stories.

170 CDR: Love stories really?

171 23: Or like athletic achievement books like perform in the mile and stuff.

172 CDR: Good. Umm was your time when you had some kind of difficult decision that you made like that you really struggled with at BUD/S.

173 23: Uh no.

174 CDR: No, okay. What do you think makes you like? Why are you here? What got you? What made you successful and all these other people didn't make it?

175 23: I just kept going

176 CDR: Just kept going, what do you think? Why do you think uhm all these other guys who are not here any longer, why do you think aren't here? What did you see about them?

177 23: Um they thought too far ahead.

¹⁷⁸ CDR: Cool, what about your experience now? Like you as a person? How are you different from when you first started serving?

¹⁷⁹ 23: Uh.

¹⁸⁰ CDR: How are you different from when you started?

¹⁸¹ 23: Uh I don't know, just, I think I can control my emotions better, like control reactions better. Like uh, [inaudible] Just kind of tell you [inaudible]

¹⁸² CDR: Cool, all right. Student number Twenty-three. Thanks a lot. I appreciate it. Let me stop this real quick.