

DAVID YANCEY
January 26, 2006

CHARLES FERGUSON: Could you start by telling us your name, sir.

DAVID YANCEY: My name is David Yancey.

CHARLES FERGUSON: And your position in the Army.

DAVID YANCEY: I'm a Specialist with a, I'm a Military Police, with the 155th, uh, [UI]
Combat Team, uh, Mississippi.

CHARLES FERGUSON: And can you tell me why you joined the Army?

DAVID YANCEY: I joined the Army to, to, uh, support my country, and uh, uh, s-, thought it
was a good thing to do, you know.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Um...

DAVID YANCEY: Fight for freedom.

CHARLES FERGUSON: When did you join?

DAVID YANCEY: I joined in, uh, 2002.

CHARLES FERGUSON: So you joined after September 11th; before the Iraq war.

DAVID YANCEY: Right.

CHARLES FERGUSON: After the Afghanistan war, already? Yes?

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, yes.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Okay. When you joined, did you think that you might be going to
Iraq?

DAVID YANCEY: I know there was a good chance I would be goin' to Iraq.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Tell us what happened then. You...

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, our unit d-, we'd done some trainin'. And uh, we deployed, um, to, uh,
south of Baghdad, in Iraq. And I was a, with [the] Military Police platoon. And uh, our primary
mission was running convoy escorts, personal security; uh, workin' with detainees; um, mounted patrols;
things of that nature. —, military police were combat MPS, is what we were, so.

CHARLES FERGUSON: When did you deploy to Iraq?

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, we actually got to Iraq January of 2005.

CHARLES FERGUSON: January of 2005.

DAVID YANCEY: Mm. Right.

CHARLES FERGUSON: And when you went to Iraq, I assume that you'd been following news coverage of the Iraq war; talking to other people in the Army about the Iraq war;

DAVID YANCEY: Right.

CHARLES FERGUSON: What did you think of the Iraq war then? What were your feelings about it?

DAVID YANCEY: I was, I was supportive of it. Um, that was my mission, that was handed down to me, to go on the deployment, and, and I was supportive, and, and had intentions of [go and] doin' what we had to do.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Um hm.

DAVID YANCEY: Do our jobs, military police.

CHARLES FERGUSON: What did you find, when you got there?

DAVID YANCEY: I found, um, [that it] was doin' a lot o' good. Um, a lotta, uh, things bein' done over there to help the country. Uh, the people were receptive, a lot of 'em was, except for the insurgents, you know, the general public was receptive of us gettin' there. And uh, uh, had a real good feelin' about what [we] was doin'.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Did you talk to a lot of Iraqis?

DAVID YANCEY: I talked to the ones that could speak English. S-...

CHARLES FERGUSON: Did you ever have access to an interpreter, so that you could...

DAVID YANCEY: Yes we did.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Um...

DAVID YANCEY: At the [UI] facility [UI], we had interpreters that worked there, full-time, to do the interpretation between us and detainees. And also we had interpreters along with us on missions and convoy escorts to do interpreting.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Okay. Tell me about your missions.

DAVID YANCEY: Um, our missions were, the missions I done was primarily convoy escorts; was takin', uh, essential goods or personnel to different places; providin' security along the way.

CHARLES FERGUSON: And from where to where, typically?

DAVID YANCEY: Um, it could be anywhere. Uh, from [Eire FOB] to Baghdad International Airport; to different [FOBs], you know, around that part of Iraq we was in.

CHARLES FERGUSON: FOB is?

DAVID YANCEY: A base.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Okay. Forward operating base.

DAVID YANCEY: Um.

CHARLES FERGUSON: And how did you get injured? What happened?

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, we was pullin' a, a, just a routine convoy escort. And um, our Humvee, uh, struck an IED. And it was a real, it was a 155 round that we sh-, uh, ran over the top of, and it just, it blew our Humvee apart. I was a gunner. And my driver lost both his legs. And it ejected me out. And um, I suffered a, uh, fractured femur; nearly lost my right arm, and collapsed lung, and um, [closed head] wounds. And shrapnel wounds. And me and my driver was both sent back to, uh, Walter Read to undergo surgery.

CHARLES FERGUSON: I see. And when did that happen?

DAVID YANCEY: April, wha-, ar-, the, the explosion happened March 29th, of 2005. And we got to Walter Read by April 1st.

CHARLES FERGUSON: So very quickly.

DAVID YANCEY: Very quickly.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Hm. Okay. And I should ask this question: was your Humvee armored?

DAVID YANCEY: Yes it was.

CHARLES FERGUSON: So even though your Humvee was armored...

DAVID YANCEY: It was a big IED that we ran over.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Wow.

DAVID YANCEY: A big IED. And just tore it apart. But it was, it was a armored Humvee.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Wow. Okay. If your Humvee hadn't been armored, what do you think the damage from that IED would have been?

DAVID YANCEY: I think it would have been deadly.

CHARLES FERGUSON: I see. So you think that the fact that your Humvee was armored saved your life.

DAVID YANCEY: Right.

CHARLES FERGUSON: I see. Okay. And the armor question; I'm sure you've seen lots of discussion of this.

DAVID YANCEY: Um hm.

CHARLES FERGUSON: What do you think about that? What did you see in Iraq with regard to that question?

DAVID YANCEY: What I saw, we was heavily armored. We had [up armored] Humvees before we went out on the mission. Uh, goin' in and out [of Iraq], we had heavy, um, heavy armor[ed] Humvees. And we had body armor. We was supplied body armor before we ever left the States. And we was already, already wearin' it and gettin' used to it.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Um hm.

DAVID YANCEY: So from what I seen and what I can count for, we had plenty of armor.

CHARLES FERGUSON: And do you think that it made a difference?

DAVID YANCEY: I think so.

CHARLES FERGUSON: So did you see other cases where people were hit by IEDs or gunfire, and you think that...

DAVID YANCEY: Oh, I know it made a difference. I seen other Humvees come in off of missions, that had survived IED attacks.

CHARLES FERGUSON: I see. Okay. Did you have a lot of contact with Iraqi detainees?

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, I, we dealt with 'em, and we was, uh, I was pulling guard over the detainees. But I didn't talk to 'em a lot. We was just, we'd done our routine, you know...

CHARLES FERGUSON: Um hm.

DAVID YANCEY: ...guardin' em.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Did you have any sense of what they were like?

DAVID YANCEY: Um...they were, to me, they were weak people. They were small people, the majority of 'em.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Hm.

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, their health wasn't, wasn't that good. Uh, they, uh, just, a lot of, their [UI] was malnutrition, there just wasn't, you know, their lifestyle was just so much different from ours. It wasn't clean. Um, they were lackin' a lot of those areas.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Malnutrition, you saw.

DAVID YANCEY: Hm.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Huh.

DAVID YANCEY: Well, I don't, I don't know if you'd say malnutrition, it just, they was skinny. Uh, they didn't eat as good as we did. You know, their dental work, you know, teeth and st-, just wasn't as good a shape as we were in, you know. They way they lived, you know, the way they [UI], the way they came in to the facility, you know...

CHARLES FERGUSON: And...

DAVID YANCEY: ...in a way. Dirty.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Did you see a difference between the people who were detained and other Iraqis you dealt with, in that regard?

DAVID YANCEY: Um...not really, 'cause I mostly, uh, dealt with detainees. I really didn't get out and deal with the, uh, other people a lot.

CHARLES FERGUSON: You said, though, that you thought that we were doing good in Iraq...

DAVID YANCEY: Um hm...

CHARLES FERGUSON: ...and...

DAVID YANCEY: ...um hm.

CHARLES FERGUSON: ...that you did speak with Iraqis who spoke English.

DAVID YANCEY: Hm.

CHARLES FERGUSON: What other Iraqis did you have contact with?

DAVID YANCEY: Um, Iraqis, sometimes when we would go places, there would be, uh, people on, you know, Iraqis on the side of the road. And uh, would have sometimes short conversation with them, if they could speak English. So.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Hm. Were there any at your base? Any Iraqis working at your base?

DAVID YANCEY: Yes. Um hm.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Did you speak with them at all?

DAVID YANCEY: Not a whole lot.

CHARLES FERGUSON: How come?

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, just my job [would have] kept me very busy.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Hm.

DAVID YANCEY: So.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Hm. Do you have a family?

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, yes, I have a mom and dad and a brother.

CHARLES FERGUSON: And are you married, have children?

DAVID YANCEY: No.

CHARLES FERGUSON: No. Okay. All right. What do you think about the future? Are you able to stay in the Army? Do you want to stay in the Army? Do you have an idea what you're gonna do next?

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, due to my injuries, um, I [will] be forced to get out of the military, and try to pursue a, a good career, civilian career job.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Do you have an idea what you want to do?

DAVID YANCEY: I'm thinkin' about federal job. Postal service. Etcetera.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Um hm. And what do you think about the war now?

DAVID YANCEY: Um, at this point, I hadn't really watched a lot of it on the media. On, on TV. I've, I've kept up with it some, but I think it's, it's generally, it's, it's goin' the same way that it's been, it's, you know, we're still makin' progress, I believe. But it's still an ongoin' war.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Hm. So you're reasonably optimistic.

DAVID YANCEY: Right.

CHARLES FERGUSON: And do you still talk with a lot of friends back in Iraq?

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, no.

CHARLES FERGUSON: How come?

DAVID YANCEY: I have no way of communicatin' with 'em. I have no way of communicatin' with 'em. S-...

CHARLES FERGUSON: Really?

DAVID YANCEY: Yeah, except for, you know, Internet. If I can get, if I had their e-mails, I could probably talk to some of 'em.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Oh, but you don't?

DAVID YANCEY: No, um...

CHARLES FERGUSON: Oh, I see.

DAVID YANCEY: And my unit has just come in. The unit I was with has just gotten back to the States.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Oh I see.

DAVID YANCEY: Right.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Okay. And so you didn't exchange e-mail addresses with your friends there?

DAVID YANCEY: No, 'cause, uh, when I was there with 'em, I could talk to 'em every day. Wh-, I didn't know I was gonna get, you know, hit a IED and have to leave.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Sure.

DAVID YANCEY: So I'm, I never planned on havin' to communicate with 'em from the States while they was still there.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Oh, that's too bad. Is it...

DAVID YANCEY: Yes.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Huh. Okay. Do you miss them?

DAVID YANCEY: Yes. Um hm.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Huh. Did you like being in the Army?

DAVID YANCEY: I did.

CHARLES FERGUSON: So you regret that you have to leave.

DAVID YANCEY: Right.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Huh. Okay. How many, do you know how many — well, let me back up a second. You were trained as a military police officer.

DAVID YANCEY: Right.

CHARLES FERGUSON: But when you were in Iraq, you didn't do military police functions mostly?

DAVID YANCEY: Yes, we served as combat MPS.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Oh, so it's combat MPS who do the escort duty that you were doing?

DAVID YANCEY: Right, right.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Oh, I didn't realize that.

DAVID YANCEY: Um hm.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Okay. So the people who do convoy escorts are MPS.

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, it's other people do do convoy escorts, but that's one of our primary functions.

CHARLES FERGUSON: I see. Okay. Okay.

DAVID YANCEY: Military police is really tasked with a lot of different things. We were, how do I say it? We're flexible.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Okay. And could you describe a typical convoy operation: how big was it? How many people? How did it work? How long did it take? How were they organized?

DAVID YANCEY: Okay. Uh, a typical escort was, uh, generally a squad, which consisted of four Humvees. And whoever we was escortin' would be in the middle. Perhaps sometimes it might be two trucks transportin' stuff. Sometimes it was personnel we was transportin'. But we always had at least one squad, uh, providin' the convoy escort, the security for the convoy escort. And which that in-, in-, that involved, um, teams, different teams in the squad. With a, uh, interpreter and a medic.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Okay. How many people is a squad?

DAVID YANCEY: Generally it's four men to a team; uh, three or four men to a team. So it'll, that'd give you 12 or 16 to a squad.

CHARLES FERGUSON: I see. And how many of these convoy operations did you go on?

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, not a whole lot. I worked at detainee facility for the first few weeks I got there. And then I run convoy escorts for about two weeks before we hit the IED.

CHARLES FERGUSON: So about how many of them had you done when you hit the IED?

DAVID YANCEY: Approximately 10.

CHARLES FERGUSON: About 10?

DAVID YANCEY: Um hm.

CHARLES FERGUSON: And on any of the earlier ones, had you been attacked in any way, or not?

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, no.

CHARLES FERGUSON: No. Okay. Do you have a sense of what percentage of all convoys get attacked, as opposed to have no problem?

DAVID YANCEY: Hm. I don-, I...it's probably a high percentage get by without bein' attacked. I really don't know the figures on it.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Hm.

DAVID YANCEY: But I'm sure it's a high percentage that get by without bein' attacked.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Okay. How many other people in your unit were injured in the time you were there?

DAVID YANCEY: The time I was there, we were the first ones out of our platoon to get injured.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Oh. Really. Okay. I see. All right. And do you think that that was kind of an average experience? Or do you have any sense, you know; were you in a particularly risky, dangerous area? Were you in a safer than average area? Roughly average? Do you have any?

DAVID YANCEY: I think we was in a average area.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Ah.

DAVID YANCEY: There are some worse, and some a little bit better, possibly.

CHARLES FERGUSON: I see. Okay. And what do you think of the medical care that you've gotten? Are you happy with it?

DAVID YANCEY: I am. I am. The medical care's been, been, it's been average, to the better, you know. Um...I'm still, you know, at Walter Read, doin' medical care, so...

CHARLES FERGUSON: Um hm.

DAVID YANCEY: ...I really can't give a, it's hard for me, you know, when it's over with, I can look back, and uh, give a diagnosis of it.

CHARLES FERGUSON: You've been there a long time already.

DAVID YANCEY: I've been there about seven months.

CHARLES FERGUSON: That's a long time to be in a hospital.

DAVID YANCEY: Seven, eight months; nine, somethin' like that. But I'm not in the hospital. I'm actually just down on the base; still goin' to the hospital to do my rehab.

CHARLES FERGUSON: I see. I see. Okay. How long were you actually in the hospital?

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, two months.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Phew. Okay. When you were attacked, what happened?

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, really, there's four or five days that I don't remember there. I was out. So I don't remember the, uh, attack, or anything.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Okay.

DAVID YANCEY: I've just been told what [had] happened, you know.

CHARLES FERGUSON: I see. I see.

DAVID YANCEY: We had a, um, combat lifesavers, eh, uh, usually...we had a combat lifesaver in each Humvee. And they were trying to do the immediate task at hand, to...

CHARLES FERGUSON: What's a combat lifesaver? [Or who]?

DAVID YANCEY: That's a...a person that's got, uh, just the basic skills of a medic.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Um hm.

DAVID YANCEY: To apply tourniquets, start IVs; um, stop the bleedin', you know. Just things of that nature.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Yeah.

DAVID YANCEY: And uh, our combat lifesavers got out, and, and took care of us 'til the, uh, chopper got there, 'til [UI] got there.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Ah, so, so they called a helicopter; helicopter came and...

DAVID YANCEY: Right.

CHARLES FERGUSON: ...got you.

DAVID YANCEY: Right. Right.

CHARLES FERGUSON: And then you were taken where, do you know?

DAVID YANCEY: To Baghdad.

CHARLES FERGUSON: To Baghdad.

DAVID YANCEY: Um hm.

CHARLES FERGUSON: And then from Baghdad...

DAVID YANCEY: [UI], Germany.

CHARLES FERGUSON: And then from there to Walter Read.

DAVID YANCEY: To Walter Read.

CHARLES FERGUSON: I see. Long trip.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Right. Okay. Thank you. Are you in touch with your friend who was in the Humvee; the man who you said lost his legs?

DAVID YANCEY: Yes. Me and him were both, we see each other every day, and help each other, you know, through this process. We work real good together.

CHARLES FERGUSON: What's he gonna do? Do you know?

DAVID YANCEY: I think he's plannin' on, uh, continuin' his education.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Hm. Okay. Is he okay?

DAVID YANCEY: He, yeah, he seems to be doin' pretty good.

CHARLES FERGUSON: And how do you feel about yourself? Are you, you feel you're basically okay?

DAVID YANCEY: I'm just still, you know, I'm havin' a lotta injuries, still, you know, at this time, botherin' me. I'm not back to full speed yet. But I'm still workin' hard in rehab, and, and tryin' to get myself back to full speed.

CHARLES FERGUSON: What still bothers you?

DAVID YANCEY: I have leg problems, knee problems; I've still got a lot of strength and mobility loss in my arm.

CHARLES FERGUSON: I see.

DAVID YANCEY: And then some traumatic arthritis, and...

CHARLES FERGUSON: Oh yeah?

DAVID YANCEY: ...migraines, uh...stuff like that.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Do you feel emotionally okay?

DAVID YANCEY: Um, sometimes that's slow. Mm...sometimes yes, sometimes no.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Hm.

DAVID YANCEY: Still have trouble, you know, dealin' with, um, uh, you know, s', what happened to me and my partner, you know, sometimes.

CHARLES FERGUSON: That's understandable.

DAVID YANCEY: Um hm.

CHARLES FERGUSON: What do you think about the Army now?

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, I'm still okay with the Army.

CHARLES FERGUSON: The Army's treated you well?

DAVID YANCEY: Yes.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Um hm.

DAVID YANCEY: So far.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Okay. Do you think that it's being — how would I put it? — fair to you, good to you, since you've been injured?

DAVID YANCEY: Since I've been injured?

CHARLES FERGUSON: Um hm.

DAVID YANCEY: Well, there's, uh...I've had, uh, I sorta...that's a question that's hard to answer at this point, really. I'm tryin' to th-, you know, I'm still in, figurin' out how they're gonna treat me on this injury, you know. 'Cause I [UI] goin' through the process of gettin' out.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Um hm.

DAVID YANCEY: And I'm [interested] [on seein'] how fair they're gonna be to me...

CHARLES FERGUSON: [UI]...

DAVID YANCEY: ...far my disability, as far as, you know, [UI] and stuff.

CHARLES FERGUSON: And what are the issues there? Is this an issue of what kind of medical care you'll get? What kind of pension you'll get?

DAVID YANCEY: Exactly.

CHARLES FERGUSON: That's, I see.

DAVID YANCEY: Um hm. Yes.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Okay. And you don't know that yet.

DAVID YANCEY: Um um.

CHARLES FERGUSON: I see.

DAVID YANCEY: I don't know that yet.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Okay. All right. You seem to be optimistic and favorable about the war in general. Are most of your friends also; most of the friends you had in the Army, were they also optimistic about [it]?

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, most of 'em were. But it was easier on me, bein' a single guy, than it was bein' a family man.

CHARLES FERGUSON: I see.

DAVID YANCEY: I th-, I seen, when I was there, I seen the ones that had wives and kids take it a lot harder than single guys did.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Yep. Yeah. Yeah.

DAVID YANCEY: And I don't think that was really, um, it would, you know, dealin' with their perspective on it, whether it was there for a good reason or not, it's just they had a hard time, you know, dealin' with the family bein' back home, their wife and kids bein' back home, and them bein' gone for that amount of time.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Um hm. And your commanders, your superior officers. What did you think of them, and how they handled the situation?

DAVID YANCEY: I had a great commander and superior officers, and I thought was doin' a good job over there.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Hm. Okay. Is there anything else you'd like to talk about?

Anything else you'd like to say?

DAVID YANCEY: Hm, not really.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Okay.

DAVID YANCEY: If you got any more questions, heh heh...

CHARLES FERGUSON: I was wondering if actually if you want to just tell us a little bit more about what the conditions were like for the U.S. soldiers on the base; what was life like on the base there?

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, conditions on the base. Um, we w-, and I visited a few more bases while I was there. And some of 'em had real nice bases, with cafeterias better than we eat here in the States. Ours was toward the, the low average. Uh, we lived in tents, and we used Port-a-potties. But we did have hot food, uh, every meal that [we was] at the base. We had a cafeteria that served hot food. So...

CHARLES FERGUSON: So you didn't have to eat MREs.

DAVID YANCEY: We didn't, we had to eat MREs if we was gone, if we were out on patrols, or s-, or escorts. But...

CHARLES FERGUSON: Yeah.

DAVID YANCEY: ...as long as were at the FOB, the base, we had hot meals provided for us, and it was, it was pretty good. It was a lot better than I've, bein' a single guy at home, it's a lot better than I eat at home. {laughs}

CHARLES FERGUSON: I see.

DAVID YANCEY: So. And we had hot showers.

CHARLES FERGUSON: That counts.

DAVID YANCEY: Um hm.

CHARLES FERGUSON: What time of year were you there, actually?

DAVID YANCEY: I got there in January, and...

CHARLES FERGUSON: Oh. That's, you're, you were lucky, then.

DAVID YANCEY: Um hm.

CHARLES FERGUSON: So you didn't go through summer.

DAVID YANCEY: Right. I didn't get through a summer there.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Yeah. Did you talk to people who'd been through summer?

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, no.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Oh. Okay.

DAVID YANCEY: I just assumed it was hot.

CHARLES FERGUSON: It's very hot. Yeah. Is your unit is going back on another tour of duty?

DAVID YANCEY: Okay. Uh, so far as my unit goin' back on another tour, I don't think so.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Well they just got back, right?

DAVID YANCEY: ...they just got back, and they're gon', a lot of the guys are...getting out, 'cause their term is up.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Oh, and they're leaving.

DAVID YANCEY: And they'll be gettin' out of the military. So our brigade'll be down. And uh. Uh, I don't know what the percentage is, but they're gonna lose a lot of manpower, you know.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Ah. Okay.

DAVID YANCEY: And it'll take 'em awhile, if they do decide to do another tour, the, uh, it probably will take awhile to get back up. Enough, uh, manpower to go back.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Uh...

DAVID YANCEY: I haven't heard of another tour comin'.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Well, you probably know, there's been a lot of discussion, public discussion, of whether the Iraq war is placing a strain on the Army.

DAVID YANCEY: Right. I watched that yesterday.

CHARLES FERGUSON: What do you think?

DAVID YANCEY: I don't th-, I really don't think it is. I think...I, of course, I don't know the overall picture, you know. I don't know the sta-ta-tistics, and everything, but I think our military is capable of doin' what we're doin'.

CHARLES FERGUSON: And of continuing to do so.

DAVID YANCEY: And continuing to do so.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Yeah. Okay. I have one last question. I just wanted to know also what was the work that you were doing when you were guarding the detainees, if you could just describe that...

DAVID YANCEY: Okay. Uh, well I worked in a detainee facility. We, uh, the prisoners had their own cells. And uh, our job was, uh, just to guard the cells; take 'em to the bathroom when they needed to go; provide their meals for 'em; and just keep 'em secure. It was real simple. And um, we had interrogators that would come git 'em when they wanted, you know, needed to, to take 'em out, to question them. And they would bring 'em back to us, and our only, uh, primary mission was just to secure them, and make sure they got fed. And um, got good health, you know. Uh, we had medics that worked there to make sure they's, you know, got 'em in good health, and uh, make sure they got bathroom, go to the bathroom when they needed to. That was [UI] simple.

CHARLES FERGUSON: What were the conditions like for them? What kind of cells did they have?

127:04 DAVID YANCEY: Uh, they had, um, [it was] buildin's. It was actually buildings with cells inside the building. And it had heat, and air. They had blankets and pillows.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Better than you.

DAVID YANCEY: Right.

CHARLES FERGUSON: {laughs} You were in tents.

DAVID YANCEY: Uh huh. And they had, uh, actually had a buildin' they stayed in, [UI] top and everything on it.

CHARLES FERGUSON: How funny. But you didn't speak with them at all.

DAVID YANCEY: Uh, if, if some that could speak English sometimes. If, uh...one was requestin' to go to the bathroom, or somethin', the, you know, if any of 'em could speak English, they would tell us.

CHARLES FERGUSON: But you never really had any conversations with 'em.

DAVID YANCEY: No, uh uh.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Yeah. Okay. Thank you.

DAVID YANCEY: Okay.

CHARLES FERGUSON: Thank you so much.

DAVID YANCEY: You're welcome.