

Interview with CPT Richard Uggen



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Allen Skinner

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INTERVIEW WITH CPT RICHARD UGGEN

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Bibliogov, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.In this interview CPT Richard L. Uggen relates his experiences as a platoon leader during his Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) deployment in 2003, when he was cross-leveled into a National Guard infantry battalion which deployed to Iraq during the initial stages of OIF. He describes attaching particular importance to strictly enforcing standards such as personnel accountability, living area cleanliness and weapon maintenance. CPT Uggen describes how his experiences as a grade school teacher helped him in performing his leadership duties since anyone who can control a classroom of 5th graders can guide a group of adult Soldiers towards accomplishing a task. CPT Uggen describes how he was used as a security platoon leader since the unit did not need his services as a Fire Support Officer (FSO). CPT Uggen outlines some of his challenges in preparing for mobilization. He notes that his higher leaders lacked previous combat experience and gave only vague training guidance. As a result, CPT Uggen and his lieutenant peers made a best estimate of likely deployment tasks, and then cobbled together training based upon the analysis. CPT Uggen shares a humorous story where he investigates a rustling noise in the palace gardens and has a face-to-face encounter with a non-native hedgehog, imported in order to keep the palace gardens free from indigenous insects. In another series of vignettes, Uggen relates his several encounters with unexploded ordnance (UXO) in various locations along the Main Supply Route (MSR) in his area of operations. CPT Uggen explains that his unit had not received training on handling UXO, and in his ignorance made for some dangerous moves with handling the ordnance.

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