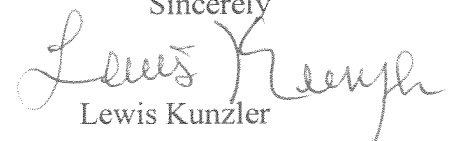


To who it may concern

My names is Lewis Kunzler and have served with Robert Bales from 2005 to 2011. I first met Bob, when he transferred from Charlie Company 2nd Battalion 3rd Infantry Regiment to our Headquarters Company in 2nd battalion 3rd Infantry Regiment, after my first deployment. I was also new to the company just transferring from our Bravo Company to Headquarters working in our ammunition section. Bob at the time, had just transfers as I said from Charlie to Headquarters working in the scout platoon section. Our paths cross quite frequently and we became friends. I always remember Bob having a smile and telling a dirty joke or two, like most infantrymen do from time to time to past boredom of not training. When it came to work Bob was probably the most professional guy I have ever met. He was in charger of the brigade shooting team training I ran his ammo point for him. I worked with him directly for quite awhile during that time and saw how well he coordinated not only the range he ran but also everyone on it. After that I found myself going to Bob a lot, asking for advice on not just matters of the Army, but my personal life as well. He always seem to be smiling, and when I was in distress even though he didn't have to he would always ask if I was ok and if there was anything he could do to help. Later as time passed, and I transferred out of Headquarters back to Bravo Company. I saw less of Bob, but when I would see him, he would always stop whatever he was doing at talk with me for at least five minutes asking me how I was and how life was going. As a senior enlisted solider most people wouldn't make the time to do that, not Bob he would always make time for you, and I think that's what I admired the most about the guy. In the Army it's the job of the Platoon Sargent to care about his soldiers and that's true from every leadership position. In most cases it feels like most do it because they have to and it becomes burdensome to them. I never felt that way when I was around Bob, I truly felt that he honestly cared about what I had to say and how I felt. Which made you like the guy even more, because even when you were having less than a good day, he would come by crack a joke and that particular problem didn't seem so important anymore. In closing Bob is a friend, and while some people might want to distance them selves from him I won't. When I was approached to help, I jumped at the chance Bob helped me so I feel like it's a privilege and honor to help him in anyway I can.

Sincerely


Lewis Kunzler