

Transcript of "I'm a Warrior, Not a Bureaucrat - Nov 1, 2012.mp3" - Voice recording, by K. M. Blanchard

For content extraction and inclusion in "Warfighter" manuscript, by K. M. Blanchard

Transcribed by: K. M. Blanchard

Completed: Sunday, February 9, 2014 - 9:18 pm PST.

Pages: 4

Words: 1,690

Aprox: 155 spoken WPM

---- Begin Audio Recording ---

[Kristan]

Thursday November 1, 2012 - 8:04 pm, my home in Oregon.

I wanted to bring up some recollections, some comments that were made to me even before I joined the [United States] Marine Corps in 2005. Actually before I had left, I was already in the DEP (Delayed Entry Program) program.

I had some people I worked with, most of all who... who's general...indication of the war and what I was going to go do was that I am a young kid, I got a bright future in front of me, I'm just out of high school, or maybe I'm still in high school. Okay I come from a medium family, I am not wealthy, but I am not dirt poor, I got what I need to have, okay, I can have a reasonably successful future, okay. And my dumb ass is going to go off to this war for a president we don't like, for a war we don't need. An die. And I'm going to become a little victim.

Well I kind of told them then and I kind of tell them now, fuck you. I have a pulse. I am back. Thank you very much! Now beyond that, the more intelligent objections people had, other than "you're just going to go die a victim", was that a few people - of different ages honestly, I had a kid in high school ask me this, also had a teacher, and I had an older person at Walmart when I worked there, all three the same point. They said it differently.

But basically, how can you go over there, and take orders when you're under mortal danger, by these people you don't even agree with, by this president that you don't like or I don't like, or... how are you going to allow these politicians with their fingers vicariously wrapped around the triggers... to use you, who's fingers are quite literarily wrapped around the trigger... to go and do their bidding?

How are you going to go do that? Honestly, I didn't have the same answer I kind of have now. I kind of did, the same philosophy, the same ideas, but it wasn't nearly as developed and articulated.

[long pause]

I'll sum it up, I'll explain it, but right now I'll sum it up. I'm a warrior, not a bureaucrat!

[Time: 2:02]

I will never be more than a warrior, I will never be a bureaucrat, I was born a warrior, and I'll die a warrior. It isn't just about what I do, it's about what I am, it's how my brain works, it's how my body works, it's how I see things, it's what I perceive.

When President Obama was actually put into office in November of 2008, I didn't vote. In fact I was on an eight day mission with my unit out in the middle of the desert trying to find the last remaining air force pilot from desert storm. I came back from that mission and all-of-a-sudden Obama was president.

Does that change my life? No, not a bit! Hello, I'm still over there, I don't give a shit who's President, I'm still boots-on-deck. Me and my Marines, all of us. Doesn't change anything, you think my orders the next day change? No. Now heres an idea, a concept I would like to submit to you, I just finished watching the "Ides of March" last night. Its a very good movie, if you haven't seen it, it's a very good.... political... thriller type of a movie. All about presidential elections, so on and so forth. It's not tied to our own presidential elections, just the idea in general. I would submit to you that war, and the process of fighting a war - being a combatant in a war... take that idea and compare it to the process of being a politician, or a bureaucrat, running for an office. governing a country, governing a state, governing a territory.

Politics, in all of its shapes and forms, is about mass manipulation of people and their categories their interests, rather it be institutions, businesses, corporations, groups, whatever. People... its the mass manipulation of people, for a specific intent. To control them. And you seek to control them to get a certain result.

[Time: 4:00]

Protect them, feed them, tax them. Um, move them, just like a sheep, from one pasture to another.. pasture. That is the core essence of all things political, mass manipulation is not exactly the seeking of truth, and each politician and each person is part of a larger body, of congress, or of the cabinet, or of the senate, or of the who ever, a larger group. And self... revelation... or self confession, bringing forth one person's personal actions, that put them outside of that organization, does not help that organization at all, it brings that organization down.

War is much the same. Being a Warfighter, being a combatant, engaging in the act of war, is also about mass manipulation of people. To exert control over them, you need a degree of control, as a means to an end. Rather it be to take their oil from them, rather it be to interrogate them and gain money, gain resources, gain votes, gain land. To defend, rather it be to control them in an effort to keep them the hell away from you - it is always a means to an end. It is mass control of people.

[Time: 5:29]

The difference from a Warfighter, from a warrior, and a bureaucrat, is not what essentially what we do, its who we are manipulating, what tools we are using to manipulate them, and to what end.

Well obviously in the food chain, as we traditionally think, the politician is the puppet master, and the warrior is the puppet. I would submit to you that there are situations in life and in history where thats not exactly the case. But by-and-large, it is, we will accept that.

So when I say I am a warrior, but nature I understand... what cohesion... unit integrity, and discipline, and what following orders means. I also understand what doing, or not doing those things, or not having those qualities, also means.

I have a very real appreciation for that. No - this is slightly off the topic - but no I do not think that "just following orders" is necessarily a valid excuse, or a reason for doing heinous crimes. But that is a much deeper subject, it is not simple.

Now, how can I go out and be the puppet, for these puppet masters, that always change... that always change and the slither and they slide, they change face like sales people? How can I be their puppet?

The answer is because I am a warrior, by default, by nature. The people who I choose to manipulate, control, exert force on, and ultimately gain a means to an end are the people outside of my country, outside of my culture. The people the politician chooses to manipulate, control, exert force over, and gain a means to an end, is his own blood, his own brothers and sisters, his mom and his dad, his countrymen, his nieces and nephews, his neighborhood, his state, his region.

I simply choose to exert that manipulative control over another body of people that is not my own. And I do so generally believing... that my intent for why I do that, my personal reasons for why I would put my hand in the air and take that oath to defend this country against enemies, both foreign and domestic, all enemies, is because my, overall mission, and personal beliefs coincides enough with the master-manipulating bureaucrats, and the end result is going to... make both of us happy.

[Time: 8:23]

It's not that I agree with Obama, or that I agree with Romney, or rather I agree with Bush, or who the hell ever, it's that I can supersede, I can go past that, I can go past my own personal quarrels and connections to bureaucrats. I can put myself farther out there, and take orders and give orders because I by nature, I am organically, and I will always be a warrior, and not a bureaucrat, and that is okay.

Because there are those that exist that will always be a bureaucrat, and never a warrior. And there are those that exist that are both. Right off the top of my head: Army Retired General David Petraeus, currently the director of the CIA. I know just a tiny bit about him. I know he got promoted like crazy during the last ten years of the war. He is a General. High general, in the Army. And thus he is by nature bureaucratic, there is no way to play at that level and not be dirty, or not be political, not be bureaucratic, whatever you want to call it. He's got those kinds of responsibilities. Well he is also a combat General. One of the only, one of the few... types of military leaders, a ground background.

To my knowledge, he was actually shot once, but only in training by another soldier. Take that for what you will.

But he, none-the-less, is still a warrior, and a bureaucrat, so it's possible. But that will never be me.

[Time: 10:02]

That is the difference between... a warrior and a bureaucrat, and that is how a warrior can go out and do the bureaucrat's bidding. Without agreeing with the bureaucrat, or disagreeing with the bureaucrat.

That is, as best as I can explain the insight - my thoughts and my feelings about it. It is very possible that people on the outside of this realm, outside of this circle, perhaps the very people posing these questions to me, both before and after my service, simply don't possess what it takes to understand, or agree, with, this philosophy. And I understand that, and I accept that as well.

[long pause]

But, I am a warrior, not a bureaucrat.

--End voice recording.--