Topic: My Uncle in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Abstract: After the U.S. government realized Iraq had weapons of mass destruction my uncle was called to be part of the Operation Iraqi Freedom war in the Middle East. During his tour he saw many things that were shocking and sad. At the same time the national security rose due to the September eleven attack and many other struggles.

Key Terms: War, Iraq, al Qaeda, troops, attack, 9/11, terrorist, weapons, America, government, uncle, petroleum

After the 9/11 incident of the World Trade Center buildings being attacked and destroyed we increased our national security, which our citizens and government were raged. Congress thought it would be best to send our troops and suppress the enemy activity for every ones safety and our country. From that, in comes my uncle he was a sergeant first class in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

It all began after 9/11 with the terrorist attacks and after government deciding on sending our troops overseas. My uncle finally got his call and was told to return to gather his squad. He had been in the service for eighteen years before all this and was out for a while due to medical purposes. We all gathered and said our good-byes to him as he was leaving. When he arrived the Baghdad, Iraq it was like a whole new world. It was nothing but desert, dry, and really hot. He would show us pictures of camels wandering on the sides of the road like it was no big deal. The people there were also nice but he knew he was there for a specific reason. Even though he had all his friends were like family he knew it could take a while for him to return. Every now and then he would send everyone little things from there along with letters on how he has been doing.

His main mission was to counter attack terrorist information and locate al Qaeda members. Even though a lot of the people in Iraqi villages are poor, a lot of the powerful al
 Qaeda leaders had cars, houses, and other miscellaneous things covered in pure gold. In one of the searches they did for Saddam Hussein, he was amazed at how wealthy he was and the size of his compound covered in gold. All of it was different but it all had its dark side. The compound was empty and Saddam Hussein was not present but it was surrounded with al Qaeda terrorist. By this time my uncle had already served a little more than a year overseas, but lucky he came back for a couple's days just enough for thanksgiving. After the vacation it was back to Iraq but while he was here he seemed a little quieter than usual nobody knew why and he didn’t want to say. He couldn’t say much on what he was suppose to do or a lot of missions he when on but he was able to bring back some pictures of him with some buddies next to their humvies.

There was a whole lot of danger while patrolling like snipers, al Qaeda soldiers, and the heat, but one major enemy for the soldiers patrolling were the explosives underground that would detonate once the vehicles would drive over them. My uncle lost many of his friends like that and luckily he was not harmed by one. Some were not as fortunate and were seriously injured from the explosions. At the same time with the news media people at home were able to see what was going on and many didn’t like that we losing loved ones due to the war. We were even able to see the people here with their signs up on San Benito and Fourth St. We wanted our troops home but government would say we weren’t ready and there is still much more that needs to be done for our own safety. And so, my uncle had to stay another year.

He was not able to stay in Iraq as long as he needed to. He became really sick and had a blood clot in his leg which could have been deadly. Once he returned he was able to retire and
stay home but not all was well. It was tough for him to adjust back to his old ways her soon became mentally ill and was put into a mental institute for about a month. He was not able to control himself if he came in contact with people from the Middle East.

Today we still have the problem of having troops overseas even though people don’t see why they need to be over there. With President Obama the troops are slowly starting to return but he is going to leave billions of dollars worth of military equipment to the Iraqis.

The United States invaded Iraq even though it was illegal according to the United Nations Charter, but the majority of the American people and government thought it was best to go to war for the nation’s security. It was said that the Iraqis had a collection of weapons of mass destruction, even though many claimed that no such evidence was ever found. With that it was confusing that we would go into the Middle-East and not with North Korea. It’s thought that the Bush Administration went in for petroleum. And at this time the gas prices started to rise drastically.

The rise of gas prices hurt a whole lot of people. It made it more expensive to travel and have the huge SUVs hogging up all the gas and spending hundreds of dollars that could have been used for other activities. Many families had to struggle even more with the rise of gas and the beginning of the recession. The war was a fight for the troops overseas and families here in the states trying to make a living here without their loved ones. When my uncle was gone my aunt was left alone for almost three years with my four cousins growing up. It was not easy for
her, at times she would have my grandmother travel from here to Bakersfield just to help and take care of my cousins while she left to go to work.

It’s hard to really know why we really why troops were sent overseas and why we were attacked, but good thing everything turned out well for my uncle. The United States still seems to be in a bit of a economic dip but hopefully everything will be okay and so we can be happy and safe.