

Surprise Attack

Sudden sounds

Like corn popping
Zings whistle past your ears
Dings of lead against metal
Thuds against fabric and flesh
Explosions and fires
Flying debris, and body parts
Buddies cry out

Focus on the immediate

No time for fear, only actions
Some automatic, others deliberate

Teamwork essential

but sporadic

Communication crucial

but intermittent

Friends Fallen

No soldier left behind

No soldier left behind

Yields more friends fallen

Interruptions

Frustrations

Impediments

Failures

Acrid smells

Smolder, Smoke

Dust, Diesel, Death

Devastation, Defeat

Survival

More bitter than sweet

---Lee B. Savidge

Note: Inspired by Dr. James D. Johnson's readings on February 20, 2013 at Syracuse University, from his book *Combat Trauma*, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc.