

Brandon Neely—Arrival of the First Prisoners

We were just kind of hanging out at the camp, because we knew January 11th, that day, all the detainees would be arriving. We were just at the camp, I happened to be in first group of people working at Camp X-Ray. I was doing escorting duties and they came on the radio. Was, "Plane landed." Then it came on the radio, "Five minutes out." They came back on the radio, "Thirty seconds out." You could see a bus coming, and there was a Humvee in front of the bus with marines and a .50 Cal. mounted, and a Humvee in the back with a .50 Cal. mounted. And the bus pulls into Camp X-Ray and you could hear the marines just yelling and screaming at the detainees on the bus. Then the door just opens, and they start just throwing detainees off. I happened to be the 2nd guy in line doing the escort. Like the first guy that came off the bus, he came off, and the escort team grabbed him, and they were just yelling at him to get to the holding cage. And he was hopping, and the marine just threw his, he was missing a leg, and marines just threw his prosthetic leg on the ground.

Interviewer: What were you thinking when you saw that?

Just really just kinda taking it all in. I had never seen nothing like that, and here I was 21 years old, 20, 21 years old and just kinda doing what I was told to do. Then the 2nd detainee came off, and took control of them, then yelled and screamed at them, put them down and hold them there, on their knees. They were all blindfolded and had the leg shackles and the handcuffs on, and ear muffs on. We just did the whole process until they were all off the bus.

Interviewer: Did the military tell you that you should yell and scream at them? Or that was just part of what was going on?

It was just part of what was going on. They said keep the pressure up because, like, they had the K-9 units there too, and they had the dogs barking. So it was just, it was loud, it was chaotic, it was kind of... you know, before the bus ever pulled up, you know, everybody was quiet, you could literally hear a pin drop in the whole camp. And then when the bus pulled up, it was just loud, it was all chaos.



Interviewer: So everybody was screaming and yelling, the dogs were barking.

Oh yeah, it was quite loud.

Interviewer: And what were the detainees, the men doing? Did they respond back? Or were they just being totally passive? Do you remember what these...?

Most of them were just going with the flow. I can remember one detainee was just, just like, sobbing, just crying. And, you know, they put him in the holding cell and they had to be yelling and screaming at him, telling him to shut up. But most of them just, they were probably so tired from the plane ride that they were just going with the flow.