

**PRESENTATION FOR: PRE-RAMADAN SYMPOSIUM**

**SPONSORED BY: FORT BRAGG MUSLIM  
COMMUNITY**

**THEME: “STATE OF ISLAM AND THE  
RESPONSIBILITIES OF MUSLIM  
SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS”**

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**ON: April 6, 2019**

**(KHUTBAHTUL HAAJAH)**

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ،  
وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا.  
مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ.  
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

ALL PRAISES ARE DUE TO ALLAH. WE PRAISE HIM, AND SEEK HIS HELP, AND ASK FOR HIS FORGIVENESS. WE SEEK REFUGE IN ALLAH FROM THE EVIL IN OUR OWN SOULS AND FROM OUR OWN SINFUL DEEDS. WHOEVER ALLAH GUIDES, NO ONE CAN MISLEAD. AND WHOEVER ALLAH LEAVES MISGUIDED, NO ONE CAN GUIDE. I BEAR WITNESS THAT THERE IS NO ONE WORTHY OF WORSHIP EXCEPT ALLAH. HE IS ONE, HAVING NO PARTNER. AND I BEAR WITNESS THAT MUHAMMAD IS HIS SERVANT AND MESSENGER.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ  
وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

O BELIEVERS, HAVE TAQWA (FEAR – AWARENESS – CONSCIOUSNESS) OF ALLAH ACCORDING TO WHAT IS HIS RIGHT AND DO NOT DIE EXCEPT IN A STATE OF SUBMISSION TO HIM.

**SO HERE WE ARE. YOU WONDERING HOW I GOT TO BE YOUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER TODAY --- AND ME WONDERING --- HOW I GOT TO BE YOUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER TODAY.**

**WHY IN THE WORLD WOULD A RETIRED AIR FORCE CMSGT BE ASKED TO SPEAK AT A SYMPOSIUM FOR ARMY SOLDIERS?**

**NO. SERIOUSLY --- WHY? PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE THE 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup>, 5<sup>TH</sup>, 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup>, 8<sup>TH</sup>, AND 9<sup>TH</sup> CHOICES WEREN'T AVAILABLE. SO, I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR BEING YOUR 10<sup>TH</sup> CHOICE.**

**BUT I DO HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE AT PUBLIC SPEAKING. I SPEAK TO THE CASHIERS AT WALMART ON A REGULAR BASIS, AND I HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO WALK UP AND START CONVERSATIONS WITH RANDOM PEOPLE AT THE MALL.**

**BUT SERIOUSLY, I AM AWARE OF THE FOUR "Ss" OF PUBLIC SPEAKING: STAND UP, SPEAK UP, SHUT UP, AND SIT DOWN. AND I HOPE TO DO AT LEAST THE FIRST TWO OF THOSE TODAY BEFORE I'M ASKED TO DO THE SECOND TWO.**

**TWO OTHER ASPECTS OF PUBLIC SPEAKING ARE TO KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE, AND TO OPEN WITH A JOKE**

**OK. I'M AIR FORCE RETIRED. SO I'M USED TO SPEAKING FOR AIR FORCE AUDIENCES. AND, KNOWING THOSE AUDIENCES WELL, MY OPENING JOKES WERE ALWAYS ABOUT THE ARMY. NOT SURE THAT'S GOING TO WORK HERE. LIKE, WHEN I WOULD TELL THEM THAT THE ARMY PAID IT'S PEOPLE AN EXTRA \$60 A MONTH TO JUMP OUT OF A PERFECTLY GOOD AIRPLANE AND THE AIR FORCE PAID IT'S PEOPLE AN EXTRA \$90 A MONTH TO STAY IN THAT SAME AIRPLANE --- THEY LOVED IT --- BUT I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T USE THAT ONE HERE. OR WHEN I ASKED HOW MANY SOLDIERS DOES IT TAKE TO SCREW IN A LIGHT BULB? --- ONLY TWO: ONE TO HOLD THE BULB AND ONE TO OPERATE THE TANK TO TURN HIM AROUND. THEY JUST LOVED THAT. AND OF COURSE THE FOLLOW UP WAS HOW MANY AIRMEN DOES IT TAKE TO SCREW IN A LIGHT BULB? --- NONE: WE DO OUTSOURCE CONTRACTS FOR THAT SORT OF THING. SO, I JUST DON'T KNOW IF I CAN THINK OF A GOOD OPENING JOKE FOR THIS PARTICULAR AUDIENCE. SO, SOMETIMES IF YOU CAN'T FIT A JOKE WITH THE AUDIENCE: MAYBE USE A STORY TO OPEN UP. SO, A LONG, LONG, LONG, LONG TIME AGO --- WHEN I WAS A YOUNG E-4 AIRMAN I FOUND MYSELF IN SELF DEFENSE TRAINING WITH A YOUNG E-4 SOLDIER. AND AS WE CAME TO THE**

**CONCLUSION OF OUR TRAINING, OUR SENSEI DID THE STANDARD TEST OF ASKING US TO SNATCH A PEBBLE FROM HIS HAND. AND OF COURSE AT FIRST, TRY AS WE MAY, NEITHER ONE OF US COULD DO IT. AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS, FINALLY, I SUCCEEDED IN SNATCHING THE PEBBLE FROM HIS HAND. BUT MY ARMY COUNTERPART KEPT COMING UP SHORT. AFTER SEVERAL MORE WEEKS THE SENSEI FINALLY SAID OKAY, SOLDIER --- LET ME PLACE THE PEBBLE IN YOUR OWN LEFT HAND AND IF YOU CAN SNATCH IT OUT OF YOUR OWN HAND YOU PASS AND YOU CAN GET OUT OF HERE. SO, HE PLACED THE PEBBLE IN THE SOLDIER'S LEFT HAND, AND HE RAISED HIS RIGHT HAND EVER SO SLOWLY AND STRUCK! --- BUT HIS LEFT HAND CLOSED BEFORE HE COULD SNATCH IT. I LEFT HIM THERE STILL TRYING. AND MONTHS LATER I HEARD HE WAS STILL TRYING. BUT HE NEVER GAVE UP! HE NEVER STOPPED TRYING TO GET THAT PEBBLE.**

**NOW OVER THE YEARS I'VE ENJOYED THE FRIENDLY TEASING WE DO BETWEEN THE AIR FORCE AND ARMY, AND I'VE CONSIDERED MYSELF AS COMING OUT ON TOP MOST OF THE TIME. BUT I THINK I MIGHT BE SLIPPING. BECAUSE TODAY I'M HERE AS YOUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT A PRE-RAMADAN SYMPOSIUM, HAVING BEEN ASKED TO SPEAK ON THE TOPIC: STATE OF ISLAM AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF MUSLIM SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS. AND I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE HOW THIS**

**HAPPENED. AS THE BLIND MAN SAID: "I SEE", BUT HE DIDN'T. HE NEVER SAW IT COMING. I REMEMBER COMMAND SGT MAJOR (RET) MUSTAPHA TELLING ME ABOUT THIS PROGRAM SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, AND I SAID: "OH THAT SOUNDS NICE." THEN ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO HE SAID: "CHIEF, IT WOULD REALLY BE NICE IF YOU COULD ATTEND." AND I SAID: "OK, THAT SOUNDS NICE." THEN LAST WEEK HE SAID: "DAVID (NOW WE'RE ON A FIRST NAME BASIS), I THINK THE TROOPS WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE IF YOU WOULD JUST SAY A COUPLE OF WORDS DURING OUR EVENT. AND I SAID: "OH, WELL, OKAY, I GUESS I CAN DO THAT." THEN THIS WEEK COMMAND SGT MAJOR CONTACTED ME AND SAID: "HEY DAVE" --- NOW NOBODY CALLS ME DAVE --- EVEN MY MAMA AND MY WIFE CALL ME CHIEF DAVID. BUT NOBODY CALLS ME DAVE. SO I KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP. BUT I STILL DIDN'T SEE IT COMING. SO I SAID: "YES COMMAND SGT MAJOR?" AND HE SAID TO ME: "YO, DAVE IF I SEND YOU THE FLYER FOR OUR EVENT, WILL YOU POST IT IN THE MASJID"? AND I SAID: "SURE, NO PROBLEM". AND HE SAID: "GOOD, BECAUSE IT'S ALREADY BEEN DISTRIBUTED EVERYWHERE ELSE." SO, IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN I WENT TO POST THE FLYER TWO DAYS AGO AND FOUND OUT THAT I WAS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER. NICELY PLAYED SGT MAJOR. NICELY PLAYED!**

**SO, SINCE IT WAS SHORT NOTICE AND I AM THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER, I DECIDED THAT: THE STATE OF ISLAM AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF MUSLIM SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS IS TOO BROAD OF A TOPIC. THEREFORE, I JUST LOOKED AT IT AS A SUGGESTION. INSTEAD I THINK I'D LIKE TO NARROW IT DOWN TO ADDRESS TWO COMMON MYTHS AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS:**

**FIRST: THAT ISLAM IS FOREIGN TO, AND INCOMPATIBLE WITH, CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF AMERICAN SOCIETY, AND**

**SECOND: THAT FASTING IN RAMADAN NEGATIVELY IMPACTS THE MISSION BY WEAKENING MUSLIM SOLDIERS.**

**ISLAM AS FOREIGN: ALTHOUGH WE COULD CERTAINLY GO BACK FURTHER, LET'S START IN 1776. THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. THE FLEDGLING LITTLE AMERICAN SOCIETY STANDING UP AGAINST THE MIGHTY BRITISH WORLD EMPIRE. NO FRIENDS BY ITS SIDE. EVEN WHO WE GENERALLY CALL OUR OLDEST FRIEND AND ALLY --- FRANCE --- HAD NOT YET STEPPED UP TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR QUEST FOR INDEPENDENCE. BUT ONE OTHER NATION DID. ONE OTHER NATION AGAINST THE BRITISH EMPIRE STOOD UP AND SAID WE STAND WITH AMERICA AND WE RECOGNIZE HER AS AN INDEPENDENT SOVEREIGN NATION: MOROCCO. IN**

**DECEMBER 1777, AFTER ALMOST A YEAR AND A HALF OF STANDING BY THEMSELVES, THE ISLAMIC NATION OF MOROCCO, BY ITS LEADER, SULTAN MUHAMMAD III, BECAME THE FIRST NATION TO OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE THE UNITED STATES AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION. NOT FRANCE. MOROCCO. AND THEY DEPLOYED SHIPS TO HELP THE UNITED STATES IN ITS QUEST FOR INDEPENDENCE. THIS FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE MUSLIMS AND AMERICA WAS LATER FORMALIZED BY THE MOROCCAN-AMERICAN TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH WAS NEGOTIATED BY THOMAS BARCLAY, AND SIGNED BY: THOMAS JEFFERSON, JOHN ADAMS, AND MUHAMMAD III IN 1786. AND THIS TREATY IS STILL CURRENT TODAY --- MAKING IT THE LONGEST UNBROKEN TREATY RELATIONSHIP IN UNITED STATES HISTORY.**

**EVEN DURING THE CIVIL WAR IT REMAINED IN EFFECT WHEN IN 1863 THE THEN KING OF MOROCCO SIGNED AN ORDER WHICH STATES IN PART: "THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA ARE FIGHTING THE GOVERNMENT WITH WHOM WE ARE IN FRIENDSHIP AND GOOD RELATIONS --- IF ANY VESSEL OF THE SO-CALLED CONFEDERATE STATES ENTER YOUR PORT, IT SHALL NOT BE RECEIVED, BUT YOU MUST ORDER IT AWAY ON PAIN OF SEIZURE, AND YOU ACT ON THIS SUBJECT IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES."**



**THIS RELATIONSHIP CONTINUED THROUGH THE FIRST WORLD WAR. AND EXCEPT FOR A SHORT PERIOD WHEN IT WAS A FRENCH COLONY AND FRANCE WAS UNDER GERMAN CONTROL, MOROCCO WAS ALWAYS A PARTNER WITH AMERICA AND ENDED THE SECOND WORLD WAR AS SUCH.**

**HOWEVER, IT'S NOT JUST OUTSIDE PARTNERSHIPS WITH ISLAMIC NATIONS THAT BINDS AMERICA TO ISLAM. IT'S NOT JUST THE FACT THAT THOMAS JEFFERSON HIMSELF SIGNED THE MOROCCAN-AMERICAN TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP. NO. BEFORE ANY OF THAT HAPPENED --- BEFORE THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES --- BEFORE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE --- IN 1765 --- THOMAS JEFFERSON PURCHASED A COPY OF THE QURAN WHILE HE WAS IN LAW SCHOOL. AND, ACCORDING TO DENISE A. SPELLBERG, A HISTORY PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, AND AUTHOR OF: THOMAS JEFFERSON'S QURAN: ISLAM AND THE FOUNDERS, JEFFERSON PURCHASED HIS QURAN BECAUSE HE THOUGHT OF IT AS A BOOK OF LAWS AND HE HOPED IT WOULD HELP HIM BETTER UNDERSTAND THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE AND NORTH AFRICA. SHE ALSO POINTS OUT THAT IT PROBABLY INFLUENCED HIS ORIGINAL INTENTION FOR THE VIRGINIA STATUTE OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, WHICH WAS ITSELF LATER USED TO DRAFT THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION THAT**

**PROTECTS THE RIGHT TO WORSHIP. IN FACT, IN HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY JEFFERSON SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT HE WANTED TO PROTECT THE RIGHT TO WORSHIP FOR: “THE JEW AND THE GENTILE, THE CHRISTIAN AND MAHOMETAN (SIC), THE HINDOO, AND INFIDEL OF EVERY DENOMINATION.”**

**JEFFERSON’S QURAN BECAME A PART OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS WHEN HIS LIBRARY WAS PURCHASED TO HELP REPLACE THE BOOKS THAT WERE BURNED BY THE BRITISH DURING THE WAR OF 1812. IT BECAME A MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST AGAIN IN 2007 WHEN THE FIRST MUSLIM ELECTED TO CONGRESS: KEITH ELLISON, USED IT FOR HIS PRIVATE OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY. IT AGAIN MADE HEADLINES THIS YEAR WHEN REPRESENTATIVE RASHIDA TLAIB ANNOUNCED THAT SHE WOULD USE IT FOR HER CEREMONY. ALTHOUGH SHE ULTIMATELY DECIDED TO USE HER OWN QURAN, THE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE QURAN AND ISLAM CAUSED HER TO BE DEMONIZED AND HIGHLIGHTS THE LONG AND COMPLICATED HISTORY OF ISLAM IN AMERICA. YET, TO SAY THAT ISLAM IS FOREIGN TO, AND INCOMPATIBLE WITH, CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF AMERICAN SOCIETY IGNORES THE KEY ROLE THAT ISLAM HAS PLAYED IN THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY AND AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW.**

**NOT ONLY WAS JEFFERSON A KEY FIGURE IN BRINGING ISLAM INTO AMERICAN TREATIES AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, HE WAS ALSO THE FIRST U.S. PRESIDENT TO HOST A RAMADAN IFTAR. IN 1805, THE MONTH OF RAMADAN FELL IN DECEMBER. SIDI SOLIMAN MELLIMELLI, A TUNISIAN STATESMAN, WAS SPENDING SIX MONTHS IN THE UNITED STATES ON A DIPLOMATIC MISSION AND WAS OBSERVING HIS FAST. ON DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, JEFFERSON'S SECRETARY VISITED MELLIMELLI TO INVITE HIM TO A 3:30 DINNER WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE WAS PRAYING ON HIS MAT WHEN THE SECRETARY ARRIVED. WHEN HE FINISHED, HE ROSE AND INFORMED HIM THAT BECAUSE IT WAS RAMADAN HE COULD NOT EAT UNTIL AFTER SUNSET. WHEN INFORMED OF THIS, PRESIDENT JEFFERSON ORDERED THE MEAL TO BE DELAYED FOR 90 MINUTES TO ACCOMMODATE HIS MUSLIM GUEST. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, WHO ALSO ATTENDED, NOTED THIS IN HIS RECORDS --- A RECOGNITION THAT JEFFERSON AND HIS PEERS RESPECTED AND VALUED MELLIMELLI'S RELIGIOUS PRACTICE, AND WOULD DO WHATEVER THEY COULD TO ACCOMMODATE HIM, AND HIS ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS PRACTICES.**

**WHICH BRINGS US TO THE SECOND MYTH: THAT FASTING IN RAMADAN NEGATIVELY IMPACTS THE MISSION BY WEAKENING MUSLIM SOLDIERS.**

**FOR A MILITARY FIGHTING FORCE, THE MISSION HAS TO BE THE TOP PRIORITY. AND ANYTHING THAT NEGATIVELY IMPACTS THAT MISSION HAS TO BE ADDRESSED AND MINIMIZED. SO, WHEN SOMEONE TAKES THE POSITION THAT MUSLIM SOLDIERS FASTING IN RAMADAN NEGATIVELY IMPACTS THE MISSION, IT MUST BE ADDRESSED. IF WE LOOK AT THE SLOGANS FOR THE U.S. ARMY OVER THE YEARS IT GIVES US SOME INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SOLDIER READINESS:**

**WORLD WAR I: I WANT YOU FOR THE U.S. ARMY**

**1950s – 1971: LOOK SHARP, BE SHARP, GO ARMY**

**1971--1980: TODAY'S ARMY WANTS TO JOIN YOU (CREEPY?)**

**1980 – 2001: BE ALL YOU CAN BE**

**2001 – 2006: ARMY OF ONE (MAYBE A LITTLE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE)**

**2006 – 2018: ARMY STRONG!**

**2018 – PRESENT: WARRIORS WANTED!**

**ARMY STRONG/WARRIORS WANTED. SO, WEAK MUSLIM SOLDIERS WOULD BE COUNTER TO A STRONG ARMY --- COUNTER TO THE WARRIORS THAT ARE WANTED, AND WOULD BE COUNTER TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE MISSION. AND, IF FASTING DURING RAMADAN IN FACT CAUSES THAT --- IF TRUE, THIS WOULD BE A BAD THING --- IF TRUE. BUT IT'S NOT TRUE!**

## WHAT DOES THE QURAN SAY TO US ABOUT THIS FAST?

Al-Baqara (The Cow) - 2:183 [read in context]

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ  
كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ  
لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

(2:183)

- O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that ye may (learn) self-restraint,- - 2:183 (Y. Ali)

THE PURPOSE OF THIS RAMADAN FAST IS TO HELP THE MUSLIM LEARN SELF RESTRAINT (TATAQUUN). BUT IT'S MORE COMPREHENSIVE THAN THAT.

YES IT DOES MEAN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONAL SELF RESTRAINT. BUT THE ROOT OF THE WORD:

WA QA YA: MEANS TO PROTECT, SAVE, PRESERVE, WARD OFF, GUARD AGAINST EVIL AND CALAMITY, BE SECURE, TAKE AS A SHIELD, AND TO BE REGARDFUL OF ONE'S DUTIES

IN VARIOUS FORMS, THE WORD CAN BE USED AS A NOUN, VERB, OR ADJECTIVE AND APPEARS IN MANY PLACES THROUGHOUT THE QURAN SUCH AS:

MUTTAQII: WHICH MEANS ONE WHO GUARDS AGAINST EVIL AND AGAINST THAT WHICH HARMS AND INJURES, AND **WHO IS REGARDFUL OF HIS DUTIES TOWARDS HUMAN BEINGS AND GOD.**

WAQAA: HE PROTECTED

TAQII: SHE PROTECTS

TAQI: YOU PROTECT

WAAQUN: A PROTECTOR

ITTAQAA: ONE WHO GUARDS AGAINST EVIL AND **WHO KEEPS HIS DUTY**

YATTAQUU: THEY GUARD AGAINST EVILS AND CALAMITIES

MUTTAQUUN: **THE MOST DUTIFUL** AT GUARDING AGAINST EVILS

TAQWAA: PROTECTION; WARDING OFF EVIL; **OBSERVING YOUR DUTY**; OBSERVING THE DIVINE ORDINANCES **IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE**

SO, UNDERSTANDING THE UNDERLYING PURPOSES OF FASTING IN RAMADAN, CONTRARY TO IT

NEGATIVELY IMPACTING THE MISSION BY WEAKENING THE MUSLIM SOLDIER, IT INSTEAD STRENGTHENS THE MUSLIM SOLDIER TO BE A BETTER MORE DEVOTED AND DUTIFUL SOLDIER --- A SOLDIER WHO DEMONSTRATES THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO DUTY. CAN YOU IMAGINE THE PERSONAL CONVICTION IT TAKES TO DENY YOURSELF SOMETHING THAT IT IS LAWFUL FOR YOU TO DO BECAUSE YOUR DUTY DEMANDS IT OF YOU? CAN YOU IMAGINE THE STRENGTH OF CHARACTER IT TAKES TO DENY YOURSELF A SIP OF WATER WHEN OTHERS ARE DRINKING ALL AROUND YOU? CAN YOU IMAGINE THE DEPTH OF STRENGTH IT TAKES TO DENY YOURSELF A MORSEL OF FOOD IN THE FACE OF THOSE WHO WOULD TEASE AND TORMENT YOU FOR HAVING SUCH CONVICTIONS? THIS IS NOT A WEAK SOLDIER! THIS IS AN ARMY STRONG SOLDIER! THESE ARE WARRIORS WANTED SOLDIERS! THESE ARE MISSION ENHANCEMENT SOLDIERS WHO CAN BE RELIED UPON TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES UNDER THE MOST DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

IF THIS WERE A PART OF SPECIAL FORCES TRAINING IT WOULD BE ENCOURAGED NOT DISCOURAGED. IF THIS WERE A PART OF SPECIAL FORCES TRAINING IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED DEVOTION TO DUTY NOT LACK OF DEVOTION TO IT. IF THIS WERE A PART OF SPECIAL FORCES TRAINING, IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED STRENGTH BUILDING NOT MISSION WEAKENING.

THE MUSLIM SOLDIER WHO COMPLETES THE RIGOROUS TRAINING OF FASTING THE ENTIRE MONTH OF RAMADAN SHOULD COME OUT OF HIS/HER FAST AS A BETTER MUSLIM THAN THEY WERE WHEN THEY STARTED. THE MUSLIM SOLDIER WHO COMPLETES THE RIGOROUS TRAINING OF FASTING THE ENTIRE MONTH OF RAMADAN SHOULD COME OUT OF HIS/HER FAST AS A BETTER SOLDIER THAN THEY WERE WHEN THEY STARTED. THEY SHOULD END RAMADAN MUSLIM STRONG, AND THEY SHOULD END RAMADAN ARMY STRONG! WARRIORS NOT JUST WANTED, BUT PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR DUTY!

NOW BEFORE I LEAVE I'D LIKE TO SHARE JUST ONE LAST THING WITH YOU. COMMAND SGT MAJOR MUSTAPHA COULD YOU PLEASE COME FORWARD?

NOW AT THE START OF MY PRESENTATION I RELATED THE STORY TO YOU ABOUT MYSELF AS THE AIR FORCE E4 WHO WAS ABLE TO SNATCH THE PEBBLE AND THE ARMY E4 WHO WAS NOT ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THAT TASK. THE ARMY E4 WAS YOUR COMMAND SGT MAJOR MUSTAPHA. AND EVERYTIME WE MEET OVER THE YEARS, I LIKE TO REMIND HIM ABOUT THIS EVENT BY SHOWING OFF MY PEBBLE WHICH I ALWAYS KEEP WITH ME IN MY POCKET (SEARCH FOR PEBBLE IN POCKETS).



(MUSTAPHA HOLDS UP PEBBLE AND SAYS: “IS THIS  
WHAT YOU’RE LOOKING FOR? ARMY STRONG.  
WARRIORS WANTED!”)

NICELY PLAYED COMMAND SGT MAJOR. NICELY  
PLAYED!