

I am Sergeant First Class Karl Pasco, a Wounded Warrior attached to the Fort Hood Warrior Transition Brigade. I'm a native of Columbus, Ohio, an "Army Brat" who grew up "all over the world" and calls San Antonio home.

I joined the Army in 1992, straight out of high school. In 1993, I came to Fort Hood, where I met my future wife, Joy. Married in 1996, we spent little time together in our first two years of marriage, as I deployed twice to Bosnia and once to Macedonia.

I am a 19-year career Soldier who has deployed twice to Iraq and has had the "bad luck, to have been in the wrong place at the right time, not once, but twice."

From 2000 to 2007, I served in the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry in the Scout and Mortar Platoons. It was on a mission early in my 2004 deployment to Baghdad that then Staff Sergeant I was injured by an improvised explosive device.

Out on a night patrol on 30 May 2004, I was riding in the front passenger seat of an up-armored Humvee when our vehicle ran over a 500-pound aircraft bomb converted into an IED. The blast killed my driver Specialist Charles Odums and severely injured my gunner SPC Jeffery Bugaj, and knocked me out. My right leg was shattered. My upper jaw was broken. I had three fractured vertebrae, ten broken ribs, and shrapnel wounds to my left arm. I awoke, to discover I at Walter Reed. After nine months of hard work recovering, I was able to return to my unit.

In October 2006, my unit deployed again to Iraq, this time near the violence-plagued Sadr City. Fourteen months into the deployment and having survived numerous close calls, I was on patrol when I was struck by a roadside bomb. This time, the blast tore through my upper arm and jaw. I have undergone numerous facial reconstruction surgeries, to repair my face, and have more to come.

Today, I am a Wounded Warrior serving with Fort Hood's Warrior Transition Brigade, where I participate in the Warrior Transition Brigade's Activities Section as the Donation coordinator, making sure that all gifts and donations are properly accounted for. I facilitate outings for other Wounded Warriors, such as fishing/ hunting trips and sporting events with area college and professional athletic teams.

I am a two-time Purple Heart recipient. My other awards include two Bronze Stars, a Meritorious Service Medal, three Army Commendation Medals, eight Army Achievement Medals and the Combat Action Badge.