

SSGT SHILO HARRIS, USA (RET.)

SSgt. Shilo Harris grew up in the small town of Coleman, TX where he started working at a very young age. His family owned a bait and tackle shop, and ran a car detail shop and tire service station.

After the September 11th attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, he felt it would be better if he was in the military to contribute to the freedom of his family, so he joined the US Cavalry. He wanted to go to combat. He had a great family legacy

of military service; his grandfather, his father, and his uncle had all served. Shilo knew he wanted to be a soldier too, so it was easy for him to accept the challenges of military life. He was a dismount/gunner/driver on a Bradley Fighting Vehicle. He was with 1st ID, 1-4 Cavalry out of Schweinfurt, Germany. They worked around Tikrit, Ad har, and Baquaba.

His second deployment was with the 10th Mountain Division, 1-89th Cavalry from Fort Drum, NY. They worked around Southern Baghdad, Yusifiyah, and the farming community in the area. The area was very dangerous with large IED holes every 20 to 50 meters on many roads. Every soldier he worked with feared for his or her life every day, but they pushed forward every mission. Most missions they conducted were route clearance, cache sweeps, and dismounted OP's. On a route most commonly known as Metallica, his platoon was conducting a route clearance when his truck was struck by an IED. The blast killed three of his friends, wounded the driver, and destroyed the truck.



Shilo was in a coma for 48 days. He does not remember much of the visitations, surgeries, or hospital care in general until he got over to the burn unit at Brooke Army Medical Center. When he was able to go outpatient, his wife and children had to do everything for him because he was unable to use his arms or hands. His wife had to unwrap his bandages to shower him, then re-wrap them – a process that took anywhere from 4 to 7 hours. He will never forget how miserable he was. He currently has most of his independence back. He is able to do almost everything for himself most days, but he does have times where he requests assistance from his wife Kathreyn. He and Kathreyn have 2 children and he has 2 boys from a previous marriage who are the center of his universe.

SSgt. Harris enjoyed his job in the military and would choose to stay if he felt he was fit for combat. He is looking forward to his medical retirement and wants to continue his college education.

