

Ben Cartwright Service Record

As told to Greg Galluzzi on 5/5/23 updated 4/21/26

1. 1989 to 1992 – Served US Marines
2. 1992 to 1995 – Provided Protection
 - a. (e.g. Austin Hells Angel protected from Banditos in Driskell)
3. 1995 to 1997 – Volunteered for 2nd Tour
4. 1997 to 2000 – Construction for Hilton Hotels
5. 2000 to 2002 – Protection (e.g. Matthew McConaughey the nicest)
6. 2003 to 2006 - Called Back for 3rd Tour

Attended Sniper School

- Passed Recon School – 2nd out of 100.

Joined Fleet Anti-Terror Group

- Member of FAST Fleet Anti-Terror Group
- Deployed to Panama twice for 4-months each. Rained all the time in the Panama jungle.
- Trained other sniper teams in guerilla warfare.
- Won 2 Medals while in Panama.

Deployed to Iraq

- Served on an aircraft carrier.
- In charge of guarding the Admiral of the carrier.
- Then deployed to Iraq where Ben spent 20 days in the oil fields – they were on fire, breathed smoke from the fires – spent all this time in darkness from fires.

Taught sniper school

- The NSA – National Security Agency contracted with Ben.
- Went into houses while people were sleeping to extract a targeted person.
- NSA interrogated the person and either released them or took the person into custody for further interrogation.

Conducted over 150 sniper missions.

- Ben has 52 confirmed kills (tough to count – have to have witnesses to confirm).
- Has 14 medals (about to get them replaced).
- Responsible for calling in airstrikes (cannot count there were so many over 1,000).
- Also attended Radio School and directed air attacks.

Sent to Langley VA for Combat Training.

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- Learned Hand to Hand combat.
- Graduated #1 in his class.

Deployed to Kuwait

- In first 100 Marines that entered Kuwait – the people were so happy to see them.
- Most proud of this deployment and the humanitarian nature of it.
- Freed people of Kuwait and ran the Iraqi's out.
- The people of Kuwait were abused by the Iraqi's.
- Ben said Saddam was like "Hitler" he hung pregnant Kuwait women on hooks on the wall so they would not have their babies, he filled people with a water hose until they burst, etc. A horrific man.
- Ben witnessed these atrocities firsthand.

Ben contracted with the Marines – VA Coverage

- Received \$20k, Ben said this was lot of money for him at the time as a young marine.
- Because of this contract and the money received Ben is told he is exempt and excluded from VA services.
- He is expecting to receive insurance coverage with low co-pay of \$10 from Aetna.
- Ben was diagnosed with PTSD by Integral Care of Austin.
- Ben indicated as a Marine he was given Anthrax pills during his tours which has contributed to his problems.

After Bens Service

- Ben indicated that his arrests, addiction, etc., were attributed to his 8 years of service and what he experienced firsthand in his deployments.
- In summary, Ben told me that someone had to serve and do these things, he did the job, because he loves his country.

Footnote: I wanted to capture his service to understand what he went through. This is the reason I have stood by Ben for the past 5 years. Greg.

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