Veterans' Writing Group
April 2nd, 2011 meeting

Writing Prompts for Feb-March-April

Senses

1) Continuing with the theme of the senses from January (last meeting’s prompt was about a vivid smell) from your time in the military, write a piece that describes another sense—taste. Maybe this is can be a piece about military food, MREs, or the “taste” of a particular emotion or situation as you went through a given day.

Time Capsule

2) If you were to create a time capsule for your years in the military, what would be in it? What would be significant enough to include, and what would your associations be with each item? What would you want the audience who discovers the time capsule to understand about your time in the military?

A How-To Manual

3) Think about a skill you developed in the military or afterwards, and write an essay about it in the form of a "how-to" manual. While this could be a straight-forward guide to performing some task, it doesn't have to be activity-oriented at all; you could write about a life lesson you learned or about how you came to cope with your conditions. If you feel inclined to let your thoughts meander in the middle of the essay, allow yourself to go wherever your mind wanders. You can always come back around to the "how-to" form when you're ready.

Fill in the Blanks exercise
It would be much too _____ to write about _______

4) Take the sentence above and fill in the blanks. Repeat as many times as you want. Use your list as a launching point. Then write a piece about what it would be much too _______ to write about ________.

Fear

5) How did your military service change your relationship to fear?