Syracuse Veterans’ Writing Group
January 29, 2011 Meeting

Using the Senses: Smell

Who could forget that rancid combination of sweat and starch earned from hours of close-order drill on the grinder? How about the acrid aroma of ozone emitted from an electrical fire? Remember that sweet fragrance of your weapon’s cleaning, lubricating, and protecting (CLP) oil?

Describe a smell that recalls you to a significant time or event in your service. Is it a pleasant or foul? Does it evoke a particular time or place? What events made it significant? What emotions does this scent stir up with you to this day? Tell the story surrounding this smell.

If you cannot come up with a “smell,” think of another sense that might evoke a story—seeing, sound/hearing, touch, taste.

Adapted from a writing exercise from Sergio Santos, Veterans’ Writing Group, San Diego

http://www.examiner.com/military-veterans-writing-in-national/name-that-smell-a-writing-exercise