1) Photo Essay

The idea for this prompt comes from Bob's discovery that he appeared in a photograph on the cover a book published about his unit in Vietnam, and the ensuing discussion about how rare such photos were. Go back to any photos you have from your time in the service. If you have more than one, look at all of them. Writing in the present tense, describe what you look like, who you're with, what's going on at the time, and what you suppose you may have been doing/thinking/feeling at the time the photo was taken. For example, "I am standing beside X and we are about to find out that Y." By keeping your writing in the present tense, you will achieve a sense of immediacy for the reader. As always, let the essay open up in the direction you feel most moved to explore. If you have more than one photo, try writing a "collage essay" in which you stitch together a series of these descriptions, all written in their respective present tenses. Then, write a brief reflection on the collection as a whole, as a way of ending your piece.

2) Going on a Metaphor Hunt

What is a metaphor?

- a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable:
- a thing regarded as representative or symbolic of something else (Oxford English Dictionary).

**Origin:** late 15th century: from French métaphore, via Latin from Greek metaphor from metapherein 'to transfer.'

George Lakoff and Mark Johnson argue in *Metaphors We Live By* that metaphors allow us “to use what we know about our physical and social experience to provide understanding of countless other subjects. Because such metaphors structure our most basic understandings of our experience, they are "metaphors we live by"—metaphors that can shape our perceptions and actions without our ever noticing them.” Military metaphors are so common in our culture that few even notice they are using them. Sports teams “do battle” or “go to war” against their rivals. Politicians fire “salvos” at each other. Business executives “torpedo” bad ideas. A teacher may “shoot down” a student’s idea. A story may be “on the radar” of a journalist.

--Think of metaphors you used frequently in your time in the service. What were
some of those metaphors? What meaning/purpose did they serve?
Example: We “lit up” the hillside.

--Think of the metaphors you might use to describe your experiences in the military and/or at war. Make a list of those metaphors.

Now work with your list to develop a short piece that is starts with a metaphor and builds from there to tell a story about your time in the military.