Veterans’ Writing Group
Agenda, May 21, 2011

10:00-10:30 Greetings/introductions, breakfast items, and writing prompts
10:30-11:00: Writing time and short break
11:00-11:45: Writing workshop, sharing group members' writing
11:45-12:00 Wrap-up and next meeting plans

Writing Prompts:

1) Write a tribute for or appreciation of someone you served with in the military. What made or makes that person noteworthy and memorable? You can write this in the form of a letter to the person or an account meant to be shared more widely. Share some details, small stories about this person and your time serving with him or her. If you are still in touch or can locate this person (and assuming this person is still living), send this tribute or appreciation on to them or even send it on to a family member or loved one. This is a “Memorial Day” assignment of sorts.

2) Recently we heard that news that Bin Laden was killed by U.S. Navy Seals after being “harbored” or “hiding” in Pakistan. How did that news affect you (or not) when you heard it? Read Captain Shannon Meehan’s editorial for one Iraq war vets’ point of view. You can write this as a story of your reaction(s) when you heard the news or you might even consider writing an editorial yourself.

3) To continue with our exploration of the senses (we’ve dealt with sight, smell, taste), write about a particular “touch,” something you touched (a texture, a surface, or object) or that touched you while serving in the military. Maybe it was the feeling of gritty sand in your hair (a feeling that Liz wrote about), maybe it was feeling of your aching feet in boots after a long day of marching and drills, maybe it was the feel of your uniform on your skin or the weight of equipment or weapons you carried in the field. You can decide what angle you want to focus on and develop a story about this “touch.”

4) See Ivy’s prompt.