**Surprise Attack**

Sudden sounds
- Like corn popping
- Zings whistle past your ears
- Dings of lead against metal
- Thuds against fabric and flesh
- Explosions and fires
- Flying debris, and body parts
- Buddies cry out

Focus on the immediate
- No time for fear, only actions
- Some automatic, others deliberate

Teamwork essential
- but sporadic

Communication crucial
- but intermittent

Friends Fallen
- No soldier left behind

No soldier left behind
- Yields more friends fallen

Interruptions
- Frustrations

Impediments
- Failures

Acrid smells
- Smolder, Smoke
- Dust, Diesel, Death
- Devastation, Defeat

Survival
- More bitter than sweet

---Lee B. Savidge

Note: Inspired by Dr. James D. Johnson’s readings on February 20, 2013 at Syracuse University, from his book *Combat Trauma*, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc.