



J.D. Lambert

J.D. Lambert joined the Army after realizing he needed discipline. He got that and more. Lambert, once a standout athlete at Pendleton High School, deployed to Iraq at age 20. While manning a machine gun mounted to a patrol vehicle, his eyes were opened by the rough living conditions in and around the Iraqi capitol city of Kirkuk. He observed sewage running into streets, filthy living conditions and infrastructure created without building codes. On the first day of Ramadan in 2004, attacks doubled and Lambert's

company was run ragged for a couple of days straight. In for a short time to sleep and back out, the men were exhausted. The Humvee in which Lambert rode slipped off a narrow bridge and fell 30 feet into an empty canal. Lambert was pinned from his waist down for two hours. His buddy, pinned on the opposite side of the vehicle, died. The gunner, with his thumb nearly torn off and a severe hip injury, couldn't feel his legs for days. Looking back at his time of service, Lambert, now a Pendleton police officer, said the experience of war simplified life for him. Things others might think are important, "aren't that big a deal."



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J.D. Lambert of Pendleton, Ron Jardine of Hermiston, Tom Tangney of Pendleton and Bob Stangier of Pendleton shared their stories with the East Oregonian on Nov. 1. Staff photo by E.J. Harris



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Join in saluting our military veterans of all wars and periods this November 11 - and every day. Thank you for serving America with honor, courage and commitment.



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