

## Interview with Rose Marie Grosshans Noël

**Rose Marie Grosshans Noël:** So, as soon as I was informed that there was actually a helicopter that was going to be headed out back to Al Asad, I had only minutes to make the flight. So, I grabbed all of my stuff that was actually in a bag, and with my boots just slipped on, not even tied, and my blouse not even buttoned, I was running down the tent to the pad where the helicopter would take me back to Iraq, back to Al Asad. And during that time they gave us a real slow brief and told us that we would be following the terrain in low flight and it was going to be dark and that we weren't even allowed to check our watches, because the indiglo would give us away. We had to be very cautious during the flight. I arrived back in Al Asad late that evening and when I got back I contacted my unit and they sent someone up to escort me back to the actual area that we were staying.

And a lot of people at that time had felt that I should have gone home, because I was a wife and mother at one point and had children. So they felt being a mother I should go home to my children. While Rosie would have loved to have gone home but Rosie wasn't in Iraq. Gunny Noël was. So, I chose to stay with my marines and I finished out the tour, which was another five months in Iraq. And during that time after I'd gotten back, I was able to take care of whatever I needed to with my health and I didn't get all the treatment that I needed until I was returned stateside. But the other part for me was during October 29 of that same year I received my Purple Heart while still in Al Assad and I received my Purple Heart in front of my marines, of which is the reason I had stayed in the first place.