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To: Director lancu

Thank You for your time. My name is Brian Aumiller, I served 10.5 years, in the National Guard. I served multiple deployments from 2001 and got out in 2008. I deployed to Germany, I was activated to do Base Security at Ft. Riley- Kansas and I volunteered to serve on what at that time became the longest Military Deployment of OIF.

I didn't grow up with a lot of fancy toys or vacation experiences; I got a push mower. My stepfather believed in hard work, keeping busy and there's always work to be done. This later brought me to join the military after High School. My parents couldn't pay for my college so I joined the military.

After my Iraq deployment, Congress passed the Post 9/11 GI Bill leading into the summer of 2008-09. My civilian job had cut my hours and I made the decision to go back to school. I applied and ended up getting accepted into a Watchmaking Program in Oklahoma. After 2 years in school I graduated in 2013, my wife and I moved to Florida for a Job. It was my first start as a professional.

Fast forward 5 years, I come up with an idea and have no clue what to do. I found it hard to find help, or even talk with some about Patents. Because the last thing you want is someone taking your idea. The VA didn't have any resources, but did recommend the SBA. They help vets, I was told. The SBA didn't help that much before I was even able to ask about Patents, they asked for a business plan. I didn't have one let alone have an idea how to do one.

Moving forward, I unknowingly did what every inventor does, I went out get a lawyer and start my patent for my new idea. I did the Track One Option and it was issued within 7 months, it felt great, it's an unexplainable feeling getting that Letter from the USPTO. I'm excited because I now have something that is mine, I paid for it, and the Government gives me control of it for 20 years. Its mine! I think to myself, this is what it feels like to live in America and the process of getting ahead. I can play by all the rules set in front of me and have this feeling, this is what I fought for in the Military, and this is why I served. For the American Dream. This is becoming my dream ...and seems it has changed. My patent was issued and I have yet to discuss it publicly, even to the majority of my family. In front of you is my first time doing so. I don't know what success my Product brings, but I would like to know there is a level playing field.

After getting my patent issued and going through the process, I learned right away, a Patent is only valuable if you can defend it. When I got back from Iraq, there were Home Improvements shows that would go in and fix up a house and turn it over to usually a Disabled Vet. I've then heard a story about a Veteran that had lost the house because he couldn't keep up with the newer taxes assessed on his property. It just made me think why wouldn't of anyone thought about this? I feel that's where we are here, helping us get a patent is a good start, but helping enforce or make it easier on the Small Business owner protecting it easier would be the second part. Getting the patent is the easiest part, protecting it is the hard part. It could cost hundreds to thousands dollars and years to complete. I've

read stories about Products on Kickstarter being knocked off in China, and being sold before the Kickstarter project has even finished regardless if they had IP or not. If that don't kill a business I don't know what will. I feel larger companies don't honor this and label us the "Patent Trolls" for defending our patents.

I do feel the SBA is the best place for the USPTO to work with on helping the underrepresented get that education on Patents and give us a level playing field on defending it. I also feel there needs to be more accountability with the Invention Help Type Companies that do prey on people as well. I would also like to add that securing a Patent helps with getting Investment or other types of funding.

I'll keep moving forward as I can with this process and I'll keep hoping changes are coming, either from the USPTO or Congress.

Thank you for your time.

Brian Aumiller  
Veteran/Independent Inventor-Patent Holder