GYSGT Blenis: So, let's go back to when you fell down. Did you fall down or did you sit down? Or …

PFC Manning: Ah, it was mixed. I mean, I was getting lightheaded because I was hyperventilating. So, I was trying to stand up. I was trying to keep from falling because I was worried that if I fell, then everybody would panic and that would make matters worse. So, I tried to stand up and I ended up falling…

GYSGT Blenis: Once you got to the [inaudible]

PFC Manning: I am not too sure because …

GYSGT Blenis: You didn't come back to your cell, you stated in the [inaudible] and exercise.

PFC Manning: I just continued on as normal.

GYSGT Blenis: Alright take me from end of rec hall to … where we are now …

PFC Manning: Ok, yes, I started, I got in here and it was normal. And then I started reading my book. And then, I want to say it was MSGT [inaudible] that was the first to show up. And then he came in and was asking me all these questions. I was, ah, trying to figure out how to word the answers without causing any more anxiety. I was trying to figure out ways of not sounding, or not being construed as

GYSGT Blenis: So you don't know? We don't have to go into it now…

PFC Manning: No … ways that things weren't going to be construed so that … just trying to figure out ways in which I could tactfully say what I was trying to say without violating any rules and regulation or raise any concern about …

GYSGT Blenis: Concern's already raised… [inaudible]

PFC Manning: Yes, but I'm trying not, I'm trying, I'm trying to avoid the concern, and it's actually causing the concern.

GYSGT Blenis: I understand.

PFC Manning: I mean, cause, I'm getting … every day that passes by, I'm getting increasingly frustrated, I'm not going to lie. Because I'm trying to do everything that I can not to be a concern, therefore I appear as though I am causing more concern. Or I … Or it seems that I'm causing more concern or everybody's looking for something to cause concern. So that's what frustrates me. … Trying to work out the most politically correct way of …

GYSGT Blenis: [largely inaudible] Let's go back to today. … The anxiety here, today. That's not the first time it's happened since you've been in confinement. As far as I know, it is the first time it's happened since you've been here … but a similar situation happened in Kuwait…

PFC Manning: I wasn't, in Kuwait, I had no idea what was going on generally.

GYSGT Blenis: But, would you say it was similar situation?

PFC Manning: No, no. The situation that happened today was more of … you know, I'm lucid and aware and just trying to figure … It's just a question of trying not to appear like I was in Kuwait.

GYSGT Blenis: Okay…

PFC Manning: Because that's my main concern every day, is how do I get off of POI status? How do I get off of POI status? When will I be taken off of POI status? What is being used to justify the precautions? You know … What concerns, you know, what am I doing that's concerning or whatever? So I'm constantly trying to figure out, run through all of those things. And trying to make sure I'm not doing anything…

GYSGT Blenis: [inaudible] … As time goes on, we have less of a concern, ok?

PFC Manning: Yes, GYSGT. But the restrictions were still in place. And I was …

GYSGT Blenis: Right. And we continually… We understand it's not normal that we have someone in POI for this period of time…

PFC Manning: Yes.

GYSGT Blenis: It's not [normal] … I guess we'll just leave it at that. So as we go on, we're going to lessen your restrictions. They're still be restrictions in place … [inaudible] But I would have to disagree with you as far as what happened today happened in Kuwait … anxiety attack …

PFC Manning: No, in Kuwait, I wasn't lucid. I had …. [guard interrupts]. It was like a dream…

GYSGT Blenis: But, they both ultimately ended up in you having an anxiety attack … controlled fall, but …

PFC Manning: No, I don't remember falling in Kuwait at all.

GYSGT Blenis: Well, I can tell you, that's what was reported to us … I wasn't there, none of us were there. [inaudible] okay, I know it was, I don't know how much long after, but it wasn't too much long after that – to where you actual [inaudible] to put you on suicide watch because they found a bed sheet. I remember asking you about this when you first got here about the bed sheet. You told me it was made from sand bag ties.

PFC Manning: Yes GYSGT.

GYSGT Blenis: So it wasn't a sheet.

PFC Manning: Um.

GYSGT Blenis: You told me, I asked you about that the very first time we talked and you told me it was sand bag ties that you used for sandbags.

PFC Manning: Uh, yes.

GYSGT Blenis: So going back to today's situation compared to Kuwait's. I think it is similar. And that is also why you are on suicide watch [inaudible]. You have to remember that us, as a facility, we have to always err on the side of caution, okay. And not just the side of caution, but over-caution. Especially when we're talking about suicide, okay? Nobody's saying you're going to kill yourself, alright? Believe it or not, I understand what you are saying that you are not going to kill yourself. Alright? We get that, we got that, we understand that. But, we always have to be more cautious than that. But you're saying that 'nobody else is on suicide watch.' The thing is what happened in Kuwait, and now what happened today …

PFC Manning: Those are totally different. I understand, I understand, I understand, where you're getting that ... from the documentation. I mean, I quite, I know where I am. I know I am … I know I am at Quantico base facility. I know that I'm at a brig. I mean, I'm lucid and aware of where I am. I'm not …

GYSGT Blenis: You asked Master Sergeant a question … about why you're on suicide watch, I'm trying to answer that question, okay? Did I answer that? Does that make sense?

PFC Manning: Uh – no. No, with context. Because the fact that …

GYSGT Blenis: [inaudible] from a facility standpoint. Did you understand that? From our point of view. Do you understand?

PFC Manning: I would have understood had … had I not been … I would have understood had … had I not been … I mean, I'm trying to think of how to word it. I think I would understand…

GYSGT Blenis: Provoked? Provoked?

PFC Manning: Yes, a little. Yes GYSGT. I feel like the facility, honestly, I feel like the facility is looking for reasons to keep me on POI status.

GYSGT Blenis: Inaudible. I can tell you 'no'…

PFC Manning: I mean, at least not at the staff level, I'm thinking the CO – me, myself, personally.

GYSGT Blenis: Inaudible … I am going to tell you that that is not the case. I have no control over what you think, but that is not it. Nobody here finds any joy from having you on POI or SR. Especially SR. From a logistical standpoint, it's a burden on us. …

PFC Manning: Yes, MSGT.

GYSGT Blenis: Nobody finds that as a joy. It's not a punitive thing, I understand why someone would see it as a punitive thing because restrictions placed [inaudible] ... I can tell you that as far as since you have been here, hell, I wish I had a hundred Mannings ...

PFC Manning: And that's what... And that's where I don't understand why the why the continuation of the policy and restrictions beyond the time recommended by you and the psychiatrist. I mean the psychiatrist, is saying. I mean, I've got my own forensic psychiatrist that's saying now that the POI status is actually doing psychiatric harm and not, you know, and it's actually, you know, increasing my chances, rather than decreasing...

GYSGT Blenis: Did you feel like that two weeks ago?

PFC Manning: What's that?

GYSGT Blenis: Did you feel like that two weeks ago?

PFC Manning: Yes GYSGT.

GYSGT Blenis: Uh, two weeks ago, I asked you, like, how you were feeling and you said you were fine, do you remember that?

PFC Manning: Yes.

GYSGT Blenis: Do you remember that?

PFC Manning: Yes, and I still feel fine. I mean, I feel, I feel fine, but at the same time, I've been putting in, I've been putting in...