

Biography of Barry "Bear" Floyd of COIL

I joined the military in 1982 and retired in 2009. I started out as enlisted and made it to SSG and later became an officer. I was neck deep in the cold war, fought in the Gulf war, fought in Bosnia, fought in Iraqi Freedom twice, and was blown up by an IED (improvised explosive device) while I was in Iraq last trip. I have 13 combat patches. I was very lucky that the IED exploded behind the vehicle and not directly under it. It crushed my lower spine and I can't hear a darn thing very well. I can still walk but it is painful and I have no feeling down the outside of both legs and feet. Balance is a chore for me. I was almost permanently in a wheelchair last April but dodged a bullet and walk with a cane if for long distance i.e. more than a block. Otherwise I get along pretty good without my cane. This is part of the reason the TBird is sooo appealing to me more than ever now. They are comfortable!!!! I have always loved the car and owned an 85 back in 85 but my passion has always been for the older cars. I've had some "come close" calls like a 57 Baby Bird I almost got while in Hawaii- someone beat me to it by 5min. Almost got a retro bird when they first came out but my wife and I decided a truck was far more practical. It was a really pretty black on black car. I am an engineer and project manager by trade so was a little dumbfounded when I got a call from COIL. I asked the guy that interviewed me if he actually read my resume. It was my leadership experience they were after so I guess it made sense. So now I'm in the nonprofit business.