

BY JASON STAHL / MANAGING EDITOR

Work with a sound heart

As you send your teams out of your facility for a productive day in the field, don't feel guilty that you're not in Baghdad, helping our boys restore order. You've got your job to do, and they've got theirs. Now go do it. What you're doing is good for yourself, your employees, your customers and, ultimately, for your country.

If you're like me, you've been thinking how unfair it is for someone to be dodging bullets for your freedom while you're safe at home. I mean, if you love your country and what it stands for, shouldn't you be helping the cause?

Life can be unfair

Just after the war started, I was surfing through coverage on CNN.com and clicked on "Casualties of War." I saw a picture of a man who died when two helicopters crashed over the sea. He was a young, good-looking guy with bright blue eyes and a great smile. The next photo stabbed me in the heart — it showed him and his wife with their two children, aged 10 and seven. I immediately had a vision of this man's son grown up, looking at his father's picture on the mantle, lamenting about how many games of catch and lazy Sundays they missed.

How unfair, I thought, that these kids will grow up fatherless while mine won't. I wondered why his helicopter crashed while the wobbly wheel on the two-ton dump truck I passed the other day stayed on.

Fortunately, I came to my senses a short while later and realized how ludicrous these thoughts were.

Our soldiers would expect nothing less than for us to continue doing our jobs at home, just like we expect them to fulfill their mission. They're the best trained

people for that job, as you're the best trained person to do yours. They enlisted in the service knowing that one day they might have to put their life at risk. You took all of your money and started a landscaping business, accepting that one day you might lose everything.

Follow your path

We all have chosen paths in life, and we shouldn't look back after making those choices. Maybe the Vietnam War ended before one of you out there was called up for duty. If you had been drafted, how would your life have been different? There's really no point in trying to figure that out.

I'll tell you what you can do. Hug your kids every day. Don't grumble too much about losing a bidding war for a big commercial account. Be glad you were there to give it a shot anyway. And don't ever take for granted the smell of freshly cut grass again.

Compared to what our boys are doing in Iraq, our jobs and lives aren't that difficult. In that light, taking a reaming from Mrs. Smith for running over her daylilies with a mower isn't such a big deal.

Go do your job, and do it proudly. And when our boys come home, make sure their lawn is neater than the captain's quarters.

Contact Jason at
440/891-2623 or e-mail at
jstahl@advanstar.com

Our soldiers would expect nothing less than
for us to continue doing our jobs at home, just like
we expect them to fulfill their mission.

