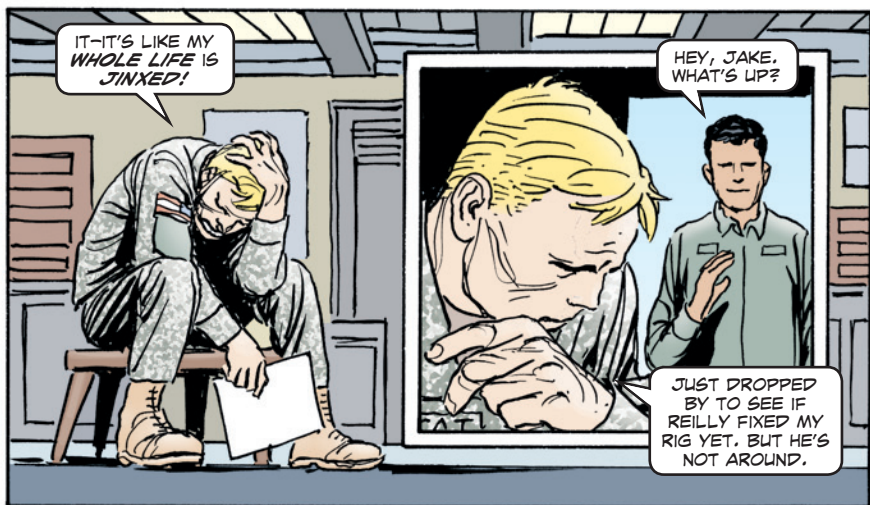
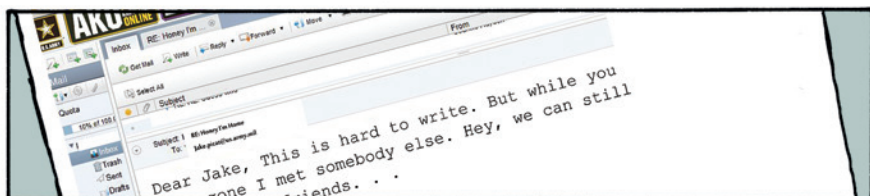
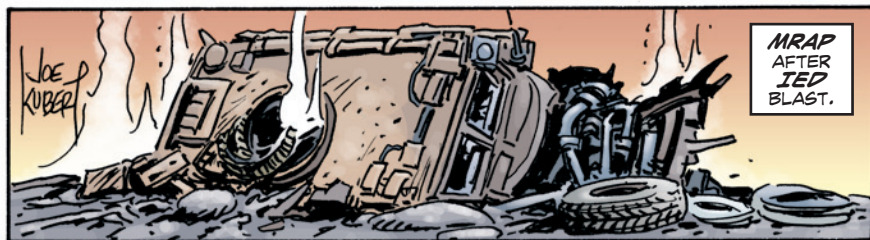
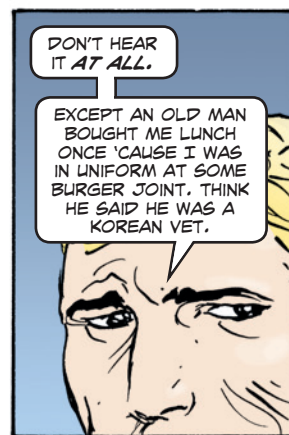
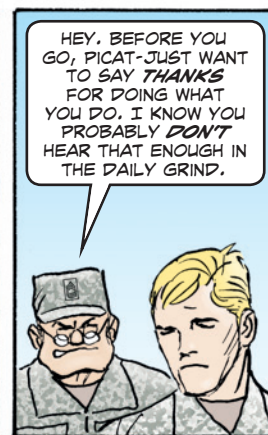
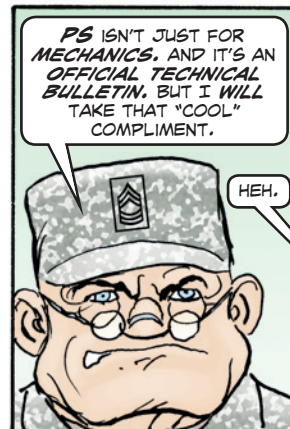
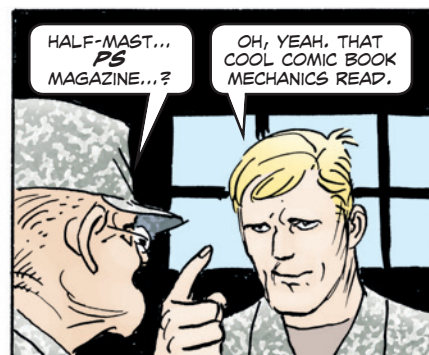
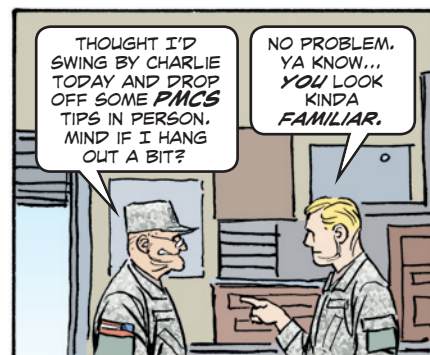
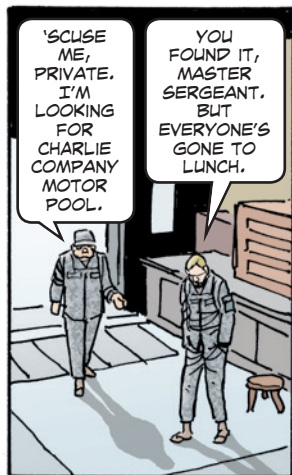
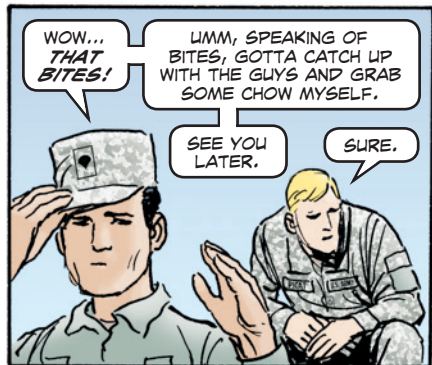
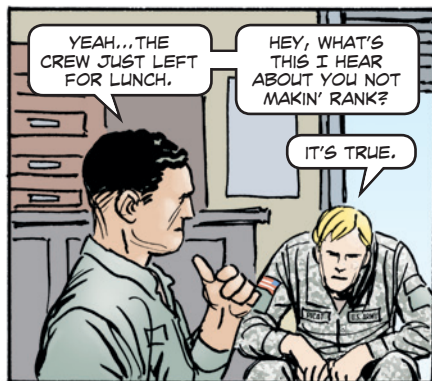


# A Sign of Strength









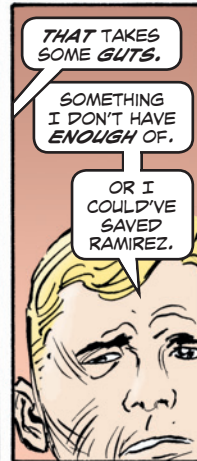
BET **HE** HAD AN INTERESTING TALE OR TWO TO TELL.

Y'KNOW...HE NEVER **SAID** AND I NEVER **ASKED**, KINDA WISH I HAD.



WHAT'S YOUR MOS, SOLDIER?

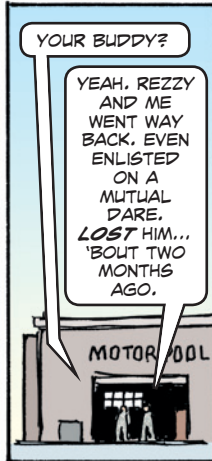
11B.



THAT TAKES SOME **GUTS**.

SOMETHING I DON'T HAVE **ENOUGH OF**.

OR I COULD'VE SAVED RAMIREZ.



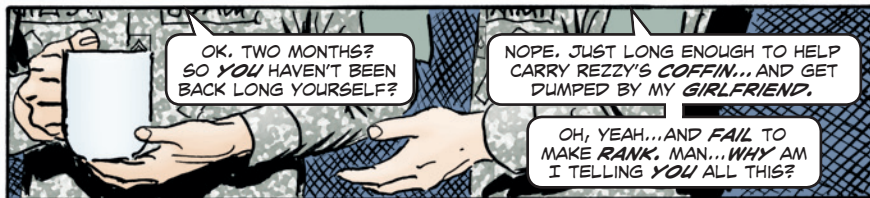
YOUR BUDDY?

YEAH, REZZY AND ME WENT WAY BACK. EVEN ENLISTED ON A MUTUAL DARE. **LOST HIM...** 'BOUT TWO MONTHS AGO.



WANNA TALK ABOUT IT?

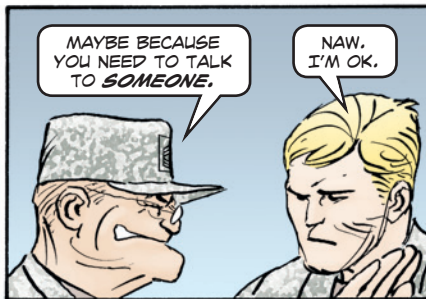
NOT REALLY.



OK. TWO MONTHS? SO YOU HAVEN'T BEEN BACK LONG YOURSELF?

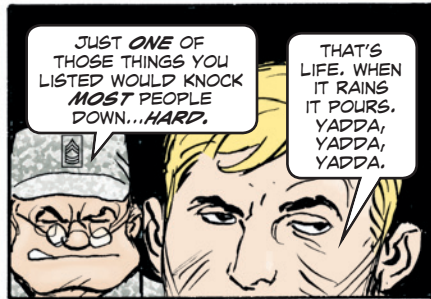
NOPE. JUST LONG ENOUGH TO HELP CARRY REZZY'S **COFFIN...** AND GET DUMPED BY MY **GIRLFRIEND**.

OH, YEAH...AND **FAIL** TO MAKE **RANK**. MAN...**WHY** AM I TELLING **YOU** ALL THIS?



MAYBE BECAUSE YOU NEED TO TALK TO **SOMEONE**.

NAW. I'M OK.

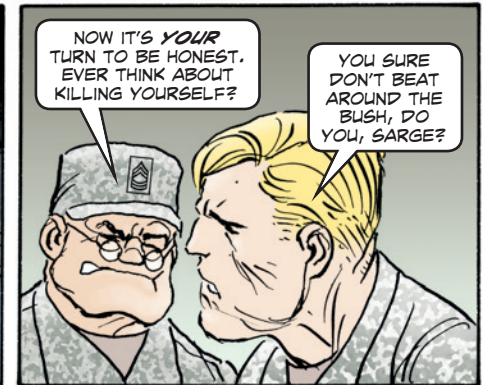


JUST **ONE** OF THOSE THINGS YOU LISTED WOULD KNOCK **MOST** PEOPLE DOWN...**HARD**.

THAT'S LIFE. WHEN IT RAINS IT **POURS**. YAPPA, YAPPA, YAPPA.

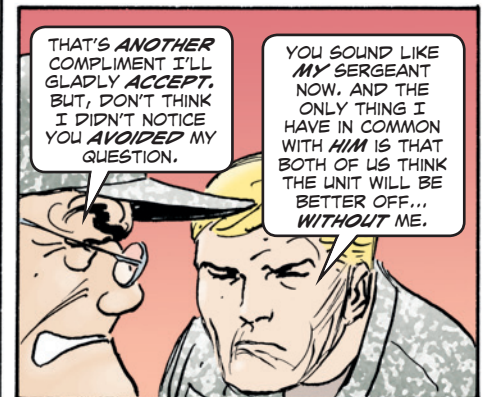


WELL-MEANING FOLKS SOMETIMES COUGH UP CLICHES LIKE THOSE... BUT-THAT DOESN'T HELP MUCH WHEN YOU'RE HURTING. AND TO BE HONEST WITH YOU HERE: IT SEEMS LIKE **YOU'RE HURTING PRETTY BAD**.



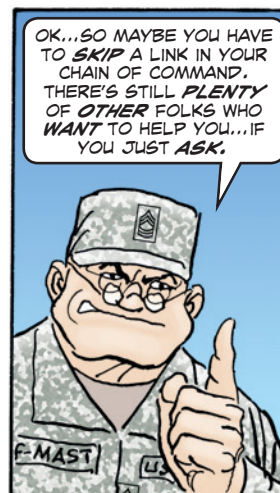
NOW IT'S **YOUR** TURN TO BE HONEST. EVER THINK ABOUT KILLING YOURSELF?

YOU SURE DON'T BEAT AROUND THE BUSH, DO YOU, SARGE?



THAT'S **ANOTHER** COMPLIMENT I'LL GLADLY **ACCEPT**. BUT, DON'T THINK I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU **AVOIDED** MY QUESTION.

YOU SOUND LIKE **MY** SERGEANT NOW. AND THE ONLY THING I HAVE IN COMMON WITH **HIM** IS THAT BOTH OF US THINK THE UNIT WILL BE BETTER OFF... **WITHOUT ME**.



OK...SO MAYBE YOU HAVE TO **SKIP** A LINK IN YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND. THERE'S STILL **PLENTY** OF **OTHER** FOLKS WHO **WANT** TO HELP YOU...IF YOU JUST **ASK**.



WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I HAVEN'T TRIED? I **DID TRY...** **MORE THAN ONCE**, IN FACT. BUT IT DIDN'T DO ANY GOOD.



I **KNOW** IT'S TOUGH... THAT YOU'RE TIRED OF TREADING WATER. BUT MAYBE **THIS** IS THE TIME IT **WILL** WORK. DO YOU **REALLY** WANT TO WALK AWAY FROM THAT CHANCE? I WOULDN'T.

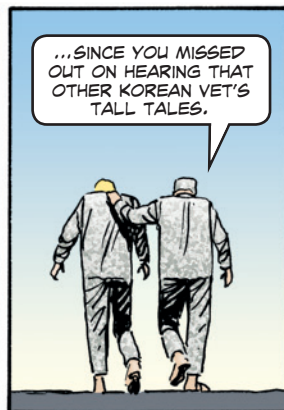




OK, OK! I GET IT. I'LL GO SEE SOMEONE TOMORROW.



HUMOR AN OLD MAN. LET'S GO TOGETHER... RIGHT NOW. AND ON THE WAY, AS A TODAY-ONLY BONUS, I'LL TELL YOU MY WAR STORIES...



...SINCE YOU MISSED OUT ON HEARING THAT OTHER KOREAN VET'S TALL TALES.



SOLDIERS...IT SHOULDN'T TAKE A **STRANGER** ASKING QUESTIONS AND SHOWING CONCERN TO SAVE SOMEONE'S LIFE.

WE SAY WE'LL **NEVER** LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE. THAT ALSO APPLIES **OFF** THE BATTLEFIELD.



THIS OLD WRENCH-TURNER THINKS THAT **IGNORING AN EMOTIONAL ALARM** GOING OFF IN **YOU...** OR YOUR BATTLE BUDDY...IS KINDA LIKE **PUTTING OFF PMCS!**

THE LONGER YOU TAKE TO **FIND** AND **FIX** PROBLEMS, THE GREATER THE **RISK** TO YOUR EQUIPMENT...OR YOUR **BUDDY.**

AND EACH ONE OF YOU IS **MORE VALUABLE** THAN **ANY** EQUIPMENT ON EARTH.

**Remember...**  
**seeking help is a sign**  
**of *strength!***