My name is Brandon Pelletier. I am a LCpl in the Marine Corps. I joined in the summer of 2006 graduating boot camp as guide. I was trained as an 0331 heavy machine gunner during SOI and then joined my unit 3/23 weapons company based out of Austin Tx. I, along with 50 other marines, were mobilized in April of 2007 to deploy with our sister unit out of Baton Rouge, LA. After an intense work-up we left for our tour into Iraq.

Our area of operation was Al Anbar Province near the dam and the city of Haditha. During a night operation on Oct. 17, 2007, I was injured and my right arm was crushed at the elbow! Shortly after that I was flown to many medical checkpoints before arriving in Germany. I spent a month there while my arm was being evaluated to see where in the states I would receive the best care. Brook Army Medical Center was to be my new home. My right elbow was crushed very badly and all three nerves were smashed so bad that I did not have feeling or movement below the elbow. Since nerves repair at a very slow rate my Dr. wanted to see if they would repair themselves so after 18 months of painful physical and occupational therapy I still had no return of feeling or function. In March of 2009 the decision was made to go forward with surgery.

On April 10, 2009, I received the first of three surgeries at the Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. I still have no return of movement but have been told that it may take time. This series of surgeries will be a big factor in whether I am able to keep my right hand or replace it with a transplant or bionic prosthetic. I live in San Antonio with my wife of two years and along with her am attending college to pursue a degree in accounting.