

Rod Rodriguez ([00:00](#)):

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Rod Rodriguez ([00:47](#)):

Welcome to the back brief I'm Rod Rodriguez. And this is our, uh, this is our fast take. Uh, it's funny, cause this episode was supposed to run last week. It was supposed to run last Thursday was supposed to be our episode zero. I was kind of introducing season 3. We recorded this and shortly after we concluded this, uh, the fast take interview or, or I should say the recording, uh, Jack Murphy and I saw that our Twitter was exploding. We had, uh, uh, fellow reporters, uh, texting us, sending us messages about what was going on in the Capitol. And then it came to, uh, both of our realization that while we were talking, the Capitol building was being overrun and we immediately ended the interview. And at the end of that, that, that piece, and kind of shot off into our own respective directions to cover the story. So, uh, I asked my new cohost Jack Murphy, if he would return and we could rerecord and talk a little bit about him as well as some of the latest, uh, and greatest events, but, uh, without further ado, Jack, thanks for, uh, joining us here on military matters, man.

Jack Murphy ([01:55](#)):

Thanks for having me Rod.

Rod Rodriguez ([01:57](#)):

You've heard Jack's voice before. Uh, he has been a contributor to several stories that we've covered here on Military Matters, but probably the most popular story that you've contributed to was the QAnon story that we did. And that was QAnon's reach into the military. Uh, Jack is the guy that I had the inspiration from to cover that story as Military Matters in our own unique way. Uh, Jack, tell us a little bit about who you are and uh, for some of the folks that may be missed that story. Why, why QAnon, what was your interest in?

Jack Murphy ([02:29](#)):

Well, thanks Rod. I, you know, my name is Jack Murphy. I am a journalist, I've been a journalist for about the last eight years. Prior to that. I served in Army Special Forces and in Ranger battalion, um, you know, some of my travels have, you know, taken me to Syria, Iraq, the Philippines, uh, just covering things, journalistically, uh, as a war reporter. And, you know, I've done a lot of stories on, you know, military coverups, scandals, covert operations, covered everything from sexual assaults to secret missions. Uh, so I mean, it's really run the gamut. As far as QAnon. I wrote about it initially because I just saw so many friends and so many peers and so many even fellow Special Forces soldiers sink into this whole QAnon conspiracy. Um, and, and it really bothered me to be honest about it. It really bothered me to see, uh, friends and teammates and colleagues, uh, slip into this. And it's like watching it happen in real time. It's really disturbing. So that was the initial inspiration to write about it. And, uh, I wrote a fairly lengthy op-ed about why veterans in particular are drawn to this movement, if you will.

Rod Rodriguez ([03:47](#)):

It's interesting because when you and I had originally talked about QAnon, uh, it was not a story that had as much traction as it is gaining right now. This is a story that goes back several, several years, honestly. When did you first pick up on this QAnon presence inside of the SF community?

Jack Murphy ([04:09](#)):

Pretty early on, I mean, years ago, uh, the QAnon stuff really started up in earnest, I guess, around like 2017 or so. Um, but really QAnon is just a reincarnation of older conspiracy theories, recycled conspiracy theories. Like there's really nothing new about the things that QAnon says. These are, these are ideas that have always been around, but it started taking on a new form with QAnon. It, it took on a type of participatory framework, uh, on the internet, but it was like a story. It was something that anybody can plug into and participate in and you can go and try to like do some internet sleuthing and uncover clues. And it really drew people in. It's really a form of hypnotism in that sense, but it also incorporates elements that we've seen Islamic terrorist organizations use like the open front jihad strategy, where it's like plug and play terrorism.

Jack Murphy ([05:04](#)):

Like anybody can become a member of this and just kind of start participating in their own way. Um, sort of like what we saw with ISIS in 2015, 2016, that these ISIS guys would radicalize or even self radicalize, uh, in place in their home countries. And then they would participate in that movement the way that they saw fit, whether it was driving a truck into a group of people are going and shooting up Paris, whatever the case was. And I'm not making a direct comparison to Al Qaeda or ISIS and QAnon, but it's the tactic, it's the, the method of social interaction that, uh, they share a commonality in that sense.

Rod Rodriguez ([05:48](#)):

This is an issue that was widely ignored. I remember when you and I talked about this, this episode, you, you were on matters. Uh, we released the show, and I'll be honest with you it was probably one of our least rated shows was put of our, our, uh, our opening day. It had V not as many listens as say, for example, our story on UAPs. And I was disappointed with that because I felt like this was an important story. I, I talked with, uh, with our senior editor, and I expressed to him that this story felt like we were on the precipice of something big. Like, it's not people aren't going to listen until it's too late. And I feel like what we saw at the Capitol building is exactly that. What would you say to those people who are kind of the late comers to Q and are kind of now only understanding what that there, that there is an organized, somewhat organized movement?

Jack Murphy ([06:52](#)):

What I would say is that it's too late now that we have crossed the threshold, and now we have a very serious problem with what are essentially cult members. And this relates not just the society at large and what you saw at the Capitol building, but specifically to our audience. This is in the military and in the intelligence community that we are now at the point that if you have five or six guys who were on a compartmentalized top secret, secure compartmentalized program, one of those guys that if you're that guy, you have to look at the other four members of that classified program and ask yourselves, which one is Q. There are people in the ranks where swearing oaths to other entities, other allegiances, that they believe that our government has been captured by a deep state, uh, by socialist Democrat pedophiles who worship Satan, like that is where we are.

Jack Murphy ([07:45](#)):

And those people are in the ranks. And I'm very cautious about not being overly alarmist. Um, but I have had conversation after conversation that like, the calls are coming from inside the house, but this is not something that's going to happen. This isn't some far-flung projection of, of what I think might happen in the future. This is happening right now. And every formation in the military now has to ask themselves how many people are hardcore QAnon, or are they adjacent QAnon? Meaning maybe they don't identify as Q Anon, but they still believe, yeah, our government's being run by a cabal of pedophiles. That's where we're at right now.

Rod Rodriguez ([08:31](#)):

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Rod Rodriguez ([09:33](#)):

So Season 3 is not only about, uh, it's not going to be just about the Capitol. I promise folks. Uh, we have a lot of stuff on the horizon here. A lot of things are going to be going on in the next couple of months. The president did mandate, uh, level of UAP disclosure that has to occur. I will tell you all, I've been on the phone with high-ranking members of our government, uh, that are not ready to go on record yet. Uh, I have spoken with, uh, Luis Elizondo, uh, just, uh, two days ago, uh, from this recording. And I can't go into everything that we talked about. Uh, we spoke, uh, on a condition that, you know, certain elements of our conversation. We, we just, I can't can't go any further, but I will tell you, um, Luis is very excited. I'm very excited about what the potential is that is going to come out of some of this, this limited disclosure.

Rod Rodriguez ([10:32](#)):

Um, I know a lot of folks out there, we're, we're saying, you know, UFOs UAPs, uh, we've, they've been around since the fifties. And maybe if you want to go as far as to believe that they have been here for hundreds, thousands of years, I that's, I think that's a little further past my scope.

Rod Rodriguez ([10:48](#)):

They built the pyramids Rod.

Rod Rodriguez ([10:49](#)):

They might've built the pyramids. I don't, you know what, I, as a former member of the artillery, whose job was, it was in 2003 to clear out ammo sites. I can promise you that you do not need UFOs to build a pyramid. Uh, you just need about 500 dudes and limited vehicles, and you could probably get away with

like sleds and wheels. We could, if we built a pyramid, we built a pyramid over a year of ammunition and watched watch, blow up.

Jack Murphy ([11:16](#)):

I'm not saying it was aliens Rod.

Rod Rodriguez ([11:22](#)):

But so for some of you haven't picked up on it. Uh, Jack is not the biggest, uh, believer of the UFO phenomenon. He wants to be boring. He wants to be the adult in the room that says, uh, he's the square. Um, he believes that, you know, this is probably our government vehicles, advanced research projects and whatnot. Here's the thing. Um, I think that what we're looking at is, and recently declassified CIA documents, or just re just like in the last week they got declassified. This is a phenomenon that's going on for, you know, since documented since the 50s, what I'm excited about is that the department of defense has now taken an active interest in this. And I think it's important because these things are being identified over government targets, uh, over inside of government airspace, they have been recorded in and around our own fighter jets. I feel like if this was advanced research stuff, somebody would have come in and like, shut up.

Rod Rodriguez ([12:24](#)):

Don't don't report this. This is it's friendly. Uh, the fact that the government, the DOD, uh, they're coming forward and saying that this is, we don't know what these things are. Uh, the government is acknowledging they exist. They don't know what they are and that they could potentially pose a threat. And I think a lot of you out there, the big heat that I got was rod, uh, they're coming in peace. They have advanced technology. If they wanted to kill us already, they would've, uh, let, let me ask the SF guy here, uh, just cause you can do something and you haven't does that mean you always won't?

Jack Murphy ([13:00](#)):

No. Um, but what I wanted to point out on that Rod is, uh, an unacknowledged special access program. If you're part of a unacknowledged special access program, it means that you can not, if asked about that program, you're not allowed to say no comment. You have to deny that it exists. And that can even mean that if you're read onto a program, but your boss is not. So if I'm a major I'm read onto the program, my boss is a Colonel. He's not read onto the program. And my boss calls me into the office. It says, uh, Hey, ya Murphy, like, uh, I heard something in the hallways that you guys are cooking something up. Like what is that? Can you tell, talk to me, tell me what, what you're working on. You have to walk right at your boss to say, sir, I don't know what you're talking about. There's no such thing. So when you talk about this issue of, um, UFOs or potentially classified aviation projects, the people who are actually involved in it, they legally have to lie to you if asked, uh, and deny that that program exists. So they're not going to be able to go to an adjacent unit and be like, Oh, stop reporting that like, they can't do that. They literally have to play the game that this thing does not exist.

Rod Rodriguez ([14:14](#)):

I think that if, if this had been just something happening over the last 10 years, just look at the SR 71 Blackbird, you know, definitely a project that was denied for a long time. They flew it. It was very big, huge secret. It was out there doing its thing. We've, we've had government classified planes that have been declassified. Now we see them at air shows. I think the problem here is that the, the UAPs that we've been talking about really haven't changed that much since the 50s, the descriptions of them, you

know, light very fast agile anti-grav, they've demonstrated. Now there's a lot of psychological explanations to that, to being a mental health guy. I can tell you about the, you know, talk your ear off about mass hallucinations, or the power of suggestion, even, uh, people, you know, when a science fiction movie comes out about aliens, you know, there's always some type of uptick of people that are like, Oh, I saw that thing in the sky.

Rod Rodriguez ([15:10](#)):

I just feel like at this point, something has to give, um, and I'm really excited to see that, you know, the, the government has taken this particular issue very seriously, but I just don't believe that because, uh, the reports initially say that they're, you know, peaceful, that they will remain peaceful, that there are going to continue to be peaceful. I'm worried. I think about this from a DOD perspective. Like if they're that advanced, that they're flying in our areas, we don't know what they are. Um, just because we haven't seen a gun yet doesn't mean they don't have them that they don't use them and that we shouldn't be prepared for something like that. Of course. Maybe like maybe, you know, some people call me warmonger about that. I, I don't know.

Jack Murphy ([15:51](#)):

Do they have oil? Do they need freedom.

Rod Rodriguez ([15:54](#)):

Oh, Jesus. It's don't, don't start, don't take us down that road. Jack Murphy is going to take us down that road, Season 3, Jack, what can we expect from you Season 3? What are you working on?

Rod Rodriguez ([16:05](#)):

Uh, man, you can't talk about, well, I, uh, I, I wrapped up one, uh, a story of with, um, so I, I did a story about extremism and the US military. Uh, that'll be a future podcast. I interviewed a woman who is a former neo Nazi. She was a part of the movement and left it. Uh, and she was radicalized, uh, right next to a military base right next to Fort Gordon. And she knew 30 or more active-duty soldiers who were part of the movement. So we get into, you know, why this is pervasive in the military. Why did, why are soldiers attracted to this? Um, and, and all the dynamics of, you know, neo Nazi-ism in this case, in the U S military. Um, and then in the future, I have, uh, one story. Uh, one podcast I'll be working on is about, uh, a murder, uh, sadly out in Fayetteville, uh, there Fort Bragg soldiers.

Jack Murphy ([17:06](#)):

Uh, one was a Delta force member who shot and killed a Green Beret, who he was best friends with. So we'll be working on that then. Um, also have, uh, on a lighter note, I'm going to be interviewing the son of a OSS agent who served in World War II in North Africa. Um, and this guy, his main job was interrupting the Nazi's access to diamonds in Africa. Um, because diamonds were, are also an industrial mineral and, uh, he became, uh, quite a prolific author after the war. So I'm going to be talking to his son. And I mean, this is, this is a very interesting story. I think people get a kick out of it. Yeah. I'm excited to be working on this podcast because I think it gives a real opportunity to tackle some different types of stories than what I normally focus on.

Jack Murphy ([17:54](#)):

A lot of the stuff I write is actually heavily focused on special operations and the intelligence community. Um, but in this case, I'm going to be casting a wider net. We're going to look at some historical stuff. We're going to look at some contemporary things. We're going to look at true crime. We're going to look at obscure programs in the military, uh, that probably you've never heard of before. Um, so reaching out to all sorts of different people where it's going to be much more broad, a broader scope of what's going on in the U S military, um, than what I normally cover.

Rod Rodriguez ([18:29](#)):

Uh, folks were really excited about Season 3. I'm really excited about having Jack Murphy on the team. You're going to be hearing his voice. He is our new co-host. We have a new sponsor. Uh, you just heard that the, the ad at the ad break Navy Federal Credit Union season three, man, this is, um, we're really excited. This, we had a lot of cool stuff in store, and we have a lot of stuff already done. Folks, go check out season two, season one, uh, listened to the evolution of Military Matters. Uh, you know, our, our, my previous cohost Desmond Ferris, uh, went off to do bigger and better things, but his voice is still out there recorded in season 1 parts of season 2. Uh, Jack, thank you for joining us, man. We really appreciate you. By the way, we have a new email for you guys to reach us. Email us atmilitarymatters@stripes.com. Send us your story ideas. If you have something to share with us, you can send us your love mail. It's a place to send your hate mail. Uh, it is a place to send us some correspondence, reach out to Jack or I individually at militarymatters@stripes.com. Folks I'm Rod Rodriguez, that's Jack Murphy, and we will see you at episode 2.