

J. ALAN MONTROSE

Orders

General Order Number One, Para 5, Art K: no possession, displaying or creating of sexually explicit material. I won't ask about that last part. It's beside the point; orders are orders. So when the order came down for me to personally inspect every living container for pornography, I called for all sergeants to come to my room. I told them they had a one hour amnesty period before I would check all living containers for pornography. If the soldiers have any porn, I said, put it in a garbage bag and leave it in front of my room. No questions asked. Exactly one hour later I went into the living containers. "Open this, unlock that," I said acting like I was looking for something. When I got back to my room there was a sergeant standing guard over two full garbage bags. Inside were magazines and DVDs, most of it in Arabic. Where the hell do my soldiers find Arabic porn? Orders are orders though and I inspected all the rooms exactly as ordered. "What should I do with these garbage bags" the sergeant asked as I stepped into my room. "Garbage bags?" I said closing the door. "I don't see any garbage bags."

J. ALAN MONTROSE is a former infantryman and Iraq Veteran who lives in Wahlheimat, Germany. He holds a Bachelor degree from the University of Georgia, Athens as well as a Masters from the Universität Hamburg Germany. His work has appeared in *The Chattahoochee Review*, *Knee-Jerk*, *THINK*, *The Journal of Military Ethics* as well as *TITEL-Kulturmagazin*. He currently lectures at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt.