

## **Everything seems like a potential threat**

**Hector:** I still had feelings of slight agoraphobia, not wanting to go out in public thinking that everything is dangerous. Helplessness. Hopelessness. I had a lot of nightmares. Everything in your world becomes a potential threat.

You're paying attention to everything. You can scan, scan, scan and everything is triggering something inside of you. A smell can send you right back to the last dead body you saw. Burning hair was one of my big ones. I'd go immediately back into different parts of the world where I saw human beings being burned or smelled my buddies with burns from explosions and things going through their uniforms. The smell of blood. The smell of pork being grilled was another one. It'd send me. It smells like human beings being burned.

I don't do large crowds. I'm constantly paying attention to, you know, that guy's got a bulge under his jacket or that guy is packing a gun. Where are the exits? I am constantly thinking, "There's a threat. There's a threat. There's a threat." Garbage on the side of the road. I still go under bridges a little bit differently than most people do. I swerve into another lane and then come out the other way.



U.S. Department  
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**CONNECTION**