

Former US Drone Operator Recalls Dropping a Missile on Afghanistan Children and Says Military Is 'Worse Than the Nazis'

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[Source](#)

'That image on the screen is still in my head. Whenever I think about it, it still hurts me', Brandon Bryant says.

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A former US drone operator is speaking out against the atrocities he says he was forced to inflict during his time in the armed forces and says the American military as 'worse than the Nazis'.

Brandon Bryant was enlisted in the US [Air Force](#) for six years. During his time with the military, he operated Predator [drones](#), remotely firing missiles at targets more than 7,000 miles away from the small room containing his workspace near Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mr Bryant says he reached his breaking point with the US military after killing a child in Afghanistan that his superiors told him was "a dog." Mr Bryant recalls the moment: After firing a Hellfire missile at a building containing his target, he saw a child exit the building just as the missile struck. When he alerted his superiors about the situation

after reviewing the tape, he was told "it was a f***ing dog, drop it."

During his time in the Air Force, Mr Bryant estimates he contributed directly to killing 13 people himself and says his squadron fired on 1,626 targets including women and children. He says he has been left suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Mr Bryant said he saw the man he targeted bleed out from his legs and watched as his body went cold on his thermal imaging screen.

"The smoke clears, and there's pieces of the two guys around the crater. And there's this guy over here, and he's missing his right leg above his knee. He's holding it, and he's rolling around, and the blood is squirting out of his leg ... It took him a long time to die. I just watched him," Mr Bryant [said in an interview with GQ.](#)

"That image on the screen is still in my head. Whenever I think about it, it still hurts me," Mr Bryant said. "When I pulled the trigger, I knew that it was wrong. When the middle struck I knew in my soul I had become a murderer."

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"It broke my spirit. It went against everything I learned about being a warrior, about holding yourself to higher standards. My superiors psychologically beat me and ridiculed me to keep me in line. They took away my free time and forced me to sit in a seat or be tried under the UCMJ (Uniform Code of Military Justice) for disobeying orders," Mr Bryant said. "In a sense, it was my prison. I served my time to learn and reflect. And so I hold the key now, to the entire apparatus. I just don't know what to do with it."

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“I would want people to know, beyond its existence, the consequences it has on us as a species to delineate our power into something so easily destructive. Every time we get closer to that edge, we’re going to have to realise where it places us,” Mr Bryant said.

[link here to full story and images](#)