

# Transcript for Video # 3.1: One Eyed Blind

Reigniting Clinical Supervision (RCS)

So, I was born in Singapore and the rite to passage for all men is that we have compulsory conscription to national service for 2 and a half years. Right now, it's about 2 years but back then, we have to do full 2 and a half years. You have to understand the context that I was an anxious kid for an early age 8 to 10. The idea of going to the army kept triggering bouts of anxiety in me. Just thinking there I have to be enlisted when I turned 18, 19. So by the time I hit enlistment D day, and the build up of adolescence, angst, and critical thinking I resolved to sign myself up to a belief of non-violence. That means, I do not believe in taking up arms. Given that I was born to a non-religious family background, it was also this time of my life that I was beginning to explore my beliefs like spirituality and the notions of God.

So I prayed.

“Dear God, please don't let me take up arms.” My friend was right about prayers, you've got to be specific like prayer was answered. For the next 2 years of army vocation, I was not enlisted to be an infantry soldier. I did not have to take up arms. Instead, I had to deal with bombs! So, it's a combat engineer every couple of months we got the opportunity to blow stuff up in Thailand, in this place called Kanchanaburi. We would travel down from the tiny island of Singapore all our way up to Thailand in Kanchanaburi. We could ignite heaps of detonators tethered to massive amounts of explosive then, just in the name of defense.



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Here is a picture of me in Kanchanaburi. This was just before we go for our mission igniting explosives. By now, at this phase in my vocational army I was an instructor. We get the chance to take pictures. You got to remember this was all the time before smart phones came along. This was also the moment before I lost my vision on my right eye. This very moment...this photo that you are seeing right now...You know, my commanding officer insisted that he could dig out whatever elements were into my eye that made me lose my vision there. He sterilised his pinky with hot water and he was trying his best to pluck around and see what he could get out. It was useless, I was blind in one eye for 5 days. They wheeled me to a hospital. The first night I tried to call my parents from the hospital bed, but the only problem was I have to call thru the operator in Thailand and I couldn't speak a word of Thai. It took me about 2 hours before I learned the actual translation, number by number, to tell the operator what was the number to call home. You can imagine the shock from my parents when they heard the phone call. Strangely enough for the next week in the hospital at 9 AM they put me on a wheelchair - even though I could walk - and send me off in an ambulance for a trip, with sirens and all. To track down 15 minutes to the eye specialist down the road.



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So my question to you is this. Do you know what happens when you're blind in one eye? You lose depth field perception. That simply means, you can't accurately tell how far or near the object is. Without depth field perception you are not allowed to drive. Your danger is on the road. You might think the old lady crossing the road in front of you looks 25 meters away. The next thing you know, you just hit a spare in the bowling alley. So let me tie this up together and point out the real critical element about what we are going to talk about in Reigniting Supervision.