

Hi my name is Desmond Rose I was a soldier in the Australian army. I served in 1 RAR in East Timor in 2000 and 2001. I was placed on the Mefloquine and Tafenoquine drug trial. I had 2 choices I could take the drug and deploy with the battalion or not take the drug and not deploy with battalion which is not much of a choice as a young soldier. The CO at the time was Lieutenant Colonel John Caligari. So I completed all the testing prior to going overseas. I cannot remember if I was warned about the side effects but I did say to my wife I was worried about taking this drug. I deployed to Timor had quite a few nightmares but kept it to myself, worried that I could be sent home. Same with talking with psychologist that they would make me complete some course to prevent me from going home. After returning home. I had trouble going in to crowds just thought it was just part in parcel with coming home from deployment. Over the years I thought I was mentally fine but real truth was I had changed since returning from Timor my wife had said to me a few times that I need to go see someone about all my anger issues. I said I have nothing wrong with me it's you that has the problem. It wasn't till I got out of the army that everything went south and I went to kill myself when nothing was going right. As I went in to shed to complete task is when I realised that I was in a bad way and I need to go see someone about mental issues this is when I was told that I had PTSD. It took me a long time to believe that I had PTSD just could not pick an event that would cause my issues just didn't make sense. It wasn't until I read about the side effects to Mefloquine and Tafenoquine that I started to realise that yes I do have PTSD which was caused by the drugs I was taking. The psychologist wanted to put me on drugs to control my thoughts but I refused and wanted to deal without drugs. I take everyday as it comes some days I am fine and others I am a mentally messed up. It's so hard with work because I feel I ain't good enough and need to be reassured all the time.