



95th CIVIL AFFAIRS BRIGADE (AIRBORNE)

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
FORT BRAGG, NC 28310 / (910) 432-6005/ <http://news.soc.mil>

MAJ. JAMES MICHAEL AHEARN

Died on July 5, 2007

Operation Iraqi Freedom

Maj. James Michael Ahearn was a civil affairs officer assigned to 96th Civil Affairs Battalion, 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C.

He died July 5, 2007, from wounds sustained in an improvised explosive device attack while conducting a patrol during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq.

Ahearn deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a member of a civil affairs team supporting the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. This was Ahearn's second tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He was born Nov. 3, 1963, in Florida and was raised in California. Ahearn graduated from Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, Calif., in 1988 with an associate degree in liberal arts and later earned a bachelor's degree in history from Campbell University, Buies Creek, N.C.

He entered the military service in 1989 and later completed the Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Ga. In 1994, he returned to Fort Benning and graduated from the Officer Candidate School. Following OCS, Ahearn was assigned to the 27th Engineer Brigade here. Subsequently, he served tours at Fort Stewart, Ga., and Fort Irwin, Calif., as well as Korea and Kuwait. Ahearn first deployed to Iraq as an engineer officer in 2003. He also served his country in Saudi Arabia and Germany.

Ahearn's military education also includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced courses at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., the Civil Affairs Officer Course and the Regional Studies Course at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.

His awards and decorations include two Bronze Star Medals, with one for valor, Purple Heart Medal, Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medals, National Defense Service Medals, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and the Combat Action Badge, Basic Parachutist Badge.

Ahearn is survived by his wife, Lena and their daughter, Khadijah Mariam, both of Raeford, N.C. He is also survived by his mother, Connie Ahearn of Concord, Calif., and his father, James F Ahearn of Phoenix, Ariz.



– ADVISE, SUPPORT, STABILIZE –