



U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND ***BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH***

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

MASTER SGT. JARED N. VAN AALST

Died August 4, 2010

Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan

Master Sgt. Jared Van Aalst was born in Laconia, N.H., on Sept. 1, 1975. He graduated in 1993 from Plymouth Regional High School in Plymouth, N.H.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army as a signal support systems specialist on Aug. 17, 1995. After completing Basic Training, the Signal Support Systems Specialist Course, and Basic Airborne School, Van Aalst was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, Ga., for attendance in the Ranger Indoctrination Program. After completion, he was assigned to HHC, 3rd Bn., 75th Ranger Reg., also at Fort Benning, where he served as a signal systems specialist.

In the summer of 1997, Van Aalst graduated from Ranger School and returned to 3rd Bn., where he continued his duties for another year before reclassifying into the infantryman military occupational specialty.

In August 1998, he attended Sniper School then returned to HHC, 3rd Bn., as a sniper team leader later transitioning to squad leader in August 1999. After serving for two years as a squad leader, he was selected as an instructor and a shooter in the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning. He served in that position for two years before returning in September 2003 to HHC, 3rd Bn., as a sniper platoon sergeant.

Shortly thereafter, he deployed on his first combat rotation to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, then to Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq. In 2005, he moved to A Co., 3rd Bn., to serve as a platoon sergeant. As a platoon sergeant, he deployed twice to Iraq in 2005 and again to Afghanistan in 2006.

Aalst returned to HHC, 3rd Bn., as the noncommissioned officer in-charge of the Reconnaissance, Sniper and Technical Surveillance Detachment. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2006 for his fifth combat deployment.

In July 2007, Van Aalst was assigned as the chief instructor and writer to C Co., 2nd Bn., 29th Infantry Regiment, at Fort Benning, where he served for one year before being selected in 2008 as a special operations team member and subsequent assignment to the U. S. Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N. C.

His military education includes the Basic Airborne Course, Ranger School, Sniper School, Warrior Leader Course, Static Line Jumpmaster, the Combat Lifesaver Course, Special Operations Target

Interdiction Course, Infantry Advanced Leader's Course, Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Course, Infantry Senior Leader's Course, Pathfinder Course, the Advanced Land Navigation Course, and the Military Free-Fall Course.

Van Aalst was posthumously recognized with a second Bronze Star Medal, a third Purple Heart Medal, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

His other awards include two Bronze Star Medals with Valor Device, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Joint Service Commendation Medals, three Army Commendation Medals, seven Army Achievement Medals, five Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, two Iraq Campaign Medals, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, three Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbons, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Distinguished Pistol Shooting Badge, Distinguished Rifleman Badge, Excellence in Competition (Pistol) Badge, and the Ranger Tab. He also earned five Overseas Service Bars.

Van Aalst is survived by his wife, Katie Van Aalst of Pinehurst, N.C., daughters Kaylie and Ava; and his parents, Neville and Nancy Van Aalst of Hawthorne, Fla.

Sine Pari: Without Equal