



**U.S. ARMY CIVIL AFFAIRS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL
OPERATIONS COMMAND (AIRBORNE)**
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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

Staff Sgt. Robert J. Paul
Killed on Sept. 8, 2006
Operation Enduring Freedom

Staff Sgt. Robert J. Paul, was born on Aug. 8, 1963, in Hammond, Ind. He was a trained civil affairs non-commissioned officer assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 364th Civil Affairs Brigade, Portland, Ore.

While deployed to combat, he died in northeastern Afghanistan, when a vehicle bomb detonated near his up-armored Humvee during a patrol Sept. 8, 2006.

A resident of The Dalles, Ore., Paul enlisted into the Army Reserve April 1, 1997, at the rank of specialist two years after graduation from the University of Maryland with a master's degree in urban planning and economic development.

Later in 1997, he completed his basic combat training and attended advanced individual training at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, Fort Bragg, N.C. He graduated from the Psychological Operations Specialist Course there and was immediately assigned to the 320th Psychological Operations Company, an Army Reserve Special Operations tactical PSYOP unit located in Portland, Ore.

On Sept. 1, 2000, Paul was promoted to PSYOP team sergeant and then to staff sergeant in 2003. He was given greater responsibilities when he assumed the duties of PSYOP platoon leader and PSYOP team chief.

In 2003, Paul returned to the USAJFKSWCS and completed the Civil Affairs Reclassification Course. He was immediately assigned to the 425th Civil Affairs Battalion, Santa Barbara, Calif., and deployed shortly thereafter to Iraq where he served as a CA team sergeant focusing on urban planning – his chief civilian skill.

Paul returned to the Middle East in spring of 2006 as a staff sergeant with the 364th when he mobilized and deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

His military training included Basic Combat Training, Professional Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Office Course, Psychological Operations Specialist Course, Civil Affairs Specialist Course, Combat Lifesaver Course and the Equal Opportunity Representative Course.

His military awards and decorations include the Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device and numeral two, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with numeral two, Army Service Ribbon, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training



Ribbon, Combat Action Badge, Driver and Mechanic Badge with "W" (wheeled) Bar and the Marksman Weapons Qualification Badge.

In his civilian career, Paul worked for Wasco County, Ore., as the senior land use planner. His civilian education included a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a master's degree in Community Planning and Economic Development from the University of Maryland.

Paul is survived by his mother, Esther, of Chicago and father, Sheldon. He is also survived by his daughter, Ilena, and her mother, Bonnie, of Bensalem, Pa., and his sisters, Monica and Debra, of Chicago and Portland, Ore.

-By Sword, Deed and Word-