



**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>

Sgt. Nathan J. Vacho
Killed in action on May 5, 2006
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Sgt. Nathan J. Vacho was born on April 4, 1977, in Chippewa Falls, Wis. He was a trained Army health care specialist assigned to the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, Knoxville, Tenn.

He died from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device near Al Hillah, Iraq, struck his vehicle during combat operations in Iraq.

A resident of Janesville, Wis., Vacho began his Army career March 24, 1998, when he enlisted into the Army Reserve as a military firefighter. His military training and experience in the civil air patrol during high school prepared him for his first unit assignment with the 336th Engineer Platoon, Duluth, Minn.

He served with the engineer unit in Minnesota for four years before transitioning into the Army medical career field in 2002. He was assigned to the 330th Medical Brigade, Madison, Wis.

He attended the 52-week residence Practical Nurse Course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and successfully graduated in spring of 2003. Later in 2005, Vacho completed the Army Emergency Technician Refresher Course.

Nine years into his military career, Vacho received reassignment orders to USACAPOC (A). He mobilized in his health care specialist position and deployed with his assigned unit from Tennessee the 489th CA Bn. Only two weeks after his deployment into Iraq, Vacho was killed in action at the age of 29 by known enemies of the United States of America.

Vacho's military training includes Basic Combat Training, Firefighter Course, Practical Nurse Course and the Emergency Medical Technician Refresher Course.

His awards include the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device and the Army Service Ribbon.

He is survived by his daughters, Emma Grace and Bayli Ellen, of Janesville and Colfax, Wis. respectively, and his parents, Carol and John of Ladysmith, Wis.



-By Sword, Deed and Word-