

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

### SFC David L. McDowell

October 17, 1977 - April 29, 2008

By: Eduardo Tinoco

SFC David L. McDowell, 30, a platoon sergeant assigned to the 2nd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Lewis, Washington, was wounded by enemy fire while conducting combat operations and later died on April 29, 2008, near Bastion, Afghanistan.



Born in Hawaii, he attended and graduated from Poway High School in Ramona, California. A former Titan football player, he volunteered for military service and enlisted in the Army from his hometown of Ramona in July 1996. He completed One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Georgia as an infantryman. Upon graduation for basic training and the basic airborne course, he was assigned to the Ranger Indoctrination Program.

Graduating from the Ranger Indoctrination Program in November 1996, he was then assigned to the 2nd Bn., 75th Ranger Regiment in December 1996. He served as an automatic rifleman, machine gun team leader, fire team leader, rifle squad leader, and weapons squad leader. In 2005, he was assigned to the Regimental Training Detachment as a pre-Ranger Course instructor at Fort Benning. Following that assignment, SFC McDowell returned to 2nd Bn., 75th Ranger Regiment as a platoon sergeant in 2006.

"My brother ate slept and breathed Army," said his sister Becky McDowell of Poway. "He was Army all the way." She said she was proud of her brother's commitment to the Army, his County, but also to his family. He was following in the footsteps of their father, Steven McDowell, a former Army Ranger.

SFC McDowell's military education includes Basic Airborne Course, Nuclear Hazards Course, Ranger Course, Warrior Leader Course, Jumpmaster Course, Combat Lifesaver Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, and the Advance Noncommissioned Officer Course.

McDowell's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with Valor device, Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters, three Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, three NCO Professional Development Ribbons,

Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, and the Ranger Tab.

SFC McDowell was serving on his seventh combat deployment. His previous deployments were to Afghanistan and Iraq. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal with Valor device and the Meritorious Service Medal.

SFC David L. McDowell was laid to rest on May 7, 2008, at the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside County, California. Interment was private and only for immediate family.

He is survived by his wife Joleen, son Joshua and daughter Erin of Lakewood, WA, his mother Laurie Ann Wathen of Julian, CA, and his father Steven L. McDowell of Hope Mills, NC.



In lieu of flowers the McDowells suggest donations be made to: 2nd Ranger Association Foundation, c/o Mark Wilkins, Treasurer, 2nd Ranger Battalion Assistance Foundation, c/o Merrill Lynch, 1630 So. Lyndbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63131



Sources: 75th Ranger Regiment Biographical Sketch, USASOC press release, dated April 30, 2008, and The Pomerado Newspaper Group article written by Pat Kumpan on May 7, 2008.

# PATROLLING

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*Climbing and rappelling event,  
Best Ranger Competition, 2008.  
Photo by J. Chester*

Officers' Messages .....	1-11
General.....	12-22 & 73-80
Unit Reports.....	22-72

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