



# DISPATCH

Volume 17

June 19, 2005

## Rainbow Troops Mourn Loss of Comrades

By Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta  
42nd Infantry Division PAO

**FORWARDING OPERATING BASE DANGER, Tikrit, IRAQ** - Like an echo of their motto "Never Forget," 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division Soldiers aren't forgetting their fallen comrades.



1st Lt. Louis Allen

The division mourned Capt. Phillip Esposito and 1st Lt. Louis Allen with a ceremony here June 15, a little over a week after they were killed in an explosion. Esposito was commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Infantry Division and Allen was the company operations officer.

Maj. Tom Roltsch, command chaplain for the 132nd Chaplain Support Team, spoke about the night Esposito and Allen died.

**"They both just fought to be here and be part of this thing"**

"That night we were shaken by the sound of an explosion and the sudden deaths of two men who not only served with us, but who served us, who served Soldiers," Roltsch said.

Both Soldiers received military honors during the ceremony, including a moment of silence, a last roll call, firing of volleys and playing of taps. In accordance with military tradition, each Soldier was represented at the ceremony by empty boots, dog tags, and an inverted rifle with a helmet on top.

The memorial displays stood directly beneath the Rainbow sign in front of the 42nd Infantry Division Headquarters building, where the ceremony was held. Following the ceremony, 42nd Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto and Task Force Liberty Soldiers filed past the displays to render a final salute.

At the ceremony or on their own, Soldiers remembered Esposito and Allen.

"He was someone who cared about his soldiers, no matter if you messed up before or not," Spc. Kale Baldwin said about Esposito. A 10th Mountain Division Soldier assigned to Esposito's company as an assistant mail clerk, Baldwin said Esposito didn't hold past mistakes against Soldiers.

"From day one he treated me with respect," Baldwin said. "He didn't care if we were attached, assigned, or whatever. He treated us all the same."

Staff Sgt. Ashvin Thimmaiah, company readiness NCO, said Esposito's greatest accomplishment as company commander was getting his Soldiers trained and deployed.

"He genuinely cared about Soldiers and the mission," Thimmaiah said.

The division assistant chief of staff for operations, Col. Mario Costagliola, knew Allen as a platoon leader in 1st Battalion, 101st Cavalry, which Costagliola commanded. Allen always took care of his troops, Costagliola said - especially at

Ground Zero, in the days following

September 11, 2001, where the evolving situation made some scrounging necessary.

"He was always running around, getting stuff for his guys - food, safety equipment and billeting," Costagliola said. "He never forgot

where he came from," he added, recalling Allen's enlisted service as a military police officer.

Capt. Steven Raiser, a division legal assistance officer, trained with Allen to prepare for the Iraq deployment, and said he got to know Allen very quickly.

"I learned a lot of Soldier skills from him ... how to lead troops, and run a convoy," Raiser said. "He confirmed all our training."

He and Allen always called each other 'Ray' and 'Al' - shortened versions of their last names, Raiser said.



Three Soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Division render a final salute to Capt. Phillip Esposito and 1st Lt. Louis Allen, represented by empty boots, dog tags, and inverted rifles with helmets on top.



Capt. Phillip Esposito

"There's some people you meet that you connect with. 'Al' was one of those people," he said. "That's why this is painful. After training ended, I knew we'd keep in touch."

Both Costagliola and Raiser remembered Allen as a joker and a family man. Costagliola said when he asked if Allen wouldn't prefer a job with more action, he replied that as a father of four, he was "perfectly happy being part of HHC."

In his remarks at the memorial ceremony, Raiser described Allen as a devoted husband and father, who called his wife every day.

"He carried a photo of his four boys in his

(continued on page 2)

## Rainbow Patch Seals Bond Between Neighbors and Soldiers

By Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta  
42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division PAO

It seems like a small thing - something of a coincidence, no bigger than a division patch, in fact. But in the end, the tiny Rainbow patch on West Point Cadet Matthew Ellement's lacrosse jersey confirmed decade-old connections with Lt. Col. Tammy Mandwelle, built on family, community, duty and loyalty.

Ellement is a neighbor and former pupil of Soldier and teacher Lt. Col. Tammy Mandwelle. His younger brother Jeremiah and her son Jordan are friends.

Here's where the coincidences pile up.

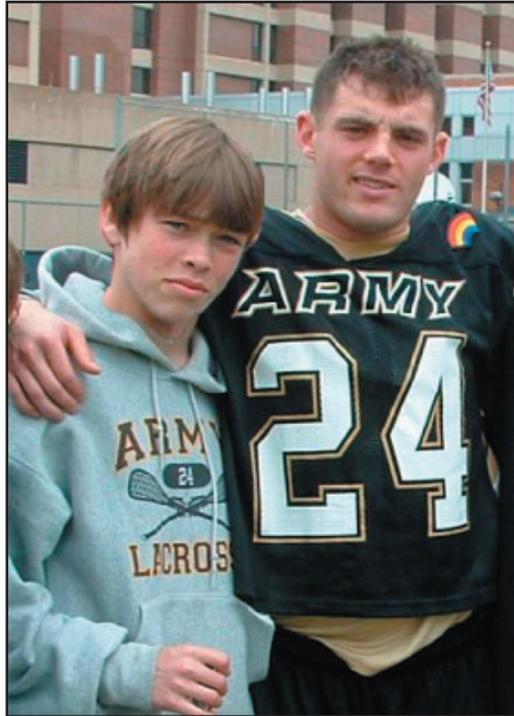
As a show of support for the troops in Iraq, some of whom are former classmates, the West Point Black Knights Lacrosse Team players wear different Army division patches on their jerseys. For his jersey, he was given the distinctive Rainbow patch of the 42nd Infantry Division, Ellement said, which is currently deployed to Iraq, and which Mandwelle is member of.

Ellement, now a second lieutenant in the Army, said it was pure luck.

"I didn't know it was her unit patch until a friend of mine had me look it up on the world wide web," Ellement said. "I was very proud to wear the patch, especially when I found out its connection to us."

"He emailed me that students at West Point feel very connected to those serving in Iraq, because they know they'll have to serve over here also," said Mandwelle. "He told me he wears the rainbow patch on his lacrosse jersey as a sign of support."

The connections between Ellement and Mandwelle run deeper than that. They were student and student teacher, respectively, at



Jordan Mandwelle (left) son of 42nd Infantry Division Soldier Lt. Col. Tammy Mandwelle, poses with West Point Cadet Matthew Ellement (right). As a member of the West Point Black Knights lacrosse team, Ellement wore the 42nd Infantry Division rainbow patch on his jersey.

Queensbury Middle School in 1993. Ellement was a seventh-grader and Mandwelle was earning her teacher's certificate from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh.

They met up again as neighbors when the

Mandwelles moved into the Ellement's neighborhood in 1999. Before attending West Point, Ellement asked her why she liked the military and why she stayed in, Mandwelle said.

"Because of the military, you're given responsibility beyond your years, beyond what a civilian would do," Mandwelle said. "Because of that I came to seek a higher standard in everything else I did. I told him if he pursued a career in the military, it would give him advantages beyond those in his peer group. I told him, in the Army I've had unique opportunities. I've met many people, and traveled to places I wouldn't have been able to ordinarily."

Like Iraq. They began to communicate regularly when Ellement found out Mandwelle was deploying in 2004.

"I was little worried, then proud," Ellement said. "She is an inspiration to me and the community."

With Ellement's recent graduation from West Point, they're now fellow officers and soldiers. Ellement is bound for the Infantry Officers Basic Course and then the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood. Mandwelle, the Joint Visitors Bureau chief, is temporarily attached to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Iraq.

"We're all proud of her and can't wait for her to get back," Ellement said.

The Rainbow patch has a proud history, said Mandwelle, and she is touched and honored that a West Point student wore it in support of her.

"I think there are small things that people do they don't realize have a large impact," she said.

## Task Force Liberty Soldier Charged in Deaths of Unit Officers

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 16, 2005 - A soldier in Iraq has been charged with two counts of premeditated murder in connection with the June 7 deaths of two other soldiers in his unit, military officials in Baghdad announced today.

The charges were preferred June 15 against Army Staff Sgt. Alberto B. Martinez, 37, a supply specialist assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Infantry Division (Mechanized), a Multinational Force Iraq statement said.

The soldiers died at Forward Operating Base Danger, near Tikrit, in what was first reported to be an enemy mortar attack. But on June 10, officials announced a criminal investigation was under way in connection with the soldiers' deaths.

Officials said the charge -- two specifications of premeditated murder under Article 118 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice -

- along with supporting evidence, will be forwarded through the chain of command for review and recommendations on how to proceed. An attorney from the U.S. Army Trial Defense Service is representing Martinez. He may retain a civilian defense attorney to represent him at his own expense and at no cost to the government, officials said.

The accused soldier is in pretrial confinement at a military facility in Kuwait, the MNF-I statement said.

Martinez is charged with killing Capt. Phillip T. Esposito and 1st Lt. Louis E. Allen. Both officers were assigned to the accused soldier's New York Army National Guard unit. Esposito was the company commander; Allen served as a company operations officer.

"Staff Sergeant Martinez has been and will continue to be afforded the extensive rights under the Uniform Code of Military Justice," said Col. Billy J. Buckner, spokesman for the Multinational Corps Iraq.

## Fallen Soldiers Remembered

(continued from page 1)

wallet and would proudly display it to anyone who would look," Raiser said to the Soldiers assembled for the memorial ceremony.

Esposito and Allen were "adamant about coming on the deployment," said Costagliola.

"They both just fought to be here and be part of this thing," he said.

His first reaction to Esposito's death was revulsion at the entire deployment, Thimmaiah said.

"But then I thought, if it was me, if I was in his boots now, Capt. Esposito would drive on," he said. "I feel like he's sitting next to me saying, 'We started this thing, now finish it.'"

"Both had the desire, the passion and the calling to be leaders," said Roltsch. "Both died doing what they loved doing, leading and serving soldiers. No matter what you do or how you process this loss, remember that Louis Allen and Phillip Esposito were Rainbow warriors and that makes them our brothers. Today we suffer as one body, because that's what we are. Today we honor as one body because that's what they deserve."