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Soldier dedicated to making others feel better about themselves

By Sgt. Frank Vaughn
MND-S



COB BASRA – Lt. Col. Gary Miller, currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as deputy officer-in-charge of aviation operations for 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, has dedicated his life to making people around him feel better.

“I have been a teacher my whole life,” the Rapids City, S.D. resident said. “My goal is to make people feel better about themselves through my teaching.”

Miller, the oldest of seven children, lived with his family on a farm in Howard, S.D. growing up. It was there that he learned the value of hard work, endurance and encouragement of others.

“We raised cows, pigs and a few chickens on our farm,” Miller said. “It was hard work at times. We were never rich, but we were comfortable.”

Miller attended Howard High School in Howard, S.D., where he played basketball and ran cross-country in track

and field. He acknowledges that basketball wasn’t something he really excelled at, but he loved long-distance running.

“I wasn’t a very gifted athlete in high school,” said Miller. “I wasn’t really big enough to play basketball or football successfully, but running was kind of my niche. I don’t know if

“If you can get people to feel better about themselves, haven’t you made the world a better place?”

– Lt. Col. Gary Miller
deputy officer-in-charge of aviation operations,
34th Red Bull Infantry Division

I was very good at running, either, but I was the best at my school.”

Miller is now a cross-country running coach at Southwest Middle School in Rapids City, where his goal is to make his students better people through the lessons they learn from athletics.

“I tell them it is not nearly as important to compete with other people when they’re running as it is to constantly improve,” Miller said. “It’s not about how fast you are compared to the other guy, it’s about how fast you are compared to you yesterday.”

Miller hasn’t given up his own running regime, either. He ran in the Stillwater Shadow Marathon at Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq, held May 24, where he finished fifth overall.

The 37-year National Guard veteran has also dedicated his career in the military to teaching others, serving as an Officer Candidate School instructor since 1985. Miller said he particularly enjoys teaching map-reading and land navigation skills.

Miller’s parents, Duane and Shirley, still live in Howard. Miller has a daughter, Wendy Eich, who lives in Epiphany, S.D. and a son, Ryan, who lives in Howard. He also has 5 grandsons.

His philosophy on life is simple: “If you can get people to feel better about themselves, haven’t you made the world a better place?”

For more of Sgt. Vaughn’s stories, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Vaughn



Photo by Sgt. Frank Vaughn

Lt. Col. Gary Miller is currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as deputy officer-in-charge of aviation operations for 34th Red Bull Infantry Division.

Eagle Scout, Soldier, Nightlife promoter

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COB BASRA – Spc. Michael S. Zetts III, currently serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as an intelligence specialist with Multi-National Division-South and 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, prepared for service in the military from an early age.

The 2001 graduate of Struthers High School in Ohio engaged in a number of extracurricular activities throughout his school years, including playing percussion in the school's marching band and participating in student government and drama club. The drama club was a particular passion of his.

"I was the only student in my class who participated in every drama club event from freshman year to graduation," said Zetts.

Despite attending school and participating in all of those activities, Zetts somehow found the time to participate in an after-school organization that gave him some of the tools he would need to succeed in the military.

Zetts was a member of Boy Scout Troop 101 from Struthers, Ohio, where he attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

He didn't join the military immediately after high school, however. Zetts said he worked at Southern Park Mall in the Youngstown, Ohio area selling mobile phones for T-Mobile. The mall had a recruiting office and after an encounter with a U.S. Army recruiter, Zetts decided to join.

Zetts shipped to Fort Jackson, S.C. for basic combat training after joining in late 2002, and after completing BCT he went to Defense Language Institute Foreign Language School and Presidio of Monterey, California for advanced individual training, where he earned an associate's degree in Korean.

It was during his training at the Presidio that Zetts developed his current passion: nightlife promotion.

"We had a multi-purpose building at (the Presidio) that featured parties," said Zetts. "Upstairs they played Top 40 and hip-hop music and downstairs was electronic dance music."

After serving on active duty, including a deployment with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division from Fort Hood, Texas to Iraq in 2005, Zetts decided to continue his military career in the Minnesota

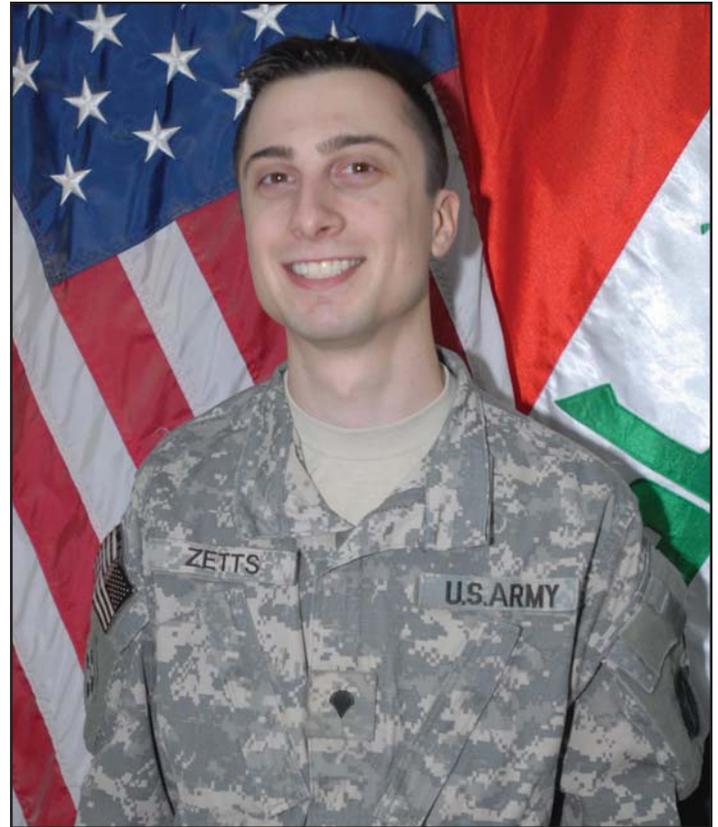


Photo by Sgt. Frank Vaughn

Spc. Michael S. Zetts III currently serves in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as an intelligence specialist with Multi-National Division-South and 34th Red Bull Infantry Division.

National Guard in 2007.

He currently resides in Coitsville Township, Ohio and hopes to turn his passion for nightlife into a successful promotion business.

He plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in marketing. He also plans to attend

the Winter Music Conference in Miami in March of next year to promote nightlife in the Midwest involving the dance music industry.

For more of Sgt. Vaughn's stories, visit:

www.TheRedBulls.org/Vaughn

THE RED BULL REPORT

34th Red Bull Infantry Division
Public Affairs Office



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343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
193rd Military Police Battalion
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Stops and starts to Soldier's career punctuated by surprise deployment

By Sgt. Frank Vaughn
MND-S



COB BASRA – Spc. Rebecca Throop, currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as an intelligence specialist with 34th Red Bull Infantry Division and Multi-National Division-South, has had a series of stops and starts to her military career that ultimately led to her service here.

The 2001 graduate of San Manuel High School in Arizona said she joined the U.S. Army after completing a year of college at University of Arizona in Tucson and Central Arizona College in Coolidge.

"I wanted to put off life for a little while," Throop said. "I had college credit from high school, so I was basically a junior by that time."

She enlisted in the Army on active duty and completed basic combat training at Fort Jackson, S.C. in 2004. Throop attended advanced individual training at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., which allowed her to go home on the weekends once she was allowed to have passes. Through all of this, Throop dated her husband, Martin, who she said was not happy with her being away with the military.

"After I graduated from AIT, I received orders to move to South Korea," said Throop, who graduated from University of Arizona with a bachelor's degree in history in 2007. "Martin and I were married two days before I left."

Throop was scheduled to serve three years in Korea, but a visit from her husband near the end of her first year changed all that. "I became pregnant with our first child during his visit," she said. "I was given a Chapter 8 discharge from active duty and sent home."

Upon her return to Arizona, Throop continued her military career in the U.S. Army Reserve, where she served one year before transferring to the Individual Ready Reserve. She also served a year in the Arizona National Guard before returning to the IRR, where she intended to spend the rest of her military contract.

However, Throop received a call in February asking how her deployment was going, which confused her.

"Deployed?" Throop asked. "I had no idea I was deployed!"

Throop, who teaches sixth grade at Willcox Middle School in Willcox, Ariz., began frantically making phone-calls to find out what was going on, and found out that she had indeed been called up from the IRR to deploy with 34th Inf. Div. The only problem with this was, her orders were effective as of Jan. 11, which meant she was a month

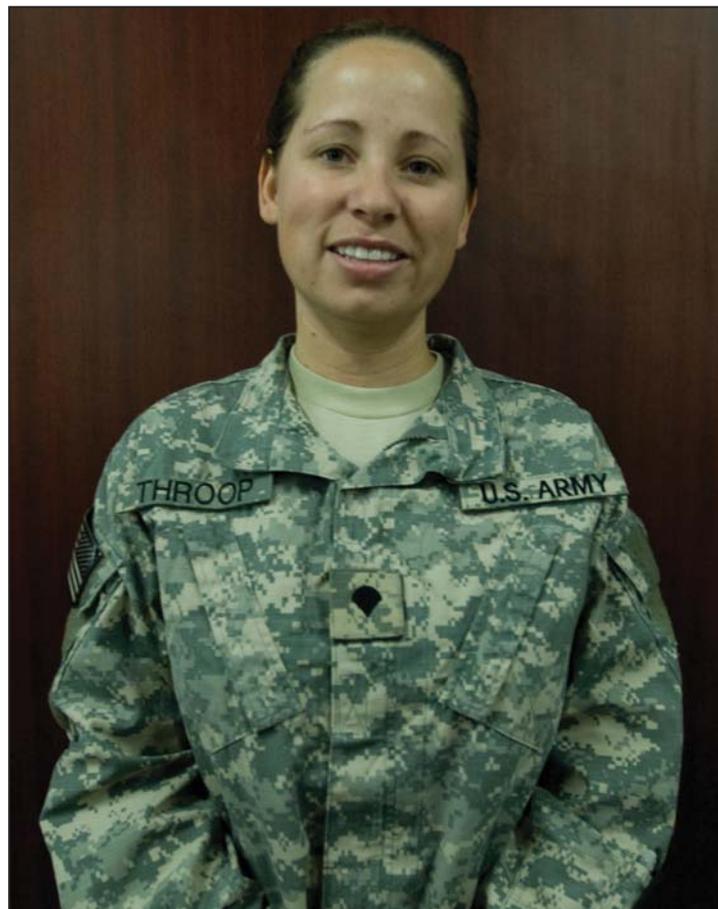


Photo by Sgt. Frank Vaughn

Spc. Rebecca Throop is currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as an intelligence specialist with 34th Red Bull Infantry Division and Multi-National Division-South.

late finding out.

"I was technically a failure to report," Throop said. "It turns out my orders were sent to the wrong address, which is why I never got them."

Throop managed to work everything out and report for duty. She said at first she had fear for her daughters, Emily and Adrianna, who are ages 4 and 2, respectively. She didn't know how they would handle not having their mother at home for such a long time.

However, Throop said everything sort of fell into place following the confirmation she received that she would be deploying. Family and friends have rallied around the Throops to make things easier on everyone.

"I am a Christian and I believe everything happens for a reason," Throop said. "I am here for a reason. It helps that I have an amazing support system of parents, family and friends who have gathered behind us. Also, Martin is very supportive of me."

Throop said her girls are doing well, all things considered. "I have a laptop and I have Skype so I can see them a couple of times a week," she said. "This is particularly important for my youngest, who is having a hard time not having her mom

HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT

Willcox is the birthplace of Rex Allen, known as "The Arizona Cowboy," who wrote and recorded many songs, starred in several westerns during the early 1950s and in the syndicated television series "Frontier Doctor."

See **THROOP**

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THROOP

around.”

Throop said her concerns for her family were just one part of having to mentally and emotionally prepare for her deployment. Having to switch from being in civilian status for much of her career to jumping right into the game with both feet left her wondering how she would handle things. However, she has also found a strong support system within the 34th Inf. Div.

“I still struggle day-to-day feeling I’m not Soldier enough for this,” Throop said. “But I work with a lot of very caring people who have taken good care of me since I got here.”

For more of Sgt. Vaughn’s stories, visit:

www.TheRedBulls.org/Vaughn



What about my 6% interest rate cap?

People often times have misconceptions about the protections of the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act, especially when it comes to the six percent interest rate cap. The cap on interest rates is not automatic. The interest rate cap only applies to debts that were incurred prior to the time the service member was placed on active duty orders and only when the service member's ability to repay a debt is materially affected by being ordered to active duty.

The purpose of the cap is to protect, primarily, reserve component soldiers whose financial situations are negatively impacted by being called to active duty. For example, a family made a large purchase on a credit card at 18% interest figuring that they could afford it because the spouse had a part time job. However, before the debt could be paid off, the service member was deployed and the spouse had to quit his or her part time job. The once-manageable debt is now a hardship due to the deployment. The six percent interest rate cap protection then becomes

an entitlement to the family assuming the service member's deployment pay is less than the spouse's lost income. If a call to active duty does not create a financial hardship for an individual or family, the six percent interest rate cap is not available; some creditors may still be willing to lower a service member's interest rate, but it's not guaranteed by law.

The burden of proof, to show that a hardship exists, is on the creditor. Many times, creditors will reduce the interest rate without considering the hardship issue. You should not represent, to your creditor, that a financial hardship has been created solely due to a deployment if it is not true.

People often believe they are locked into the six percent interest rate cap for the duration of the active duty orders. However, it is imperative to understand that only debts that existed prior to the service member entering active duty are covered by the six percent interest rate cap protection. Any debt that is incurred while on active duty is not protected by the cap. Federally Guarant



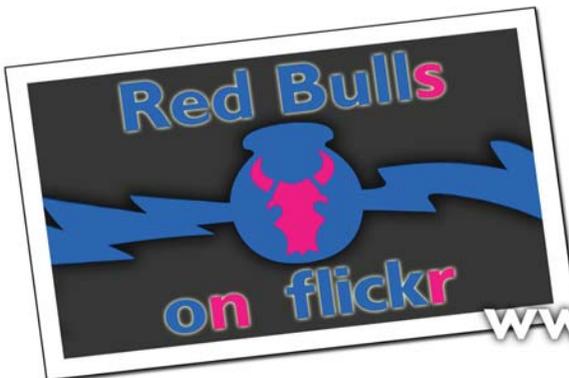
teed Student loans are not protected by the six percent cap; although, you may be able to forebear or defer payments.

In order to obtain the six percent interest rate cap, the service member must make a written request to the lender with a copy of the active duty orders attached. Upon return, it is the soldier's responsibility to inform the lender that their active duty orders have ended so that lender can reinstate the pre-deployment interest rate.

For more of JAG's comments, visit www.TheRedBulls.org/TheGavel



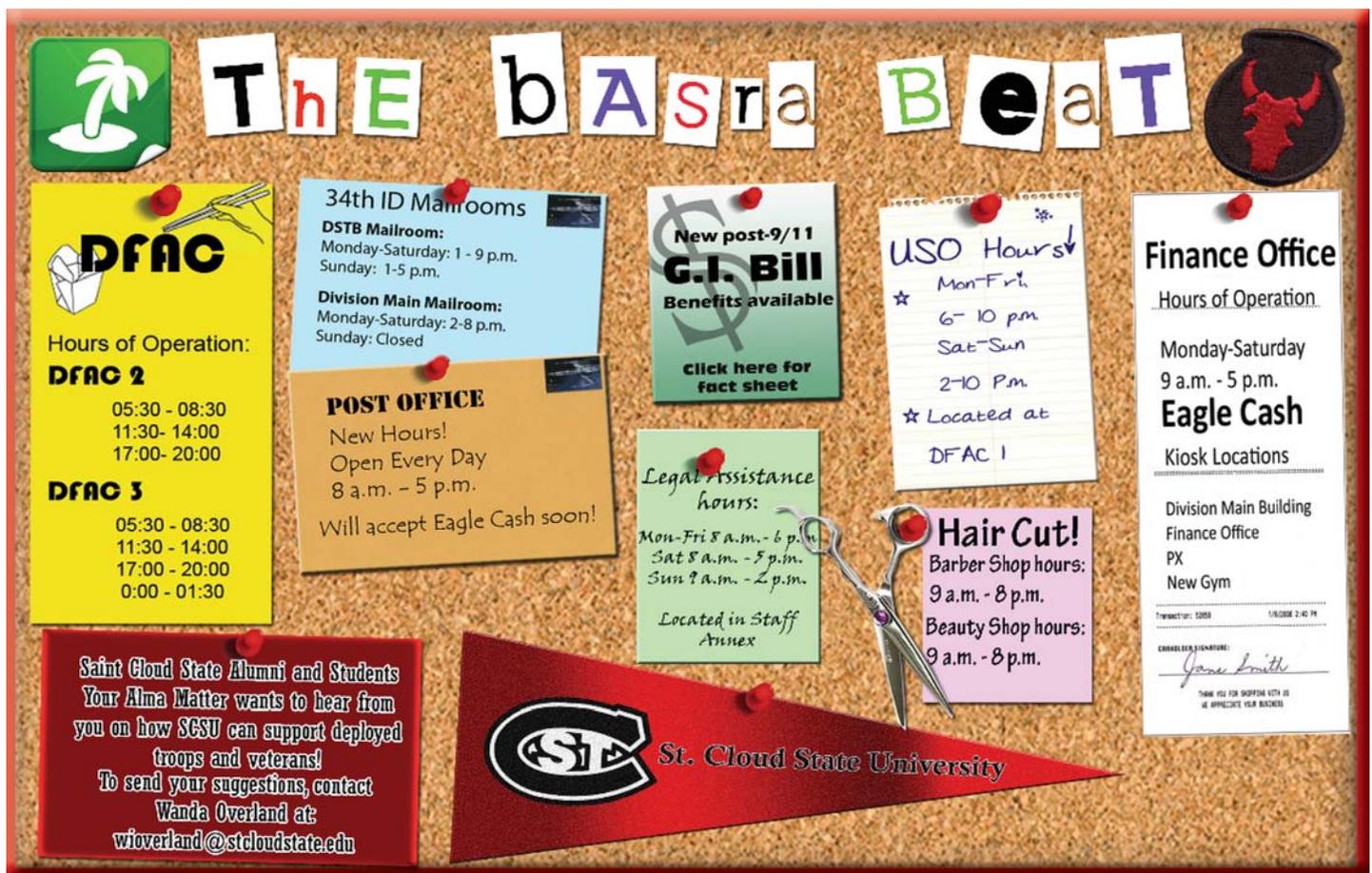
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Around the world in 34 seconds

WORLD **KABUL** - Hundreds of foreigners are leaving Afghanistan ahead of the Aug. 20 election amid fears of insurgent attacks, as those staying behind are being warned to spend the week in their homes or office compounds. Insurgents waging a war against the government have threatened to attack polling stations Aug. 20, when Afghans are set to choose a president for only the second time in their country's history. One international security firm has told foreign clients to have body armour and passports with them at all times as attacks were expected. From Aug. 18 to Aug. 23, four days after the poll, "only essential movement is advised," the firm said in an advisory. "It is expected that AGE (anti-government elements, including Taliban) will attempt to disrupt the election process before, after and on" August 20, it said.

U.S. **SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.** - Hot, dry winds and high temperatures continued to fan wildfires across California Aug. 16, often pushing firefighters into rugged terrain to contain the flames even as they watched for new blazes. "Things are so dry out there that it doesn't take much for a spark or an ember to quickly develop into a wildfire," CalFire spokesman Daniel Berlant said. A fire near the Santa Cruz County mountain communities of Swanton and Bonny Doon - called the Lockheed fire because of its proximity to a Lockheed Martin Corp. Space Systems facility 70 miles south of San Francisco - was 50 percent contained after burning 10 square miles since Aug. 12 and leading to the evacuation of 2,400 people. The blaze still threatened 250 homes. As many as 2,165 firefighters were battling it.

SPORTS **SEOUL, South Korea** — Y.E. Yang's stunning win over Tiger Woods at the PGA Championship gave the burgeoning golf market in Asia something no amount of money can buy: the region's first major champion. Golfers and fans in Asia had access to some of the world's newest and most lush courses, the attention of global sponsors, broadcasters and administrators and a group of seven South Korean women who combined for 11 major titles, but Yang's come-from-behind win over Woods Aug. 16 was unprecedented in so many ways. Not least the impetus it gives the game across the far-flung Asian continent. Woods had never lost in the 14 previous majors in which he'd taken a lead into the final round. But Yang was never overawed, giving Asians a homegrown men's champion to cheer for rather than rely on familial links with Woods, who has a Thai mother, and Fijian-born Vijay Singh, a major champion of Indian heritage.

ODD **SYDNEY** - A Dutchman and his grandson boarded a flight to Sydney, looking forward to visiting sunny Australia, but ended up in a much chillier Sydney -- in Nova Scotia, Canada. Joannes Rutten, 71, and his 15-year-old grandson Nick booked the trip through a Dutch travel agency with plans to visit family living in Wollongong and Tallong, south of Sydney, according to local newspaper the Illawarra Mercury. They set out from Amsterdam's Schiphol airport with Air Canada Aug. 8, but instead of arriving to views of the Sydney Harbor Bridge and Opera House, they touched down at Sydney in Cape Breton Island, off Canada's northeast coast -- more than 17,000 kms (10,000 miles) away from their intended destination. Air Canada organized hotel rooms in the wrong Sydney, a former mining town with high unemployment and a population of about 26,000, until they could arrange flights on to the right Sydney, which boasts sun-kissed beaches and 4 million people. They finally arrived in Australia Aug. 12.