

Airborne military policeman follows in fathers footsteps in Army, Iraq

by Pfc. Jason Adolphson

16th MP Bde. PAO

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq — Sgt. Maj. Buford Noland, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Military Police Brigade, said that he comes from a long line of military service members.

One more generation continues this tradition as his son, Spc. Jake Noland, 118th MP Company (Airborne), follows in his father's footsteps.

They are both airborne military policemen, stationed at Fort Bragg, and both are currently deployed in Iraq.

"I have departed from Green Ramp many times to deploy without worry for myself, but it's an entirely different feeling when you're watching your son head into combat," said Sgt. Maj. Noland.

Though this father and son aren't stationed together in Iraq, there are occasional circumstances which make it possible for them to see one another. On Nov. 1, Sgt. Maj. Noland accompanied a convoy, which involved traveling through unpredictable and hazardous conditions, to reach a destination that would make it all worth while.

The occasion was an awards ceremony, for 118th MP Co. (Abn.), where Sgt. Maj. Noland was given the opportunity to pin Spc. Noland with the Combat Action Badge.

Spc. Noland said the last two opportunities that made it possible for him to see his father were under unfortunate circumstances, and he was happy to have a chance to see his father under more enjoyable conditions.

Back on the home front, Sgt. Major Noland's wife, Debra, has both Soldiers to think about, while the two men in her life are deployed.

She said even though she has her concerns, she is proud, said the Noland duo.

Not only does she have a family brave enough to volunteer and serve in the U.S. Army, but they also volunteered to become the paratroopers they are today.

Sgt. Maj. Noland expressed pride in his son's accomplishments and said, "It's such a



photo by Pfc. Jason Adolphson/16th MP Bde PAO

Sgt. Maj. Buford Noland and son, Spc. Jake Noland, stand proudly together after an awards ceremony near Baghdad, Iraq, Nov. 1.

proud moment being here today to see him do his part to serve our country.

"It makes such a difference to be deployed while Jake is in theater, because it adds worry; however, comfort comes from being nearby," said Sgt. Maj. Noland. "I was previously the operations sergeant for 118th, and I am confident in the way they operate.

"This helps to put my mind at ease when he is out on patrols," Sgt. Maj. Noland added.

The specialist has a

lengthy road to travel before attaining the rank of sergeant major, but he could be on his way to achieving the same rank as his father.

Spc. Noland signed a six-year reenlistment with the Army shortly before his departure to Iraq.

Spc. Noland also added his reason for joining the military was because he wanted to help people.

As long as Jake puts his best effort forward and he is happy, it doesn't matter what path he chooses for his life, said his dad.

Army seeks medical candidates

WAMC PAO

US Army Recruiting Command will be briefing Soldiers on the benefits of the Interservice Physician Assistant Program and the Army Medical Department, Enlisted Commissioning Program Nurse Corps at Fort Bragg on Nov 16 and 17.

Capt. James Jones and Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Wagner will be giving briefings on the Interservice Physician Assistant Program and the AMEDD Enlisted Commissioning Program at the Community Center, Building 1-375-1 on the corner of Knox and Randolph streets.

The PA briefing will be in Webster University Classroom 6, at 8 a.m. or 3 p.m. and the AECP briefing will be at 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

On Nov. 17 the PA briefings will be in Womack Army Medical Center (4 North, room. 417) at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. and the AECP Briefing will be at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.

If you plan on attending the briefings, please email

Jones at ipap@usarec.army.mil and include what time you plan on attending. Soldiers who can't attend the briefings should visit the AECP

Web site at www.usarec.army.mil.

AECP is open to all enlisted personnel regardless of military occupational specialty.

"We want to get the word out to all interested Soldiers in every MOS, and give them a chance to apply for the program," said Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Wagner, AECP manager. "The more Soldiers who apply can give us some leverage when it comes to requesting more funding for the program."

Applicants must be able to enter a bachelor of science in nursing program at an accredited college or university and complete their nursing degree within 24 months. The program funds tuition up to \$9,000 per semester. Soldiers continue to receive full pay and entitlements plus a \$1,000 per year stipend to pay for books and school necessities.

After graduating from the program, the Soldier will attend the AMEDD Officer's Basic Course where they will be commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps. The application deadline is July 1, 2007 and the selection board convenes in August.

The program is located at the AMEDD Center and

School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Graduates receive a commission in the Army Medical Specialist Corps as 1st lieutenants and earn a Masters' degree from the University of Nebraska.

The Army trains about 95 Soldiers a year as well as candidates from the Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, National Guard and U.S. Public Health Service.

Applications for the AECP program are accepted until March 1, 2007 and will be reviewed by a board in June. Official transcripts and SAT scores will be accepted until June 1, 2007. All applicants are required to have an SAT within 5 years of application. The minimum score must be 450 in each section of the exam and a composite score of no less than 1500 in the newer version and a minimum composite score of 1000 in the previous version. Complete application procedures can be found in the fiscal year message at www.usarec.army.mil/armpya. The program also offers a Requirements Completion Course so Soldiers can complete the prerequisite courses.

For more information, contact Jones at ipap@usarec.army.mil or 1-800-223-3735 - ext 60386.

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