



NEWS RELEASE

**Public Affairs Office
Fort Riley, KS 66442
Telephone (785) 239-2022 Fax (785) 239-2592
After Hours (785) 239-2222
Email: 19extinform@riley.army.mil
www.riley.army.mil**



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
Christie Vanover, Community Relations/Deputy Media Relations Officer

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FORT RILEY SOLDIERS KILLED IN ACTION IDENTIFIED

Five Fort Riley Soldiers were killed March 31, in Habbaniyah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device hit their armored personnel carrier.

The soldiers were assigned to Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. Killed were:

First Lt. Doyle M. Hufstedler, 25, of Abilene, Texas, was a platoon leader. He joined the Army in August 2002 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since March 2003.

Spc. Sean R. Mitchell, 24, of Youngsville, Pa., joined the Army in November 1999 as a combat engineer and had been stationed at Fort Riley since April 2000.

Spc. Michael G. Karr, Jr., 23, of San Antonio, Texas, joined the Army in June 2002 as a health care specialist and had been stationed at Fort Riley since January 2003.

Pfc. Cleston C. Raney, 20, of Rupert, Idaho, joined the Army in November 2002 as a combat engineer and had been stationed at Fort Riley since April 2003.

Pvt. 2 Brandon L. Davis, 20, of Cumberland, Md., joined the Army in February 2003 as a combat engineer and had been stationed at Fort Riley since June 2003.

All five Soldiers deployed to Iraq in September 2003.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of our five Fort Riley Soldiers and our hearts go out to their love ones. They died as heroes protecting innocent Iraqi civilians who are victims of tyranny, but they also died as heroes protecting our homeland against terrorist," said Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley.

"In this regard, our Soldiers will continue to take this fight to the enemy and we will prevail. Their deaths are a tragedy, and we ask everyone to keep our Soldiers' families and those Soldiers still serving overseas in your thoughts and prayers as we continue this vital national mission."

Approximately 4,600 Fort Riley Soldiers are currently deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. This incident brings the number of Fort Riley Soldiers who have died while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to 35.

The incident is under investigation.

No photos are available at this time.