

In recognition of Megan S. Detweiler



Megan was commissioned in the US ARMY after graduating with a B.S. in Biology from Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA in 2001. Megan went in the Signal Corp. Sept. 15, 2001 for training, & then on to Fort Riley, KS where she was assigned as SIGO for a Combat Engineer Battalion. She was able to transfer to the other Brigade, also at Fort Riley, to be able to be a platoon leader of a Signal platoon which she needed to make Captain and war in Iraq looked imminent & people would be locked into their units.

Megan went to Iraq with her new platoon to the Anbar region near Fallujah - R'amadi for a year before there were support services or Marines for support. She said it was a very hard year and makes soldiers cherish their family and freedom back here in the states quickly. After returning from Iraq, she notified us after being on US Soil for 3 days that her Humvee was hit by an IED on the initial convoy into Iraq from Kuwait. She said she and her driver were protected from most of the blast by all of their signal equipment overloaded in the humvee and by the Grace of God. Their vehicle was immobilized, but hooked up for a tow to keep the convoy moving OUTA THERE. This was before there were any armored humvees. No one in the convoy reported the attack, to our amazement. Megan said she did not know how the people "lived" there. She said there was NOTHING there.... nothing. The only place to set up an "antenna" was the highest "ground" and she said she did not want to think what was IN the high "mound". There were no trees, nothing green anywhere, no animals, so had no idea what the people would eat.

Megan enjoyed being back in the states the next fall seeing green trees, friends and family. She was promoted to Captain, and waited for the next deployment letter to go back to Iraq, which came in December 2005 right before Christmas. Megan was able to transfer to a unit from the NC National Guard that was headed to Afghanistan that needed an Army Captain. She left us in January 2006 for training and the group deployed in April for a year. She really enjoyed working as a liaison with NATO forces from many countries, the Afghan Police, Afghan military and tribal leaders on working together to protect their citizens from the Taliban. Megan travelled all over the country, so was able to get a great picture of daily life of the people there and worked hard in winning trust & confidence in our help. With the use of US funds, Americans built 100 schools around the country, each with a wall around them for protection. Each school was fully equipped with chalk boards, desk/chair combinations and ready to open upon completion. This may not seem like a big deal to US citizens, but there were no schools in Afghanistan. There are no stores to buy pencils or paper and no girls had ever gone to school. Some boys were taught by Imam's in their areas, but not like we would know school. With the new schools there were 3 hours per day of school for boys, then 3 hours of school per day for girls. The tribal leaders were taught to use their Afghan Police force and when to use the Afghan military to keep their teachers "safe" and the school open. We take so much for granted here. Megan asked us to collect gloves, coats, paper, pencils and clothes from our closets and get our neighbors to contribute to send items over there and she would make sure they were distributed to many of the people & children. Megan said there were kids who used a burnt stick on a piece of cloth to write with, then wash the cloth to use the next day, while others would erase their paper to reuse the next day. Megan arrived home from her Afghanistan tour in summer 2008. While she was in Afghanistan, she looked into doing work as a civilian contractor there after her tour. She was home for the summer & fall, enjoying her time with friends, family, the farm, and her horses, which are all at our farm with our livestock.

Megan did get a job in Afghanistan, having just landed in Kabul the last week of January. She will mentor the Afghan Police in radio communications while she is there.

Captain Megan S. Detweiler received the Bronze Star for the hard work she did while in Afghanistan.



Captain Megan S. Detweiler, US Army in Afghanistan 2007-2008 with the Afghan Police General & staff she mentored in communications.

One day Megan would love to buy a farm of her own, which is why she went back to the ME as a contractor, rather than get a job in corporate America when she saw how bad the US economy was getting in mid 2008.

As an aside, we were drawn to your website for pricing TEFF grass. We planted TEFF for the first time last summer as a hay/grazing experiment. We have a mountain farm with shale, dry ground in the summer, and all of the attributes listed for TEFF looked like what we needed for summer hay & pasture. We were very pleased, got good yield for hay and later pastured it. We will learn from our mistakes in last year's planting for this year, and hope to get seed prices from you soon. We are so HAPPY to see you offer military discounts!

Please pray for all of those military & contractor employees who continue to put their lives in danger to make a better world for those less fortunate, so they may also some day see the FREEDOM we all take for granted.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lesley Detweiler, proud mother of Megan
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