

## FALLEN HEROES FROM CALIFORNIA



### **Army Spc. Jameson L. Lindskog**

**Died March 29, 2011** serving during Operation Enduring Freedom

23, of Pleasanton, Calif., assigned to 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.; died March 29 in the Sarkani district of Kunar province, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with small-arms fire.

Medic among 6 killed in Afghanistan

The Associated Press

PLEASANTON, Calif. — A 23-year-old Army medic from the San Francisco Bay area has been killed in Afghanistan along with five fellow members of the 101st Airborne Division based in Ft. Campbell, Ky.

Spc. Jameson Lindskog's mother told the Contra Costa Times on March 31 that her son was shot while tending to injured soldiers from his unit, which came under attack Tuesday near Pakistan.

Donna Walker said her son joined the Army because he thought the medical training would help him pursue a career as a physical therapist. His four-year military commitment was scheduled to end in August 2012.

Lindskog graduated from Amador Valley High in Pleasanton, Calif., and split his time between his mother's home and his father's in nearby Livermore.

Two members of his unit died in the same attack. Army officials say three other members of the 101st Airborne also were killed March 29 during a military offensive in Kunar province.



**Army Spc. Rudy A. Acosta**

**Died March 19, 2011 serving during Operation Enduring Freedom**

19, of Canyon Country, Calif., assigned to 4th Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany; died March 19 in Shah Wali Kot, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained from small-arms fire.

Father of fallen soldier proud but 'heartbroken'

The Associated Press

Back in California, Rudy Acosta was well-liked by everyone at his high school, his friends said. He performed in school plays and wasn't shy about showing his school spirit for Santa Clarita Christian School. Some remember that, as a sophomore, he went so far as to shave all his hair during spirit week and leave only "SCCS" in red-dyed letters on the back of his head. "You can't help but smile when you think of Rudy," said classmate Taylor Tronson, 20. The 19-year-old Acosta died March 19 in Kandahar province. The military said he was fatally wounded when a person from a military security group allegedly opened fire. Acosta had been based in Vilseck, Germany. His father, Dante Acosta, told the Santa Clarita Valley Signal that he was proud of his son but "heartbroken." He told the newspaper that his son inspired others. "He was a wonderful young man who came back a man," he said. Acosta graduated from high school in 2009, completed Army basic training that summer and was deployed to Afghanistan on June 10. He served as a health care specialist and planned to enroll in medical school after he completed his service, his father said.



**Army Pfc. Arturo E. Rodriguez**

**Died March 16, 2011** serving during **Operation Enduring Freedom**

19, of Bellflower, Calif.; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.; died March 12 in the Giyan district of Paktika province, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit using small-arms fire.

Fort Campbell: Small-arms fire killed 101st soldier

The (Clarksville, Tenn.) Leaf-Chronicle

Small-arms fire killed a 101st Airborne soldier on dismounted patrol March 12 in the Giyan district of Paktika province, Afghanistan, according to a Fort Campbell news release.

Pfc. Arturo Emmanuel Rodriguez, 19, of Bellflower, Calif., was an infantryman assigned to Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division. He joined the Army in February 2010 and arrived at Fort Campbell in July 2010.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal, Parachutist Badge and Combat Infantryman Badge.

Rodriguez is survived by his father, Arturo Rodriguez Segura, and mother, Rosa Jimenez Davila, both of Mexico. He is also survived by his aunt, Maria Lopez of Bellflower, Calif.



## **Air Force Senior Airman Michael J. Hinkle II**

**Died March 16, 2011** serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom

24, of Corona, Calif., assigned to the 28th Communications Squadron, Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.; died March 16 due to a non-combat incident at Ali al Salem Air Base, Kuwait.

Ellsworth colleagues remember fallen airman

The Associated Press

RAPID CITY, S.D. — A memorial service has been held at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota for an airman who died in a non-combat incident in Southwest Asia.

Senior Airman Michael Hinkle II, 24, of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing died March 16 after being found unresponsive in his barracks room. His father told the Rapid City Journal that the family is awaiting the results of the military investigation into the cause of death.

Hinkle grew up in California and Michigan. He joined the Air Force in December 2005 and had been stationed at Ellsworth since November 2008. Those who gathered for the March 30 memorial service described him as a computer expert with an outgoing personality and a desire to see the world.

Hinkle was buried in Michigan earlier this week.



**Army Staff Sgt. Eric S. Trueblood**

**Died March 10, 2011** serving during **Operation Enduring Freedom**

27, of Alameda, Calif.; assigned to 391st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, Spinelli Barracks, Mannheim, Germany; died March 10 in Arghandab Valley, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

Soldier remembered as honest, ‘a good guy’

The Associated Press

An eight-year Army veteran, Eric Trueblood was known as an honest soldier who used humor and encouragement to remain positive.

Friends said in a Stars and Stripes newspaper report that he was a skilled bomb technician and had been a trusted mentor.

“He was a good guy, one of a kind, first class,” said Spc. Graham Burnsed of the 515th Transportation Company in Mannheim, Germany.

Trueblood, 27, of Alameda, Calif., died March 10 after his unit was attacked Kandahar province, Afghanistan. He was based in Mannheim and on his second tour in Afghanistan.

An obituary for him published in the Laramie (Wyo.) Boomerang said he was born in Gillete, and he and his family lived in the state until he was 5. They then moved to Alameda, Calif., where Trueblood attended St. Joseph School.

He enlisted in the Army in March 2003 and eventually became a bomb technician.

“Eric was always there when you needed someone,” said Spc. Kyle Holly. “He was a person of action.”

Trueblood’s survivors include his mother, Linda Trueblood, of Mountain View, Calif.; father, Donald Trueblood, of Walnut Creek, Calif.; and sister, Nena Trueblood.



**Army Staff Sgt. Mark C. Wells** Died during Operation Enduring Freedom

**31, of San Jose, Calif.; assigned to 45th Sustainment Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; died March 5 at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device**



**Marine Cpl. Jordan R. Stanton**

**Died March 4, 2011** serving during **Operation Enduring Freedom**

20, of Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.; assigned to the 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.; died March 4 in Helmand province, Afghanistan, while conducting combat operations.

\* \* \* \* \*

Fallen Marine remembered as driven, full of life

The Associated Press

Growing up, Jordan Stanton and his brothers were known as standout athletes in their Southern California community, where the Marine played football and baseball in high school. He wrestled, too. But his father told the Orange County Register that Stanton wouldn't let his athleticism define him. He planned to pursue "a more certain path," which involved enlisting in the military, his father said. "He was a planner. It was amazing to see a young man so driven," said Pastor Doug Elliott with RockIrvine Church. Stanton, 20, died March 4 in combat in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to Camp Lejeune. More than 1,000 people attended a service for him in his hometown of Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif. There, friends and family remembered Stanton as full of life — someone ready with a joke and the right thing to say. "If I know Jordan, right now he's probably getting a tattoo of angel's wings and then drinking an energy drink concocted by Jack LeLanne," said his brother Ryan Stanton, 28. Jordan Stanton graduated from Trabuco Hills High School in 2008.



**Army Sgt. Jason M. Weaver**

**Died March 3, 2011 serving during Operation Enduring Freedom**

22, of Anaheim, Calif.; assigned to 504th Military Police Battalion, 42nd Military Police Brigade, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.; died March 3 in Kandahar province, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when insurgents attacked his unit using an improvised explosive device.

Fallen soldier remembered for optimism, leadership

The Associated Press

Jason Weaver had a smile and sense of humor that could cheer those around him, friends and family said. When times grew challenging, the soldier showed optimism, even smiling through hot and dusty days as he served in Afghanistan, comrades remembered. “He was beautiful inside and out,” said his aunt, Gloria Wood. “And those dimples — what a face!” Weaver, 22, of Anaheim, Calif., was killed March 3 in Kandahar province. He was assigned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Friend Spc. Brian Gabel said Weaver took the lead on his squad’s foot patrols, and he volunteered for the position, even though it was a risky responsibility. “He knew it was a dangerous job,” Gabel said in an Army account. “But that’s the kind of guy he was: the kind who wanted to lead the way for his team and be there to protect them if they were in danger.” Weaver was promoted posthumously from specialist to sergeant. The Orange County Register reported that he played linebacker on the El Dorado High School football team in Placentia before graduating in 2007. “My son was a very compassionate, loving, caring and generous person,” Patricia Weaver said in a statement. “He will be missed dearly by everybody.”