



CASUALTIES OF WAR

54 Fort Hood troops killed in Afghanistan



Col. John Spiszer, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, commander looks at the memorial plaque of Sgt. Douglas Bull at the Forward Operating Base Fenty dining facility dedication on Memorial Day in northeastern Afghanistan. The DFAC was dedicated to Bull, who died on July 8, 2008. He was the first 3rd Brigade soldier to die in Operation Enduring Freedom.

1st Infantry's 3rd Brigade sees most combat deaths

By Rose L. Thayer
Fort Hood Herald

August was a significant month for the war in Afghanistan. It's the month the death toll for Operation Enduring Freedom reached more than 2,000 and was also the deadliest month of 2012 — 53 NATO troops were killed and two-thirds of those were Americans, according to the website icasualties.org.

While Fort Hood's participation in the Afghanistan war, which began in 2001, has been less than some installations, it has not been easy. Fort Hood has lost 54 service members in Afghanistan, one an airman with the 712th Air Support Operations Squadron. Their ages range from 18 to 47 years old, and their ranks from private to brigadier general.

Fort Hood sent its first unit to Afghanistan in 2001, according to the III Corps and Fort Hood Public Affairs Office.

On Nov. 14, 2001, 5th Platoon, 545th Military Police Company, then part of the 1st Cavalry Division, was deployed to Camp Doha, Kuwait, in support of Task Force Blackjack Thunder, Operation Desert Spring 03-01. While undergoing their training exercises on Dec. 15, 2001, they were redeployed and assigned to Headquarters Army Forces Central Command, located at Bagram, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The first Fort Hood casualty occurred on June 11, 2006, when 28-year-old Cpl. Bernard Corpuz, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, now known as the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, was killed during hostile fire, according to icasualties.org. Since then, that brigade has gone on to lose two more soldiers during its 2011 to 2012 deployment.

It is the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, now stationed

By the numbers

Fort Hood units with the most casualties
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division: 27
36th Engineer Brigade: 10
89th Military Police Brigade: 6
13th Sustainment Command: 4
504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade: 3

Total Operation Enduring Freedom casualties
U.S.: 2,090
Britain: 342
Other countries: 454

OEF casualties within Afghanistan
U.S.: 1,973
Britain: 342
Other countries: 453

States with the most Afghanistan casualties
California: 222
Texas: 161
Florida: 138
Illinois: 87
New York: 87
Pennsylvania: 79
Ohio: 79

U.S. service members wounded in Afghanistan
17,282

Source: Associated Press



ABOVE: Dismounted soldiers with the 510th Clearance Company, 20th Engineer Battalion, sweep a field using handheld detection devices near Kandahar City, Afghanistan.

AT LEFT: Pfc. Eric Mulder, chaplain assistant, 2nd Battalion, 38th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Hood, joins the rest of Charlie Company soldiers in a moment of prayer during the Aug. 19, 2011, birthday celebration and memorial for Cpl. Robert R. Gross in Spin Boldak, Afghanistan.

