



Jesse Aaron Ozbat

Jesse Aaron Ozbat

Born February 21, 1984

Killed in Action May 20, 2012

Jesse was born in Caro, Michigan to Aaron and Cynthia Ozbat. In 1985 the Ozbat family moved to Fort Polk, Louisiana. Jesse's father moved the family as he was a United States Army Soldier. The family moved to several locations as the U.S. Army reassigned Aaron Ozbat according to the needs of the Army. The family moved to Fort Lee, Virginia in 1995 and set down roots in Prince George, Virginia.

Jesse graduated from Prince George High School in 2002. He attended Virginia State University on an ROTC Scholarship. Jesse graduated from Virginia State University in 2006, Suma Cum Laude. He also graduated in the top 10% of all the ROTC Cadets in the United States. He was commissioned on 13 May 2006 into the United States Army as an Artillery Officer. His service record is as follows:

June 2006: Reported to Fort Benning, Georgia for Basic Officer Leadership Course

July 3, 2006: Married Danielle Evans, his High School Sweetheart in Cusseta, Georgia just outside of Fort Benning

August 2006: Completed Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Benning, Georgia

September 2006: Reported to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for Officer Basic Course

November 2006: Completed Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and visited family in Prince George on the way to Hawaii and the 25th Infantry Division.

December 2006: Completed training and visited family in Prince George on way to Hawaii and the 25th Infantry Division

December 2006: Reported to 1/14 INF 2nd BCT, 25th Infantry Division Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

December 2007: Deployed to Taji, Iraq

February 2009: Returned to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

July 2009: Reassigned to Fort Sill, Oklahoma

April 30, 2012: Deployed with SFAT 28, 214 Fires Brigade Fort Sill, Oklahoma to Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan

May 20, 2012: Confirmed Killed in Action, Tarin Kowt, Uruzgan Afghanistan

May 21, 2012: Body arrived at Dover Air Force Base, Dover Delaware

May 30, 2012: Body arrived in Richmond, Virginia and transported to Petersburg, Virginia

June 2, 2012: Buried in Blandford Cemetery, Petersburg, Virginia



Jesse and wife Danielle

Below: Day of Departure for Afghanistan



Below left: Jesse in Iraq.



Below right: Jesse in Afghanistan





Above and below: Scenes from Afghanistan



IED claims life of soldier

Prince George officer killed in Afghanistan

BY BRIAN J. COUTURIER
STAFF WRITER

A Prince George County man was one of two soldiers from Fort Sill, Okla., who were killed in an attack in Afghanistan over the weekend.

Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat, 28, of Prince George, and 2nd Lt. Tobias C. Alexander, 30, of Lawton, Okla., died of wounds they suffered when their unit was attacked in Tarin Kowt with an improvised explosive device on Sunday, the Department of Defense announced Monday.

Ozbat was assigned to Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 214th Fires Brigade, and Alexander was assigned to 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery, 214th Fires Brigade.

"Our condolences go out to the families of these two brave soldiers during this difficult time," Fort Sill spokesman Keith Pannell said.

Ozbat, who was married, lived in the Fort Sill area. Family members have declined media requests for comment.

The two soldiers were assigned to security force



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advisory teams responsible for training and mentoring Afghanistan's National Security Forces, the Fort Sill Public Affairs Office said.

"These teams are critical to creating effective Afghan military and police forces and for the transition of the responsibility for the security of country to Afghanistan's government," the office said in a statement.

Ozbat had been deployed in Afghanistan for about a month in what appeared to be his first combat deployment, Pannell said.

Ozbat graduated from Prince George High School in June 2002 and had spent four years in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, according to a school official. He was a 2006 graduate at Virginia State University with a bachelor of science degree in mathematics. He was commissioned in 2006 through the university's Trojan Warrior Battalion.

"We send our prayers and condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues," VSU said in a statement.

According to the Fort Sill website, the 168th Brigade Support Battalion provides offensive logistics support to the 214th Fires Brigade. The brigade commander is Col. Timothy J. Daugherty.

In October 2006, the 2-5 Field Artillery and the 168 Brigade Support Battalion

became a part of the 214th Fires Brigade. In April 2007, the 214th Fires Brigade deployed for 15 months Iraq. "Today, the 214th Fires Brigade is the most lethal Field Artillery organization in the world," the unit's website said.

Tarin Kowt is the capital of Uruzgan province, about 50 miles north of Kandahar in the central part of Afghanistan. It is a town of about 10,000 people. In May 2005, the Pentagon reported that U.S. forces in the Tarin Kowt area were beginning to hand over security responsibilities to the Afghan National Army.

Ozbat is at least the third Tri-Cities service member to die in Afghanistan. Pfc. Michael W. Pyron, 30, of Hopewell, died on Jan. 10, 2012, in Parwan Province, Afghanistan. Pyron was assigned to the 25th Signal Battalion, 160th Signal Brigade, 335th Signal Command, based in East Point, Ga. Army officials say he did not die in combat.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Phillip Myers, 30, a Hopewell native, was killed in Afghanistan on April 4, 2009, after being hit with an improvised explosive device. Myers' death made national news when his remains returned to the United States during a solemn ceremony at Dover Air Force Base. It was the first time in 18 years that the ceremony was witnessed by the media.

• Brian J. Couturier may be reached at 804-722-5109 or bcouturier@progress-index.com.

LOCAL SOLDIER LAID TO REST

Capt. Jesse Ozbat of Prince George killed in Afghanistan



ASHLEY APODACA/PROGRESS-INDEX PHOTOS

A funeral service was held for Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat at Fort Lee Memorial Chapel on Saturday morning, and interment with full military honors followed at Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg.

BY F.M. WIGGINS
STAFF WRITER

FORT LEE — Less than a week after Memorial Day, the Prince George community laid to rest one of its own.

Family and friends of 28-year-old Army Capt. Jesse Ozbat gathered Saturday at Fort Lee's Memorial Chapel to celebrate his life and remember the honor and integrity that were an intrinsic part of him.



OZBAT

Ozbat died of injuries sustained May 20 while deployed to Afghanistan when a roadside bomb exploded. Ozbat died with 2nd Lt. Tobias C. Alexander, 30, of Lawton, Okla., in the

attack. Ozbat was in his second deployment, having served a 15-month tour in Iraq beginning in 2009.

Ozbat was born Feb. 21, 1984, in Cairo, Mich. Jesse's father, a retired Army first sergeant, was transferred to several duty stations while Jesse was growing up.

Aaron Ozbat described his son as



A procession of pallbearers carries the casket of Cpt. Jesse A. Ozbat through Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg.

having honor and integrity even before joining the Army. "It didn't start when he put on the uniform," Ozbat said of his son.

Some of Jesse's first words weren't

'Mommy' or 'Daddy,' Aaron said, but rather "What's that?" displaying an inquisitive nature that the father said

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his son always had.

He described Jesse as also being determined, recalling a time when Jesse was a 4-year-old learning to ride a bike.

"Finally his mom asked him if he wanted help," Ozbat said, describing how his wife approached their son after watching him fall over numerous times. "He kept getting up, and by the end of the day, he was a bike rider." That determination continued into his adolescence when he got his first job at 15, and with savings from his job, his first car at 16.

By the time Jesse was at Prince George High School, he had decided to participate in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program. When he started in the program, Aaron told his son that he didn't have to participate.

"I told him I wore the uniform so that he wouldn't have to," Aaron said. "Jesse told me 'I want to do my part. I want to stand for freedom. I want to wear the uniform so my little brother doesn't have to.' Jesse reiterated this to me in our last conversation before he left for Afghanistan."

After graduating from Prince George High School, Jesse enrolled in Virginia State University and continued to participate in the Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

Lamont Edwards, a classmate of Jesse Ozbat's from both Prince George High School and Virginia State University, said that while many at the service knew Capt. Ozbat, "I was fortunate enough to know Jesse Ozbat."

Edwards recalled growing up with Jesse. "To the days we were in class together, to our summer camps at Fort Eustis," Edwards said. "I knew that you would become a soldier."

He said that Ozbat was never one to back away from a mission or to complain



Pallbearers move the casket of Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat from the Fort Lee Memorial Chapel to the hearse.

about orders. Edwards said that Ozbat was always the first to volunteer to get the job done to the best of his ability.

"It was just 10 years ago when we were about to graduate Prince George High School," Edwards said. "Then came the days of VSU and I was excited to see that you held on to your dreams of becoming a soldier. I'm sure that now you made it to the promised land."

Edwards added that his friend also put the "soul in soldier."

Jesse's faith was something his father also described in detail, talking about how Jesse took a daily devotional his uncle had used in the Panama Canal Zone in 1941 with him when he recently deployed to Afghanistan.

Marisa N. Ozbat described her brother as her best friend. She said that when the family moved from military base to military base while growing up with their father in the Army, Jesse was her constant friend. "He was the one friend that could never move away," she said. "I was extremely proud to call him my brother."

She added that her brother would want those in attendance to also remember the

life of the other man killed that day with him, Alexander, and the lives of all the others that have served and died.

Lt. Col. Alan Chandler, JROTC instructor at Prince George High School, said that 10 years ago Jesse was likely preparing for convocation and graduation — four years later he had successfully graduated from Virginia State University and been commissioned as an officer. "Today, June 2, we gather to remember one of our local sons that paid the ultimate price," Chandler said.

He added that while he never served with Jesse, he was proud of his former student's success.

"Jesse was one of the best," Chandler said. "This past Monday was Memorial Day, finding out about Jesse certainly adds more relevance to that special day and the Prince George community."

The support of the area was obvious Saturday as the Patriot Guard, an organization primarily of motorcyclists that provides honor guards for the funerals of soldiers, rode with the motorcade from the memorial chapel on post to Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg where Ozbat was laid to rest.

Along the route, soldiers,

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ASHLEY APODACA/PROGRESS-INDEX PHOTOS

Soldiers greet the procession at Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg where Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat was buried with full military honors.

firefighters, police and others from the community showed their respect to Ozbat with roadside displays including American flags and signs showing support for both Ozbat and his family.

At the cemetery Ozbat received a three-volley salute and a bugler played taps. Solemnly, seven soldiers then folded the flag that had draped his casket and presented it to Ozbat's widow,

Danielle T. Ozbat. A second flag was presented to his mother, Cynthia A. Ozbat.

• *F.M. Wiggins may be reached at 804-732-3456, ext. 3254 or fwiggins@progress-index.com.*



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN J. BAKER

Ozbat Laid to Rest With Full Military Honors

(ABOVE) Fort Lee troops and other community members line the route of the funeral procession from Memorial Chapel to Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg as Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat, a Prince George County native and Virginia State University graduate, is laid to rest June 2. Buried with full military honors, Ozbat was killed during an improvised explosive device attack May 20 in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan. It was his second deployment. (RIGHT) Pall bearers from Fort Sill, Okla., where Ozbat was last assigned, carry the casket from Memorial Chapel. Ozbat earned a mathematics degree at VSU in 2006 where he was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He was among the top 10 percent of all ROTC cadets nationwide that year.



Salute a local fallen soldier

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

To show appreciation of our freedom, the public is invited to line the route of the funeral procession for Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat of Prince George, who was killed on May 20 in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan. He died of wounds when enemy forces attacked his unit with an IED.

The funeral will be held at the Memorial Chapel at Ft. Lee at 10 a.m. today.

At approximately 11 a.m., the route will start at the Memorial Chapel exiting Fort Lee through the Mahone Gate (Hickory Hill Road) turn right onto Route 460 West; Right onto Winfield Road; Right at Crater Road to Blandford Cemetery, which is on the right.

Prince George Army officer killed in Afghanistan

From staff reports

An Army officer from Prince George County has been killed in battle in Afghanistan.

Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat, 28, died Sunday in Tarin Kowt, the Department of Defense said Monday in a news release. Ozbat died of injuries suffered when a roadside bomb detonated near his unit.

Also killed in the attack was 2nd Lt. Tobias C. Alexander, 30, of Lawton, Okla.

Ozbat and Alexander were assigned to the 168th Brigade Support Battalion, 214th Fires Brigade based in Fort Sill, Okla.

Soldier followed his sense of duty



Ozbat

VSU graduate died from roadside bomb in Afghanistan

BY OLYMPIA MEOLA
Richmond Times-Dispatch

FORT LEE — When Jesse Ozbat was in high school, his father told him that he had worn the uniform so that Jesse wouldn't have to.

"Jesse told me, 'I want to do my part, I want to stand for freedom, I want to wear the uniform so my little brother doesn't have to,'" said Jesse's father, Aaron Ozbat.

It was a sentiment that Jesse reiterated to his father in a conversation before he left for Afghanistan, and it was one that Aaron Ozbat recounted Saturday standing before pews full of friends and family in Fort Lee's Memorial Chapel.

Army Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat, a Prince George High School and Virginia State University graduate, died May 20 of wounds suffered when a roadside bomb detonated near his unit. He was 28 years old.

Friends and family took turns describing Ozbat as quiet but determined, and devoted to service and his

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Final rites

To see other images from Army Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat's burial, go to TimesDispatch.com, search: gallery.



P. KEVIN MORLEY/TIMES-DISPATCH

Soldiers from Fort Sill, Okla., carry the casket of U.S. Army Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat at his funeral at Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg.

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U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Darsie Rogers presents a U.S. flag to Danielle Ozbat, wife of Army Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat.

Ozbat

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faith. He studied mathematics at VSU, where he was commissioned in 2006 through the Army Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.

He was a man of few words, yet "the way he conducted himself was a demonstration of who he was," Aaron Ozbat said.

Jesse Ozbat had been in Afghanistan about a month when he was killed. It was his second overseas deployment, and he was assigned to security force advisory teams responsible for training and mentoring Afghanistan's National Security Forces.

Also killed in the May 20 bombing was 2nd Lt. Tob-

Scholarship fund

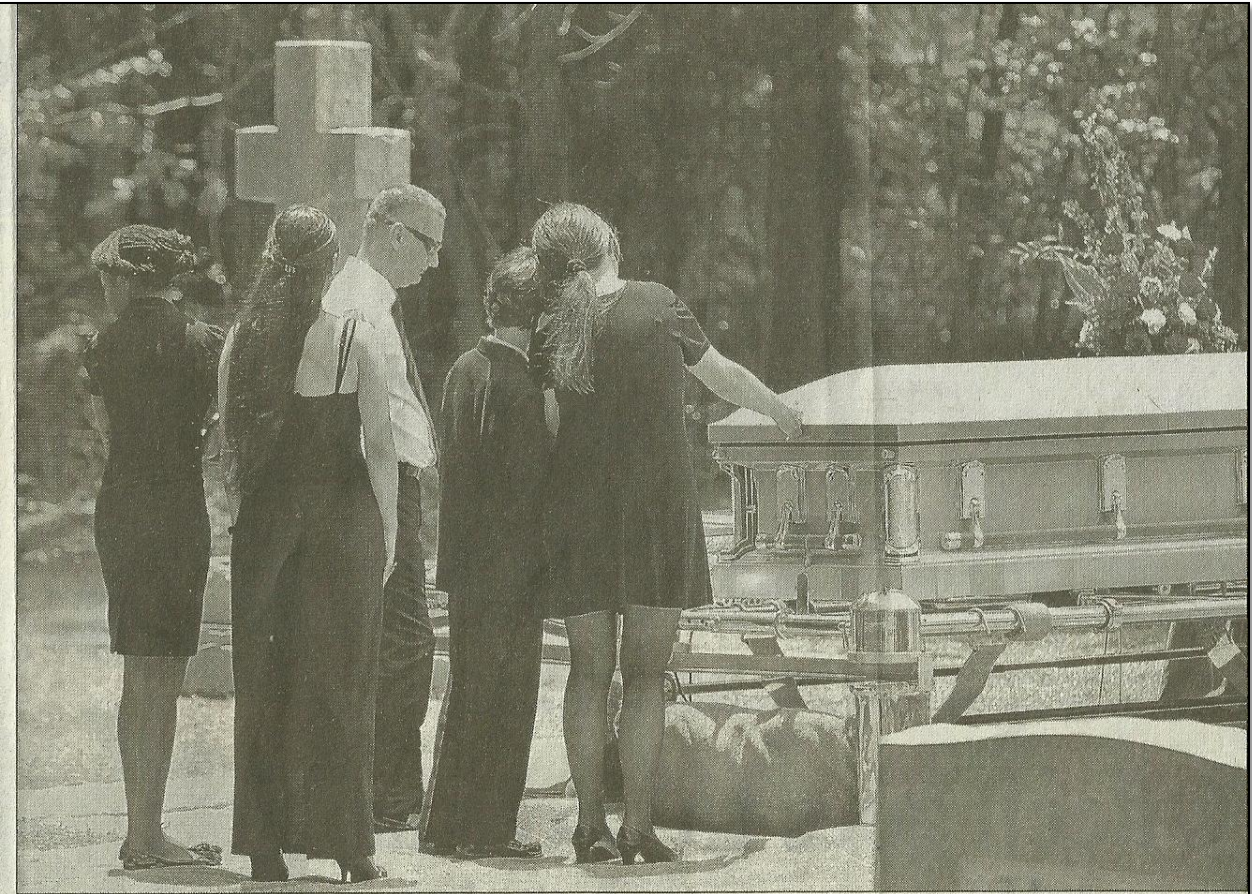
A scholarship has been established in honor of Army Capt. Jesse Ozbat. Donations may be sent to: Jesse Ozbat Scholarship Fund, Bank of Southside Virginia, 6401 Courthouse Road, Prince George, VA 23875.

as C. Alexander, 30, of Lawton, Okla.

Ozbat was stationed out of Fort Sill, Okla., and assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 214th Fires Brigade. He lived in Oklahoma with his wife, Danielle, and their two dogs, Eddie and Zepelin.

For his service, Ozbat was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart,

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P. KEVIN MORLEY/TIMES-DISPATCH

Immediate family members of U.S. Army Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat gather at his gravesite. A graduate of Prince George High School and Virginia State University, Ozbat lived with his wife in Oklahoma, where he was stationed.

among other recognitions. Lamont Edwards attended high school and college with Ozbat and recalled their days together in class — Ozbat always having the best hip-hop and R&B music — and how he thought it was Ozbat's calling to be a soldier. "It was in your walk, it was in your talk, it was in

your demeanor," Edwards said. "Never one to back away from a mission and never one to complain when given orders." Perhaps it was the payoff for everything Ozbat's friends said he shared with the world, or maybe it was just a hometown moved to honor one of their own, but the community turned

out for Ozbat. Groups of people lined the streets leading out of Fort Lee and along the route to Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg, clutching American flags and holding signs. Two firetrucks straddled the road at one point, suspending an American flag above the roadway while a crowd

gathered around. A fleet of motorcycles, some toting American flags, led the procession to the gravesite, Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat's final resting place in a leafy corner of the historic cemetery.

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OBITUARY

Cpt. Jesse A. Ozbat

Cpt. Jesse A. Ozbat, U. S. Army, age 28, of Prince George County, died Sunday, May 20, 2012 while serving in Afghanistan.

Cpt. Ozbat was a 2002 graduate of Prince George High School and a 2006 graduate of Virginia State University, finishing in the top ten percent of all cadets nationwide. Cpt. Ozbat received his commission on May 13, 2006. He served with the 1st and 14th Infantry, 2nd Stryker Brigade in Iraq, and with the 214th Fires Brigade at Fort Sill, and assigned to the 168 Brigade Support Battalion in Afghanistan.

He is survived by his wife, Danielle T. Ozbat of Petersburg; parents, Aaron M. and Cynthia A. Ozbat of Prince George; mother and father-in-law, Dahlia and Anthony Fontaine of Petersburg; brother, Elijah A. Ozbat; sister, Marisa N. Ozbat both of Prince George; grandmother, Lillian Scott of Petersburg; and grandfather, Richard Scott of Caro, Mich.

A funeral service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 2 at Memorial Chapel, 1901 Sisisky Blvd., Fort Lee, Va. Interment with full military honors will follow at Blandford Cemetery, Petersburg. The family received friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Petersburg Chapel of J. T. Morriss & Son Funeral Home & Cremation Service.

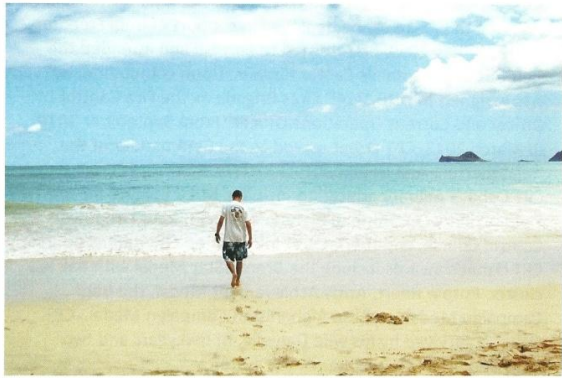
In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675 or www.woundedwarriorproject.org. Condolences may be registered at www.jtmorriss.com.



Cpt. Jesse A. Ozbat

J.T. Morriss & Son
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE

*Funeral Program
(below and next page)*



*In Remembrance
Captain Jesse A. Ozbat
214th Fires Brigade
February 21, 1984 - May 20, 2012*



*Memorial Chapel
Fort Lee, Virginia
June 2, 2012
10:00 a.m.*

Order of Service

Prelude	Mrs. Daryl Pecht
Invocation	Chaplain (Major) Hollenbaugh
Remarks	Aaron Ozbat LTC James Mattox
Song	"America The Beautiful"
Presentations	Posthumous Awards BG Darsie Rogers Gold Star Mom & Wives Melanie Payne
Reflections	
Prayer of Comfort and Hope	Pastor Larry Hudnall
Video Tribute	
Scripture	2 Timothy 2:3-4
Sermon/Eulogy	Pastor Larry Hudnall
Benediction	Chaplain (Major) Hollenbaugh
Postlude	Mrs. Daryl Pecht

CPT Jesse A. Ozbat

CPT Jesse Ozbat was born February 21, 1984 in Caro, Michigan. He was commissioned into the United States Army in May 2006 as a Field Artillery Officer. After commissioning from Virginia State University, CPT Ozbat attended the Basic Officer Leader Course II at Fort Benning, GA and the Basic Officer Leader Course III at Fort Sill, OK. CPT Ozbat's previous assignments include Schofield Barracks, HI, where he served as the Fire Support Officer for C/2-14 Stryker Infantry Company. While assigned to C/1-14 IN, he deployed in support of Iraqi Freedom 07-09. In July 2009, he returned to Fort Sill and attended the Field Artillery Captain's Career Course. Upon completion, he was assigned to HHB, 214th Fires Brigade as the Fire Control Officer and Current Operations Officer. From September 2010 to March 2012, CPT Ozbat served as the Commander of the Headquarters And Headquarters Battery, 214th Fires Brigade. CPT Ozbat's military education includes BOLC II, BOLC III, The Field Artillery CCC, Airlord Planner's Course, Joint Firepower Control Course, and the Tactical Information Operations Course. CPT Ozbat's awards include the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, Purple Heart, Army Achievement Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal. CPT Ozbat is survived by his wife Danielle, of five years and two dogs Eddie and Zeppelin.



2 Timothy 2:3-4

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

Soldiers from Ft. Sill, Oklahoma served as the Funeral Honor Guard





Final Resting Place



All material, photographs and information for this tribute were provided by Jesse's wife and parents.

May 2014

This memorial tribute can be obtained by contacting:

The Prince George Regional Heritage Center

P.O. Box 452

Prince George, VA 23875

804-863-0212

pghistory@aol.com