



42nd Infantry Division

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Rainbow Mourns Loss of 'Fighting 69th' Soldiers

FORT DRUM, NEW YORK – The Department of Defense announced this week the death of three 42nd Infantry Division Soldiers killed in Iraq. The Soldiers were deployed as part of the 1st Cavalry Division task force operating in Baghdad.

Killed earlier this week were Sgt. Christian P. Engeldrum of the Bronx, N.Y., Pfc. Wilfredo F. Urbina of Baldwin, N.Y. and Spec. David M. Fisher, of Watervliet, N.Y.

The Soldiers mobilized earlier this year with the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment. The infantry battalion, based at the Lexington Avenue Armory in Manhattan, is the Army's famous "Fighting 69th" with an historic legacy dating back to the Civil War.

"The entire Rainbow Division family extends its deepest sympathies to the families of our fallen Soldiers," said Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Taluto, the 42nd Infantry Division Commander. "While these brave men were deployed with another combat unit, members of the Rainbow Division remain a close family. As a family, we shall mourn our loss. As a combat unit, we shall strengthen our resolve to continue our mission," Taluto said.

The Soldiers in the 69th Infantry are currently deployed to Iraq under the command and control of a different combat unit, the 256th Brigade Combat Team and the 1st Cavalry Division.

The 42nd Infantry Division is currently deploying its forces to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom and expects to assume the mission north of Baghdad in early 2005.

Further details regarding the incidents surrounding the Soldiers' deaths were not yet released by Multinational Corps Iraq.