

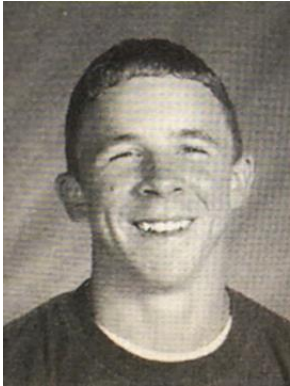
JOHNATHON W. MCDARIS



US ARMY 2001-2017

JOHNATHON WILLIAM MCDARIS

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Johnathon William McDaris was born in 20-July 1981 in Tulsa Oklahoma. He attended Union High School in Tulsa. Johnathon has two brothers: Parrish and Tim.

John's father was Ted Wan McDaris (1949-2020). His mother is Kathi, who lives in Tulsa, OK. John's father Ted was a highly decorated veteran. He served 24 years in the United States Army as a Combat Engineer, retiring with the rank of First Sergeant. He served in Vietnam, where he was awarded the

Bronze Star for Valor, the Purple Heart, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters and more.

John entered the Army in 2001. He served in the role of Anti-Armor Weapons Crewman from July 2001 until August 2004. In this role, the crewman would assault and destroy enemy tanks and armored vehicles, emplacements, weapons, and personnel with heavy anti-armor weapons. John served in Iraq in the 11H MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) in 2003-2004 3rd Battalion, 327th Infantry.



History of the Bastogne Bulldogs

The 327th Infantry Regiment or "Bastogne Bulldogs" is an infantry regiment of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) of the United States Army. During World War II, the 327th was a glider-borne regiment of the 101st Airborne Division. It fought during World War I as part of the 82nd Division. It has also been deployed in the Vietnam War, Gulf War, and most recently to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The song "Glider Rider" describes (humorously) some of the slights that glider-borne troops felt they received from the Army during World War II; though the regiment's public fame rose with the 1949 movie "Battleground", about the Siege of Bastogne in late 1944.

Operation Iraqi Freedom 2003

In early 2003 the entire 101st Airborne Division deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The majority of the 327th Infantry Regiment later shifted to Camp Udairi, Kuwait and from there, conducted a massive air assault into southern Iraq while other soldiers crossed the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border in a massive maneuver known as a GAC, or Ground Assault Convoy.



Once in Iraq, the 327th encountered heavy to light resistance from both fleeing Iraqi soldiers as well as the Fedayeen Saddam and other less organized fighters. The 327th fought through An Najaf, Al Kufa, Karbala, Baghdad, and then headed north to conduct Stability and Security Operations in Qayyarah West and Mosul or Al Mawsil.

The Hunt for Qusay and Uday Hussein

The raid that claimed Qusay and Uday Hussein's lives began on 22-JULY 2003. Coalition forces associated with the 101st Airborne Division, Special Forces and Air Force assets conducted an operation against suspected regime members. An Iraqi source informed the 101st Airborne Division today that several suspects, including Qusay and Uday, numbers



Two and Three on the U.S. Central Command's most-wanted list, were hiding in a residence near the northern edge of the Mosul.

A patrol from the 101st Airborne Division approached the house and asked permission to search it. The owners refused. The six-hour operation began when the division's 2nd Brigade combat team approached the house and received small-arms fire, and the troops waited for the larger force, backed by Apache helicopters, to arrive and surround the villa. After taking heavy fire from inside the villa, the U.S. military forces opened fire with a barrage of firepower including .50-caliber machine guns, two anti-tank missiles, and rockets fired from Kiowa helicopters, causing a huge fire that appeared to have gutted



most of the inside of the large villa. John McDaris was in an armored vehicle supporting his troops during the raid.

The exchange quickly escalated into an all-out firefight involving automatic weapons, rockets and rocket-propelled grenades. As the fire from inside the house died down, the soldiers eventually fought their way in. When they reached the second floor, they found it fortified with bulletproof glass and barricades, leading commanders to summon two OH-58D

Kiowa Warrior helicopters. The helicopters fired 2.75-inch rockets and at least one missile at the upper floors of the house, sparking a fire that gutted much of the structure. Four U.S. soldiers were wounded in the raid, according to U.S. Central Command.

It is widely believed that the two men were even more cruel and ruthless than their notorious father, and their death was celebrated among many Iraqis.

Fort Campbell Kentucky

In fall of 2004, John was stationed at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. Over the years, Fort Campbell has been home to several airborne, armored and infantry units and has grown to become one of the Army's most important permanent installations. Fort Campbell has been the home of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the only Air Assault division in the world, since 1956.

John started as Squad Leader, became Section Leader of an Air Assault Heavy Weapons and later Platoon Sergeant of an Air Assault Heavy Weapons Platoon. From Nov 2007 to Apr 2009, John served as Air Assault Tactical Operations Platoon Sergeant and later Rappel Master/ Instructor from May 2009 to September 2010.

St. Charles County-Bound

John's next station was in St. Charles County as an Army recruiter from 2010 to 2015 at the recruiting office in St. Peters MO. John was responsible for leading an Army Recruiting Team. In the role the recruiter, he was responsible with maintaining professional relationships with local high schools, colleges and civic leaders from eleven municipalities throughout the county.

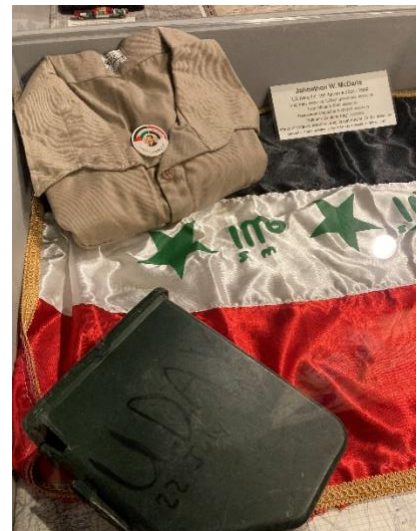
Separation

John served in the Army 16 years, 9 months. He served in the 101st Airborne, the Screaming Eagles, his whole career. John worked retail at a local home improvement store after leaving the Army and was instrumental in securing in-kind donations of materials for building the St. Charles County Veterans Museum. John donated a number of personal artifacts to the museum, including several that were seized from the raid that claimed Qusay and Uday Hussein's lives.

More About the "Screaming Eagles."



The Screaming Eagles is one of the most deployed and recognized Divisions in the U.S. Army, with a combat record spanning from the paratroopers of World War II to the Security Force Assistance Teams deployed in Afghanistan today. The 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942. During World War II, it was renowned for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6-JUN 1944), in Normandy, France, Operation Market Garden, the liberation of the Netherlands and its action during



Some of the items on exhibit at the museum.

the Battle of the Bulge around the city of Bastogne, Belgium. The miniseries "Band of Brothers" tells the story of "Easy Company" part of the 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, assigned to the United States Army's 101st Airborne Division during World War II.

During the Vietnam War, the 101st Airborne Division fought in several major campaigns and battles, including the Battle of Hamburger Hill in May 1969. In mid-1968, it was reorganized and redesignated as an airmobile division and then in 1974 as an air assault division. The titles reflect the division's shift from airplanes to helicopters as the primary method of delivering troops into combat. Many current members of the 101st are graduates of the US Army Air Assault School, which is co-located with the division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. It is known as the ten toughest days in the US Army, and only about half of those who begin it graduate. Division headquarters is at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. In recent years, the division has served in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria, as part of Operation Inherent Resolve.