

Serving in Iraq

Chris Doherty

Age: 25

Family: Amanda Doherty (wife), Pam and James Doherty (parents), Colleen (sister)

Current Hometown: My hometown will always be Galva

Occupation: Active Duty Army Field Artillery Officer

High School: 1997 graduate of Galva High School

Number of years in U.S. Army: 6 (4 in National Guard and 2 in active duty)

Rank in Army: 1st Lieut.

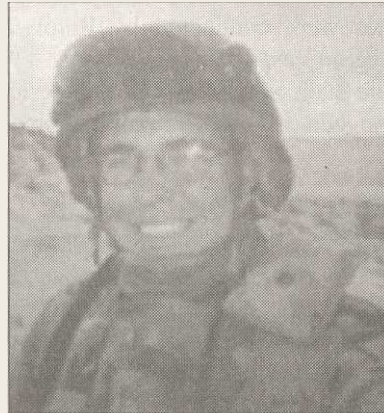
Favorite leisure activities: hiking, fishing, computers, spending time with my wife

His brief thoughts about being deployed and serving his country: Well, this is a tough question. I suppose anyone who joins the military should realize that there is always the possibility of going to war.

When we are young we watch movies that glorify it, and make it look exciting. We run around in our back yards and shoot at imaginary enemies with our friends and we always win and never get hurt.

But now I'm older and smarter, and I realize that there is nothing glorious about this job. It is the toughest, dirtiest job anyone will ever do – bath emotionally and physically. We gladly do it though, living in dust-filled tents, eating meals in a bag that have a shelf life of five years, trying to grab an hour of sleep here and there.

We say goodbye to our families and friends, and we realize how much they really do mean to us. At least I have. The worst thing I have seen this deployment so far was 600 families crowded in a gym saying goodbye to their loved ones. Forced smiles by wives, husbands, mothers and fathers trying to hold back



the well of tears that they wanted to shed. It is unimaginable how much pain and despair was felt in that gymnasium, all of those people knowing they aren't going to see their family for a year or more but trying to "stay strong."

I think that this deployment will be a growing experience for most of us, it will turn boys into young men, and spouses of deployed men and women will find a strength they never knew existed. I think it will be a tough deployment for everyone involved.

I'm not going to lie and say that I am excited about this deployment and that I look forward to serving my country in this endeavor. But every soldier, whether they agree with what is going on over here or not, will execute his duty without question and will hold true to the oath they took when they entered into service. I believe what we are doing is good over here.

It is an honor to serve my country and it is an opportunity that every soldier waits for, but it is an even bigger honor to serve with the soldier on my right and the soldier on my left. My friends and my brothers.

Doherty helps' soldiers flee ambush

U.S. Army 1st Lieut. Chris Doherty, a 1997 Galva High School graduate, was among soldiers who survived a fierce fire-fight Sunday, April 4, and led to the escape of several comrades.

Doherty, son of Jim and Pam Doherty of Galva, was in a Bradley military vehicle leading a procession of U.S. Army vehicles

through Sadr City, a Baghdad neighborhood, when they were ambushed by Iraqis, reports say.

The firefighting started after Doherty's vehicle turned a corner in the city and ran into a roadblock set up by locals.

Doherty's vehicle was hit 19 times as he and others fired back. Seven U.S. soldiers died and

another 49 were wounded.

Doherty and his crew responded quickly, ramming the roadblock and opening a passage for the Americans to pass through.

The quick action of Doherty and his crew is being credited with saving the lives of many American soldiers.