

## ***Concern about friends more important than bullet wound to 2<sup>nd</sup> ID Soldier***

**By Spc. Alexis Harrison  
2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. Div. Public Affairs**

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The troops from Company B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, currently attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division's 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, have been patrolling the war-torn streets of the Al Doura since their transfer of authority earlier this month.

Since then, the battalion has encountered just about everything one would expect when entering a hostile area. Roadside bombs, ambushes and hostility were a normal part of any patrol through the area. What was uncommon was the battalion had a nearly flawless track record of going back to the Forward Operating Base Falcon unscathed.

That is until Nov. 22.

Spc. Erin Killian, from St. Louis, was shot in his leg during a routine patrol through one of the worst areas in the capital city. Even as he recovers from his wound, he's more concerned about his comrades.

"I want to get back out there with my guys," Killian Said. "There are more important things than me. I'm still alive."

Not only is he alive and ambitious to get back with his friends, he was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for being wounded in action. He was visited by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division commander, Col. Bryan Roberts, and the brigade's top-ranking noncommissioned officer Command Sgt. Maj. James Lee.

"I had the chance to reward a true hero," Roberts said. "He's tough. He's definitely the kind of Soldier every unit needs."

Roberts explained the importance of the medal as not just an award for getting injured, but the bravery shown while in action.

"Every time Soldiers are on a mission, they know what could happen," he remarked. "Guys out there are unafraid. They fight with instinct. They do the right thing without even thinking about it."

Killian recounted the events of that day. He was assisting his teammates by providing security when he rounded a corner and was met with small arms fire. He knew immediately he had been hit.

He quickly took cover. Unfortunately, the medic that was with his group was trapped on the other side of the street. With a clear presence of mind, he stayed calm and gave himself first aid while his team took care of business.

"I stayed down for about 10 minutes," he said. "It was harder to calm down the two privates with us than me."

When Roberts asked Killian how he felt, Killian proudly responded by saying he want to be with his friends on the battlefield..

After One-Station Unit Training, Killian was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 506<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (Air Assault). He joined them for his first tour through Iraq. He has been a part of the same platoon now for the better part of four years

After modularity changes, the 2-506<sup>th</sup> became the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. Killian and most of his friends stayed with the unit after the changes.

While at the hospital resting, Killian made sure to call his parents to let them know he was all right. He'll be headed to Germany for some rest and rehabilitation before he goes home or back to FOB Falcon with his friends.

"I feel fine," he said. "I have to go through the proper steps to get better, so I can get back out there with my guys."

-30-



**Killian1.JPG**

Spc. Erin Killian, a St. Louis native with Company B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, is awarded the Purple Heart Medal by Col. Bryan Roberts, commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. Div., for injuries suffered during a mission in the Al Doura District, Baghdad, Nov. 24. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Alexis Harrison, 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

-30-