

May 10, 2007

## Former MAT Employee in the Local News

Meagan Consedine, former Tech Writer for McLane Advanced Technologies leaves for Iraq to serve where her husband is already deployed.

### TEMPLE, TEXAS.

On Thursday, May 10, 2007 the Killeen Daily Herald ran a story about two married Army officers who were preparing to serve their Iraq deployments concurrently. Captain Meagan Consedine was called back to active duty while she was employed as a technical writer for McLane Advanced Technologies in Temple. Below is the story.

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### Two replacement units head to Iraq Posted on: Thursday, May 10, 2007

By Amanda Kim Stairrett  
Killeen Daily Herald

WEST FORT HOOD – Capt. Meagan Consedine knows she and her husband, Kevin, are lucky.

Meagan is a transportation officer in the 1st Cavalry Division's 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, and Kevin, who is also a captain, is a Chinook pilot in the brigade's Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment. She was on her way to Iraq on Wednesday night to join her husband in Taji. She was one of 150 replacement soldiers who left Fort Hood in two flights that night. Most of the soldiers leaving were headed to 1st Cavalry units.

It was unusual that two flights of replacement troops go out in one day, said Lt. Col. Archie Davis, 1st Cavalry rear assistant division commander. Typically, there will be two flights that go out a month. Another is scheduled to depart in eight to 11 days, he said. These replacement soldiers will go to units across the division, filling in for fallen or wounded soldiers, or for those who had to come back to the U.S. for personal reasons. They will also ensure that the units are filled to a level where operations can be sustained.

Though the division may have been at a strength of 102 to 105 percent when the main bodies left in late 2006, that didn't account for the soldiers who were non-deployable or who were chosen to fill the rear detachment, Davis said. Most of the soldiers leaving Wednesday were young. The average age of the soldiers boarding the plane was 22.

This is the second deployment for the Consedines; both served together during Operation Iraqi Freedom I, which started in 2003. Meagan got out of the Army four years ago and went on Individual Ready Reserve status, meaning she could be called back – and she was in November. She was working in Temple and left for re-training March 18 at Fort Jackson, S.C. There she re-learned basic soldier skills and how to reintegrate back into the Army. She then went for her military occupation specialty retraining at Fort Eustis, Va. That was important, she said Wednesday, because a lot about transportation has changed since she was last in Iraq. Kevin deployed in September, and Meagan said she was happy she would get to see him sooner than if she had not been called back. He was happy, too, she said, although no one wants to see a loved one go – or come, in the Consedines' case – to war. They will be stationed at the same place and live together, but they won't work together. It works out well, Meagan said.

Meagan said she and Kevin are not taking their situation for granted considering most couples don't get to spend deployments together. They don't have children, either, so that makes being a dual-military couple a bit easier.

Meagan is just glad that the Army was willing to work with her in this situation, and she said it showed how officials were starting to value couples in their situation and are looking out for families. It's an incentive, she said, and makes soldiers want to stay in the Army longer.

It shows the soldiers, "We can do this," she said, and "we can do it together."

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McLane Advanced Technologies is a government contractor providing service to the United States Army. For more information on MAT, please visit our website at: [www.mclaneat.com](http://www.mclaneat.com) or call us at 254-770-6165.

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