



8 June 2006

Quick Links

Search OCPA Go

AKO | Army A-Z

General Information

Mission

Chief, Public Affairs

SGM, Public Affairs

Media Contacts

Public Affairs Contacts

Knowledge Center

More Info

News Media Resources

Army News Service

Press Releases

Soldiers Stories

Civilian Stories

Army Images

Detainee Operations

Press Kits

Investigations

Speeches

Army Newspapers

Outreach Division

Homepage

Army Calendar

Request for Army Assets

FAQ

Aerial Requests

COMREL Awards MOI

Public Affairs Contacts

P.A. Links



Eye protection saves Soldier

By Sgt. 1st Class Steve Petibone

MOSUL, Iraq (Army News Service, June 5, 2006) – The use of eye protection became a matter of life or death for 1st Lt. Anthony Aguilar while on a routine combat patrol last February.

As his company moved through Mosul, an unusually large improvised explosive device detonated and shot a bomb fragment into Aguilar’s glasses.

“The force of the blast was so powerful that it knocked me back into the Stryker vehicle,” said Aguilar, platoon leader, Company C, Task Force 2-1, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team. “When I picked the glasses up and put them back on, I could feel the heat from the fragment near my eye.”

The blast caused considerable damage to a nearby house and cars parked along the street.

“As our company cordoned off the area, I kept the glasses on and continued with the mission,” said Aguilar.

Since Aguilar’s experience, Co. C Soldiers are quick to don their protective gear: the advanced combat helmet, eye protection, individual body armor with neck strap and Nomex gloves.

According to Aguilar, the day-to-day routine and debris in the air wear down the lenses, but the unit’s supply section has ample replacements.

(Editor’s note: Sgt. 1st Class Steve Petibone writes for the 138th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.)



1st Lt. Anthony Aguilar shows the eye protection that kept a bomb fragment from entering his eye during a routine patrol last February.

Sgt. 1st Class Steve Petibone

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