



**Staff Sergeant Gary M. Heffernan
United States Army**



Staff Sergeant Gary Heffernan is a thirteen year veteran of the United States Army and is currently serving as part of the *Why We Serve* speakers program. He has recently returned from an assignment in Iraq and is speaking to groups around the country about his personal experiences serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In December 2006, SSG Heffernan returned from a deployment to the Ameriyah district in Baghdad. While overseas, he participated in the capture of two of the most wanted High Value Targets in the 4th Infantry Division's area of responsibility. His troops provided security for the local population, presence patrols, cordon and search operations, and human intelligence operations.

Heffernan is currently assigned to the 6th Squadron, 4th US Cavalry, 1st Infantry, Fort Hood, TX and serves as a Senior Scout in a Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition Squadron.

SSG Heffernan's was born in Winchester, MA and enlisted in the Army National Guard as a 13 Foxrot, Fire Support Specialist in 1995. In June 2003, Heffernan transferred to the active component as a Bradley Linebacker Crewmember and in June 2005 was re-classed to a Cavalry Scout. He is married to Amy and together they have 12-month old twins, Joslyn Helene & Connor Patrick.

Heffernan's decorations include the Army Commendation Medal (50LC); the Army Achievement Medal (40LC); the Iraqi Campaign Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Medal; the Good Conduct Medal; and the Combat Action Badge.