



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER
AND FORT POLK
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
*Press Release***



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Fort Polk to hold Silver Star Ceremony

FORT POLK, La - A Silver Star Ceremony will be held Wednesday, September 1st, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at Dragoon Field, here.

SGT Patrick S. Tainsh, Eagle Troop, 2 Squadron, 2nd ACR, will be awarded the Silver Star Medal posthumously for exceptionally valorous achievement as a gunner on the night of February 11, 2004, while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Tainsh's father, SGM (RET) David L. Tainsh will receive the medal in his honor.

The Silver Star is the third highest military award designated solely for heroism in combat. Established in 1918 as the Citation Star, in 1932 it was re-designated as a medal with a retroactive provision that allowed servicemen as far back as the Spanish-American War (1898) to receive it for gallant actions.

The Silver Star is awarded to a person who, while serving in any capacity with the United States Armed Forces, is cited for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. The required gallantry, while of a lesser degree than that required for award of the Distinguished Service Cross, must nevertheless have been performed with marked distinction. Soldiers who received a citation for gallantry in action during World War may apply to have the citation converted to the Silver Star Medal.

Media must meet at the Public Affairs Office building 411 no later than 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 1st, 2004.

(end)