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## Local News

### 'Ready for liberty'

By TERESA WICKENS, The North Platte Telegraph  
02/26/2006



Spc. Nathan Rosane of North Platte said this view struck his soul and he had to have a picture of it. "I can see arms reaching out around me, and I feel better," he said. More of Rosane's photos from Iraq are featured on the Topic Page on C1.

A North Platte soldier home on leave has one major request: "Pray for us." Army Spec. Nathan Rosane has been home on leave from his tour of duty in Iraq. Since he joined the U.S. Army he has worn three different uniforms. Now the 22-year-old is wearing the newest version of uniform, grey-green with lots of Velcro and no lower jacket pockets. "The combat boots are much more comfortable. They've taken out the steel shank from the sole of the boot," he said. He's fidgety, moving his legs up and down to the rhythm of inaudible music as he talks about his family, his unit, his faith and his work in Iraq. Rosane is the son of Bob and Chris Rosane. His dad, a Vietnam veteran, is his hero. Nathan Rosane grew up listening to his dad describe his tours in Vietnam. His dad would tell him bits



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and pieces, depending on Nathan's age and ability to handle the conversation. After attending college for a year, Nathan Rosane decided he needed to do something different. "I'm too hyper," he said, which is obvious from his fidgety movements in the chair. So, he joined the Army, and ended up in Fort Richardson, Alaska, for training on a Stryker armored vehicle.

In August 2005, Rosane began his tour of duty in Iraq. He is a forward observer for field artillery on a Stryker and belongs to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team. The vehicle he works out of has a .50-caliber machine gun on the top and can travel at 70 mph. He grins when he describes what it can do and how fast it can go. Comparing his experiences to his dad's, Rosane said, "Everybody looks the same in Iraq. You can't identify the enemy by how they look in the uniforms they wear.

"It's a different battle than before." Rosane uses equipment similar to video games, with joysticks, monitors and remote activation buttons. He speaks proudly of the day last fall when he called in a Kiowa air strike on a building near the vehicle's patrol area.

"I did that," he said, showing the video he took of the helicopter coming in to take out the building. Smoke rolls out of the spot where he had directed the pilot to strike. That reaction is different than the one from Sept. 10, when Rosane came under fire for the first time.

"A rocket-propelled grenade came at us and missed," he said soberly. "I must have jumped 20 feet and hid behind a tire."

As in most conflicts, life settled into a routine for the guys on his team who refer to themselves as "Hogan's Heroes," named after their lieutenant, First Lt. Hogan.

Rosane has a laptop he carries that holds photos he has taken with a digital camera - the third one he's had to buy. The newest one is small, and he keeps it in a pocket on his sleeve where it's safer than the cargo pockets on his pants.

He has instant messaging software installed and he "chats" with his family as often as he can. He uploads pictures to Webshots.com so his family and friends can see him.

When asked what the soldiers need, Rosane suggested people to go to [www.anysoldier.com](http://www.anysoldier.com) and write to soldiers on the list. He said there are service personnel who are not receiving mail from any one and mail is welcome and needed.

In Iraq, he helps train the Iraqi police, who he says are "ready for liberty."

"We put them through a version of basic training and Primary Leadership Development Course to get them ready to take over the security of Iraq," he said.

Seeing what the children and people of Iraq have gone through has made Rosane appreciate America, the Army and life.

"This is a new war game, compared to Desert Storm, and even Operations Iraqi Freedom 1 through 3," he said.

"We need to do this," he said of the work in Iraq. "The Iraqis get it."

He says he is more motivated now to possibly return to college.

Always strong spiritually, Rosane has gained a stronger faith. He wonders where God will lead him in his life after the Army.



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