

SERVICES SUBSCRIPTIONS DIGITAL NEWSPAPER ADVERTISE MIAMI.COM MOMSMIAMI.COM DATA SLEUTH ELNUEVOHERALD.COM

The Miami Herald > News > Miami-Dade

# Miami-Dade

Wednesday, 03.11.09 Welcome Guest Login Register

HOME NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS LIVING OPINION JOBS CARS REAL ESTATE SHOP CLASSIFIEDS

Miami-Dade | Broward | Florida | Legislature | Americas | Cuba | Nation | World | Politics | Action Line | Obituaries



Posted on Sunday, 03.08.09

Recommend (0) share email print comment reprint

ARMED FORCES

## Iraq mortar fire attack kills Miami soldier, 22

Shrapnel from a mortar attack killed a 22-year-old U.S. Army soldier from Miami who was stationed in Mosul.

BY CAROL MARBIN MILLER AND JOSE PAGLIERY  
JPAGLIERY@MIAMIHERALD.COM

A 22-year-old U.S. Army soldier from Miami was killed in Iraq by mortar fire on March 3, according to the Department of Defense.

Pfc. Jessica Y. Sarandrea was mortally wounded when insurgent forces attacked her forward operating base with mortar fire in Mosul.

An official statement from the U.S. government stated that Sarandrea was assigned to the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Sarandrea, who graduated from Coral Gables High School, was stationed in Mosul, where she worked as a supply specialist performing logistical support for her battalion, said Alejandro "Alex" Sarandrea, her husband. She was walking from her office, perhaps to get her gear, when she was hit by shrapnel from incoming mortar, her husband said.

The shrapnel pierced her liver and severed one of her main arteries, said Sarandrea, of West Miami, who is also 22.

"I know what a wonderful person she was," Sarandrea said. "I will always carry her memory in my heart."

Jessica Sarandrea enlisted in the Army about four years ago, and reenlisted to be with her husband, he said.

The two met in Kuwait during a prior deployment. Sarandrea told the young woman she looked familiar. She said she did not recognize him. But when the two met again, "we started talking. It turned out we were both from Miami, from almost the same region," Sarandrea said.

"We ended up getting married out there," said Sarandrea, who trains soldiers how to defend themselves against biological and chemical attacks.

Federal officials did not immediately return phone calls for more information.

recommend email print share buzz up!

### Join the discussion

The Miami Herald is pleased to provide this opportunity to share information, experiences and observations about what's in the news. Some of the comments may be reprinted elsewhere in the site or in the newspaper. We encourage lively, open debate on the issues of the day, and ask that you refrain from profanity, hate speech, personal comments and remarks that are off point. In order to post comments, you must be a registered user of MiamiHerald.com. Your username will show along with the comments you post. Thank you for taking the time to offer your thoughts.

Comments (7)

POWERED BY Pluck

You must be logged in to leave a comment. Login | Register

[Submit](#)Comments:  7 Showing: [Newest first](#)**staffsgtlopez** wrote on 03/09/2009 09:09:14 AM:

I am outraged that this is the only coverage they are giving her, no pictures of her no other history of her other than that little recollection from her husband who wasnt even married to her that long? I was with her on her last deployment, she was a sweetheart and loved by everyone that was in her unit and deployed with her, I took her death very personal because she was just like my daughter, she was only 6 months older than my own child, please give her more coverage and more history of her than this!!!

[Recommend \(0\)](#)  [Report abuse](#)**whistler** wrote on 03/08/2009 09:12:05 PM:

condolencias a la familia y a los amigos de este soldado valiente; Ser un honor a colocarse para este hombre. El hacer una pausa en el dolor más profundo .....

[Recommend \(0\)](#)  [Report abuse](#)**GWEH** wrote on 03/08/2009 06:55:42 PM:

I want to echo the comments of others. Thank you PFC Sanrandrea and God bless your soul.

[Recommend \(0\)](#)  [Report abuse](#)**MDPDSoldier2004** wrote on 03/08/2009 04:15:30 PM:

R.I.P. Jessica Y. Sarandrea, god holds a special place in heaven for people like you. You have served your time in hell and we thank you for that! Thoughts and prayers for your husband as well.

[Recommend \(0\)](#)  [Report abuse](#)**seaslug** wrote on 03/08/2009 12:40:17 PM:

Thank you PFC Sanrandrea for your ultimate sacrifice for our great nation. God bless your family in this time of sorrow. Semper Fidelis, the Seaslug

[Recommend \(0\)](#)  [Report abuse](#)**zabri74** wrote on 03/08/2009 11:55:33 AM:

Hearfelt condolences to the family and friends of Pfc. Jessica Y. Sarandrea. She is gone but will not be forgotten. We are grateful for Jessica's service to this country.

[Recommend \(1\)](#)  [Report abuse](#)**Joiyn** wrote on 03/08/2009 09:36:16 AM:

To the family of Pfc. Jessica Y. Sarandrea...my husband and I are so very sorry for your loss. Right now it is unbearable to think of the loss and let me tell the parents as time goes by you will never ever get over the loss but time has a way that the loss becomes more gentler. My husband I know...we both have lost a son. ... not in war time.  
We thank you for Jessica's service to our country.

[Recommend \(2\)](#)  [Report abuse](#)

More comments on this story: 1

## System Security Risk

The web page you have tried to access has been identified as containing harmful content such as spyware, a virus, or is of an

Please contact the system admin if you feel you have reached this message in error.

[NEWS](#)[SPORTS](#)[ENTERTAINMENT](#)[BUSINESS](#)[LIVING](#)[OPINION](#)[CLASSIFIEDS](#)[SERVICES](#)[Site Map](#)[RSS](#)[My Yahoo](#)[Newsletters](#)[Widgets](#)[Mobile](#)[Alerts](#)[Twitter](#)

[About The Miami Herald](#) | [About the McClatchy Company](#) | [Terms of Use & Privacy Statement](#) | [Corrections](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Advertise](#)

**Partners:** [El Nuevo Herald](#) | [Newspaper in Education](#) | [WLRN](#) | [Miami Herald News](#) | [CBS4 WFOR-TV](#) | [More](#)

Copyright 2009 Miami Herald Media Co. All rights reserved