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# PORTRAITS FROM AFGHANISTAN

A Photo Essay  
by  
Paul Avallone

*Paul Avallone, a former Green Beret who served in Afghanistan in 2002 and 2003, returned as a photojournalist in 2006 and 2008. The soldiers in his photographs on the following pages are representative of the thousands of U.S. Army soldiers deployed to Afghanistan. Right, PFC Bryan Slawson, 1st Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment (1-61 Cavalry), deployed to eastern Afghanistan in March 2008 from Fort Campbell, Ky.*





*M240 machine gunner SPC Christopher Rodriguez, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 101st Airborne Division, relaxes for a moment.*



*Gunner SPC Wilson Jackson and loader SPC George Morris, 4th Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, await further fire missions after firing more than 40 rounds of 105 mm ammunition in response to a Taliban mortar-and-rocket attack.*



*Uparmored Humvee turret gunner SPC Dustin Sharp, 1-61 Cavalry*



*Armed with an M14-based sniper rifle, platoon-designated marksman PFC Slawson scans the landscape.*



*SGT Brad Forbus, 1-61 Cavalry, serves as his company's sniper.*





*SPC Nicholas Warden takes cover behind a Humvee with his M249 squad automatic weapon in hand.*

*Montana National Guard 1LT Aaron Flint mentors Afghan national police working with 4th BCT's 1-61 Cavalry.*



*Machine gunner SPC Cody Phillips, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry, takes part in a dawn patrol.*

*SSG Travis Harris, 1-61 Cavalry, carries a stray puppy.*



*A soldier of Company D, 1-506 Infantry, catches his breath while on patrol in the high country of Ghazni Province.*





*Platoon leader 1LT Jonathan Bate, Company B, 2-506 Infantry*



*Sniper SPC Colin Steffa, 1-61 Cavalry, cradles his rifle as he and another soldier scan the countryside.*

*Platoon medic PFC "Doc" Murphy takes a break next to some Afghani children during a village search.*



*SPC Colin Steffa in full combat gear*



*SFC Anthony Barnes, platoon sergeant, Troop C, 1-61 Cavalry, carefully maneuvers along a ridge.*

