

Finding Aid:

Title: The Deron R. Haught Military Artifacts Collection- Operation Iraqi Freedom 2004-2005

Description: This collection is made up of 2 boxes and were donated by Deron R. Haught of Ritchie County, West Virginia. Major (Retired) Haught was a Captain in United States Army in the 25th Infantry Division and served as a Detachment Commander during Operation Iraqi Freedom in Kirkuk Province, Iraq from January 2004 until February of 2005. Artifacts found in this collection are specific to this deployment.

Source: GSC Archives

Inclusive Dates: January 2004- February 2005

Bulk Dates: 1995-2009

Size: 2 boxes, 48 in.

A & M Box# GSC20240201A and GSC20240201B

Index Names:

Captain Deron Haught, First Lieutenant Robert Elzer, Hikmat Sadon, Rich Rodriguez, Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle, Colonel Llyod Miles, Altun Kurpi Mayor- Abdul Mutalib Najim, Governor of Kirkuk Province- Abdul Rahman Mustafa

Index Terms:

United States Army, Altun Kupri, Kirkuk, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Operation Iraqi Freedom

Biographical Information: -

Donor: This collection was donated by Deron Ray Haught (Major- U.S. Army Retired) and a 2023 Glenville State University graduate with B.A. Degree in Appalachian Studies.

Organizational & Processing Note: The Deron R. Haught Military Artifacts Collection- Operation Iraqi Freedom 2004-2005

This collection is part of a larger collection of military artifacts that were maintained and then donated by Deron Haught during his last semester at Glenville State University in the Fall of 2023.

Biographical Note: Deron R. Haught

Deron R. Haught was born in Parkersburg, WV in 1967 and was raised in Ritchie County, WV where he attended Smithville Elementary School and Harrisville High School. After graduation in 1985, Deron attended Fairmont State College and then joined the United States Army in 1990 as Artilleryman. As an enlisted Soldier Haught was stationed at Fort Sill, OK, Fort Lewis, WA and Fort Polk, LA. It was during his assignment to the 3rd Squadron of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Fort Polk, LA that the unit was deployed in support of Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti which officially ended on March 31st, 1995 when it was transitioned to a United Nations Mission. After he assignment to the 2nd ACR he was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division in Fort Riley, KS. In 1999 Haught was accepted into the Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, GA and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 2000 and then stationed at Schofield Barracks, HI as part of the 25th Infantry Division. During his time in Hawaii, he was deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq from January 2004 to February of 2005. After this assignment Haught was assigned to Fort Sill, OK and was again deployed to Iraq in January of 2008 to March of 2009. Haught retired from the Army in 2010 and moved to Allentown, PA where he taught military science at Lehigh University, served as a Division Chief in Tobyhanna Army Depot, and finally served as a Division Chief at New Cumberland, PA for the Defense Logistics Agency. Haught holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma, a bachelor's degree in human services from Upper Iowa University, a bachelor's degree in Appalachian studies from Glenville State University, a certificate in sustainable agriculture from the University of Vermont, and a certificate in bluegrass music from Glenville State University.

Historical Note: The Deron R. Haught Military Artifacts Collection- Operation Iraqi Freedom 2004-2005

In January of 2004 the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division were deployed from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii to the Kirkuk Province in northern Iraq. Their mission was to defeat insurgent forces and assist in the stabilization of the country to allow for the new Iraqi government to function effectively. CPT Haught was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment and served as commander of a detachment which occupied Forward Operating Base Altun Kupri. The base was previously a Baath Party Headquarters in Altun Kupri and was 60 kilometer north of Kirkuk, 350 kilometer north of Baghdad, and 50 kilometer south of Irbil, Iraq. During this deployment the unit conducted daily patrols of their

assigned sector and provided training to the Iraqi police, military forces, and civilian leaders. Their missions ranged from civil affairs operations to combat operations both with Iraqi forces and without. Army units in Iraq at this time utilized the Commanders Emergency Relief Program (CERP) funds to build schools, government buildings, infrastructure project such as roads, water and sewer projects, and community projects that ranged from providing funding to empower women's groups and to build children's playgrounds. All projects were proposed by CPT Haught, approved at the Brigade level, and then monitored until completion by Haught's unit.

Box Contents: -

Box # GSC20240201A

File Folder 1- CERP Project Documents

Description: The three folders within this file contain 236 documents used as receipts for projects approved by the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and supervised by CPT Haught and his unit. Upon the approval of projects, funds would be disbursed in accordance with CERP procedures, and these documents were maintained by Haught as a record of all transactions.

File Folder 2- Haught Primary School documents

Description: As part of the CERP program, a school was built in the village of Isamil Bagi which is in the Shwan district of Kirkuk Province, Iraq. The statement of work in this folder was mailed to CPT Haught by his former interpreter, Hikmat Sadon, after Haught's tour in Iraq. The package also contained a CD with video from the school opening ceremony as well as a CD with a video of Hikmat and his family celebrating New Years. Each CD contained a handwritten note from Hikmat. In appreciation for the support Haught and his unit provided to the community, the school was named the Haught Primary School. The naming of the school was covered in the local Hawaii Army Weekly paper on April 22, 2005, and a local paper in Ritchie County West Virginia and these two articles are in the folder.

File Folder 3- Digital Documents

Description: This folder contains four DVDs related to the deployment of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division.

1. Iraqi Basic Language Survival Guide- The audio CD was provided to Soldiers prior to deployment as a training tool to provide familiarization with the “Iraqi” language. The mp.3 files contain on this disk are in Arabic which is a primary language spoken within Iraq as well as Kurdish and Turkmen.
2. 2nd BCT Warrior Video- OIF Jan. 2004-Feb.2005- This video was produced by the 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office and each Soldier was provided a copy upon return from the deployment. The video is a collage of photos from the deployment as well as a tribute to Soldiers from the 2nd BCT that were killed during the deployment.
3. OIF Appreciation Ceremony- May 2005- This video was produced by the 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office and each Soldier was provided a copy after the ceremony in May of 2005. The formal military ceremony was held on Schofield Barracks, Hawaii and include remarks from the Governor of Hawaii, Linda Lingle.
4. Haught Military Archive Documents- These digital documents were used and maintained by Haught during his deployment and include;
 - a. Digital photos and videos of combat operations taken by Haught’s unit, assigned Public Affairs personnel, and reporters attached to the unit.
 - b. PowerPoint presentations that were used to propose and track CERP projects.
 - c. Village assessments, polling sites, food distribution centers, IDP assessments
 - d. Digital Video Cassette- Interviews by Kurdistan TV- This DVC was given to Haught prior to his departure from Iraq in 2005. The cassette contains interviews conducted by a Kurdish news outlet in the village of Radar which is in the Shwan district of Kirkuk Province. This district, like many in Kirkuk Province, were destroyed as part of Saddam Hussein’s “Arabizations” campaign which sought to expel the Kurdish population for portions of northern Iraq. This tape contains interviews of local leaders, citizens and both CPT Haught and First Lieutenant Robert Elzer who served as the Executive Officer for the Detachment.

File Folder 4- Forward Operations Base Altun Kupri artifacts

Description: The file contains artifacts relative to Forward Operations Base Altun Kurpi which was officially closed on September 1st, 2004.

1. FOB Altun Kupri Closure Ceremony program- This program is one that was used during the base closure ceremony on September 1st, 2004. Speakers at this ceremony included, CPT Haught, First Lieutenant Robert Elzer, Colonel Llyod Miles- Commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat team, Mayor of Altun Kurpi- Abdul Mutalib Najim, and the Governor of Kirkuk Province- Abdul Rahman Mustafa
2. Iraqi Flag- This flag was used during the closure ceremony of FOB Altun Kupri. The flag was the newest version of the Iraqi flag following the overthrow of the Saddam Hussein regime. In 1991 Hussein changed the flag by adding the script Allahu Akbar meaning

"God is the greatest". After his removal from power the Iraqi government officially removed the script inserted by Hussein and just the stars remained.

3. Photos of FOB Altun Kurpi/Baath Party Headquarters- These five photos were found in FOB upon occupation by U.S. forces and show the base previous to that time. The Baath party served as Saddam Hussein's primary political party and all government employees were required to be members.

File Folder 5- Book- Ethnic Cleansing Documents in Kurdistan- Iraq

Description: This book was given to CPT Haught during his deployment from members of the Kurdish political party the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). The book is a collection of Iraqi government documents, and their English translations, which detail the Arabization campaign in the Kirkuk province during the rule of Saddam Hussein. These documents show the systematic steps taken by the Iraqi government to expel the Kurdish population from Kirkuk province. The PUK consolidated these documents into a book for historical record and as a part of a larger effort to reclaim land they believed was taken from Kurdish families.

File Folder 6- Book- The Turkmen and Iraqi Homeland

Description: This book was given to CPT Haught during his deployment from members of the Turkmen political party the Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF). This book is synopsis of the history of the Turkmen in Iraq and provides a counter-narrative to the Kurdish position that Kirkuk Province was a "Kurdish" Province. The ITF consolidated these documents into a book for historical record and as a part of a larger effort to reclaim land they believed was taken from Turkmen families.

Box # GSC20240201B

File Folder 1- Kurdistan Flag

Description: This handmade flag was given to CPT Haught during his deployment by members of the Kurdish community. The flag is the unofficial flag for Kurdistan which is the country many Kurds in the region believe they belong too. There is no country named Kurdistan, but most Kurds believe that their ancestral land consists of parts of northern Iraq and the bordering countries of Turkey, Iran and Syria.

File Folder 2- Iraq Transitional Handbook

Description: This Department of Defense handbook was provided to Soldiers prior to deployment to provide familiarization with the country of Iraq. The topics covered include geography and climate, culture, and the history of the country.

File Folder 3- Rich Rodriguez - WVU Football Coach- Letters

Description: During Haught's 2004-05 deployment, a member of his family contacted WVU head football coach Rich Rodriguez and ask that he send him a letter of encouragement. In April of 2004, Haught received the first letter and responded which prompted Rodriguez to respond with a second letter in June of 2004.

File Folder 4- Maps- Altun Kupri, Iraq and surrounding area

Description: These two maps of Altun Kupri and its surrounding area were created by the 25th Engineer Detachment and was used by Haught in the Forward Operations Base.

File Folder 5- Map- Kirkuk Province, Iraq

Description: This map of Kirkuk Province, Iraq was used by Haught for navigation during mounted and dismounted patrols of the area of operations.