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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
82nd AIRBORNE DIVISION  
Fort Bragg, NC 28310-5000  
Phone (910) 432-0661/0662

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **82nd Airborne Division Paratrooper dies**

**FORT BRAGG, N.C.** — An 82nd Airborne Division Paratrooper died in a hotel near Chapel Hill, NC, Feb. 2 after battling a terminal illness.

Spc. John C. Pugh, 41, of Olympia, Wash., was undergoing treatment for his terminal condition since December and was found unresponsive in his hotel room.

Pugh was a rifleman for 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team.

Pugh re-entered the military in August 2009 as an infantryman and attended the Warrior Transition Course at Fort Sill, Okla. After completing WTC, he attended Advanced Individual Training and Basic Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga.

In December 2009, Pugh completed his training and was assigned to 2nd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team at Fort Bragg, NC. Pugh deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from Feb. until Sept. 2010 when his unit redeployed.

"John was a trooper of the highest caliber. He made an impression not only on the men, but on me as well," said Capt. Scott Haran, commander of Charlie Company.

“As a more experienced soldier, he was humble in his approach and excited to perform his duties. All the men of Charlie Company feel his loss.”

"John was a paratrooper that every platoon leader wants in his platoon and I couldn't be more fortunate to have served with him," said 1st Lt. Jeff Pawlik, Spc. Pugh's former platoon leader. "He was a soldier that I knew could accomplish any task and he selflessly took on the responsibility to always carry more than his share in combat. The Army is at a great loss today."

Pugh's awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Kuwait Liberation of Kuwait Medal, the Saudi Arabian Medal for the Liberation of Kuwait, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Parachutist Badge.

He is survived by his son, Alec.

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**Editor's Note:**

1. Photo of Spc. Pugh is attached.
2. For more information, contact the 82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs Office at (910) 432-0661/0662 or (910) 813-3891.