

**NEBRASKA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
SOLDIER KILLED IN IRAQ, SATURDAY**

**Released by
Maj. Gen. Roger Lempke**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LINCOLN, Neb. – A Nebraska Army National Guard Soldier serving in Iraq was killed Saturday, July 21, in Balad, Iraq, by an improvised explosive device that detonated next to his Hum-Vee during a convoy escort mission.

Sgt. Jacob S. Schmuecker, 27, was a member of the Nebraska Army National Guard's 755th Reconnaissance/Decontamination Company based in O'Neill, Neb. A native of Atkinson, Neb., who lived in Norfolk, Neb., Schmuecker left behind his wife, Lisa, and three small children.

"The entire Nebraska National Guard family grieves over the loss of Sergeant Schmuecker," said Maj. Gen. Roger Lempke, adjutant general for Nebraska. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and the Norfolk and Atkinson communities."

The son of Rodney and Patricia Schmuecker of Atkinson, Neb., Schmuecker was a 1999 graduate of West Holt High School in Atkinson, Neb. He joined the Nebraska Army National Guard in February 2001 as a member of the Guard's 134th Infantry Detachment (Long Range Surveillance) in Lincoln, Neb. After attending basic training as an infantryman at Fort Benning, Ga., served with 134th Infantry Det., until December 2002 when he transferred to the O'Neill unit as a chemical operations specialist.

Schmuecker was mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom in August 2006. The 755th Recon/Decon Company is currently stationed at Balad, Iraq, where unit members are conducting convoy security missions.