

## Soldier With Mass. Ties Killed In Iraq

### *Norman Darling Killed Thursday*

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**MIDDLEBORO, Mass.** -- A Massachusetts family is coping with the loss of a close friend after he was killed in an accident in Iraq Thursday.



Rhondella Richardson Reports On Soldier



NewsCenter 5's Rhondella Richardson reported that Army Pvt. Norman Darling, 29, was born and raised in the Bahamas and moved to the Boston area in his late teens. In the United States, he bonded a handful of close friends, among them Martina McCarey and her Middleboro family.

Hoping for a better future for his 3-year-old daughter, Darling enlisted in the military 15 months ago.

He was supposed to Germany Friday morning, but Darling and seven other members of the 4th Battalion 27th Field Artillery Regiment were killed by a suicide bomber near Baghdad Thursday.

Darling was described by his loved ones as quiet and laid back.

"We got to know this person who's caring and kind and my kids were devastated," said McCarey's mother, Diane. "You don't expect this to happen -- I think they just all thought he would just come back."

McCarey said will remember Darling with a smile on his face.

"He wanted to go into nursing, into the medical field," said McCarey.

Darling has a brother in the Marines, but the McCareys have not met any of his family. They will meet Darling's parents from the Bahamas when they arrive for the funeral.

"He would have signed on longer if it made him feel part of something, making a difference," said McCarey. "He always found a way to worry about everyone else no matter where he was or what he was doing."

McCarey said she is devastated by the loss.

"It's very devastating I never lost anybody I was friends with or dated. Everyone who's passed on was either sick or dying and their time had come and gone, but he didn't have enough time," she said.