

Quincy soldier is killed in Iraq

By David Abel, Globe Staff | May 3, 2004

A 29-year-old father from Quincy was one of eight soldiers who died in a suicide bombing in Iraq last Thursday, Pentagon officials said yesterday.

Army Private Norman Darling was on patrol in Baghdad April 29 searching for roadside explosives when a vehicle approached his unit. The driver detonated a bomb.

Darling and the other soldiers were attached to the Army's Fourth Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, First Armored Division, based in Baumholder, Germany.

"He was a great guy," said Diane McCarey, a friend who took in Darling's mail in Middleborough since he went to Iraq several months ago. "He had a wonderful smile. He was very loveable, gentle and sincere."

Darling, who joined the Army a year ago, grew up in the Bahamas, McCarey said. He had a 3-year-old daughter named Camryn who lives in Florida with her mother, she said.

McCarey said he joined the military to provide a better future for his daughter. Earlier, he worked as an account administrator for Boston Financial in Quincy, where he met McCarey's daughter, Martina, who dated Darling for 3 1/2 years.

"He was a very outgoing, bright, happy person," Martina McCarey said. "He charmed everyone he met."

McCarey, who exchanged e-mails with Darling, said he supported the war and "enjoyed the military very much. He found himself there."

His parents are flying in from the Bahamas on Thursday, McCarey said. The funeral will be held in Bourne on Saturday. ■