

**Vietnam Security Police Association, Inc. (USAF)  
Salutes SFS Staff Sergeant John T. Self**



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt John T. Self, 29, of Pontotoc, Miss., is shown in this December, 1998 photograph taken at the Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Tex., and released by the Self family. Self was killed Monday, May 14, 2007 by a roadside bomb in Baghdad [A U.S. airman was killed by a roadside bomb in southern Baghdad, the U.S. military said], according to his mother, Jill Self. The Department of Defense confirmed the soldier's death Tuesday. (AP Photo/Self Family)

SSgt Self was assigned to the 314th Security Forces Squadron, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

*All articles posted herein are the courtesy of the official USAF and Government sources, and news media.*

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**No. 589-07  
May 15, 2007**

### **DoD Identifies Air Force Casualty**

The Department of Defense announced today the death of an airman who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Staff Sgt John T. Self, 29, of Pontotoc, Miss., died May 14 as result of enemy action near Baghdad, Iraq. He was assigned to the 314th Security Forces Squadron, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

For more information in regard to this release the media can contact the Little Rock AFB public affairs office at (501) 987-3601.

Pontotoc, MS

Dates and times still to follow but this has become a confirmed mission. Self will arrive at Columbus latest with the services to follow within one to two days afterwards.

Baldwin Funeral Home in Pontotoc. Burial will be at the Turnpike Community Hwy 336W, 6 miles west of

More info to follow as we receive it, please stand by

Ed Baker, MS SC

## **Security forces airman killed by IED in Iraq**

By Holbrook Mohr - The Associated Press

Posted : Wednesday May 16, 2007 20: 34: 17 EDT

An Air Force security airman killed May 14 had volunteered for his fourth tour because he wanted to serve his country, his mother said.

Staff Sgt John T. Self, 29, of Pontotoc, Miss., was killed by a roadside bomb in Baghdad, according to his mother, Jill Self.

The Defense Department confirmed the soldier's death May 15. A brief statement May 14 by U.S. Central Command said Self was killed and three other airmen wounded by an improvised bomb at 3: 55 p.m. Monday in southern Baghdad.

Self was part of team that had been training Iraqi police but it is unclear if he was working with Iraqi police at the time of the blast.

Self was a member of the 314th Security Forces Squadron out of Little Rock Air Force Base, according to base officials. He had been in Iraq since September.

“He had volunteered for this mission. He wanted to serve his country,” Jill Self told The Associated Press. “His commanding officer called this morning and said he was good airman and his unit from Arkansas called and said he had done his job.”

Self was a 1996 graduate of South Pontotoc High School, according to a school official, where he played trumpet in the marching band. He later attended Itawamba Community College and joined the Air Force in 1999.

“He loved to deer hunt and fish and play computer games. He was a loving child. He was there for his family and friends,” Jill Self said. “I loved him very much and he’s going to be missed.”

Self is the second Mississippian killed in Iraq in a matter of days.

Army Sgt Jason W. Vaughn, 29, of Iuka, died last Thursday. Vaughn was also killed by a roadside bomb. The makeshift bombs, also known as improvised explosive devices, have taken a heavy toll on American forces in Iraq.

Vaughn was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq with the Stryker Brigade based in Fort Lewis, Wash., when he was killed. He was assigned to the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

The latest deaths bring to 55 the number of people from Mississippi or with strong ties to the state to die in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to an unofficial Associated Press count.

Air Force Times staff contributed to this story

## **3 soldiers, Marine, Airman killed in Iraq**

The Associated Press

Posted : Tuesday May 15, 2007 12:58: 06 EDT

BAGHDAD — Five U.S. troops were killed in separate attacks in Baghdad and surrounding areas on Monday, while another soldier died of non-combat related causes, the U.S. military said.

Two soldiers on a foot patrol southeast of Baghdad were killed when they came under attack from gunfire, the military said.

A third soldier, from the Multi-National Division-Baghdad, was killed when his patrol in northern Baghdad was hit by a bomb, the military said. Four others were wounded in that attack, the military said.

In a third attack, an airman was killed and three others wounded when a bomb went off at 3: 55 p.m. in southern Baghdad, the military said.

A Marine assigned to Multi National Force-West also was killed while conducting combat operations in Anbar province, an insurgent stronghold west of Baghdad, according to a separate statement.

Another soldier died of non-battle-related causes about 5 a.m. Monday, the military said, providing no other details.

The identities of the troops were not released pending notification of relatives.

The deaths raised to at least 3,399 the members of the U.S. military who have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

**Wednesday, May 16, 2007**

## **TOP STORY [USAF] Security specialist killed in Baghdad**

By RICK KRON  
Leader staff writer

A roadside bomb killed a military member from Little Rock Air Force in Baghdad Monday while he was in a three-vehicle convoy. Three other airmen, from other military bases, were injured in the attack.

Staff Sgt John T. Self, 29, of Pontotoc, Miss., a member of the 314th Security Forces Squadron, had been in Iraq since September training Iraqi police officers.

It was his third tour of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, according to Maj. Allan Fiel, 314th SFS commander. "He had actually volunteered for this assignment while he was still on his second tour because it was a different type of mission." Fiel said each tour is about six months long, preceded by four to six weeks of readiness training.

About 60 members of the 314th SFS are currently serving in Iraqi. "Our job is mostly detainee security," explained CMSgt Keith Morris, the squadron's security force manager.

Self, who had no family in Arkansas, joined the Air Force in 1999 and had been stationed at the base since March 2004. "We mourn his death," Fiel said. "He was a great NCO (noncommissioned officer) and he loved doing what he was trained to do."

Fiel said the sergeant was always aware of the dangers he faced as he carried out his mission in the Middle East. At a news briefing about Self's death Tuesday, Fiel read an email from Self that the squadron had received shortly before his death. "As far as the heat of danger goes, every time a military member comes to the desert, they're in the heat of danger...It's my job to be in the heat of danger.

"Whether it's looking for insurgents, guarding detainees, or sitting on a fence line, it's all dangerous," Self wrote. Self "is a shining example of our airmen who truly place 'service before self' and he will be greatly missed," Fiel said. Self is the second member of LRAFB to be killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

SSgt Dustin Peters, 25, of El Dorado, Kan., with the 314th Logistics Readiness Squadron was killed by a roadside bomb on July 11, 2005.

Self is the the sixth security forces member, Air Force wide, to be killed in the conflict, and the second Mississippi military member to be killed within a week. Self was a 1998 graduate of South Pontotoc High School, where he played trumpet in the marching band.

"He loved to deer hunt and fish and play computer games. He was a loving child. He was there for his family and friends," said his mother, Jill Self. "I loved him very much and he's going to be missed." Funeral arrangements are pending.

Capt. David Faggard, with 314th Public Affairs, said the Air Force has 30,000 airmen deployed in support of 11 operations. (Associated Press contributed to this report.)

May 15, 6:25 PM EDT

### **Airman from LR base dies in Iraq during 4th tour, his mother says**

By HOLBROOK MOHR  
Associated Press Writer

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) -- An Air Force security officer, who was killed Monday and became the second Mississippi soldier to die in Iraq in less than a week, had volunteered for his fourth tour because he wanted to serve his country, his mother said Tuesday.

Staff Sgt John T. Self, 29, of Pontotoc, was killed Monday by a roadside bomb in Baghdad, according to his mother, Jill Self.

The Department of Defense confirmed the soldier's death Tuesday. However, the DOD did not specify a cause of death other than to say Self died as a result of enemy action.

Self was a member of the 314th Security Forces Squadron out of Little Rock Air Force Base, according to base officials. He had been in Iraq since September.

"He had volunteered for this mission. He wanted to serve his country," Jill Self told The Associated Press Tuesday in a telephone interview. "His commanding officer called this morning and said he was a good airman and his unit from Arkansas called and said he had done his job."

Self was a 1998 graduate of South Pontotoc High School where he played trumpet in the marching band. He later attended Itawamba Community College and joined the Air Force in 1999.

"He loved to deer hunt and fish and play computer games. He was a loving child. He was there for his family and friends," Jill Self said. "I loved him very much and he's going to be missed."

Self is the second Mississippian killed in Iraq in a matter of days.

Army Sgt Jason W. Vaughn, 29, of Iuka, died last Thursday. Vaughn was also killed by a roadside bomb. The makeshift bombs, also known as improvised explosive devices, have taken a heavy toll on American forces in Iraq.

Vaughn was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq with the Stryker Brigade based in Fort Lewis, Wash., when he was killed. He was assigned to the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

The latest deaths bring to 55 the number of people from Mississippi or with strong ties to the state to die in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to an unofficial Associated Press count.

© 2007 The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed. Learn more about our

**By HAMID AHMED, Associated Press Writer *Thu May 17, 10:00 AM ET***

**BAGHDAD - Mortar rounds hit a U.S. Air Force base north of Baghdad on Thursday, destroying one helicopter and damaging nine others, police said.**

The attack at Taji, a major Air Force base on the northern outskirts of Baghdad, occurred about 2 a.m., the police said.

"There was an indirect fire attack on the base at Taji which resulted in damage to some aircraft," the military said. Indirect fire is a term the military generally uses to describe rocket or mortar attacks.

The attack destroyed one helicopter and damaged nine others, the police said.

An Iraqi civilian who works at the base said he saw about 16 damaged helicopters, some of them set on fire by the attack. The worker spoke on condition of anonymity, because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Many U.S. Black Hawk helicopters are based at Taji, including some equipped with medical equipment and manned by medics to rescue wounded U.S. and Iraqi soldiers in the Baghdad area.

Sunni insurgents have long been active in the area around Taji.

**© Vietnam Security Police Association, Inc. (USAF) 1995-2018. All Rights Reserved.**

*We Take Care of Our Own*

Click to Report [BROKEN LINKS](#) or [Photos](#), or  
[Comment](#)