

Men and women on the front lines often see things that civilians can only imagine. Can those who have not served understand the experience of war just from watching and reading media reports?

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Though they can sometimes anticipate what they will experience when deployed, even military personnel can be surprised by the realities.

LETTER TO HER FAMILY,
APRIL 1, 2003

My time here is like nothing I can describe. . . The first memorial service was an incredibly sad experience.

Hearing grown men speak with wavering voices, some shedding tears, was more than I could bear. I cried for all of them. It was strange to actually be talking with the para-jumpers and then see them run off to attempt to save others, only to hear of their death hours later. One of them married five days before coming here, [and] two had June weddings planned. . .

Soldiers here become frustrated that Afghanistan isn't mentioned more often. . . They feel people think they are fighting "last year's war" and that they are being forgotten. . .

I miss everyone and continue to look forward to coming home!

I appreciate your emails, you would be surprised at how the little things mean so much.



Photo credit: Memorial Service, courtesy Kathy McConkey

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