My Nephew is on the Front Lines

Melinda Ward

In 2007, my nephew decided to join the army. It really upset my whole family. This was after the death of my son. When my nephew joined the army, he was sent to Afghanistan. We were very worried about him because he was on the front line. His job was to provide protection for the other soldiers.

Melinda Ward recently married a wonderful man, Mike Ward. She has two wonderful children, and she had one son who died tragically in an accident in 2006. She and her husband love the outdoors. They enjoy camping, fishing, and gardening. She is currently attending the Adult Education Center in Fort Smith, AR. She is working towards her GED and retraining for better job opportunities.

Geography of the Region

Locate Iraq on the map on this page. It is about 167,400 square miles, about the size of California.

Desert plains cover most of Iraq except for the fertile Tigres and Euphrates River Valley, the most fertile area in Southwest Asia.

Locate Afghanistan on the map. It about 251,825 square miles, about the size of Texas.

About 50% of Afghanistan is covered with mountains.

How do you think these facts affect soldiers fighting in the region? Read the article by Dwight Christian, an Iraq veteran, on p. 10.