

Morrow is still a member of 2133rd Transportation Company, where he is a sergeant.

"When I went to Iraq I had more of a desk job, now I'm a truck sergeant and in more of a leadership position in charge of other truck drivers," he said. "I was a sergeant in Iraq but it was more of a desk job and I didn't have people underneath me. Now I have a team of soldiers that I'm in charge of."

The 2133rd trains one weekend a month and have been all over the country for training.

"We have a training site at one of L&W's old quarries. We'll go out there and simulate small arms fire or IEDs. We practice on how to call in a medevac, how to do first aid and train for war. We get together once a month on the weekend. If we're going to qualify with our rifles we go up to Des Moines. We've been to Wisconsin which is Fort McCoy. We've been to Minnesota and California. We go all over to the training. Some guard units even go to Egypt or other countries for their training," said Morrow.

Morrow explained that a person that joins the military will not likely be sent to Iraq immediately. There are a few factors that determine if a unit will be sent to war.

"It's based on your readiness, how prepared your unit is, and their needs and the needs of the country," commented Morrow. "That's the most important thing - what the army needs. There's always a chance that we'll get called out, that's part of it. There are some National Guard units that have spent 18 months or two years over there. We were fortunate to only have to spend 10 months there. After six or eight months it's home to you."

Morrow had a few opportunities to leave base and experience the Iraqi culture.

"I went on some civil affairs missions where we would talk to local sheiks and find out what their needs were. We would bring them medicine and school supplies. That was a really neat experience because they would make us local cuisine. We would sit down and eat dinner with them. They don't use forks or knives like we do. They brought out the big piles of flat bread, like Pita bread. All your food, you tear off a piece of bread to pick the food up and eat it. Of course all of us Americans just made wraps out of it. They would say, no no no that's not how you do it," stated Morrow.

Although national media outlets portray Iraq as a country full of "bad guys", Morrow states from experience that it's somewhat similar to our country.

"They're not all bad guys. Wherever you go in the world there is good and bad. For the most part, the people there are just normal like us. There is just a small faction of people that make

**"They're not all bad guys. Wherever you go in the world there is good and bad. For the most part, the people there are just normal like us. There is just a small faction of people that make it hard on everyone else."**

**Kaleb Morrow**

and his family.

"I still have three years left with my commitment. You can decide how long you want to be in the service. I signed up for six years because at the time there was a \$15,000 sign on bonus. I went for the full six years to get that money. I recently bought a home and they matched my down payment. They have a program right now where they match your down payment up to a certain percent. There's also a military exemption for taxes and things like that. There are several perks. It's been a positive experience, it's helped me by a new house and go to school. If it wasn't for the military I wouldn't be in the position I am now," he said.

Morrow is the son of Becky and Butch Morrow of Centerville. Becky works in the office at Indian Hills Community College while Butch is an employee for the Rathbun Lake Army Corps of Engineers. Butch is currently in Afghanistan and will be there until May.

"He's been there since December and he'll be there until late May," said Morrow. "He's kind of like a building inspector, he's helping with a reconstruction project."

While Kaleb was in Iraq, Butch visited him via helicopter.

"My father was in Iraq the same time I was. He flew in a helicopter and met me for a couple days. That was an interesting experience. He's not in the army but he's a department of defense employee," said Morrow.

Morrow's father is not technically a member of the military but serving in the military runs in the family.

"My grandfather was in the army so what kind of runs our family. He retired as a lieutenant colonel and was part of the intelligence core so he couldn't only much about it," added Morrow.

Morrow's wife, Bernadette, works at the Behavioral Health Centers of Southern Iowa. They have one daughter, Emilia, 2, and have another child on the way.

**By Jason McGrann  
Sports editor**



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