

**LT. COL. MICHAEL E. (MAC) McLAUGHLIN** A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Mac began his military career as a ROTC Cadet and received his commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Pennsylvania National Guard. He served the Guard as Ammunition Officer, Infantry Company Fire Support Officer, Executive Officer, Battalion Fire Support Officer, Fire Direction Officer. He took command of B Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 229<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery in Hermitage, PA and remained there until 1995. Soon he was selected for his second command with Service Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 107<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery in Pittsburgh and became S3/Operations Officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 107<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery where he served until 2003, overseeing the training and readiness of 700 soldiers stationed throughout western Pennsylvania. He directly planned and supervised the modernization of the unit to utilize the M109A6 Howitzer, the most advanced field artillery delivery system in the world. He also served as Brigade Fire Support Officer. Prior to deployment he was assigned as Assistant Fire Support Coordinator for the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Mac deployed to Iraq with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division as the Brigade Effects Coordinator. His duties included the coordination of all lethal and nonlethal fires. His work directly improved the conditions of the Iraqi people and the security situation. He was killed in combat in Iraq on January 5, 2006 at 44 years of age. His parents are Dan and Carol McLaughlin. He will be honored this year from Veterans Platform, Citizens Cemetery, Mercer Memorial Day 500 Observance.

