

# Military Manuevers

By Tabitha Armstrong

On Jan. 4, 2003, Aaron Hill and his new wife were opening wedding gifts when Hill, a Marine reservist and senior at Asbury College, received a phone call.

"Hill, what are you doing?" asked one of his platoon sergeants.

"Unwrapping wedding presents," Hill replied.

"Well, I've got another present for you," the sergeant responded. "We're going out of town."

The best day of his life was now also the worst. Before, the couple had planned to finish their senior year and attend graduate school. After that, Hill hoped to pursue a career as a professor. Now he was just hoping to live through the War on Iraq.

In February, Hill left for pre-deployment training in North Carolina. Then he and his company flew to Kuwait before crossing into Iraq.

Hill's company was responsible for holding prisoners of war, running traffic control points and convoy operations and generally maintaining security. Eventually, the company moved to Telil Air Force Base. There, they secured the local police station, training the officials and responding to emergency calls throughout the city.

Hill, a history major, says the knowledge he gained during college enabled him to understand the Middle Eastern region and significance and history of landmarks.



**U.S. Marine Aaron Hill says his military service has made him a stronger, more resilient person.**

The theological background he gained in college was also beneficial. The stress of life in Iraq led many of his colleagues to ask him theological questions.

"Conditions were bad," he recalls. "The food wasn't great. The weather wasn't good. We didn't get to shower."

Nevertheless, Hill says he'd recommend military service to anyone. "I would never tell them 'You're going to love it.' It's difficult, very difficult. But, it's made me more resilient."



*As Kentucky's only women's college and as a leader in accelerated degree completion programs for adults, Midway provides all the resources you expect, but not the way you expect them.*



To learn more about a truly distinctive education, call or visit us today.

[www.midway.edu](http://www.midway.edu)  
859-846-4421

Explore  
the possibilities.  
Challenge  
your mind.  
Aspire  
to greatness.



Discover why so many students choose Eastern Kentucky University for Summer School. Flexible schedules for the classes you need. Register now at [www.eku.edu](http://www.eku.edu) or 800-465-9191.



Students Come First!

Richmond ■ Corbin ■ Danville ■ Manchester

EKU is an Affirmative Action/ Equal Opportunity educational institution.