

Dedication

Tech. Sgt. Ronald O'Steen, a fellow pararescueman at Kadena's 320th Special Tactics Squadron, 353rd Special Operations Group, sketched this portrait of Staff Sgt. Juan Ridout (left) and Master Sgt. William McDaniel for the families of the two fallen comrades.



These two pararescueman and eight soldiers from Echo Company, 160th Special Operations Regiment in Taegu, South Korea, died Feb 22 in a helicopter crash in the Philippines. This mission was in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom, assisting the people of the Philippines in their efforts to rid their country of the same terrorist network that attacked our country on September 11.

SSGT JUAN M. RIDOUT
25 June 1972 - 22 February 2002

SSgt Ridout was assigned to the 320th Special Tactics Squadron, Kadena AB Japan as a Special Tactics Pararescue Journeyman. SSgt Ridout's previous assignment was the 22nd Special Tactics Squadron where he participated in Operation Allied Force. During this operation, SSgt Ridout was involved on the Hammer 34 mission which ended in successful recovery of a downed Air Force pilot. He was named the 320th's Pararescueman of the Year for 1999. His awards and decorations include the Air Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Combat Readiness Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, PME Graduate Ribbon, and the NATO Medal.

MSGT WILLIAM L. MCDANIEL II
12 June 1965- 22 February 2002

MSgt McDaniel was assigned to the 320th Special Tactics Squadron, Kadena AB Japan as the Special Tactics Pararescue Flight Superintendent. He was a veteran of Desert Shield and Desert Storm as an F-117 Crew Chief. MSgt McDaniel cross trained as a PJ in 1997. His first assignment was at the 66th Rescue Squadron, Nellis AFB, NV. While at Nellis, he participated in Operations Northern and Southern Watch. He was named the 320th's Pararescueman of the Year for 2001. His awards and decorations consist of the Air Force Commendation Medal (4 devices), Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, AF Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Service Expeditionary Medal, South West Asia Service Medal with Bronze Star, Armed Forces Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Long Tour, PME Graduate Ribbon, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with Bronze Star, NATO Medal.