

## THOMAS "AL" BIDDLE

Thomas Allen Biddle, known to his friends and family as "Al", was born at Homestead Air Force Base, FL on 6 December 1972. As a child, Al dreamed of being in the Army. His adventurous spirit and intense love for country provoked him to enlist in the Infantry 1990.

Al's intelligence, competence, and patriotism led him to the United States Army Special Forces Regiment where he was first assigned to A Company, 3rd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in 2006. His talents were evident and before long, was selected as the Team Sergeant for Operational Detachment-Alpha 0316.

During his tenure in the Army MSG Biddle has been deployed to all corners of the world including two deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, once in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and other deployments to Qatar, Turkey and Kosovo.

More significant that Al's military service was his love for family. He was a faithful and loving husband, prizing his wife Lisa as the most beautiful thing in the world – creating memories with her that will last forever. Al was a dedicated and caring father to Jenna, Cameron, and Hailey. He loved them so much.

**Who**: Thomas "Allen" Biddle was an all American boy, *literally*. He was born the son of an Air Force Sgt and lived across the USA. Allen was born at Homestead, AFB, Florida and his journey lead to Alaska, Oklahoma, Florida, Texas, Florida, Wyoming, South Dakota, California, South Dakota and graduating High School in Washington State. During his high school years he enjoyed football, joined the Civil Air Patrol and loved to ski and hike.

It is amazing that this young man attended school in 6 different states in 12 years and earned an Army scholarship to Washington State. He left WSU before graduating to begin active duty in the Army.

Allen worked hard at being the best that he could be, earning his Green Beret and a place in Special Forces. He told me once "I know I can't tell you much about what I do. So when people ask you, what I do, just tell them "*I'm doing what I love.*"

After returning home from his last deployment he was different. But when asked he said nothing was wrong, just tired, my back just hurts, ECT. We all hoped we could just get through the next 18 months. He would retire and life would be back to normal. We since learned that Allen suffered from PTSD and on his 39th birthday, with only 18 months left to serve he took his life.

**What:** is, *The Thomas A Biddle Foundation*? The Thomas A Biddle Foundation was created to assist families touched by PTSD and suicide. The foundation raises funds to provide scholarships for colleges and trade schools, as well as to help with costs for special summer support camps and counseling for those children left behind.

**Why?** Lisa learned that most foundations either do not support families of military who die from suicide or limit the support given these families. She and Allen's children felt strongly that this void needed to be filled. Therefore they established the *Thomas A Biddle Foundation*. Lisa also learned after Allen's death that if she had only known then what she knows now may be the situation may have ended differently. In addition this foundation tries to increase the awareness of PTSD.

**When:** On July 15 & 16, 2017 we will be holding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "**SOAR"** fund raiser to raise funds for the <u>Support of</u> "<u>Veteran's" Families left behind due to PTSD Suicide and to increase awareness of PTSD</u>. July 15 there will be a dinner and fund raiser open to all at the American Legion Hall. And on the morning of July 16, we will start with breakfast followed by a motorcycle ride to a yet determine destination for a brief ceremony. All though this started out as mainly a motorcycle ride we also have many vehicles join us.

**Where,** American Legion Hall Post 10 Wenatchee, Washington

Watch for more details on our Face Book page Thomas A Biddle Foundation. Email us at tabfoundation@hotmail.com.

Proud supporters Nancy Biddle Brouwers and Dennis Brouwers