

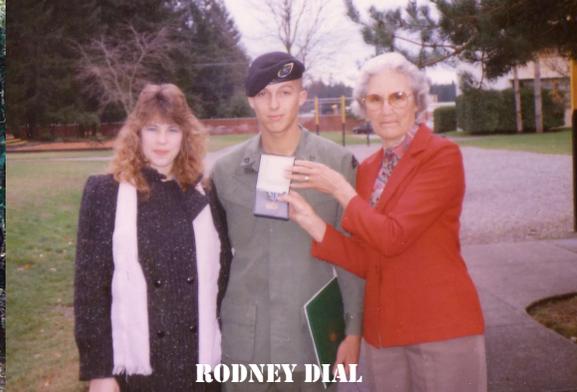
TED NORDGAARDEN



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RODNEY DIAL



## TED NORDGAARDEN

Alaska State Trooper since 2007

U.S. Air Force (1978-1982)

Idaho Army National Guard (1983-1999)

Nordgaarden first enlisted in the Air Force to become a law enforcement specialist. He was first based at 23<sup>rd</sup> North American Air Defense (NORAD) at Duluth Airport, Minnesota, which became the Tactical Air Command. After an honorable discharge as a sergeant in 1982, he joined the Idaho Army National Guard's 116<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade, first as an enlisted soldier as a reconnaissance specialist for the brigade's combat engineering battalion. He was commissioned in 1988 and became the battalion logistics officer during the buildup and deployment to Fort Irwin National Training Center (NTC), the last preparation for a war time deployment. "I had to plan, prep, and get our 500 troops and gear there, fight the training war, and then get it all home," Nordgaarden said. The 116<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade was 5,000 soldiers strong, was one of 14 enhanced Guard brigades in the U.S., and was the second National Guard battalion to deploy to NTC.

"That's as cool as it gets," he said. After the brigade returned from this deployment, Nordgaarden moved into the position of the battle captain in operations. He then retired as a captain after 22 total years in service – four in active duty and 18 in the Guard. Following, he did a stint as a contractor in 1999 as the director of police logistics for the Kosovo Police Service. There he arranged for 7,500 Kosovo officers to get equipment, uniforms, housing, and facilities while passing on his skills to a Kosovo police counterpart that would eventually take over the position. He did this again in 2003-2005 for the Bagdad Police Academy in Iraq by helping create the unit, then making sure the 7,000 students attending the academy each year were properly equipped and housed.



## RODNEY DIAL

DPS Fish and Wildlife Aid in 1989

Alaska State Trooper since 1990

U.S. Army (1985-1989)

After going through Army JROTC in high school, Dial joined the U.S. Army Rangers at age 17 because "it seem the cool thing to do during that time. They had all those action Arnold Schwarzenegger movies." However, he learned that reality and perception are not the same thing. "It wasn't that cool when I was standing in the doorway of an airplane on my first jump." It was a scary start, but he ended up making more than 100 jumps in his Army career. Dial was a satellite communications officer for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment out of Fort Lewis, Wash. He went on numerous overseas deployments throughout the world during his enlistment including one to conduct patrols with the Contra Rebels in Honduras in 1986. It was the first time he was issued live ammunition and grenades in an actual mission. "It was a show of force. We went and patrolled with the (Contra Rebels) and let the enemy know we're capable," Dial said. "We played cat and mouse games of tracking each other in the jungle." He also went to the Army's Jungle Warfare School in Panama and became a certified jungle survival expert. To do this, he had to go through training that including learning how to live off the land and eat plants, grubs and anything else that was edible. "You just close your eyes and eat them," Dial said of eating some of the things he found in the jungle." Then he got dropped in the middle of a jungle and had to successfully survive for a month without needing rescue. He'd navigate during the day, stop when it got dark and he could no longer see and try to sleep in place. "All night long you'd have insects crawling in your uniform," he said. He also deployed to Panama with his battalion prior to Operation Just Cause. He got out of the Army not long before the 2/75th took part in the ouster of General Noriega. By then, Dial was older and on his way to becoming an Alaska State Trooper like his father.

