



Major John J. Ploch of Floresville has been in Afghanistan with the US Army National Guard. On Friday, October 16, 2009, shortly after noon, in the Ghazni Province in Southern Afghanistan, the humvee he was riding in was hit by an IED . The turret of the truck was flipped completely over the back and the front of the vehicle was blown completely out of sight. The engine block was ten feet in front of what was left of the vehicle. Two brave men sitting in front of the humvee were killed instantly and the other two sitting in back, one of whom was John were badly injured. One of the injured was trapped under the mangled turret. It was finally dragged off with the help of another vehicle pulling it and when freed, this fellow and John along with the two fallen comrades were carried to the top of a hill to wait for the medivac chopper. John was taken to a hospital in Germany for treatment. He has a shattered knee with lots of stitches to his leg and a badly beaten face and lip. His body is covered with scrapes and bruises that will heal but for now we are hoping to hear that he is coming home to a hospital in San Antonio. He is a great American. He was there because his country called. He could have retired shortly after the request to serve or bow out because he is an only son. He did neither because he is a brave soul.

John is a former Peanut Festival King, having served with Queen Clarice Bludau in the 1983 Court of Majestic Melodies. Join the Peanut Festival Association in keeping John and his family in your thoughts and prayers. May God watch over those who continue to fight for our freedom.