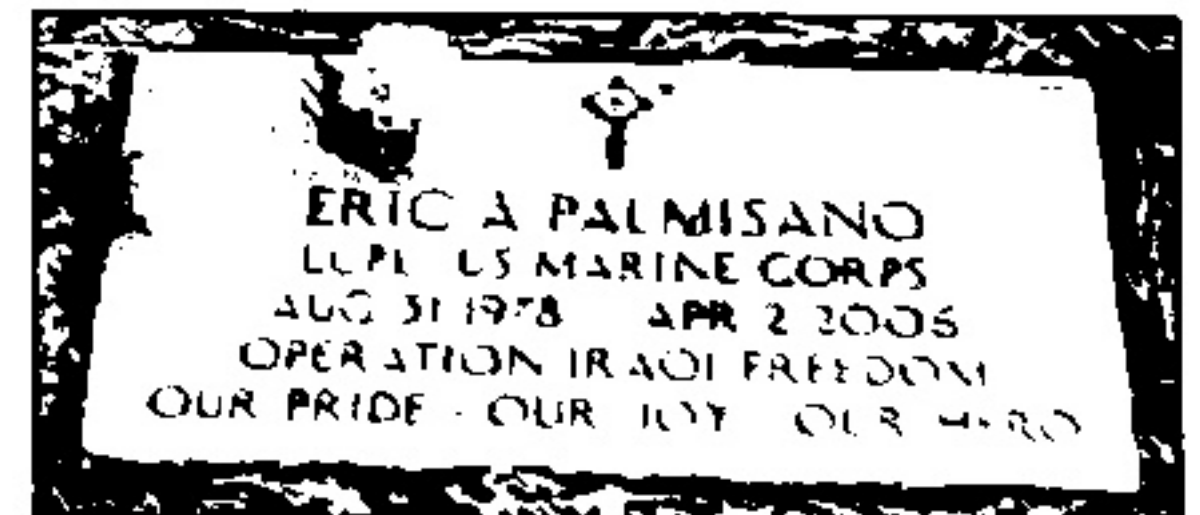
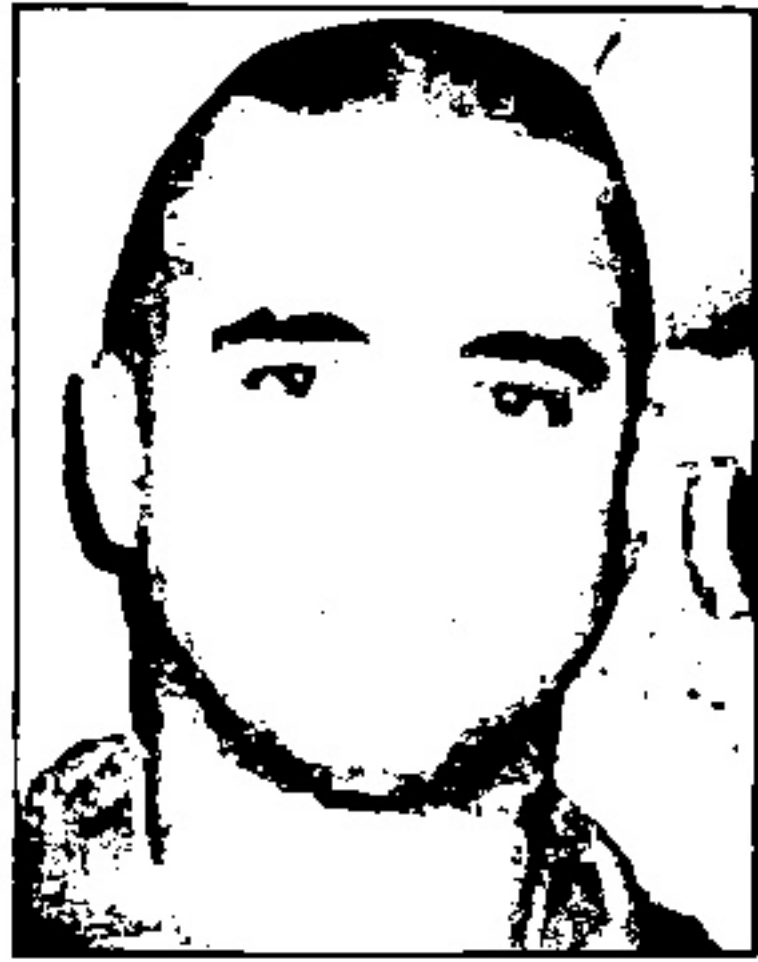
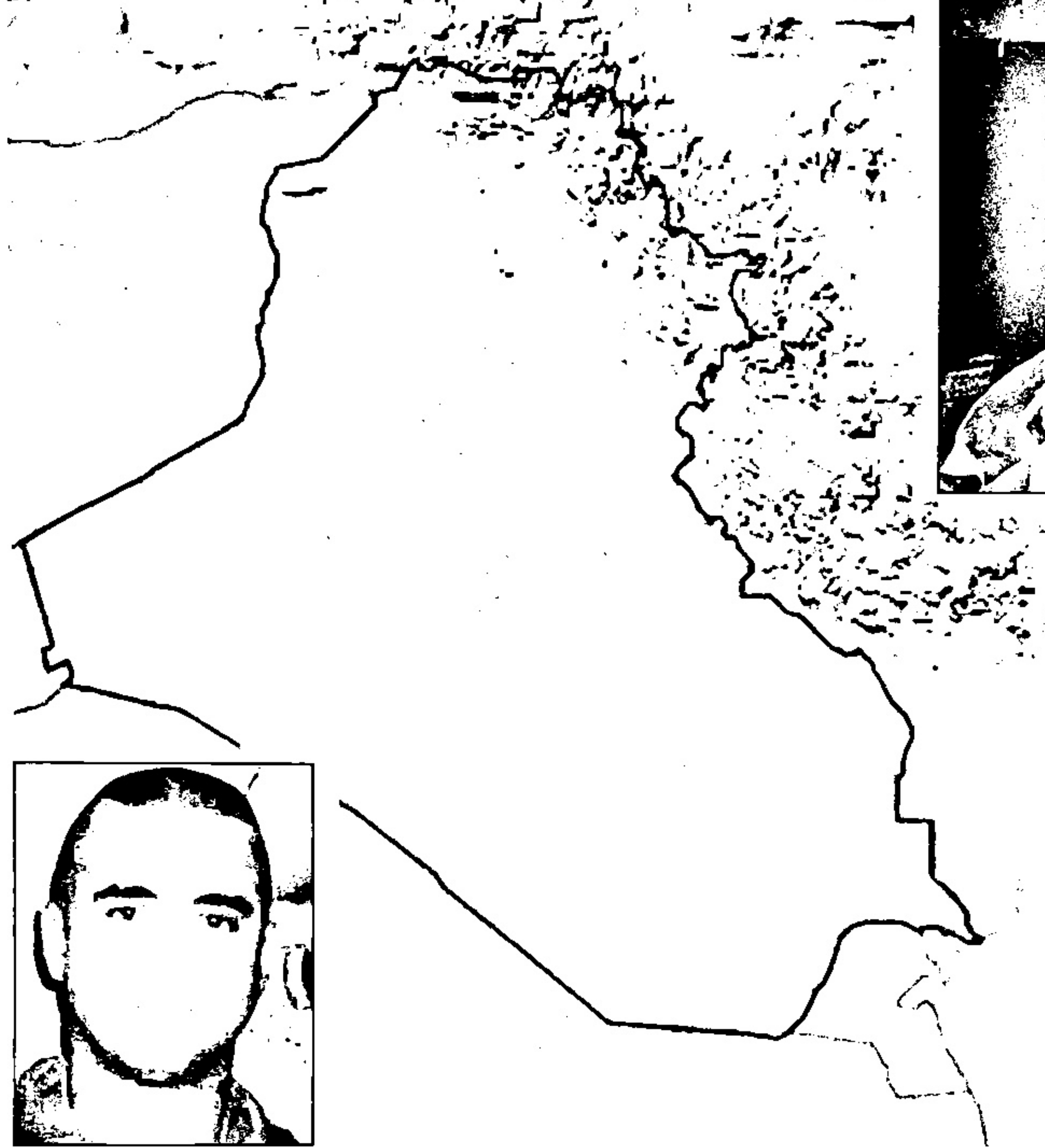


A FATHER'S MISSION



Herb Samme, top right, is working as a military contractor in Iraq. It's not a typical job for a 59-year-old, but Samme is there for a reason — to finish the job started by his son Eric Palmisano, bottom left and middle right, who died shortly after his tour of duty began. **Submitted photos**

Dad delivers supplies to U.S. troops after son dies in Iraq

BY SCOTT WILLIAMS

swilliams@greenbaypressgazette.com

Just two months into his tour of duty in Iraq, Eric Palmisano died in a tragic accident in 2006.

The 27-year-old Wisconsin man's dream of serving his country would have gone unfulfilled if not for one thing: His father would not allow that to happen.

Taking extraordinary steps to complete his son's final mission, Palmisano's father, Herb Samme, has accepted a job with a military contractor in Iraq and is working in the same war zone where his son died.

Samme even is performing the same hazardous duty as his fallen son: delivering supplies to U.S. military bases.

"My whole idea was to finish off his deployment, to fin-



Herb Palmisano went to Iraq to finish the mission started by his son Eric Palmisano: to deliver supplies to the troops stationed there.

ish off his mission," Samme said in a telephone interview from Iraq. "It means that, in one way or another, he accomplished what he set out to do."

The gesture stunned family

members and others close to Samme, a 59-year-old truck driver who lives in northern Wisconsin's Florence County with no previous military experience.

VETERANS DAY

The annual holiday honoring military veterans is observed on Nov. 11, which marks the anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended World War I. A listing of events honoring veterans as well as discounts for veterans and military servicemen and women is available online at www.greenbaypressgazette.com.

Victor Singleton, a friend who has been in the U.S. Marine Corps for 20 years, said he had not heard of a parent going to such lengths to pay respects to a child lost in military conflict.

"That demonstrates a lot of courage and extreme patriotism," Singleton said. "I've never seen anything like it whatsoever."

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