

# Balad remembers fallen Airman

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332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Airmen and Soldiers from Balad Air Base and Logistics Support Area Anaconda paused Wednesday to pay tribute to one of their own.

Hundreds of servicemembers filled Town Hall for the memorial service of Airman 1st Class LeeBernard Chavis, 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Detachment 7, who lost his life Saturday while in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Airman Chavis was mortally wounded by sniper fire while securing the site of a suspected improvised explosive device and protecting the lives of Iraqi civilians in the heart of Baghdad.

“This is a very difficult day and one that no commander ever wants to face,” said Maj. Thomas Miner, 732nd ESFS Det. 7 commander. “Airman Chavis will be

remembered as a great defender who always saw the best in a bad situation, and who always had a smile on his face.”

Airman Chavis was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for his efforts and sacrifices while deployed to Iraq.

Airman Chavis was born Feb. 23, 1985, in Washington D.C. He enlisted in the Air Force March 31, 2004. Upon completion of technical school at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, he was assigned as a fire team member to the 824th Security Forces Squadron, Moody AFB, Ga.

Airman Chavis is survived by his parents, Michael and Jacquelin Chavis of Reston, Va.



*(Left) Hundreds of servicemembers attended the memorial service for Airman 1st Class LeeBernard Chavis at Town Hall Wednesday.*

*(Below) Airman Chavis mans his post in the turret atop a humvee.*



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Cox



Courtesy photo