

## Officers Peredeia & Stine

*(by Albina Sportelli, Editor - July 04, 2008)*



### Trading in the blue for fatigues

By Albina Sportelli

Editor

CLIFTON — Two of Clifton's police officers will trade their blue uniforms for Army fatigues for the next year.

Police officers David Pereda and Wayne Stine, Army reservists, left Clifton for Fort Bliss, Texas last week where they will train for several months before reporting for duty in Iraq.

The two men work side by side in Clifton and will also do so in Iraq.

Pereda, who has served in the Middle East before, said he is proud to serve saying, "I volunteered because I want to do my part and serve my country." He said the toughest part of the assignment will be leaving his wife Laurie and his 7-year-old daughter behind.

He said he and his wife have explained as much as possible to his daughter and she told him she is "proud but sad" that he's being deployed.

When asked how his wife felt about his deployment, he said she's "proud but sad. She's proud that I can serve my country in this capacity, but she's a little sad that I'm going."

"The City of Clifton has been very supportive...they have been very supportive of all employees who have served in the military," Pereda said. "They have gone above and beyond (by paying the difference in salary) it's comforting to know that my family will be taken care of." He said, "most municipalities don't do that."

Clifton passed an ordinance during the early 1990s to make sure all City employees deployed to fight for their country would receive their full salary while away minus the salary paid by the military.

Pereda said he and Stine are part of a group of "15 to 20 guys all volunteers and all fighting for the right reason." He said they "believe in doing the right thing and doing it willingly."

He said he will use email, phones and hopefully video calling to keep in touch with his daughter and wife.

His superior, detective Capt. Robert Rowan, said the men who leave to serve their country should be commended.

"We are proud of these men. They didn't have to re-up, but they believed in trying to bring stability to the Middle East and in turn to the United States," Rowan said.

The men will return to their jobs, Rowan said, adding "we will be running short on manpower, but everyone will chip in to make up for the lack of manpower."

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