

VOLUME II

# PORTRAITS IN **COURAGE**

Airmen in the Fight

# PORTRAITS IN COURAGE

General T. Michael Moseley, the 18th Air Force Chief of Staff, developed the "Portraits in Courage" series to highlight the honor, valor, devotion and selfless sacrifice of America's Airmen.

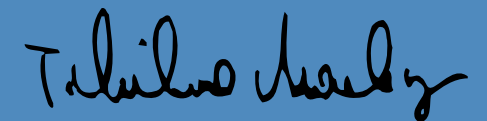
## THE CHIEF OF STAFF'S PORTRAITS IN COURAGE

As you read this second volume in *The Chief of Staff's Portraits in Courage* series, you will discover stories of Airmen who demonstrated great courage while accomplishing their missions. Whether in the air over trouble spots or on the ground in dangerous urban environments, or on the ridges of precipitous mountain passes, our Airmen continue to demonstrate their mettle in the face of danger.

The thirteen courageous Airmen highlighted here are but a small sampling of the tens of thousands of currently deployed Airmen who courageously fulfill their missions day after day in harm's way. As you peruse these stories it becomes abundantly clear that our nation is at war and American Airmen are on the front lines, taking the fight to the enemy by employing all aspects of Air Power. While personal sacrifice is a resounding theme in these vignettes, in each circumstance our Airmen persevered to accomplish the mission despite tremendous challenges. Often, these efforts saved the lives of others as well.

These stories of bravery and fortitude echo our warrior ethos: "I am an American Airman. I am a Warrior. I have answered my Nation's Call." The heroic acts of today's Airmen prove the Airmen's Creed is more than just words – it embodies the warrior ethos by which we live and fight.

Clearly, Airmen are making a difference in today's fight. I invite you to read of a few examples in the pages that follow.



T. MICHAEL MOSELEY  
General, USAF  
18th Chief of Staff

## SSgt ERIC EZELL

### MH-53M AERIAL GUNNER

On December, 29, 2006, Staff Sergeant Eric Ezell, a MH-53 aerial gunner serving on his sixth deployment to Iraq, was on a vital mission to infiltrate US and coalition forces into an unsecured landing zone to capture or kill a high-value target south of Baghdad.



The bullet had entered his head behind his right cheekbone and exited the eye socket, completely destroying the eye and cheekbone. The medic worked feverishly to stabilize Sergeant Ezell en route to the nearest medical facility in Baghdad. Sergeant Ezell fought to remain conscious throughout the flight. Even with this serious injury, he walked off the helicopter under his own power to an awaiting vehicle for transfer to the medical facility.

VALOR

During the approach, the landing zone erupted with fire from insurgents. In this critical phase of flight, Sergeant Ezell received a gunshot wound to the head caused by an accidental weapons discharge from inside his helicopter. Maintaining his crew position, he alerted his fellow crewmembers he was hit. The team leader and medic immediately responded and began treating Sergeant Ezell.

The recovery process for Sergeant Ezell has been grueling, though he faces every challenge with an unrelenting determination and optimistic attitude. He has endured a continual string of surgeries in Iraq, Germany, and Walter Reed Medical Center as well as the most advanced reconstructive surgery available at Johns Hopkins. Throughout his long road to recovery, Sergeant Ezell has continued to display the warrior mentality, continuously advancing his recovery and finding renewed strength to improve each day.

Before his last deployment, Sergeant Ezell was featured in an Air Force commercial that depicts him walking off of the tail of the PAVE LOW. In the commercial, he says,

**"I'm Staff Sergeant Eric Ezell and I have the best job in the Air Force."**

Shortly after arriving at Walter Reed, his commander walked in and Sergeant Ezell exclaimed, "Sir, I think I want to re-shoot that commercial!" His positive attitude serves as an inspiration to all.

## Capt JOHN GROVES

### MH-53M PILOT

Captain John Groves was the aircraft commander of the second aircraft in a two-ship formation of MH-53M PAVE LOW helicopters conducting a special operations combat re-supply mission in Iraq.

#### DETERMINATION

Soon after accomplishing a formation go-around due to a busy landing zone, the lead aircraft was ambushed and shot down by insurgents. Barely 100 yards behind, Capt Groves and his crew watched in shock as the stricken lead helicopter, hit directly in the cockpit by a rocket-propelled grenade, began a rapid, uncontrolled descent towards the ground. Seconds later, Capt Groves' aircraft was engaged with fierce small arms fire and an additional rocket-propelled grenade. He performed evasive maneuvers, directed his crew to dispense countermeasures, and steered his aircraft away from the threat area flying as low as 80 feet amidst power lines and buildings to avoid further detection.

Capt Groves then made three attempts to return to the location of the downed aircraft and recover its crew. During the first two attempts, his aircraft came under intense ground fire. In both cases, his superb airmanship and skillful crew coordination defeated the threat. Undeterred, Capt Groves made a third attempt to rescue his fellow airmen. After his crew located the downed aircraft, he conducted a flawless approach under zero illumination conditions, in an extremely high-threat area, and placed his aircraft only 200 feet from the crashed aircraft. On the ground, he directed his crew and three Special Forces passengers to locate and recover the personnel from the damaged helicopter.

Once the survivors were on board, he readied his overloaded aircraft for takeoff. Once more, Capt Groves' piloting enabled the aircraft to safely takeoff. As he gained flying speed on departure, he was again engaged by enemy fire. For the fourth time, he executed successful defensive maneuvering and defeated the enemy threat. His gallant actions and tremendous pilot skills saved the lives of nine fellow service members.



## SrA CASEY HOLIHAN

### SECURITY FORCES

Deployed to Iraq, Senior Airman Casey Holihan was a member of a night combat patrol in Tikrit on May 9, 2005. The 23-year-old security forces Airman's mission was to man a .50-caliber gun truck in a joint convoy with 52 Army and Air Force personnel.



The firing intensified and he saw muzzle flashes not more than 30 meters to the convoy's left. Since he was in the trail vehicle his turret was facing aft. As he tried to rotate his turret to engage the threat with his .50 caliber, the turret jammed facing aft. With streams of enemy tracer fire flying past his head, Airman Holihan grabbed his M4 carbine and returned fire. He emptied a 30-round magazine before the enemy ceased firing. With the engagement over, the convoy continued on its mission without casualties or damage to the vehicles.

PERSISTENCE

Early in the evening, a lone vehicle rapidly approached the convoy. Airman Holihan followed the rules-of-engagement (ROE) to the letter and calmly challenged the potential threat. The vehicle failed to yield and continued to quickly close on the convoy. Airman Holihan was well within the ROE to directly engage the threat, but showing great restraint fired warning shots and stopped the vehicle. His self-discipline proved accurate. The driver was an Iraqi national confused and unaware. The convoy continued on.

Forty-five minutes later, as Airman Holihan conducted his standard visual security sweeps around the formation, a vehicle not associated with his convoy triggered an improvised explosive device (IED) immediately in front of the lead vehicle. The convoy halted to assess the situation and Airman Holihan scanned the area for enemy threats. "As I visually cleared the area I saw specks of green light floating around my head. Since I had never seen green tracers, I wasn't sure what I was seeing, but once I heard the distinct whizzing of small arms projectiles I knew I was being shot at."

Daylight investigation revealed that two insurgent snipers had triggered the IED thinking the vehicle was the lead vehicle of Airman Holihan's convoy. Their supposed intent was to stop the convoy, cause confusion and target the US personnel during the disorder. Airman Holihan's quick thinking and accurate employment of his weapon crippled the insurgents' objective. One of the snipers had fled the scene while the other was confirmed killed. Airman Holihan's precision engagement had saved the lives of his teammates and ensured mission success.

Airman Holihan has since deployed two more times since his brave actions.

## MSgt BOB JACKSON

### MUNITIONS CRAFTSMAN

In August 2003, during his deployment to Iraq, Master Sergeant Bob Jackson and his munitions flight discovered huge stockpiles of ordnance that included SA-2 surface to air missiles, high-explosive mortar rounds, and rocket-propelled grenades at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.

Sergeant Jackson's seven-person team of munitions specialists normally prepared, built, and stored bombs, rockets, and bullets for use on A-10 aircraft. On this day however, they were working to dispose of more than 300,000 pounds of extremely unstable munitions that had been stockpiled for years by the Iraqi military.

Smoke billowing from a stack of munitions caught Sergeant Jackson's eye. It was a smoldering 120mm projectile packed with white phosphorus. Sergeant Jackson raced through the possible resultant scenarios in his mind. None were good. He knew white phosphorous was highly flammable, unpredictable, and extremely dangerous. He also knew the smoking weapon had to be snuffed out.

Had the shell ignited in his hands the situation would have been grave for him, but he was more worried about his team than his own welfare. If the shell had exploded in the stockpile it would have triggered a mass detonation that would have rippled through the bomb dump, killing the team and fourteen others in the immediate area.

Sergeant Jackson's selflessness can't be overstated, but he tries to keep it in perspective. "There are a lot of guys out there who put their lives on the line all the time," he said.

"I was just doing what needed to be done."

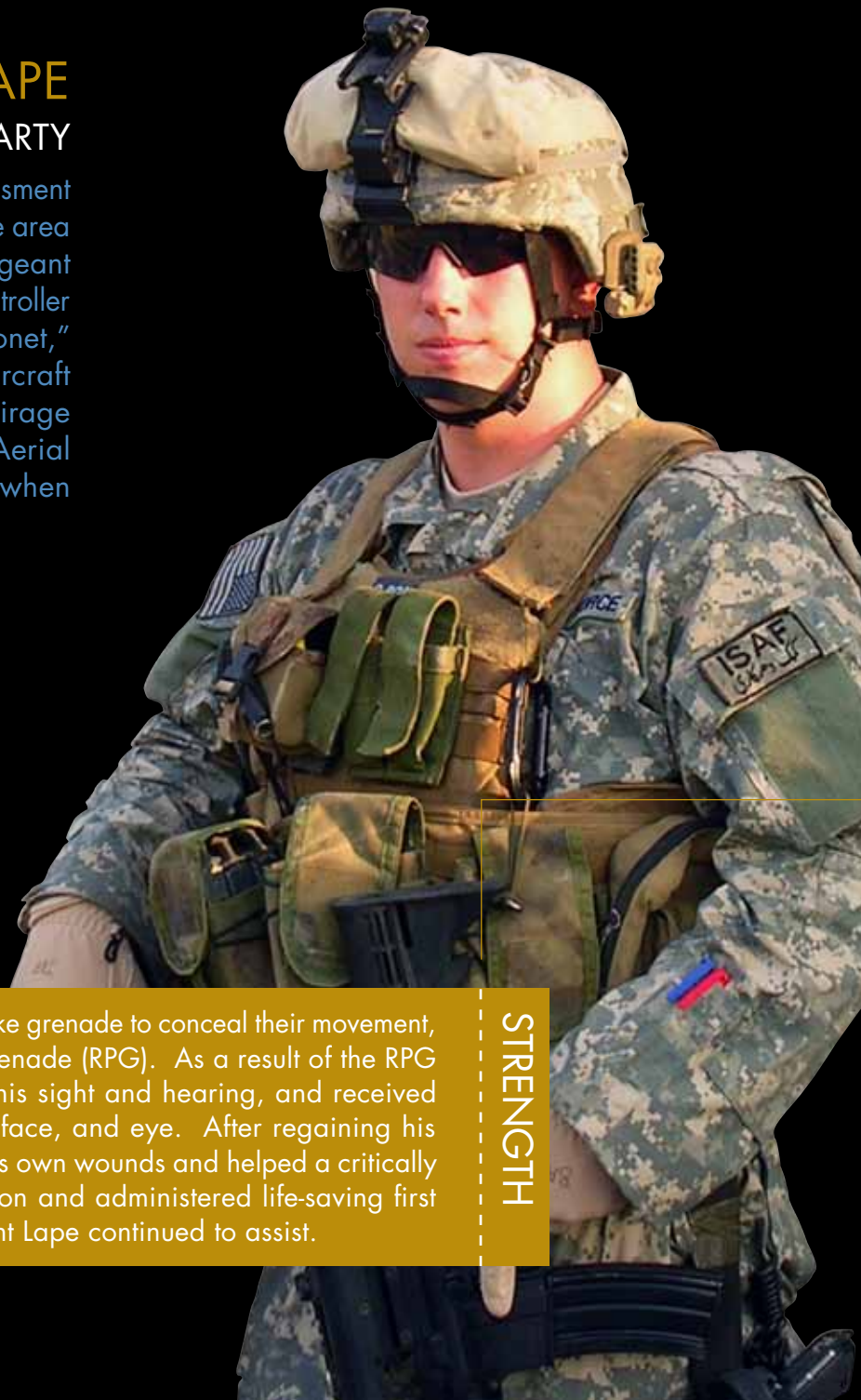
#### HEROISM

What he didn't know was how long he had before the projectile would detonate. Scanning the area, the sergeant saw a man-made pond about 100 yards away. Without hesitation, he picked up the 30-pound projectile, dashed across the bomb dump and tossed it in the reservoir. "I didn't have time to think," he recalled. "It's just action and reaction. When you cut off oxygen to white phosphorus, it will stop burning."

## SSgt PATRICK LAPE

### TACTICAL AIR CONTROL PARTY

On 27 July 2007, during a village assessment and presence patrol mission in a remote area of northeastern Afghanistan, Staff Sergeant Patrick Lape, a Joint Terminal Attack Controller assigned to support "Task Force Bayonet," directed the action of five combat aircraft to include two A-10s, two French Mirage 2000s, and a Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle to provide close air support when his team came under enemy attack.



While Sergeant Lape was preparing a smoke grenade to conceal their movement, his team was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG). As a result of the RPG attack, Sergeant Lape momentarily lost his sight and hearing, and received shrapnel and burns to his left shoulder, face, and eye. After regaining his orientation, Sergeant Lape disregarded his own wounds and helped a critically injured soldier move to a covered location and administered life-saving first aid. Even after a medic arrived, Sergeant Lape continued to assist.

STRENGTH

While on patrol, Sergeant Lape's team received small arms fire from multiple locations. They immediately secured a fighting position, and Sergeant Lape used his radio to provide a communications link for his team while at the same time calling in close air support to engage the enemy for the next two hours.

Shortly after the combat aircraft left the area, the team again came under attack, this time by sniper fire. During the ensuing battle, a team member accidentally slid down a hill onto the road below exposing him to direct enemy fire. Sergeant Lape maneuvered to his position and safely helped him to an area that offered cover from the enemy. While Sergeant Lape was helping the team member, the company commander maneuvered to Sergeant Lape's position to provide additional fire support. The company commander then decided to move the element to a more defensible position.

Throughout the fire fight Sergeant Lape maintained clear focus, and though the soldier received traumatic injuries, Sergeant Lape's immediate actions saved his teammate's life and allowed him to be medically evacuated to receive life-saving follow-on care.



## SSgt SCOTT LILLEY

### SECURITY FORCES

Staff Sergeant Scott Lilley volunteered for a 365-day deployment to Iraq to train local police forces and conduct joint patrols with them in the volatile urban environments of Baghdad.

On one mission, Sergeant Lilley's team was to secure a site and conduct training with Iraqi police to improve their tactics and ability to protect local streets. Sergeant Lilley manned the .50 caliber machine gun in the third vehicle of his convoy as it proceeded down Route Irish for an Iraqi police station in Baghdad. As the convoy approached an Iraqi checkpoint, an improvised explosive device detonated underneath the front-passenger's side of Sergeant Lilley's vehicle. The vehicle was disabled and immediately came under intense small arms fire.

When he returned to the United States, Sergeant Lilley had little to no ability to speak or move. In the hospital, Sergeant Lilley showed the same courage he had displayed on the battlefield. He amazed and scared his doctors by getting out of his bed and sitting in a chair – a feat they did not think he was capable of accomplishing.

Sergeant Lilley has attacked his physical therapy with enthusiasm and vigor and continues to amaze his doctors. He is now able to walk and talk. Although he faces a long road to recovery, Sergeant Lilley is determined to beat the odds.

#### ENDURANCE

Despite the fact that Sergeant Lilley was seriously wounded from two pieces of shrapnel that entered his skull, he continued to man his weapon and return fire to blunt the enemy advance. Despite severe bleeding, he continued to man his post in order to respond to possible counterattacks and had to be pulled from his turret by the squad medic. Fellow security forces members evacuated Sergeant Lilley from the battlefield. He was then transferred to Balad Air Base where he underwent emergency surgery.



## MSgt KEARY MILLER

### PARARESCUEMAN

During a rescue mission on a remote mountain ridge in Afghanistan, Master Sergeant Keary Miller, a pararescueman in the Air National Guard, was tasked as part of a Quick Reaction Force to recover two isolated servicemen evading capture in mountainous terrain. Just before touching down, Sergeant Miller's helicopter came under attack from intense rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire that disabled the helicopter and caused it to crash land.

As the battle intensified, Sergeant Miller removed ammunition from the deceased and proceeded through some of the battle's heaviest rocket-propelled grenade, mortar, and small arms fire to distribute the ammunition from position to position.

Another attack soon erupted that killed one pararescueman and compromised the casualty collection point. Sergeant Miller braved the barrage of fire to move the wounded to better cover and concealment to prevent further loss of life.

His actions led to the successful delivery of ten gravely wounded Americans to life-saving medical treatment and to the recovery of seven servicemen killed in action.

Sergeant Miller's heroics during the 17-hour firefight are depicted in a painting commissioned by the National Guard Bureau, "The Battle of Takur Ghar."

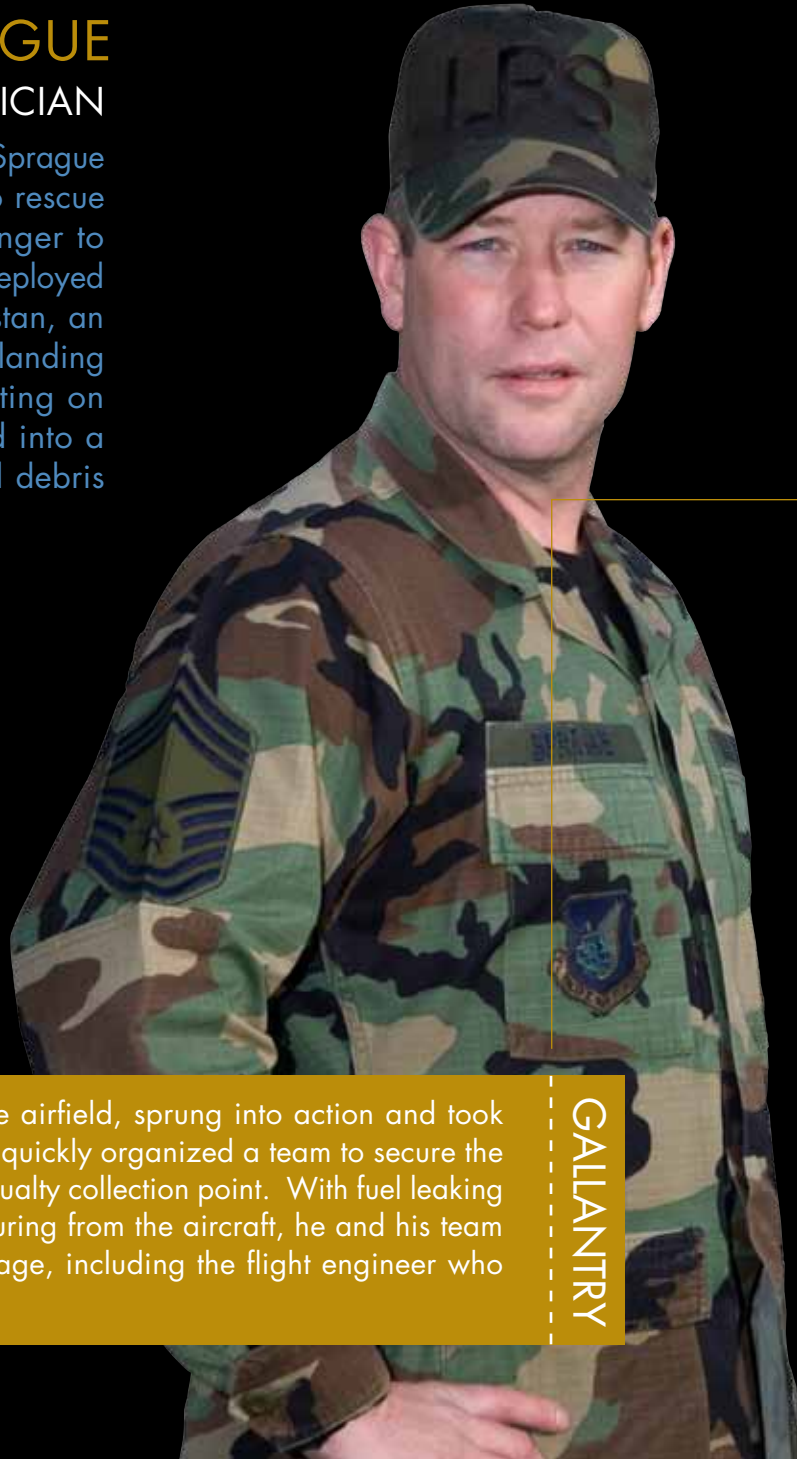
Sergeant Miller and the assault force formed a hasty defense against the enemy. They immediately suffered four fatalities and five critical casualties. During the ensuing battle, Sergeant Miller moved throughout the battlefield despite concentrated enemy fire and repeatedly crossed open danger areas to assess and care for his critically wounded teammates.

COURAGE

## CMSgt DEAN SPRAGUE

### LOGISTICIAN

Then-Senior Master Sergeant Dean Sprague charged into a perilous situation to rescue others in spite of tremendous danger to himself. On April 25, 2006, while deployed to the Helmand district of Afghanistan, an AN-32 transport plane crashed on landing as it swerved to avoid a truck sitting on the runway. The airplane plowed into a nearby village, scattering dirt and debris and collapsing several structures.



Sergeant Sprague, a logistician at the airfield, sprung into action and took immediate control of the situation. He quickly organized a team to secure the crash site perimeter and establish a casualty collection point. With fuel leaking from both wings and heavy smoke pouring from the aircraft, he and his team pulled 17 passengers from the wreckage, including the flight engineer who had suffered a broken arm and leg.

GALLANTRY

Having safely removed all personnel from the wrecked aircraft, Sergeant Sprague then focused his rescue efforts on the village. He directed his team to begin pulling out women and children trapped under mounds of rubble caused from the crash. Within minutes his team had rescued a 2 1/2-year-old child and a 13-year-old girl from an area near the crash site.

Sergeant Sprague realized a villager's house had been completely destroyed by the crash as a woman screamed and pointed to what remained of her home. Without delay, Sergeant Sprague worked through the rubble of the destroyed home and searched for trapped family members. Despite the fact that his team had no proper tools immediately available, they began to dig through the dirt with their bare hands. His efforts were immediately rewarded as he pulled a crying but unharmed 20-day-old baby out from under the dirt.

Three times on this day, Sergeant Sprague selflessly demonstrated the high calling spelled out in the Airman's creed - "I will never leave an Airman behind, I will never falter, and I will not fail." His selfless actions saved many lives and underscored an Airman's steadfast commitment to others.

## SSgt DAVID VELASQUEZ

### MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

During his voluntary 365-day tour in Afghanistan as a medical technician, Staff Sergeant David Velasquez completed more than 90 convoys and numerous missions with the Provincial Reconstruction Team and Quick Response Forces. His team was fired upon on virtually every mission, surviving eight serious attacks to their convoys.

In one instance, Sergeant Velasquez's convoy was en route to the U.S. Embassy when it was hit by an improvised explosive device. The vehicle directly in front of Sergeant Velasquez was heavily damaged and two of its passengers were killed. His vehicle's turret gunner fell into the vehicle on fire and suffered severe shrapnel wounds to his left arm. Sergeant Velasquez quickly extinguished the flames, stopped the bleeding, and administered life-saving medical aid. Instead of moving directly to the safety of the embassy, Sergeant Velasquez remained on the scene, scanned the area for enemy and assisted the remaining casualties.

On another mission, his convoy came under attack by small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades resulting in several casualties. Under withering fire, Sergeant Velasquez left his vehicle to tend to two wounded Afghan soldiers stranded in a disabled vehicle. He removed the most severely wounded from the wreckage to an area behind a small rock wall that offered cover. Under constant enemy fire, Sergeant Velasquez remained with the American and Afghan casualties providing medical care for several hours until the survivors were evacuated.

#### FEARLESSNESS

On a third convoy operation, Sergeant Velasquez's team again came under fire. With total disregard for his own safety, he immediately came to the aid of eight wounded whose injuries included broken bones and serious shrapnel wounds to the head, arms, and legs. He triaged and treated all eight casualties until the medical evacuation team arrived. One of the wounded had been initially treated with a tourniquet. Sergeant Velasquez slowly removed the tourniquet and applied a Quickclot bandage. His quick thinking and medical expertise throughout the engagement is credited with saving the lives of his teammates and the arm of the Afghan soldier.

**"I was only doing my job, nothing special."**

Those who have received life-saving medical attention in the heat of battle from Staff Sergeant David Velasquez would argue otherwise.



## Maj JASON WALKER

### INTEL OFFICER

Major Jason Walker deployed to the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) based in Laghman Province, Afghanistan. His job as the intelligence officer was to provide force protection intelligence to the PRT commander, acquire and analyze weapons used against the PRT, and assist in the team's mission of providing reconstruction resources to the Afghan people.



Major Walker readied his weapon and relayed the situation to higher headquarters, and as he organized a defensive plan, a mortar exploded directly behind him severely wounding him. Shrapnel from the mortar fractured his right arm and entered the base of his brain, rendering him unconscious. He received on-scene medical care from field medics and was transported to Bagram Air Field where surgery was performed to stabilize his forearm fracture. He was placed in an induced coma until he could be moved to a more advanced medical facility to address his head trauma. Major Walker was evacuated to Landstuhl Medical Facility, Germany, and then on to Bethesda Naval Hospital where he underwent surgery to remove shrapnel fragments from his brain and begin his long road to recovery.

### BOLDNESS

On the evening of November 2, 2006, Major Walker's PRT was ambushed en route to their forward operating base. The teams are trained to return fire, break contact with the enemy, move to a safe location, and coordinate close air support. This particular engagement proved to be different. As the team broke contact and repositioned the convoy, a separate enemy force attacked them again. Major Walker's team was engaged six times over the distance of ten kilometers, and each time he coordinated fires and returned fire as well. When the enemy attacks finally ceased, the team elected to find a location to remain for the night to repair a damaged vehicle. The next morning as the team was preparing to complete their move to the forward operating base, the radio operator intercepted enemy communications indicating they were about to attack. Major Walker directed his team to take up fighting positions.

Since receiving life-saving medical care in both Germany and the United States, Major Walker's determination has enabled a recovery that none of his physicians believed possible, including learning how to walk again. Amazingly, Major Walker returned to duty after only four months of rehabilitation and continues to serve in the Air Force.



## SSgt KENNETH WEBB

### C-130 LOADMASTER

While deployed to Iraq, Staff Sergeant Kenneth Webb, a C-130 loadmaster, was returning from a re-supply mission near Baghdad when the insulation in the top of the cargo compartment of his C-130 burst into flames. Flying at 20,000 feet, and with 30 passengers on board, Sergeant Webb had only seconds to handle the emergency before it turned catastrophic.

Smoke immediately filled the cargo compartment and made its way to the flight deck, filling the aircraft with toxic fumes. After alerting the crew and his fellow loadmaster, Sergeant Webb directed the passengers to don their emergency oxygen masks while securing his own mask.

Sergeant Webb worked feverishly for the next several minutes to revive the passenger. His efforts were rewarded when the passenger began breathing on his own. After realizing the passenger was breathing again, he turned to see another passenger slumped over with similar effects. Sergeant Webb ripped off another failed oxygen mask and replaced it with a new one. Once again his efforts were rewarded when the passenger regained consciousness.

After the crew safely landed the aircraft, medical personnel treated each passenger. The attending flight doctor concluded the first passenger would have perished had it not been for Sergeant Webb's quick actions.

#### BRAVERY

The crew took action to eliminate the smoke and fumes and declared an in-flight emergency. After a few minutes, Sergeant Webb noticed one of the passengers slumped over in his seat. He ran to the victim's side and realized that the victim was unconscious. Sergeant Webb, with complete disregard for his own safety, replaced the victim's mask with his own. The passenger was unresponsive, so Sergeant Webb immediately began rescue-breathing procedures.

## MSgt MIKE WEST

### COMBAT CONTROLLER

Master Sergeant Michael West is a combat controller qualified and very experienced in Joint Terminal Attack Control (JTAC) and Close Air Support (CAS). In September, 2006, he was attached to one of several Army Special Forces teams operating near Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Sergeant West's team leader wanted to occupy a dominant hill that offered a commanding view of the surrounding areas. As another Coalition team pushed towards the hill, they came under heavy attack and lost radio communications. Sergeant West had been monitoring the frequency and took over. He positively identified the friendly personnel and the enemy fighting positions and called in close air support. He directed B-1B bombers to destroy several buildings where ACM were sheltered. He then cleared several A-10s for multiple strafing passes against enemy positions. He simultaneously worked with a Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) overhead to scan for more targets. His efforts saved the lives of his teammates and enable the team to seize the high ground.

TENACITY

His team was on a reconnaissance mission supporting a larger Coalition forces offensive designed to clear Panjaway Valley of all Anti-Coalition militants (ACM). Intelligence estimated 800-1000 ACM in the district, threatening Kandahar's security.

This opening sequence would lead to a week-long battle for the valley and surrounding terrain. During this time, Sergeant West and two of his JTAC teammates were on the hill, working multiple aircraft, orchestrated by Sergeant West's battlefield awareness and ingenuity for dividing airspace and platforms. The air support included French, British, Dutch, and American fighters, bombers, attack helicopters, AC-130H gunships, and UAVs. In concert with their teams' ground maneuvers, they tirelessly engaged the enemy with airpower until the aircraft needed to refuel or rearm. Throughout the Coalition operation, Sergeant West called in MEDEVACs, controlled resupply airdrops for ammo, food, and water, and coordinated 130 CAS missions including 15 separate troops-in-contact missions.

The Coalition forces achieved decisive victories throughout the district regaining control of the area and killing an estimated 750 enemy combatants. Sergeant West's masterful situational awareness and precise employment of Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance and CAS assets were vital to the battle's overall success.

## SrA NICHOLAS WORTHINGTON

### EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL

During his deployment to Iraq, Senior Airman Nicholas Worthington was en route to clear an improvised explosive device (IED) one early morning in June 2006 when his convoy hit an IED.



Airman Worthington, who was ten feet from the deadly device when it exploded, was thrown to the ground by the blast and lost hearing in his left ear. Quickly regaining his bearing, he immediately rendered self-aid and buddy care to his EOD team leader, who had sustained multiple severe shrapnel wounds to his body. Once Airman Worthington had his team leader taken care of, he turned to another injured team member and assessed his wounds. As he worked on his teammate, a medic arrived and took over.

CHIVALRY

Airman Worthington and his explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team quickly assessed the situation and found command wire running from the blast site to a nearby abandoned house. As the EOD team and Army security team continued analyzing the house where the command wire was anchored, a second IED exploded, instantly killing one team member and injuring seven others.

Almost immediately the area erupted in small arms fire. Using his body as a shield, Airman Worthington placed himself in front of his injured team leader and returned fire. Additional teammates joined the fight, and together they moved to a more secure fighting position and engaged the enemy. The firefight lasted approximately 20 minutes until the enemy was suppressed and fled the scene.

Airman Worthington, along with the security detail, killed two of the insurgents and injured four others who were later found with multiple gun shot wounds. After the chaos subsided, he helped carry the wounded personnel to the medical evacuation helicopter. His focus and bravery during the heat of battle ensured the survival of his team and allowed the medic to provide critical care to the severely injured.



"VICTORY IN THE WAR DEPENDS  
ON THE ONE THING THAT HAS NOT  
CHANGED SINCE THE FOUNDING OF  
THE AIR FORCE SIX DECADES AGO — THE  
COURAGE OF THE MEN AND WOMEN  
WHO WEAR THE AIR FORCE BLUE."



— PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

Speech at the Air Force  
Memorial Dedication  
14 Oct 2006



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**U.S. AIR FORCE**

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