

SFC Jared C. Monti—A Redleg Hero

Our Army has had many great leaders throughout the years, and every one of them have two things in common—the Soldiers and NCOs within their ranks. NCOs are relied upon to accomplish the Army mission. To recognize these vital NCO Corps contributions, the Army declared 2009 as the “Year of the NCO.”

In Command Sergeant Major (CSM), Retired, Daniel Elder’s article *Remarkable Sergeants: Ten Vignettes of Noteworthy NCOs*, he identifies 10 NCOs who impacted the Army in some fashion. Many have not even heard of most of them. The periods that they served range from the Revolutionary War to Vietnam. I encourage you to go to <http://www.ncohistory.com> and read CSM Elder’s articles.

Since the moment 2009 was declared the “Year of the NCO,” the Army planned numerous ways to celebrate its NCO’s accomplishments. One way Fort Sill, Oklahoma, is recognizing NCO accomplishments is to dedicate our new call-for-fire training facility to an NCO killed in action in Afghanistan.

Sergeant First Class (SFC) Jared C. Monti, a Military Occupational Specialty 13F Fire Support Specialist, was a Tar-

geting NCO assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York. He distinguished himself by acts of conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty against an armed enemy in Gowardesh, Nuristan Province, Afghanistan.

On 21 June 2006, SFC Monti, then a staff sergeant, was the assistant patrol leader for a 16-man patrol tasked to conduct surveillance in the Gowardesh region. The patrol was to provide up-to-date intelligence, interdict enemy movement and ensure early warning for the squadron’s main effort as it inserted into the province.

As nightfall approached, the patrol was attacked by a well organized enemy force of at least 60 personnel. Outnumbered four-to-one, SFC Monti’s patrol was in serious danger of being overrun.

The enemy fighters had established two support-by-fire positions directly above the patrol in a densely wooded ridgeline. SFC Monti immediately returned fire and ordered the patrol to seek cover and return fire. He then reached for his radio headset and calmly initiated calls for indirect fire and close air support (CAS), both danger-close to the patrol’s position. He did this while simultaneously directing the patrol’s fires.

When SFC Monti realized that a member of the patrol, Private First Class (PFC) Brian J. Bradbury, was critically wounded and exposed 10 meters from cover, without regard for his personal safety, he advanced through enemy fire to within three feet of PFC Bradbury’s position. But he was forced back by intense RPG fire. He tried again to secure PFC Bradbury, but he was forced to stay in place again as the enemy intensified its fires.

The remaining patrol members coordinated covering fires for SFC Monti, and he advanced a third time toward the

SFC Jared C. Monti stands outside his bunker during personal time while deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Inset: SFC Monti, a Military Occupational Specialty 13F Fire Support Specialist, uses the MkVII Laser Rangefinder before moving out on patrol in Afghanistan.



wounded Soldier. But he only took a few steps this time before he was mortally wounded by an RPG. About the same time, the indirect fires and CAS he called for began raining down on the enemy’s position. The firepower broke the enemy attack, killing 22 enemy fighters. SFC Monti’s actions prevented the patrol’s position from being overrun, saved his team’s lives and inspired his men to fight on against overwhelming odds.

SFC Monti epitomizes what it means to be an NCO. Because of his personal sacrifice and selfless service to the Army, the men of his patrol are alive today and continue the fight.

SFC Monti’s name will adorn our new Fort Sill Call for Fire Training Center. The “Monti Call for Fire Training Facility” will be used to train future joint fires observers. Students will be trained on jointly approved tactics, techniques and procedures in support of Artillery, Naval Surface Fire Support and Aviation. Upon graduation, the students will take with them the knowledge, skills and inspiration the Monti Call for Fire Training Facility provided to fight effectively and win on today’s modern battlefield.

The Department of the Army has given us an outstanding opportunity this year to showcase our NCOs. By looking at what great leaders have done in the past and present, we learn “what right looks like.” Through the continuing transformation of the NCO Education System (NCOES), focusing on physical and mental fitness, and celebrating the diversity within our ranks, we will ensure that the “Backbone of the Army” continues to lead the way.

