

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 2013-02

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 15 March 2013**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS**

By direction of the President, under the provisions of an Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, and amended 25 July 1963, the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action is awarded to:

Warrant Officer One Jason W. Myers distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as Assistant Detachment Commander for Operational Detachment Alpha 3321, Special Operations Task Force-East during combat operations against an armed enemy in Khost Province, Afghanistan on March 27, 2010. During a joint ground vehicle patrol with members of the Afghan National Police, Warrant Officer One Myers' detachment was ambushed by an enemy force of approximately 75 to 100 insurgents, who promptly disabled the lead vehicle which exposed the entire column to an enemy kill zone. As the patrol was barraged by heavy volumes of enemy fire, an unarmored truck became disabled, further hindering the patrol's movement. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, he ran forward to the disabled truck and found two Afghan National Police officers taking cover behind the truck, one of whom had a serious gunshot wound to his right leg. He dragged the wounded policeman 20 meters through intense enemy fire to temporary safety. Ignoring multiple shrapnel wounds he sustained during the attack, Warrant Officer One Myers returned to the disabled truck and turned the steering wheel, allowing the truck to be pushed into a ravine, clearing the path to advance. Still dismounted, he moved ahead without cover for over 100 meters while engaging the enemy, which allowed the Afghan policemen pinned down by the enemy fire to mount their vehicles and advance the patrol. He continued on foot through the kill zone, providing supporting fire to the patrol and relaying verbal communication to his commander. His heroism inspired his teammates to continue to fight and maneuver the patrol out of the kill zone. Warrant Officer One Myers' actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect distinct credit upon himself, Operational Detachment Alpha 3321, Special Operations Task Force-East, United States Forces-Afghanistan and the United States Army.

Specialist Erik Oropeza, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2d Infantry Division, on 22 May 2007 displayed extraordinary heroism at the risk of his life in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Specialist Oropeza demonstrated the highest degree of physical courage coupled with uncommon fortitude while engaged in combat operations against a fanatical enemy. His valorous actions following a deliberate ambush were directly responsible for preventing his vehicle and crew from being overrun by a superior enemy force. His own carbine destroyed, Specialist Oropeza defended his severely wounded crewmembers with the nearest available weapon and defeated a five-man enemy ground assault force maneuvering against him. Specialist Oropeza's extraordinary heroism and selflessness at the risk of his own life are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon him, the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2d Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

Specialist Felipe V. Pereira distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Team Leader with Company A, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) during combat operations against an armed enemy in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan on 1 November 2010. His dedication and commitment to duty undoubtedly saved the lives of two of his fellow Soldiers, while his leadership and distinguished service were instrumental in his unit's successful response to a lethal attack. Specialist Pereira's actions in the face of adversity and a determined enemy are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and the United States Army.

Staff Sergeant James M. Takes distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a team leader in Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry Regiment, 173d Airborne Brigade during combat operations against an armed enemy in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan on November 9, 2007. On that day, Staff Sergeant Takes and his team were traversing a narrow path surrounded by mountainous, rocky terrain when they were ambushed by enemy forces stationed on elevated positions. Pinned against a steep mountain face, Staff Sergeant Takes and his men were totally exposed to enemy fire. Staff Sergeant Takes immediately began to provide suppressive fire for his men, allowing them to slide down the mountain in search of better cover. After being hit in the arm with small arms fire, Staff Sergeant Takes began to move down the mountain in order to link up with the others. As he did so, he noticed a fellow Soldier, Specialist Albert, lying wounded in an exposed position. Without hesitation, Staff Sergeant Takes sprinted towards his injured comrade, completely exposing himself to enemy fire. As he began to drag Specialist Albert back up the slope, he was shot in the other arm. Unable to move Specialist Albert further, Staff Sergeant Takes knelt and began to render aid to his wounded comrade. Noticing that Specialist Albert had lost his helmet, Staff Sergeant Takes gave him his own. He then moved to the Casualty Collection Point to assist his squad leader. He continued to provide aid and pull security until helicopters arrived. Staff Sergeant Takes was the last Soldier to be lifted out. Staff Sergeant Takes' selfless leadership, courageous actions, and extraordinary devotion to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, Company C, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry Regiment, 173d Airborne Brigade, and the United States Army.

Staff Sergeant Jack E. White distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a squad leader with Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry Regiment during combat operations against an armed enemy in Khost Province, Afghanistan on June 29, 2008. That night, Staff Sergeant White's 19-man observation post was assaulted by a 105-man Anti-Afghanistan Force employing rocket-propelled grenades and coordinated small arms fire. As the attack commenced, Staff Sergeant White was awoken by a rocket-propelled grenade impacting less than 20 meters from his position. He immediately low-crawled out of the sleeping area in order to lead the observation post's defense. Maneuvering through heavy enemy fire, Staff Sergeant White quickly adjusted his men to repel the brunt of the attacking force. With no regard for his own safety, he worked his way from Soldier to Soldier in order to interlock all fires and mark targets, all while engaging and being engaged by the enemy. He ordered multiple danger-close fire missions through his forward observer and incorporated lethal mortar and artillery fire on the enemy element. His leadership and fearless tactical maneuvering allowed his men to interdict all attacking forces attempting to overrun their position, ultimately leading the enemy to break contact and retreat. Staff Sergeant White's selfless leadership, courageous actions, and extraordinary devotion to duty are in keeping with

the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry Regiment, and the United States Army.

Chief Warrant Officer Four Keith Yoakum, Company A, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, distinguished himself as a Pilot of an AH-64D Longbow Apache on 2 February 2007 while engaged in aerial operations in Baghdad, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. During a reconnaissance mission, Chief Warrant Officer Four Yoakum's aircraft was seriously damaged by heavy enemy machine gun fire, which required him to land immediately. Without regard for his own safety and to protect his comrades, Chief Warrant Officer Four Yoakum chose to remain with his wingman to destroy the enemy. With his main gun inoperable, his only option was to climb in altitude and then dive while firing his Apache's rockets. Ultimately, the aircraft succumbed to its battle damage and crashed. Chief Warrant Officer Four Yoakum's distinctive accomplishment and dedication to service to his country are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service, reflecting great credit upon himself, the 1st Cavalry Division, the Multi-National Corps-Iraq, and the United States Army.

Specialist Craig D. Warfle distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an Automatic Rifleman with a Joint Task Force, during combat operations against an armed enemy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from 18 August 2010 to 19 August 2010. During this period, Specialist Warfle with total disregard for his own personal safety, and maneuvered on a fortified enemy machine gun position through effective enemy fire. Even after being wounded, Specialist Warfle continued to suppress the enemy with high volumes of effective fire in order to allow his team members to pull his unconscious element leader to safety. Specialist Warfle refused to be medically evacuated from the fight and his actions allowed the platoon to hastily withdraw and defeat the enemy utilizing air assets. Specialist Warfle's distinctive accomplishments are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Command and the United States Army.

[DAPE-ZXM]

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

RAYMOND T. ODIERNO
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Official:



JOYCE E. MORROW
Administrative Assistant to the
Secretary of the Army

DISTRIBUTION:

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