

NCO History Brief
2 NCOs and the Medal of Honor
L579 Student 181

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R05 SGM Spade

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INFORMATION BRIEF
2 NCOs and the Medal of Honor

I. Introduction:

A. Greeting:

B. Type and Classification:

C. Purpose: To inform the group on the importance of honoring our fallen and provide historical information on the Medal of Honor.

II. Development:

A. Enactment

B. Medal of Honor design

C. Current Medal of Honor

D. Two NCOs

III. Conclusion:

A. Summary

B. Questions

C. Closing Statement

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Good morning SGM Spade and fellow students of R05, I'm MSG McCarn and this morning I will give you an UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION BRIEF on Two NCO's and the Medal of Honor.

(Slide 1)

2 NCOs and the Medal of Honor

(Slide 2)

Agenda

- Purpose
- Discussion
- Questions
- Conclusion

(Slide 3) The purpose of this brief is to provide you information on the history of the Medal of Honor, familiarize you with the tremendous requirements required to qualify for the Medal of Honor and most important to honor two of our fallen comrades.

(Slide 4) Enactment: Navy's Medal of Honor was the first approved (give info) On December 9, 1861 Iowa Senator James W. Grimes introduced a bill designed to "promote the efficiency of the Navy" by authorizing the production and distribution of "medals of honor". President Lincoln signed the bill and the (Navy) Medal of Honor was born.

The Army MOH: Two months later on February 17, 1862 Massachusetts Senator Henry Wilson introduced a similar bill, this one to authorize "the President to distribute medals to privates in the Army of the United States who shall distinguish themselves in battle." When President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill into law on July 14, 1862, the Army Medal of Honor was born. With this simple and rather obscure act Congress

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created a unique award that would achieve prominence in American history like few others.

(Slide) 5 MOH Original Design: The original Medal of Honor design consisted of an INVERTED, 5-pointed STAR. On each of the five points was a cluster of LAUREL leaves to represent victory, mixed with a cluster of OAK to represent strength. Surrounding the encircled insignia were 34 stars, equal to the number of stars in the U.S. Flag at the time in 1862....one star for each state of the Union including the 11 Confederate states. Inside the circle of 34 stars were engraved two images. To the right is the image of Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom and war. Recoiling from Minerva is a man clutching snakes in his hands. He represented DISCORD (disagreement, conflict, dissention) and the insignia came to be known as "Minerva Repulsing Discord".

(Slide 6) Current Army MOH: In 1904 the MOH changed. A portrait of a helmeted Goddess of War replaced the "Minerva repelling discord" scene. To date 3,456 Medals of Honor have been awarded. Nineteen have been awarded to double recipients. Until 1942 and World War II, only enlisted were authorized to receive the Medal of Honor, but later changes allowed for past deeds to be re-nominated.

(Slide 7) Two NCOs: The two NCOs pictured before you are the last to be awarded the Medal of Honor, their story is one of extreme heroism. MSG Gary I. Gordon on your left and SFC Randall D. Shughart on your right were both killed while fighting in Somalia. MSG Gary Ivan Gordon was born on August 30, 1960 at Lincoln, Maine. At the time of his death he was 33. SFC Randy Shughart, was a native of Newville, Pa. At the time of his death he was 35. They were killed on 3 OCT 1993 while serving with Task Force Ranger in Mogadishu, Somalia. They were Delta commandos and part of an

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attempted rescue of the crew of a US helicopter downed by hostile fire, they were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. They were career soldiers trained to get hard, ugly things done.

MSG Gordon had enlisted at 17; his wife and children live near Fort Bragg, N.C. Shughart was an outdoorsman from Western Pennsylvania who loved his Dodge truck and his hunting rifles.

On 3 OCT 1993 MSG Gordon and SFC Shughart volunteered for a downed helo rescue mission, they were turned down twice, but were given permission on the third time they requested. They were to secure the downed helo site and wait for ground evacuation personnel. They were inserted one hundred meters south of the

downed chopper. Armed only with their personal weapons, the two NCOs fought their way to the downed fliers through intense small arms fire, a maze of shanties and shacks, and the enemy converging on the site. After MSG. Gordon and SFC. Shughart pulled the wounded from the wreckage, they established a perimeter, put themselves in the most dangerous position, and fought off a series of attacks. The two NCOs continued to protect their comrades until they had depleted their ammunition and were themselves fatally wounded. Their actions saved the life of an Army pilot.

(Slide 8) These NCOs died fighting in Africa far from home, their bodies were desecrated. My research does not tell if their bodies were ever recovered.

(Slide 9) Geographically Somalia is in a very strategic location on the HORN OF AFRICA. Our troops were ultimately deployed there, because a warlord named Adid was steeling all the humanitarian food and supplies the world was giving to feed the starving people of

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Somalia. Somalia is also on the fringes of the Muslim world. Aidid has now been linked to Binladen.

America withdrew its forces soon after our failed mission to capture ADID, and the U.N. left Somalia in 1995. Aidid then declared himself president of Somalia, but his government was not internationally recognized. Aidid died in August 1, 1996 possibly as a result of gunshot wounds sustained a week earlier in a fight with competing factions. One day later, U.S. General Wibblem Garrison, who was responsible for the failed 1993 operation, resigned.

(Slide 10) Summary: I have discussed the Medal of Honor and it's history. I have tried to provide information to honor two of our fallen.

(Slide 11) Questions?

(Slide 13) Conclusion: I believe it's important to tell the stories of our fallen comrades, so their accomplishments are remembered if only for a while.

Monday, 25 March our nation celebrates the National Medal of Honor Day. On that day remember those who have earned our nations highest honor and that with their deeds our Army has proved to be the best in the World.

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References Used

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