



COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL posthumously to

STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL A. BOCK
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving as Section Leader, Assault Breaching Vehicle Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 3d Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division (Forward), I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) Afghanistan, from 17 July 2010 to 13 August 2010 in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. During clearing operations in Jussyalay Valley in direct support of 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, Staff Sergeant Bock distinguished himself through his bravery and selfless devotion to duty. After a successful breach of an Improvised Explosive Device laden tree line, he maneuvered his Assault Breacher Vehicle under heavy enemy fire towards the second obstacle belt. After he fired his 1,750 pound Mine Clearing Line Charge, it failed to properly detonate. Still receiving heavy and accurate small arms fire and showing a complete disregard for his own safety, he dismounted his vehicle with a 2.5 pound charge set with a three minute burn fuse. He then sprinted 70 meters across open terrain to set the charge on the booster of the line charge, removed the safety pin from the igniter, and pulled the pin. Undaunted by the enemy fire, he bravely waited until he saw the fuse was lit, then maneuvered back 70 meters under withering fire to the cover of the vehicle. He did this not just once, but on a total of three occasions during two different assaults. His bold and decisive actions to leave the safety of his vehicle and ensure the assaults did not stop undoubtedly saved the lives of many Marines. By his bold leadership, wise judgment, and complete dedication to duty, Staff Sergeant Bock reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.



For the President,

Commandant of the Marine Corps

Staff Sergeant Michael A. Bock Biography



Staff Sergeant Michael A. Bock was born September 11, 1983. He graduated from a High School in Leesburg, Florida in 2002. Upon graduation Staff Sergeant Bock enlisted into the Marine Corps on July 2, 2002. Staff Sergeant Bock then attended Marine Combat Training, and follow on training at Marine Corps Engineer School at Court House Bay, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Upon graduation he obtained the MOS of 1371, Combat Engineer. He then received orders to 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, Twentynine Palms, California. There he was assigned to the Assault Breacher Vehicle Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company and again deployed with the battalion to Afghanistan from April through August 2010. Due to his excellent work ethic and performance Staff Sergeant Bock was also qualified to hold the additional MOS of 1372, Assault Breacher Vehicle Commander. As the ABV Commander, Sergeant Bock ensured his crew and equipment remained ready at all times. Staff Sergeant Bock was unfortunately killed in action on August 13, 2010. He is remembered as a devoted father, friend, brothers, and leader. Staff Sergeant Bock is survived by his wife Tiffany and his son Alexander.