

NARRATIVE TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
FOR VALOR

TO

STAFF SERGEANT JEREMIE S. BORDER

Staff Sergeant Jeremie S. Border, United States Army, heroically distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy of the United States as a Weapons Sergeant, Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha 1111, Special Operations Task Force-East Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. On 1 September 2012, Sergeant Border was a senior American Combat Advisor during an air assault operation to clear a known insurgent safe haven on a Regional Command-East priority mission. His element consisted of a Female Engagement Team (FET) Team Leader, an Afghan interpreter, and seven Afghan National Army Commandos from the 1st Company, 2nd Special Operations Kandak. Five hours into the operation, Sergeant Border's element was clearing a qalat in the northwest portion of his objective. He maneuvered with half of his element to clear a building while leaving the rest of the element in an overwatch position. While maneuvering through an open area, Sergeant Border's element was engaged by a heavy volume of Soviet-made machine gun (PKM) and AK-47 fire from a fortified enemy position on the second floor of a nearby building. He recognized the fact that the Commandos in his element were pinned down and unable to advance against the enemy. Sergeant Border identified the need to maneuver toward the insurgents in order to save the lives of the other members of his element. He then made the selfless choice to advance toward the enemy in an attempt to destroy the fighting position and allow his element to escape from almost certain death. Sergeant Border began running toward the barricaded machine gun position, exposing himself to heavy PKM and AK-47 fire, and continued to engage the enemy with his weapon. During the valorous maneuver, he received a debilitating gunshot wound to the leg. Despite his wounds, Sergeant Border continued his aggressive assault to ensure his element had adequate time to seek cover. He assaulted the rooftop of the structure and engaged several enemies, neutralizing at least one insurgent fighter. Sergeant Border continued his assault on the rooftop by himself, closing to within 15 meters of the fortified machine gun position while the enemy attempted to repel him with machine gun fire. In his final heroic act, he was mortally wounded while attempting to overrun the enemy position. Sergeant Border's selfless act held a suicide bomber at bay and prevented the enemy from continuing their assault. His gallantry broke the morale of the enemy, thus creating enough time and space for other friendly elements to maneuver toward the enemy stronghold. Sergeant Border's selfless act undoubtedly prevented the enemy from over-running friendly units inside the compound and directly saved the lives of his entire element. Without his uncommon valor, the fire fight could have incurred a catastrophic loss to United States and Afghan forces. His actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military heroism and reflect distinction credit upon himself, the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan, the Special Operations Joint Task Force-Afghanistan, and the United States Army.