

OCT 17 1994

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

Box 41013 / Lubbock, Texas 79409-1013 / (806) 742-3742, 742-3744 / Fax: (806) 742-1060

October 11, 1994

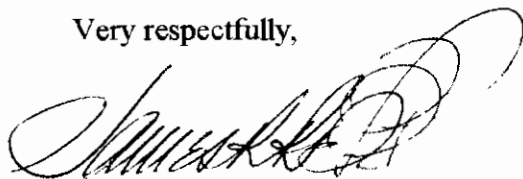
Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.
1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 641
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

I take this opportunity to forward a copy of correspondence I am sending today to Representative Larry Combest regarding a Desert Storm veteran. As I said to Mr. Combest, I do not like to become involved in the affairs of the active service, but in this particular case I am struck by the obvious injustice being done to the sergeant involved.

I forward this correspondence for information only, on the outside chance that Mr. Combest might mention it to you at some future date.

Very respectfully,



James R. Reckner

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

Box 41013 / Lubbock, Texas 79409-1013 / (806) 742-3742, 742-3744 / Fax: (806) 742-1060

October 11, 1994

The Honorable Larry Combest
1529 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Combest:

As a retired officer, I generally attempt to avoid the affairs of the active services; however, I have recently learned of a case involving one of your constituents, Sergeant First Class Douglas Eugene Myers, the circumstances of which compel me to ask for your active intervention.

Sergeant Myers is a veteran of the Persian Gulf War, a member of an army transportation company. While he was traveling in a night-time combat support mission near Basrah on the Euphrates River, according to the narrative submitted by his commanding officer, the convoy route came under fire from units of the Iraqi Republican Guard:

Sergeant First Class Myers' vehicle being in the "Kill Zone," he was forced to take a defensive position. While returning fire, Sergeant First Class Myers was struck in the left eye by a shrapnel of flying glass from one of the exploding vehicles. His convoy was transporting rocket systems for the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), along with other types of ammunitions. Being ever mindful of his mission he continued on with his convoy in spite of his painful blinding injury to his left eye, and ensured that the much needed cargo made it to the designated drop point. Although he was in pain, upon reaching his destination, he continued to perform his duties and placed two more convoys on the road acting as the Operations Non-Commissioned Officer for the 846th Transportation Company. His selfless behavior and 'mission first' dedication acted as a model for all who came in contact with him during Operation Task Force Eagle of Operation Desert Storm..."

Sergeant Myers was recommended for the Purple Heart medal, and that recommendation eventually was approved by Lieutenant General Gary E. Luck, Commander, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg. However, when it reached Washington, it was rejected. The Military Awards Branch indicated that the Purple Heart can only be awarded "in cases where a soldier suffered injuries that could be directly attributed to some action by an armed enemy," and suggested that Sergeant Myers "should have taken some protective measures for himself and his crew" to avoid such injuries.

VIETNAM CENTER NATIONAL COUNCIL
Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (RET), Chairman
General William C. Westmoreland, Hon. William E. Colby
Hon. William P. Bundy, Hon. Bui Diem, Professor Douglas Pike

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Texas Tech Library
Lubbock, Texas 79409-0002 (806) 742-3758
Fax: (806) 742-1920

Although not mentioned in the official correspondence, the senior NCO from the Awards Branch, in a telephone conversation, suggested to Myers that he was at fault for not having worn his daytime goggles during the engagement! The engagement occurred at night (clearly indicated in the narrative), and daytime goggles are darkly tinted to protect the wearer's eyes from the desert sun. Yet the Awards Branch apparently believe that a man driving a truck in unfamiliar terrain in a combat situation at night should further reduce his vision by wearing dark goggles! This suggestion defies logic and indicates to me a classic disconnection between headquarters staff and the realities of combat operations in the field.

Sergeant Myers' Commanding Officer responded that "In light of the real situation at the time of the injury, [Myers] did what was required of him to ensure the safety of his crew and himself. In a hostile environment, supporting a combat unit, . . . Sergeant First Class Myers was acting according to transportation doctrine. He was in the Kill Zone and could not exit it to preclude his injury, and at the time of his injury he made every attempt to take evasive action. The eye injury is a direct result of an engagement between friendly forces and an Iraqi convoy."

Despite this response, the Army again rejected Sergeant Myers' Purple Heart recommendation. Myers subsequently requested the assistance of his representative at the time, the Honorable Jill Long (this correspondence is also attached). In response to Representative Long's request, the Army responded that Sergeant Myers' injury was the result of an "accidental vehicle explosion." I suppose one might characterize the explosion of a vehicle during an enemy engagement as "accidental," but it stretches my imagination to the limit. Sergeant Myers' injury was due to hostile action.

These things seem abundantly clear to me, and I state them as a veteran of two years of combat service myself: Sergeant Myers was involved in an engagement with the Iraqi enemy from which, according to his own commanding officer, it was impossible for him to withdraw. In the course of that engagement, Sergeant Myers was wounded by shrapnel, which caused permanent damage to his eye. Despite that damage, he continued to perform his duty in a highly creditworthy manner.

It seems clear, too, that the Department of the Army, having made an original decision in this matter, seems very reluctant to reconsider its position, despite the fact that Myers' commanding officer provided further amplifying data, refuted the original objections of the Awards Branch, and further expanded his narrative of events relating to Myers' injury.

Having arrived at these conclusions, I respectfully request that you make an effort to have the Department of the Army re-examine this specific case, excluding from their considerations their previous decisions and any possible institutional embarrassment a reverse of their original decision might cause. I truly believe this deserving young man is being short-changed by the Army.

Sergeant Myers' current home address is:

Very respectfully,

**James R. Reckner, Ph.D.
Director**

encl: Copies of SFC Myers' Correspondence

NARRATIVE

On the night of 28 February 1991, at 2330 hours, while a member of the 846th Transportation Company (Medium Truck, Container/Cargo), Sergeant First Class Douglas Eugene Myers, was traveling in a combat support mission on the highway outside Basrah, Iraq in the Euphrates River Vallley. The convoy route came under fire by an element of the Republic Guard. At that time elements of the 24th Infantry Division returned fire engaging the Iraqi element. Sergeant First Class Myers' vehicle being in the "Kill Zone", he was forced to take a defensive position. While returning fire, Sergeant First Class Myers was struck in the left eye by a shrapnel of flying glass from one of the exploding vehicles. His convoy was transporting rocket systems for the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), along with other types of ammunitions. Being ever mindful of his mission he continued on with his convoy in spite of his painful blinding injury to his left eye, and ensured that the much needed cargo made it to the designated drop point. Although he was in pain, upon reaching his destination, he continued to perform his duties and place two more convoys on the road acting as the Operations Non-Commissioned Officer forthe 846th Transportation Company. His selfless behavior and mission first dedication acted as a model for all who came in contact with him During Operation Task Force Eagle of Operation Desert Storm. Sergeant First Class Douglas Eugene Myers distinguished himself far above what was normally required of him and brought great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

Encl 3

AFVH-GA (DA FM 638/ 10 Sep 91) (672) 1st End MAJ Jordan/kar/6-4536
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award (PH) Myers, Douglas E., SFC
171st CSS

Commander, 1st Corps Support Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina 28307-5000

FOR Commander, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, ATTN: AFVH-AG-A, North Carolina 28307-5000

Recommend approval / disapproval / downgrade.

8 Incls.

for Col. G. Beominchi, Col, GS, Acting Col.
JAMES M. WRIGHT
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

1. Bn CDRI's Letter of Lateness
2. CO. CDRI's Letter of Lateness
- ~~3. 638~~
3. Narrative
- ~~5. Medal Set Impact Award Information SHEET Removed~~
4. Memo for Record - CPT CLARKSON
5. Memo for Record - SGT Elliot
6. Copy of Medication
7. SF 88 - CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD of Medical Care
8. IMPACT AWARD INFORMATION SHEET

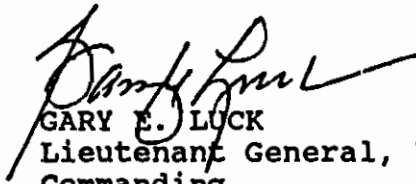
AFZA-AG-PAA (DA Form 638/10 Sep 91) (672-5-1) 2d End
SSG Baksh/mrf/DSN 236-2524/8512
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award

Commander, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, Fort Bragg,
North Carolina 28307-5000 [OCT 20 1992

FOR Commander, U.S. Total Army Personnel Command, ATTN:
TAPC-PDA, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, Virginia
22332-0471

Recommend approval on the enclosed recommendation for award of
the Purple Heart to Sergeant First Class Douglas E. Myers,
846th Transportation Company, Salisbury, North
Carolina, United States Army Reserve.

8 Encls
nc


GARY E. LUCK
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

TAPA-PDA
92 OCT 23 AM 10:59

TAPC-PDA (DA Form 638/10 Sep 91) (672-5-1) 3d End
SFC O'Keefe DSN 221-8700
SUBJECT: Award of the Purple Heart (PH)

DA, PERSCOM, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria, VA 22332-0471 **23 NOV 1992**

FOR Commander, 846th Transportation Company (Medium Truck,
Container/Cargo), 1835 Jake Alexander Boulevard, Salisbury,
North Carolina 28144-6378

1. Your request to award the PH to Sergeant First Class Douglas E. Myers, for wounds he suffered during Operation Desert Storm is not favorably considered.

(X) 2. The PH can only be awarded in cases where a soldier suffered injuries that could be directly attributed to some action by an armed enemy.

3. Documents submitted state that SFC Myers was in a convoy of vehicles traveling in the Euphrates River Valley, shortly after elements of friendly armor had engaged an Iraqi motor transport unit. While passing by one of the burning vehicles, a fragment of flying glass flew from an exploding vehicle and struck him in the left eye.

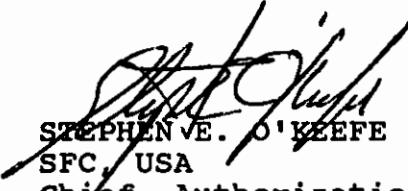
4. Knowing that the vehicles were burning and explosions were occurring, SFC Myers should have taken some protective measures for himself and his crew, to avoid such accidental injuries.

5. Although unfortunate, accidents inevitably occur in a combat zone, the Army cannot award the PH to Sergeant First Class Myers for his accidental injury. However, the fact that the PH cannot be awarded, is in no way meant to detract from his service during Operation Desert Storm.

6. Point of contact is the undersigned at DSN 221-8700.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

8 Encls
nc


STEPHEN E. O'KEEFE
SFC, USA
Chief, Authorizations Section
Military Awards Branch

CF:
Cdr, 1st COSCOM
Cdr, XVIII Abn Corps

AFVH-GA (DA Form 638/10 Sep 91) (672-5-1)
SFC Wright/dtd/396-5501
SUBJECT: Award of the Purple Heart (PH)


4th End

Commander, 1st Corps Support Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina 28307-5000
2 December 1992

FOR Commander, 171st Corps Support Group, 2017 W. Garner Rd., Garner, North
Carolina 28307-5000

1. The request for award of Purple Heart for SFC Myers was not favorably considered. See 3rd endorsement from DA, PERSCOM for more information.
2. Point of contact for this action is SGT Riley or SFC Wright, 396-5501.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


JIMMY L. JORDAN
MAJ, AG
Adjutant General

8 Encls
nc

(TAPC-PDA DA Form 638/10 Sep 91) (672-5-1) ⁵ 4th End GS-7 Jones/
dem/(704) 633-2699

SUBJECT: Award of the Purple Heart (PH)

Commander, 846th Transportation Company (Medium Truck, Container
/Cargo), 1835 Jake Alexander Boulevard, Salisbury, NC 28144-6378
30 November 1992

THRU:

Commander, 171st Corps Support Group, 2017 West Garner Rd.,
Garner, NC 27529-2699

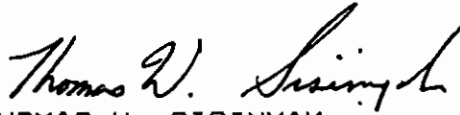
Commander, 1st COSCOM, ATTN: G-1, Fort Bragg, NC 28307-5000

Commander, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, ATTN: AFVH-AG-A,
North Carolina 28307-5000

FDR Commander, U.S. Army Personnel Command, ATTN: TAPC-PDA, 200
Stovall Street, Alexander, Virginia 22332-0471

1. The enclosed request for award of the Purple Heart is returned for further clarification/consideration.
2. Paragraph 2, of the 3rd endorsement does not agree with AR 672-5-1, paragraph 2-15, 1a(1-7) or b.
3. Paragraph 4 of the 3rd endorsement states that SFC Myers should have taken some kind of evasive action. In light of the real situation at the time of the injury, he did what was required of him to ensure the safety of his crew and himself. In a hostile combat environment, supporting a combat unit, the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division; Sergeant First Class Myers was acting according to transportation doctrine. He was in the Kill Zone and could not exit it to preclude his injury, and at the time of his injury he made every attempt to take evasive action. The eye injury is a direct result of an engagement between friendly forces and an Iraqi convoy.
4. I highly recommend you reconsider and approve this soldier's much deserved award.

8 ~~A~~ Encl
nc


THOMAS W. SISINYAK
CPT, TC, USAR
Commanding

AFRC-ASC-BB (TAPC-PDA DA Form 638/10 Sep 91) (672-5-1) *6*h End
SSG Taylor/jm/919-772-1059
SUBJECT: Award of the Purple Heart (PH)

Cdr, 171st Spt Gp, 2017 W Garner Rd, Garner, NC 27529-2699
16 December 1992

THRU


Cdr, 1st COSCOM, ATTN: G-1, Fort Bragg, NC 28307-5000

Cdr, XVIII Abn Corps & Fort Bragg, ATTN: AFVH-AG-A, Fort Bragg,
NC 28307-5000

FOR Cdr, U.S. Army Personnel Command, ATTN: TAPC-PDA, 200 Stovall
St, Alexandria, VA 22332-0471

1. The enclosed request for award of the Purple Heart for SFC Douglas Meyers, 846th Trans Co is returned for reconsideration.
2. SFC Meyers did indeed get injured during a direct conflict with enemy forces while in Saudi Arabia. The Purple Heart is not only warranted here but highly deserving to this soldier. Request reconsideration to allow for realism of the particulars in this situation.
3. Strongly recommend approval.

87 Encls
nc


CHARLES M. EAST, III
COL, SC, USAR
Commanding

S1:AWARD-DE

7.

AFVH-GA-AG (DA Form 638/10 Sep 91) (672) 7th End SFC Wright/dtd/396-5501
SUBJECT: Award of the Purple Heart (PH), MYERS, Douglas E., SFC,
846th Transportation, 171st Corps Support Command

Commander, 1st Corps Support Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina 28307-5000

FOR Commander, XVIII Airborne Corps, ATTN: AFZA-AG-A, Fort Bragg,
North Carolina 28307-5000

1. The Commander, 171st Support Group (Corps) is resubmitting this request for reconsideration.
2. The initial request did not meet criteria IAW AR 672-5-1, para 2-15.1. TAPC Awards Branch disapproved initial request on 23 Nov 92 (See page 4)
3. Second request does not include additional data. Recommend disapproval.

8 Encls
nc


EMIL J. BROMINSKI
Colonel, Ordnance
Acting Commander

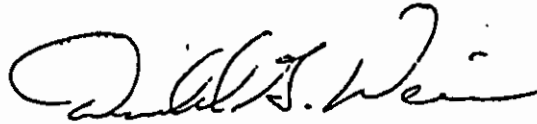
AFZP-HCQ-C (27 Jul 92) (672) 1st End CPT Hughey/bm/352-5143
SUBJECT: Letter of Lateness

Commander, 260th Quartermaster Battalion, Hunter Army Airfield,
Georgia 31409 31 JUL 1992

THRU Commander, 171st Corps Support Group, 2017 West Garner Rd,
Garner, NC 27529-2699

FOR Commander, 1st COSCOM, ATTN: G-1, Fort Bragg, NC 28307-5000

1. I concur with this letter of lateness.
2. Strongly recommend approval and immediate processing of this award.



DONALD G. WEIR
LTC, QM
Commanding

ENCL 1

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
846TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (MEDIUM TRUCK, CONTAINER/CARGO)
1835 JAKE ALEXANDER BOULEVARD
SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA 28144-6378

(140)

27 July 1992

MEMORANDUM THRU: Commander, 260th Quartermaster Battalion, ATTN: CPT Hughes,
Hunter Army Airfield, GA 31409

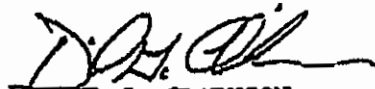
Commander, 171st Command Support Group, 2017 West Garner RD., Garner, NC 27529-
2699

FOR: Commander, 1st COSCOM, ATTN: G-1, Fort Bragg, NC 28307-5000

SUBJECT: Late Submission of Awards

1. The delay in submission for the below listed individuals awards was due to a change in command, the numerous corrections in submission format, as well as the correct form used to submit the award requests.
2. Another factor in having them submitted in a timely manner was some confusion as to which chain of command to utilize in the submission process, ie war time, or peace time.
3. The unit experienced some disruption in its normal administrative routine due to the lack of a unit administrator during its reconstitution and redeployment.
4. I regret that this occurred and only hope that this will clear up the situation and get the awards to the individual soldiers in a timely manner as is deserved.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SSAN</u>
WILLIAMS, ELLIS L.	1LT	
HOWARD, RALPH L.	1SG	
SZAKAL, JOHN R.	MSG	
MYERS, DOUGLAS E.	SFC	


DAVID G. CLARKSON
CPT, TC, USAR
BN S-3

Encl 2


DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
846TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (MEDIUM TRUCK, CONTAINER/CARGO)
1835 JAKE ALEXANDER BOULEVARD
SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA 28144-6378

21 July 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Eye Injury to SFC Myers, Douglas E.,

1. This is to certify that, On 28 February 1991, SFC Douglas E. Myers, was injured by fragment of flying glass from an Iraqi Vehicle. While in support of the 24th Infantry Division in the Euphrates River Valley. He reported on 1 March 1991, that he was having severe eye pain and asked that I look at his eye, upon looking, I could see the fragment of glass protruding from the center of his left eye. At that time I had SGT Elliot, the units Combat Life Saver to look at SFC Myers' eye and at that time he was transported to a MASH Evac Hospital outside of Basrah, Iraq. The piece of glass was removed and he was returned to the unit with an eye patch.


DAVID G. CLARKSON
CPT, TC, USAR
COMMANDING

ENC 4

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
EIGHTH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (MEDIUM TRUCK, CONTAINER/CARGO)
1835 JAKE ALEXANDER BOULEVARD
SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA 28144-6370

21 July 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

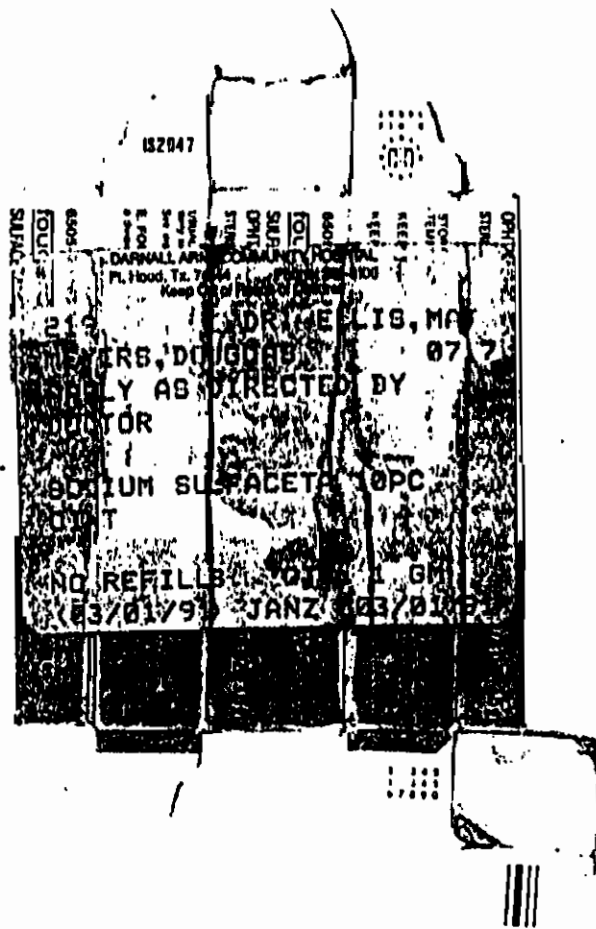
SUBJECT: Eye Injury to SFC Myers, Douglas E..

This is to certify that, On 28 February 1991, SFC Douglas E. Myers, was injured by fragment of flying glass from an Iraqi Vehicle. While in support of the 24th Infantry Division in the Euphrates River Valley. He reported on 1 March 1991, that he was having severe eye pain and asked that I look at his eye, upon looking, I could see the fragment of glass protruding from the center of his left eye. At that time I transported SFC Myers to the nearest MASH EVAC Hospital outside of Basrah, Iraq. The piece of glass was removed and I brought him back to the company area.


GLENN ELLIOT

SGT, USAR
COMBAT LIFE SAVER

ELL 5



This is a copy of the medication that I was given by the medical personnel at the hospital tent outside of Basrah, Iraq. It will serve as the only article of documentation that I have to show date of treatment and type of injury. I have made every attempt to get in touch with the medical activity that treated me but it seems that record keeping by the medical units was not a very high priority as they stated that they could not provide me with any thing beyond what I already have.

Douglas E. Myers, SFC Encl 6

HEALTH RECORD

CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF MEDICAL CARE

DATE

SYMPTOMS, DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, TREATING ORGANIZATION (Sign each entry)

2 APR 91

SOUTHWEST ASIA DEMOBILIZATION / REDEPLOYMENT

MEDICAL EVALUATION

HT

69"

WT 168

BIP

MU/92

P 60

TINE TEST

Date Done:

Date Read:

Temp 99.2

POSITIVE NEGATIVE (circle one)

1. What diseases or injuries did you have while in the Southwest Asia region?

A piece of glass embedded in my left eye.

YES

NO

2. Are you receiving any medicine, or other treatment, at the present time?

✓

3. Do you have fever, fatigue, weight loss, or yellow jaundice?

✓

4. Do you have any swelling of lymph nodes, stomach, or other body parts?

✓

5. Do you have any rash, skin infection, or sores?

✓

6. Do you have a cough or sinus infection?

✓

7. Do you have stomach or belly pain, nausea, diarrhea, or bloody bowel movements?

✓

8. Do you have any urinary problems such as blood or stones in urine or pain and burning with urination?

NO

✓

9. Have you had any nightmares or trouble sleeping?

✓

10. Have you had recurring thoughts about your experiences during Desert Shield / Desert Storm?

✓

NO

11. Do you have reason to believe that you, or any members of your unit, were exposed to chemical warfare or germ warfare?

✓

Douglas E. Myers SFC
Soldier's Signature

24 Apr 91
Date

Attach audiogram here.

PATIENT'S IDENTIFICATION (Use this space for Mechanical Imprint)

MYERS, DOUGLAS E
1954/03/07 M AD USA
E7 846TH TRANS

RECORDS MAINTAINED AT:

PATIENT'S NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)

SEX

RELATIONSHIP TO SPONSOR

STATUS

RANK/GRADE

SPONSOR'S NAME

ORGANIZATION

DEPART./SERVICE IDENTIFICATION NO.

DATE OF BIRTH

Overprint Approved by USAPPC, April 1990

File in front of corresponding SF 88 and/or SF 93.

CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF MEDICAL CARE
HSC OP 21-R (OT)(HSC) 1 Mar 91

STANDARD FORM 800 (REV. 3-81)
Prescribed by GSA and ICMR
FORM 41 CFR 301-41.808

Encl 7

PHYSICIAN / PATIENT COUNSELING

This supplement is to assist health care providers in screening soldiers for potential disease threats associated with Operations Desert Shield / Desert Storm.

The following are disease threats found in Southwest Asia:

Anthrax	Hepatitis A & B	Meningococcal Disease	Trachoma
Brucellosis	Intestinal Parasites	Plague	Toxoplasmosis
Congo-Crimean Hemorrhagic Fever	(Helminths, Amoebae)	Q Fever	Tuberculosis
Diarrhea/Dysentery (Viral, Bacterial, Parasitic)	Leishmaniasis	Rabies	Typhus
	Leptospirosis	Sandfly Fever	
	Malaria	Schistosomiasis	

If patient answers yes to any question 1-11, explain further below.

Positive response in items 8, 9, 10, and 11 require answers to the following questions:

8. Consider refills, follow up. If on chloroquine, may require terminal chloroquine/ primaquine.

9/10. Initial and terminal insomnia, interrupted sleep, or dreams about war experiences.

Consider: post traumatic stress disorder, referral to Mental Health.

11. Record agent, symptoms, prophylactic drugs or vaccines, treatment.

QUESTION NUMBER EXPLANATION

① Swollen feet that
 ② several nightwakes - not trouble
 ③ P.T.S.D.
 had opoz in eye - no disease
 in visual acuity -

If further medical consultation is required, indicate below:

I have counselled the soldier on potential disease threats associated with Operations Desert Shield / Desert Storm.

Signature - Medical Officer

ALFRED W. O'DAIRE JR.
 PA-C

Date

MEDAL SET - - IMPACT AWARD INFORMATION SHEET

AWARD: PURPLE HEART

NAME (LAST, FIRST MI): MYERS, DOUGLAS E.

SSN:

GRADE: SERGEANT FIRST CLASS/E-7

UNIT: 846TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (MEDIUM TRUCK, CONATLANER/CARGO)

LOCATION: EUPHRATES RIVER VALLEY OUTSIDE BASRAH, IRAQ

TIME/DATE: 2330 HOURS/28 FEBRUARY 1991

MORALE (OF THE UNIT AT THE TIME OF INCIDENT): UNIT MORALE WAS HIGH

NUMBER & TYPE OF CASUALTIES: UNKOWN

MISSION (OF UNIT AT TIME OF INCIDENT): To move ammunition, water, and organic equipment of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) in support of the forward battle.

FOR HEROISM: On the night of 28 February 1991, a convoy element of the 846th Transportation Company was traveling on the asphalt highway outside of Basrah, Iraq, in support of the forward battle. At which time the convoy route came under fire due to an oncoming element of an Iraqi convoy. At the time of the engagement Sergeant First Class Myers and his assistant driver having already entered the "Kill Zone", exited their vehicle to take a defensive position, at which time an Iraqi vehicle exploded causing fragments of glass and metal debris to fly in the direction of Sergeant First Class Myers. At that time he was struck in the left eye by a fragment of glass causing him to be blinded in that eye. In spite of his painful and blinding injury he and his convoy continued on and delievered the Multilaunch Rocket Systems and ammunition that they were transporting.

ENC 8



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. TOTAL ARMY PERSONNEL COMMAND
ALEXANDRIA, VA
22332-0471



June 8, 1993

Military Awards Branch

Honorable Jill Long
Representative in Congress
1300 South Harrison Street
Room 3105, Federal Building
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

Dear Congresswoman Long:

This replies to your letter on behalf of your constituent, Sergeant First Class Douglas E. Myers, requesting an award of the Purple Heart (PH).

Sergeant Myers is under the impression that we returned his request for award of the PH without action, due to lack of justification, which is not the case. The recommendation for award of the PH was disapproved by our November 23, 1992, endorsement to initial request from the Commander, 846th Transportation Company. As we stated in our endorsement, to be eligible for award of the PH a soldier must have suffered injuries that could be directly attributed to some action by an armed enemy. Sergeant Myers' injury was caused by an accidental vehicle explosion.

The key issue that must be taken into consideration is the degree to which the enemy caused the injury. While participation in direct, or indirect, combat operations is a necessary prerequisite, it is not sole justification for award of the PH. The enemy must have caused the injury. I have enclosed a copy of the clarified criteria for award of the PH which was provided to field commanders in the Persian Gulf. This criteria was applied to Sergeant Myer's case, as it was to all other requests for award of the PH.

I regret my reply could not be favorable.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Sigle
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Chief, Military Awards Branch

Enclosure

2-15.1.b. Criteria

(1) While clearly an individual decoration, the Purple Heart differs from all other decorations in that an individual is not "recommended" for the decoration; rather he/she is entitled to it upon meeting specific criteria.

(2) A Purple Heart is authorized for the first wound suffered under conditions indicated above in a., above, but for each subsequent award an Oak Leaf Cluster shall be awarded to be worn on the medal or ribbon. Not more than one award will be made for more than one wound or injury received at the same instant or from the same projectile, force, explosion, or agent. For the purpose of considering an award of this decoration, a "wound" is defined as an injury to any part of the body from an outside force or agent sustained under one or more of the conditions listed above. A physical lesion is not required, however, the wound for which the award is made must have required treatment by a medical officer and records of medical treatment for wounds or injuries received in action must have been made a matter of official record.

(3) When contemplating an award of this decoration, the key issue that commanders must take into consideration is the degree to which the enemy caused the injury. The fact that the proposed recipient was participating in direct or indirect combat operations is a necessary prerequisite, but is not sole justification for award.

(a) Examples of enemy-related injuries which clearly justify award of the Purple Heart are:

-- Struck by enemy bullet, shrapnel, or other projectile created by enemy action.

-- Injury caused by enemy placed mine or trap.

-- Injured by enemy released chemical, biological or nuclear agent.

-- Injured as a result of vehicle or aircraft accident caused by enemy fire.

-- Concussion injuries caused as a result of enemy generated explosions.

(b) Injuries or wounds which clearly do not qualify for award of the Purple Heart are:

-- Frostbite or trench foot injuries.

- Heat stroke.
- Food poisoning not caused by enemy agents.
- Chemical, biological, or nuclear agents not released by the enemy.
- Battle fatigue.
- Disease not directly caused by enemy agents.
- Accidents, to include explosive, aircraft, vehicular, and other accidental wounding not related to or caused by enemy action.
- Self-inflicted wounds, except when in the heat of battle, and not involving gross negligence.
- Post traumatic stress disorders.
- Jump injuries not caused by enemy action.

(4) It is not intended that such a strict interpretation of the requirement for the wound/injury to be caused by direct result of hostile action be taken which would preclude the award being made to deserving personnel. For example: In a case such as an individual injured while making a parachute landing from an aircraft that had been brought down by enemy fire; or, an individual injured as a result of a vehicle accident caused by enemy fire, the decision will be made in favor of the individual and the award will be made. On the other hand, commanders must also take into consideration the circumstances surrounding an injury, even if it "appears" to meet the normally accepted criteria. Soldiers injured as a result of their own negligence; i.e. driving/walking through an unauthorized area known to have been mined or placed off limits or searching for or picking up unexploded munitions as war souvenirs, will not be awarded the Purple Heart as they clearly were not injured as a result of enemy action, but rather by their own negligence.

(5) Individuals wounded or killed as a result of "friendly fire" in the "heat of battle" will be awarded the Purple Heart as long as the "friendly" projectile or agent was released with the full intent of inflicting damage or destroying enemy troops or equipment.

JILL LONG, M.C.
4TH DISTRICT INDIANA

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON HUNGER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 7, 1993

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1513 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4436

DISTRICT OFFICES
1300 SOUTH HARRISON STREET
ROOM 3105
FEDERAL BUILDING
FORT WAYNE INDIANA 46802
(219) 424-3041

105 EAST MITCHELL
KENDALLVILLE, INDIANA 46756
(219) 347-6471

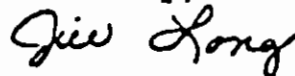
1190 U.S. 27 NORTH
BERNE INDIANA 46711
(219) 589-8699

Mr. Douglas Myers

Dear Mr. Myers:

I am writing to let you know I am still awaiting a final response regarding my inquiry on your behalf. Enclosed is an interim response I have received from the Department of the Army. When a final response is received, it will be forwarded to you. If you have any questions, you may contact my staff assistant Mary Colcord at 219-424-3041.

Sincerely,



JILL LONG
Member of Congress

Enclosure
JL:mc



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, XVIII AIRBORNE CORPS AND FORT BRAGG
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA 28307-5000



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

AFZA-AG-PAA

MAR 22 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, 1st Corps Support Command, ATTN:
Awards, Fort Bragg, North Carolina
28307-5000

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award

1. Your request for reconsideration on the enclosed award for Sergeant First Class Douglas E. Myers is returned without action in accordance with guidance received from Department of the Army. Requests for reconsideration may be resubmitted should new and substantive information, which was not previously considered by the board, be discovered.

2. For further information, contact SSG Baksh, DSN 236-2524.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Encls
nc

for Major M. Baksh SSG
NATHAN A. MCLAMB
MAJ, AG
Chief, Staff Actions

AFRC-ASC-BB (AFZA-AG-PAA/19 Apr 93) (672) 1st End Mrs. LaGrone/lvg/(919)
772-1057/1050

SUBJECT: Award of the Purple Heart (PH), MYERS, Douglas E., SFC,
846th Transportation, 171st Corps Support Command

Cdr, 846th Trans Co, 1835 Jake Alexander Blvd, Salisbury, NC 28144-6378
19 April 1993

FOR Cdr, 1st Corps Support Command, ATTN: Awards, Ft. Bragg, NC 28307-5000

The following documents are returned without further action.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

8 Encl
nc

for Carolyn D. LaGrone, STA
LARRY V. WISE
MAJ, QM, USAR
Adjutant

AFVH-GA-AG (AFZA-AG-PAA/22 Mar 93) (672-5-1b) 1st End SFC Wright/ml/
AV 236-8173/COMM 396-4536

Commander, Headquarters, 1st Corps Support Command, ATTN: AFVH-GA-AG, Fort
Bragg, North Carolina 28307-5000 26 Mar 93

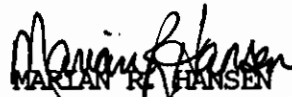
FOR Commander, 171st Support Group (Corps), 2017 Garner Road, Garner, North
Carolina 27529-2699

1. The enclosed award on Sergeant First Class Douglas E. Myers is returned
without action. See memorandum from Chief, Staff Action Branch, XVIII Airborne
Corps for more information.

2. Point of contact for this action is SFC Wright, AV 236-4536.

FOR THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G1:

Encls
nc


MARIAN R. HANSEN
MAJ, AG
Adjutant General

JILL LONG, M.C.
4th DISTRICT INDIANA

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON HUNGER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
June 15, 1993

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1513 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4436

DISTRICT OFFICES
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105 EAST MITCHELL
KENDALLVILLE INDIANA 46755
(219) 347-5471

1190 U.S. 27 NORTH
BERNE INDIANA 46711
(219) 589-8699

Mr. Douglas Myers

Dear Mr. Myers:

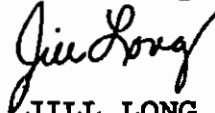
Enclosed you will find the response I have received regarding my inquiry on your behalf.

I am sincerely sorry that the reply could not be more favorable, but I hope the information provided is helpful to your understanding of this matter.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance to you in this or any future matters which involve the federal government.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,



JILL LONG
Member of Congress

Enclosure
JL:mc

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-1600
May 28, 1993

OFFICE, CHIEF OF
LEGISLATIVE LIAISON


Honorable Jill Long
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Long:

Thank you for your inquiry pertaining to Douglas Myers.

An inquiry has been initiated. You will be further advised as soon as information becomes available. If you have any questions about this inquiry, please refer to the following case number: 3053171.

Sincerely,

for 
Teresa T. Ray
Congressional Coordinator
Congressional Legislative Liaison

JILL LONG, M.C.
4TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON HUNGER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
May 25, 1993

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1513 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4436

DISTRICT OFFICES
1300 SOUTH HARRISON STREET
ROOM 3105
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(219) 347-5471

1190 U.S. 27 NORTH
BERNE, INDIANA 46711
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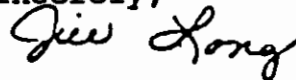
Mr. Douglas Myers

Dear Mr. Myers:

Thank you for your recent contact. On your behalf, I have contacted the appropriate agency about your difficulties. I hope that my contact will prove to be beneficial. Let me personally assure you that your case will be given our complete attention.

As soon as I receive a response, I will forward it to you. In the interim, if you have questions or additional information regarding your case, please contact Mary Colcord in my Fort Wayne office.

Sincerely,



JILL LONG
Member of Congress

JL:mc

JILL LONG, M.C.
4TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON HUNGER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
May 13, 1993

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1513 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4436

DISTRICT OFFICES
1300 SOUTH HARRISON STREET
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105 EAST MITCHELL
KENDALLVILLE, INDIANA 46755
(219) 347-5471

1190 U.S. 27 NORTH
BERNE, INDIANA 46711
(219) 589-8699

Mr. Douglas Myers

Dear Mr. Myers:

Thank you for contacting our office. You may complete the enclosed "Information Release" form and return it to the Fort Wayne office. Please be specific as to what action you would like our office to take on your behalf. The completed form will enable us to contact the proper agencies on your behalf. Also, please enclose any pertinent information regarding your case.

If you have questions or additional information, I may be reached by telephone at (219) 424-3041 on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Mary Colcord
Caseworker
Office of Congresswoman Long

Enclosure

28 April 1993

SFC Douglas E. Myers

Congresswoman
Indiana 4th District
Mrs. Jill Long
Longworth Bldg, Room #1632
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Long:

I would deeply appreciate any assistance that you might be able to give me. I am a veteran of the Gulf War and was injured in the left eye by shrapnel from an exploding Iraqi vehicle. I was recommended for a Purple Heart award.. At the time of the first submission of the award, my commander having never done one before, did not know the extent of information that was needed to justify the award. The award was approved through the chain of command until it reached Department of The Army, PERSCOM, where at which time it was returned with out action due to lack of justification. At that point my commander and I sat down and revised the narrative and citation so that a more complete discription of the incident could be understood by the approving authority. The award was sent back up the chain only to be stopped at the third level. Their reason was that it could not go back forward unless new or more substantive information was furnished. I got the impression from that statement that they did not read it this time. If they had have they would have seen that more substantive information had been furnished. At this point, I feel like because I'm a reservist and not an active component soldier that they are minimizing the whole thing.

I have provided you a copy of the complete award packet and a copy of the Army Regulation that governs the award of the Purple Heart. I trust that you can see that a lack of interest on the part of subordinate levels in the chain, does not preclude me from getting a fair shake.

Please direct any and all correspondence to the above address in Indiana. Thank you very much for taking time out of your busy schedule to assist me with this situation.

Sincerely,



Douglas E. Myers
Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army