

Narrative Page

Bronze Star Medal with "V" DEVICE

Sergeant First Class Bryn Reynolds [REDACTED]

Sergeant First Class Reynolds distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy while serving as the acting Platoon Leader of 2/B/1-172 CAV 29 July 2010 during Operation Enduring Freedom. Two platoons of Bravo Troop and a company sized element of Afghan National Army were air assaulted into Logar province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Saber Recover commanded by Task Force Bayonet, 1/91 CAV, 173 ABCT. The purpose of this operation was to assist in the recovery of two US Navy DUSTWUN personnel. The troop was ordered to execute a blocking position near the village of Saydan nearby the last known location of the US Navy sailors. Almost immediately following an aerial logistical resupply, Bravo Troop elements began to receive heavy machine gun fire and RPGs from three different locations surrounding their blocking position. The insurgent force was roughly equivalent to an infantry platoon and operated as three squad size elements equipped with rocket propelled grenades, rifles and heavy machine guns. The enemy's plan of attack consisted of three principle efforts: one, shoot down a logistical supply helicopter; two, maneuver and isolate Bravo Troop from adjoining units; and three, cut off and isolate elements of the troop so that they could be destroyed.

The enemy's attack opened with three separate heavy machine gun positions directed towards a logistical supply helicopter as it was taking off. SFC Reynolds immediately began to suppress enemy machine gun positions to cover the UH-60's escape. Following the departure of the helicopter the enemy focused all machine gun and small arms fire on the platoons exposed in an open field securing the landing zone. SFC Reynolds, caught in the open with his unit, led his platoon across 75 meters of open ground through a barrage of RPGs and heavy machine gun fire towards a qalat compound while 3rd platoon laid covering fire. The unit consolidated on the qalat compound and strongpointed it against the enemy's attack. Due to failing batteries across the troop and with the enemy cutting them off from the resupply bundles, SFC Reynolds found himself with the only working radio in the unit. Exposing himself to heavy machine gun and RPG fire, SFC Reynolds ran to the roof of the qalat house in order to call in air support. SFC Reynolds, with enemy fire impacting the walls inches away from him and RPGs exploding within meters, held his position on the roof despite the danger and marked the compound as a friendly position for the supporting Apache Weapons Team. The enemy continued to attack and SFC Reynolds simultaneously coordinated AWT, F-16s and indirect fire to provide danger close gun runs and fire support, often danger close, and within 10 meters of friendly forces. SFC Reynolds displayed admirable calm and skill during this action as he was required to coordinate fire support with great precision while his position was struck with continuous heavy enemy fire.

SFC Reynolds continued to hold his position on the roof of the compound while marking friendly positions and both coordinating fire support and the actions of his own platoon. The insurgent forces, recognizing that SFC Reynolds' position was responsible for coordinating the deadly attack aviation gun runs, began to move directly against his location. Closing to within hand grenade range of his location and utilizing heavy PKM machine gun fire to destroy the qalat wall he was using for cover, SFC Reynolds was forced to defend his position with his personal weapon. With enemy bullets impacting close enough to spray pieces of the qalat wall into his face, he engaged multiple targets at close range with his M4 and eventually attacked the enemy with two hand grenades, driving off the squad sized element closing on his position. His personal bravery in refusing to leave his position under heavy enemy attack was highly valorous and instrumental to the troop's success. Without his continued presence on the roof coordinating indirect fire and air support, the enemy could not have been driven back. Even after pushing back the enemy attack on his position, SFC Reynolds' position continued to be hit by machine gun fire with bullets impacting the qalat walls around him. He continued to call for fire and coordinate air throughout the two hour firefight with outstanding effects.

Following the firefight, the troop continued on to its exfiltration site through driving rain and near freezing temperatures. Despite being personally diagnosed with both a torn achilles tendon and trench foot, SFC Reynolds pushed his unit to the HLZ and maintained security. His actions throughout this day were both highly admirable and remarkably valorous and are in the very finest traditions of the United States Cavalry.