



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY
116th BRIGADE SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION
1700 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY
FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA 22401

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

June 24, 2011

Battalion Operations Section

Mr. Shawn Mitchell
21750 Red Rum Dr
Suite 162
Ashburn, VA 20147

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with distinct pride that I offer this letter of commendation on behalf of Mr. Shawn Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell served under my command as platoon leader of 2nd Platoon, Company B, 276th Engineer Battalion from December 2003 until March 2005. From February 2004 through February 2005 our unit deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to Mosul, Iraq.

Prior to deployment our unit conducted pre-deployment training at Ft. Dix, New Jersey. During this time Mr. Mitchell stood out as one of the top junior enlisted members of the platoon. Though at the time only a Specialist, Mr. Mitchell emulated the maturity, patience and natural leadership ability of a non-commissioned officer. He set himself apart from his peers in every essence of the Army Values and Warrior Ethos.

While deployed to Mosul, the unit conducted a vast array of missions, not all of which were combat engineer specific. Mr. Mitchell visibly became a 'go-to' member of the platoon, displaying steadfast and unwaivering courage. Embued with natural leadership, Mr. Mitchell took the initiative to train Soldiers across the platoon on tasks that the unit was expected to perform and anticipated those that it may perform. As a direct result of his courage and leadership abilities, I promoted him to the rank of Corporal and placed him in charge of a 4-man team, a position typically held by a Sergeant.

Throughout the course of our deployment, Mr. Mitchell was directly involved in the most intense fighting that the platoon endured, including direct engagement from the enemy by small-arms fire, RPGs, mortar attacks and an IED which directly struck his vehicle. In one specific instance, Mr. Mitchell was my driver when our convoy was struck by a large truck bomb and engaged from all sides by insurgent fighters. Mr. Mitchell remained calm, collected and continued to maneuver our unarmored vehicle while operating the radio without hesitation as we returned fire. As a testament to his personal courage, dedication to duty and selfless service, I personally selected Mr. Mitchell to lead numerous squad-sized missions of up to 11-men; a position normally held for leaders two ranks above his at the time.

Mr. Mitchell is among one of the finest Soldiers I have had the honor and privilege to serve with during my career. His dedication to exceed the standard, place the mission first and always take care of the Soldiers he led, make him a distinguished leader. His integrity, loyalty, honor and selfless service are above reproach. Mr. Mitchell is able to thrive during conditions of uncertainty and display the calm and collective leadership required to simultaneously assist others. Mr. Mitchell authenticates the values, traditions and service of the US Army.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. P. Mason".

Robert P. Mason
Captain, US Army
Operations Officer