

## **SERGEANT TYLER D. BENJAMIN**

**C Company, 1<sup>st</sup> MI Battalion, 66<sup>th</sup> MI Brigade**

**CSM Doug Russell Award 2014 Recipient**



SGT Benjamin was born in Decatur, Georgia and was raised in Manchester, Tennessee. Prior to enlistment SGT Benjamin earned his Bachelor's degree from Auburn University where he majored in Music Education with a focus in Microbiology. He graduated Magna Cum Laude and went on to teach professionally at the junior high, high school, and collegiate levels. He later attended the University of Colorado at Boulder where he earned his Master's degree in Euphonium Performance and Pedagogy with highest honors.

SGT Benjamin enlisted into the US Army in November 2011 as a Crypto-Intelligence Linguist (35P). He attended Basic Combat Training (BCT) at Fort Jackson where he achieved a 300 on the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), was the Soldier Leader of the Cycle, and held the Student First Sergeant position. Upon completion of BCT, he attended the Defense Language Institute (DLI) where he studied Afghan-Pashto. While completing this course as the honor graduate of his class, SGT Benjamin developed a peer-assisted study hall program for the multi-language schoolhouse that became the command-mandated blueprint for every schoolhouse as ordered by COL Danial Pick, Commandant of DLI. While at DLI, SGT Benjamin also maintained a 300 APFT score and was the 2013 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Joint Service Board winner. SGT Benjamin successfully completed the Afghan-Pashto Basic Program and graduated as an Intermediate Linguist with a combined Defense Language Proficiency Test and Oral Proficiency Interview score of 3, 3, 2+. He also earned an Associate's degree in Afghan Pashto before attending Technical Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Goodfellow Air Force Base. He was his class's honor graduate and qualified for the STRAC (Skill, Tough, Ready Around the Clock) award by attending a board, maintaining a 95+ grade point average, and continuing to score a 300 on the APFT.

SGT Benjamin's first operational assignment was with C Company, 1<sup>st</sup> MI Battalion, 66<sup>th</sup> MI Brigade, where he serves as a Collection Operator, Special Intelligence Collector, and Special Intelligence Mission Manager. During his time in Wiesbaden Germany, he also served as the leader of the Special Conditioning Physical Readiness Training

(SCPRT) program and as Guardian Eagle Language Program (GELP) Coordinator. SGT Benjamin recently attended the Warrior Leader Course where he graduated as the Distinguished Honor Graduate, Iron Soldier, and Commandant's Inspection Winner.

SGT Benjamin deployed to support TF ODIN / TF Thor on 1 October 2014 where he served as a Tactical Systems Operator on the MC-12W platform for Project Dexter. SGT Benjamin flew more than 120 combat missions for a total of 600 flight hours. During his deployment, SGT Benjamin also served as the TF Thor Mailroom NCOIC, Defense Trade Advisory Group (DTAG) Authority, Central Army Registry Requestor, Technical Standard Order Certifier, and Thor Throwdown organizer and creator.