

SERGEANT TODD BURNAP

1st Special Forces Group

CSM Doug Russell Award 2008 Recipient



SGT Todd Burnap made his decision to join the US Army following the events of 11 September 2001. He enlisted as a 98X, Cryptologic Linguist – Analyst, and upon completion of basic training attended the Defense Language Institute. SGT Burnap graduated from the Basic Korean Course in 2005 and attended the 35M Human Intelligence Collector Course, after which he was assigned to the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Lewis, Washington.

SGT Burnap deployed to Iraq on two occasions where he worked various missions in the Counterintelligence/HUMINT arena. Burnap said often the biggest challenge was understanding the minds of the people he had to interrogate. Many would declare they had no knowledge of what he was asking. SGT Burnap said that the job of the interrogator was to keep an emotional distance from the person being questioned. Slowly, a captive would begin to trust the interrogator and provide information without even realizing it.

In recommending SGT Burnap, MAJ Zoltan Krompecher, Group S2 for the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Lewis, stated: "In my 21 years of service as both a Green Beret and Military Intelligence Officer, I have rarely come across a junior NCO as enthusiastic and devoted as SGT Todd Burnap. . . [his] devotion to supporting Special Forces Soldiers with precise and actionable intelligence is immeasurable.