

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS BENJAMIN T. HODGE

US Army (Deceased)



SFC Benjamin T. Hodge entered active service in 1979 and was stationed in Berlin, Germany. On his return from Germany, he attended the Defense Language Institute for basic Arabic language training, and the Tactical Interrogation Course. Then he was assigned to the 519th Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion, Fort Bragg, from 1981-1992. He served in a variety of positions including Interrogator, Team Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant, and Battalion S2. He served with great distinction as an Interrogator during

Operation URGENT FURY, Grenada, assisting in the establishment of the joint enemy prisoner of war (EPW) facility. His efforts were instrumental in the collection and analysis of data to determine the size, location, and resources of the Cuban force and also the identification of the 10 individuals involved in the assassination of Maurice Bishop.

In 1989, SFC Hodge was deployed with the 519th MI Battalion to Panama for Operation JUST CAUSE. While in Panama, SFC Hodge served as an Interrogator and also established an automated database for identifying prisoners and documents for the Joint Interrogation Facility. In 1990, he again deployed with the 519th MI Battalion to Saudi Arabia for Operation DESERT SHIELD, during which time he served as the Battalion S2 and Liaison Officer with the local community. During Operation DESERT STORM, he served as shift Noncommissioned Officer in Charge and Senior Interrogator for the XVIII Airborne Corps Confinement Facility where more than 8,000 prisoners were interrogated and processed.

SFC Hodge then volunteered for service in Operation PROVIDE COMFORT in northern Iraq. He deployed in April 1994 to join Combined Task Force PROVIDE COMFORT as an Arabic Translator. Days later he was killed in a helicopter crash while flying on a mission in support of the Task Force.

SFC Hodge's military awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (posthumous), the Army Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Army Achievement Medal.

SFC Hodge was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 1997. Room 150 of the Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Fort Huachuca was named in his honor in 1997. In 2012, US Army Forces Command honored him with a display in the Kuwait Conference Room.