



Sergeant Kyle J. White

MEDAL OF HONOR

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

Former Sgt. Kyle J. White was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama in a ceremony at the White House on 14 May.

President Obama said of White—

You make us proud, and you motivate all of us to be the best we can be as Americans, as a nation; to uphold our sacred obligations to your generation and all who have faced that “measure of danger” and “the willingness to incur it.”

The Seattle, Wash. native received the nation’s highest military decoration for his actions during combat operations in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan, on 9 November 2007. White’s unit, comprised of 13 Americans and a squad of Afghan soldiers, was ambushed on a narrow mountain path as they were returning to Combat Outpost Bella after a meeting with Aranas village elders.

Wounded by shrapnel from rocket-propelled grenades and briefly knocked unconscious, White awoke to find several of his comrades had sustained life-threatening wounds. Taking immediate action, he repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to provide first aid to the wounded soldiers and marines.

He exposed himself to fire again to retrieve a radio from a fallen comrade, which he used to call for air support and, ultimately, medical evacuation.

Five soldiers and one marine died during the Battle of Aranas.

