

SATCON WARRIOR RETURNS AS A DECORATED WAR HERO

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Unit Reporter



COL David E. Leckrone, Multi-national Division-Central South Commander, pinned the Combat Action Badge on SGT Jamie Sanders, a member of Delta Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, who volunteered to deploy to Iraq. Sanders received the Badge for actions he took while his camp was under mortar attack. Sanders played an active part in coordinating for air quick reaction forces to aid in isolating the source of the mortar attacks as well as assisted in conducting ground quick reaction forces to secure the perimeter of the camp. *Courtesy Photo*

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif. — A Soldier from Delta Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, having voluntarily served on a year long deployment to Iraq, has returned as an Iraq War Veteran. SGT Jamie Sanders, already a well seasoned senior DSCS III satellite controller, having been with U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command since 2000, decided it was his time to volunteer for service in Iraq. His original tasking there was as a Satellite Communications radio transmission operator for the Multi-National Division Central-South under management of the Polish Army. The Division, located at Camp Echo near Diwaniah in the southern region of Iraq, is a predominantly Shia Muslim region. During his year at Camp Echo, Sanders played an integral role in providing communications and overseeing the video teleconferencing between the Polish General at Camp Echo and the Multi-National Corps Iraq Commander, LTG Ray Odierno.

In addition, he established video teleconferences for numerous commanders from many countries including the United States, Romania, Armenia, Denmark, Mongolia, Lithuania, Latvia, El Salvador, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ukraine and Iraq. In addition to being charged with video teleconferences, Sanders performed duties as the assistant to the Combined Staff Command, Control and Communications (C6) liaison officer, C6 NCOIC, Intelligence (C3) Analyst and Intelligence (C2) Operations NCO and was known as the tactical operations command post subject matter expert for intelligence and operations.

Sanders contributed immeasurably to the Multi-National Division-Central South needs and would not hesitate to take on new duties.

Sanders bravery during deployment was recognized by several awards and medals he received. One medal, the Combat Action Badge, is only awarded to those who have exhibited exceptional bravery while engaged in combat with enemy forces. His Combat Action Badge was awarded following an attack on Camp Echo. Though Camp Echo is a 2.7 wide mile camp, it is not large enough to avoid frequent mortar and Iraqi insurgent attacks. From February to July 2007, while working in the Tactical Operations Center (TOC), 120 MM and 240 MM mortars targeted Camp Echo's key infrastructures and created severe damage in several areas. During one attack, two mortars struck within 25 feet of where Sanders was working. Sanders played an active part in coordinating for air quick reaction forces to aid in isolating the source of the mortar attacks as well as assisted in conducting ground quick reaction forces to secure the perimeter of the camp.

Sanders also showed exceptional bravery while deployed to Iraq when he decided to provide driving assistance to Multi-National Division — Central South. His scope of duties did not include driving, however he made a choice to put himself in harms way behind the wheel of a HUMVEE on numerous occasions to support personnel movements to and from Camp Echo. In doing so, he earned the drivers badge.

Other accomplishments during his Iraq deployment include duties that went outside of Sanders realm of SATCOM expertise to include establishing and maintaining internet access to Soldiers on the entire camp for which he was awarded an Army Achievement Medal. In addition, Sanders received a Joint Service Achievement Medal for his exceptional performance and making improvements to tactical operations center, and for his versatility and ability to adapt beyond his duty scope. For example,

when the Command and Control and the Command, Control and Communications Intelligence sections needed assistance, Sanders stepped up to the plate and learned the job. Sanders contributed immeasurably to the Multi-National Division Central-South needs and would not hesitate to take on new duties. His contribution to the intelligence section assisted in providing tactical operational support to Military Transition Teams, Border Transition Teams, and Operational Detachment Alpha Teams. His list of U.S Army awards culminates with a well-deserved, end-of-tour Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Sanders received other prestigious awards during his deployment including the Bust of Abraham Lincoln, a Danish Medal, and the Warriors Medal of Valor. The Bust of Abraham Lincoln is an achievement award given to only one Soldier per year for providing outstanding support; it was given to Sanders by the Illinois National Guard commander Col. David Leckrone, the Deputy Commander for the area of operation. Another most prized possession Sanders brought back from his deployment was a Danish Medal for completing a Danish-contingent 25 kilometer forced march. The five-hour march was completed in desert heat conditions. The Warrior Medal of Valor was presented to Sanders by the Native American Congress of America.