



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE SILVER STAR
TO
STAFF SERGEANT DANIEL C.L. SWENSEN

Staff Sergeant Daniel C. L. Swensen distinguished himself by gallantry while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States as a Pararescueman, Anar Darah Village, Anar Darah District, Farah Province, Afghanistan from 13 September 2019 to 14 September 2019. During this period, Sergeant Swensen was embedded with Anny Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha 12 -15 conducting a helicopter assault to reclaim the District Center and police Headquarters under Taliban control. On the night of 13 September 2019, Sergeant Swensen was leading an assault element to clear a compound of interest when Taliban fighters initiated a near ambush from less than 100 meters away. The enemy engaged his team with heavy machine gun fire and rocket propelled grenades, pinning them down and separating them from their supporting fire team. One rocket struck the wall only feet behind Sergeant Swensen knocking him off his feet, wounding him with shrapnel, and injuring five of his teammates. While returning fire and directing his partner force to cover, Sergeant Swensen saw an American Soldier lying incapacitated and bleeding, still in the enemy line of fire. Ignoring his own wounds and with complete disregard for his personal safety, Sergeant Swensen exposed himself to the intense enemy fire to sprint out to the Soldier, treat his life threatening wounds, and move him behind cover. Sergeant Swensen then directed the movement of all five patients to the helicopter-landing zone 800 meters away continuing to treat the critically wounded Soldier and carrying an injured team member on his shoulders. Once established at the exfil site, another Taliban element ambushed his team from behind with effective machine gun fire. Again, without regard for his safety, he remained exposed to intense enemy fire to direct the consolidation of all casualties behind cover and continue treatment of the critically injured. After evacuating the five team members, he patrolled his team back through the city to evacuate four more casualties from the main fighting element moving 800 meters through enemy controlled territory. Only after securing medical evacuation for all remaining casualties, Sergeant Swensen allowed medical attention for his own wounds. His rapid and aggressive tactical and medical actions, that night, definitively saved the lives of nine American and partnered force special operators. By his gallantry and devotion to duty, Sergeant Swensen reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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