





### SSG Daniel D. Busch

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) to Daniel Busch, Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against hostile enemy forces while serving with the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment - Delta, Task Force RANGER, Special Operations Command, during combat operations in Mogadishu, Somalia, on 3 and 4 October 1993. On that date while gallantly defending the crew of a downed MH-60 Black Hawk helicopter against a numerically superior enemy force, Staff Sergeant Busch was mortally wounded. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military forces, and reflect great credit upon himself, the Special Operations Command, and the United States Army.

EYE WITNESS STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF  
OF  
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DANIEL BUSCH

ON 3 OCTOBER 1993, IT WAS J TEAM'S MISSION TO PULL SNIPER SUPPORT DURING AN URBAN ASSAULT OF A TARGET IN MOGADISHU, SOMALIA. DAN BUSCH WAS ASSIGNED TO J TEAM. THERE WERE THREE OTHER SNIPERS ON BOARD OUR HELICOPTERS AND THE FOUR CREW MEMBERS. DURING THE BATTLE, THE HELICOPTER WAS APPARENTLY HIT IN THE TAIL ROTOR BY AN RPG. THE HELICOPTER STARTED TO SPIN OUT OF CONTROL AND CRASHED. THE HELICOPTER HIT A BUILDING, TIPPED FORWARD ON ITS NOSE, AND ROLLED ON ITS LEFT SIDE. THE PILOT AND COPILOT WERE KILLED INSTANTLY. ALL OF THE REMAINING PERSONNEL ON BOARD WERE EITHER DAZED OR INJURED TO SOME EXTENT, EXCEPT DAN. SERGEANT BUSCH IMMEDIATELY JUMPED FROM THE WRECKAGE AND STARTED MOVING TOWARD A KEY INTERSECTION WEST OF THE CRASH SITE. HE WAS MANEUVERING FROM POSITION TO POSITION IN THE INTERSECTION, UNDER INTENSE ENEMY FIRE, TO ENGAGE ENEMY MILITIA MOVING TOWARD THE CRASH SITE. DAN ENGAGED THE ENEMY MILITIA WHO WERE ADVANCING ON THE HELICOPTER AND WAS ABLE TO KILL SEVERAL ENEMY FIRING FROM BEHIND A TREE. AS DAN WAS IN THE INTERSECTION, CONTINUING TO PROVIDE SUPPRESSIVE FIRES, HE WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED. IN MY OPINION, HAD DAN BUSCH NOT REACTED SO QUICKLY WITH CARE FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL SAFETY, THE ENEMY MILITIA WOULD HAVE REACHED THE DOWNED HELICOPTER AND KILLED US ALL.

*James A. Smith*  
JAMES SMITH  
SFC, USA

EYE WITNESS STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF  
OF  
SSG DAN BUSCH

STATEMENT

ON 3 OCTOBER 1993, J-TEAM WAS IN ORBIT ABOVE THE TARGET AREA PULLING SNIPER SUPPORT FOR THE ASSAULT FORCE. AS THE TEAM ORBITED DAN BUSCH SUCCESSFULLY ENGAGED NUMEROUS ENEMY SOLDIERS ARMED WITH RPG'S AND AK-47'S.

THE HELICOPTER, SUPER 61, WAS HIT BY A RPG IN THE TAIL ROTOR AND CRASHED NORTH OF THE OBJECTIVE AREA. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE HELICOPTER STOPPED AND EVEN THOUGH INJURED FROM THE CRASH, DAN BUSCH PROVIDED COVERING FIRE FOR THE REST OF THE TEAM AND AIR CREW.

ALTHOUGH ALREADY WOUNDED, WITH TOTAL DISREGARD FOR HIS PERSONAL SAFETY AND UNDER INTENSE ENEMY FIRE, DAN BUSCH MANEUVERED TO THE WESTERN INTERSECTION. FROM THERE HE ENGAGED SEVERAL GROUPS OF ENEMY SOLDIERS THAT WERE ADVANCING TO THE CRASH SITE. THIS GAVE US ENOUGH TIME TO EVACUATE THE WOUNDED FROM THE HELICOPTER. WHILE IN THE INTERSECTION DAN BUSCH WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED. THE ACTIONS THAT DAN BUSCH TOOK ON 3 OCTOBER 1993 ALLOWED THE REST OF THE TEAM TO EXIT THE AIRCRAFT AND EVACUATE THE AIR CREW.

*James F. Monahan*  
JAMES F. MONAHAN  
SFC USA



SSG Daniel D. Busch was killed in action during the Battle of Mogadishu on 3 October 1993 from wounds sustained while defending the crew of Super 61. When the MH-60 helicopter he was in, call sign Super 61, was shot down by enemy fire, SSG Busch immediately exited the aircraft and took control of a key intersection. He then provided suppressive fire against overwhelming enemy forces; thus, protecting the lives of and ensuring the survival of his fellow team members. It was during this battle that SSG Busch received his fatal wound and later died at the medical aid station. In his heroism, SSG Busch left behind his young wife, Traci, and his infant child, Mitchell.

Daniel Busch joined the Army right out of high school in 1986. "Something about serving God, country, and fellow man appealed to him," his mother says. Although, he still had plans of getting out in September 1994 when his term of service expired.

SSG Daniel Busch-known as "Ram Busch" to his high school buddies from Portage Senior High School-took leave to visit his mother in Baraboo, Wisconsin in the summer leading up to the life changing event. He had a heart-to-heart talk with her to explain that his unit, Army Special Forces Command at Fort Bragg, N.C., was being deployed on a mission.

"He told me his unit was going someplace later that summer, but he couldn't say where," his mother, Ginny Johnson, says. "He just told me not to worry." She also recalls him saying, "I know this job is dangerous, but remember that it keeps me close to God. A Christian soldier is just a click away from heaven in this type of work." Ginny says she understood and states, "He was always trying to reassure us, because he could never tell us exactly what he did." After that talk, they went fishing, something Busch always looked forward to. That visit was the last time Ginny saw her son. The 25 year old light weapons infantry specialist was killed a few months later in Mogadishu, Somalia, the bloodiest single battle for American troops since Vietnam.

On 7 August 1986, Busch entered the United States Army at Fort Benning, Georgia. He completed Basic Combat Training, Advanced Individual Training, Basic Airborne Training, and Ranger Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. During his 7 year career with the United States Army, SSG Busch was assigned to Company B, 3rd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, Georgia and 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment - DELTA (Airborne), Fort Bragg, North Carolina. SSG Busch was also a combat veteran of Operation Just Cause (Panama). He successfully completed the following military courses of instruction: Assault Climber, Basic and Primary Noncommissioned Officer, Medical Technician, Pathfinder, Jumpmaster, Advanced Land Navigation and Military Freefall. In recognition of Daniel's outstanding career, he was promoted to the Staff Sergeant on 1 March 1991. During his distinguished career with the United States Army he received the following awards and decorations: The Silver Star, The Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, and The Army Commendation Medal. The Army Achievement Medal (3rd Oak Leaf Cluster), The Army Good Conduct Medal (Second Award), The National Defense Service Medal, The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Arrowhead Device and Service Star, The Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (#2), The Army Service Ribbon, The Combat Infantry Badge, The Master Parachutist Badge, The Parachutist Badge with Bronze Star, The Pathfinder Badge, and The Ranger Tab.



SGT Daniel D. Busch  
United States Army