



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY JOHN F. KENNEDY SPECIAL WARFARE CENTER AND SCHOOL
3004 ARDENNES STREET, STOP A
FORT BRAGG NC 28310-9610

AOJK-PO

1 January 2016

Commanding General
U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, AOJK-SGS
Attention: President of the Regimental Honors Program Board
3004 Ardennes Street
Fort Bragg, NC 28310-9610

Dear Mr. President,

I would like to nominate LTC (Retired) John A. Smith for the Major General Robert A. McClure Medallion – Silver. LTC Smith has served in the U.S. Army since 1997 and in Psychological Operations since 2007. His performance while serving in the Psychological Operations (PSYOP) Regiment contributed immensely to the regiment's long outstanding history. Additionally, LTC Smith demonstrates the highest standards of integrity, professional competence, and mentorship.

LTC Smith's military career spans 21 years of distinguished and dedicated loyal service to the United States Army. LTC Smith deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom from March 2003 through July 2004, and again from January 2006 through February 2007. Having completed reclassification into the PSYOP community in October 2008 he then deployed to Operation IRAQI FREEDOM Nov 2008-Jan 2009 as a Product Detachment Commander, Operation Iraqi Freedom Mar–Aug 2009 as the operations office for Information Operations Task Force, Operation ENDURING FREEDOM Apr 2010-Apr 2011 as an Executive Office for a Security Forces Assistance Team, and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (Jordan) as the J5 Chief of Plan for CENTCOM Forward Jordan.

LTC Smith entered service in the U.S. Army on 11 May 1997 as 2LT Field Artillery Officer via ROTC Program at East Carolina University. Upon completion of the Field Artillery Basic Course he was assigned to the 3-319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment 82d Airborne Division where he served honorably in numerous positions from Fire Support Officer, Fire Direction Officer and Battalion Intelligence Officer. Leading the way for Field Artillery operations across the Division winning numerous Division Artillery Competitions. After his time on Fort Bragg, LTC Smith then attended the Captains Career Course and then headed to Germany to serve in 1st Armored Division where he served as a Division G3 Current Operation Staff Officer, Operations Officer 2-3 Field Artillery Regiment, and Commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 2-3 Field Artillery Regiment. Deploying on multiple occasions to Operations Iraqi Freedom as an Operations officer Division G3 and again as the Commander of Headquarters and Headquarter Battery 2-3 Field Artillery Regiment serving time in Baghdad, Tal Afar, and Ramadi which. For his efforts to support operations he was awarded the Bronze Star. In 2007, LTC Smith was selected and completed Psychological Operations Training with a language emphasis of French. During his tenure in 4th PSYOP Group, LTC Smith served in Alpha

Company, 8th PSYOP Battalion as a Detachment Commander. Company Commander of Alpha Company 6th PSYOP Battalion, and Assistant Operations officer for 4th PSYOP Group.

LTC Smith first deployed as a PSYOP Detachment Commander in support of OIF as a Product Detachment Development Commander from November 2008- January 2009 where he was attached to 14th PSYOP Battalion, Psychological Operations Task Force Iraq. LTC Smith in his short time as the commander received praise and recognition from the 14th Psychological Battalion Commander for his outstanding performance and dedication to duty supporting all operations across Iraq with print, billboards, and media products. His efforts were critical to the overwhelming success of the command's mission. For his efforts to support operations in a timely fashion, he was recognized with the Army Accommodation Medal.

LTC Smith again deployed as a PSYOP Detachment Commander in support of OIF as an Operations Officer for the Information Operations Task Force from March-August 2009 where he was attached to Multi National Corps - Iraq. Due to his success as the Product Development Detachment Commander LTC Smith was a By Name Request to be in charge of all Influence Operations in Iraq. He was in charge of the largest Influence Contract in the CENTCOM AOR worth over 150 Million. His efforts were critical in keeping all influence operations funded during budget crisis which lead to the overwhelming success of the command's mission. For his efforts to support all operations in a timely fashion, he was recognized with the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

After completing Command and General Staff College LTC Smith was selected to be the Executive Office for a Security Forces Advisory Team in support 1-25 Stryker Brigade deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom from April 2011-April 2012. Based on his background LTC Smith was selected to be the inaugural advisor mentor to the 205th Corps Afghanistan National Army Intelligence Staff Officer, an officer that was two ranks his senior as part of the 205th Coalition Advisory Team (a team made up of United States, Australian, Canadian, and British). His expertise on advising and mentoring lead to development of a HUMINT network that was non-existent, the creation of the first Afghanistan National Army Military Intelligence Company, and mentored the staff to be able to analyze raw intelligence to produce actionable intelligence making Kandahar province a little more secure. LTC Smith's attention detail and reputation of high competence resulted in multiple requests from the Afghanistan Army equivalent to the Joint Chief of Staff to lead any high level visits and to serve the as personnel security advisor to the Chief when he visited Kandahar province. LTC Smith used this relationship to garner access for Tactical Psychological Teams to senior level leaders to disseminate mission-critical themes and messages. As a result of LTC Smith's efforts, the Afghan intelligence officers serving in his element were all promoted to a higher position. At the end of his tour, LTC Smith was formally recognized by the Afghan Joint Chief with the Afghan Army Joint Chief of Staff Award, and subsequently, a Bronze Star Medal by his unit Commander.

LTC Smith returned to the 4th Psychological Operations Group and was selected to command Alpha Company 6th Psychological Battalion even after he had completed all key and development job. He took a worn down company and turned it around to one of the best trained companies in the 4th Psychological Operations Group. Capable of supporting multiple Areas of responsibilities and tier 1 units to support our nation's strategic operations. LTC Smith detachments were able to quickly focus planning efforts from EUCOM to AFRICOM to provide relief to detachments that were forward deployed to support AFRICOM mission and needed to come up due to a new deployment guidance. LTC Smith also provided the first detachment to support operations in the Ukraine to counter Russian Influence. For his efforts to support operations across multiple Areas of Responsibility he was recognized with the Meritorious Service Medal.

LTC Smith then moved on to be the Chief of Psychological Operations for 1st Armored Division. Due to his expertise on advising, he was chosen above all other LTC's on the division staff to evaluate all Brigade and Battalion commanders' ability to conduct engagement. He also mentored each of the Brigade and Division staff on the importance of non-lethal targeting and how to integrate as part of operations bridging the GAP between lethal and non-lethal operations. LTC Smith also coordinated with Reserve Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Battalions to ensure all maneuver Brigades had coverage to train at home station and National Training Center Rotations. LTC Smith was again selected over all other LTC's on Division Staff to deploy to become the J5 (Chief of Plans) for CENTCOM Forward-Jordan from January-August 2015 responsible for advising and assisting the Jordanian Armed Forces planning effort for the war on terrorism. Upon return from deployment, LTC Smith was put in charge of all Division MILDEC and STO capabilities making him the overall non-lethal planner for the Division. This led to the 1st Division to successfully integrate STO and MILDEC into a WFX exercise. For his efforts in supporting the command he was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal for deployment and a Meritorious Service Medal.

LTC Smith finished out his career as an instructor at Command General Staff College. Teaching and mentoring young Majors that will go on to serve in the army today.

LTC Smith's awards and decorations include: two Bronze Star Medals, the Distinguished Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medals, five Army Commendation Medals, 2 Army Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award, Naval Unit Citation, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two Campaign Star, the Iraqi Campaign Medal with three Campaign Stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, NATO MEDAL, the Master Parachutist Badge.

LTC Smith's dynamic leadership and commitment to Soldiers provided the command with the kind of leadership that promoted professionalism and ensured mission success. His extraordinary performance of duty, accomplishments and contributions rank him above his peers

and are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service. Therefore, his selection is a fitting honor for this PSYOP veteran.

LTC (Ret) Smith may be reached at johnsmith254@gmail.com or 910-123-4567.

I may be reached at willnomdeplume@gmail.com or 910-987-6543 for any questions regarding the nomination for this outstanding noncommissioned officer.

Sincerely,

William L. Nom de Plume

Enclosed
Officer Record Brief
Photo
Biography