

## Marny Skindrud

This is the twelfth in a series of articles that we hope to publish for years to come. With this series we want to honor Service Members that served our great Nation. As I mentioned in the last article we need your help to honor these fine Americans. If you have someone you would like us to include, please help us research and develop articles. Our email address is mhamlegionpost113@gmail.com

I've mentioned several times that Mount Horeb has a long history of service to our great Country. That service continues today with several people currently serving in our military services. One of them is Marny Skindrud, she is the highest-ranking female currently serving in Field Artillery, on Active Duty, in the United States Army.

Marny was raised in Mount Horeb, her parents are Richard and Ronnaug (Rick and Ronni) Skindrud. She was born 22 November, 1975 and grew up here. Her work ethic, leadership, drive and determination were all shaped as she grew up in Mount Horeb. Growing up on a farm is hard work, everyone has to pitch in and it didn't matter if you were male or female, work had to get done. Marny remembers being entrusted to do different jobs as she went through school; from Mrs. Wittenwyler allowing her to come work in the Elementary School library during her study halls as a Middle Schooler to being entrusted to be a yearbook Co-Editor with Korby Berg their senior year of high school and being able to help the assistant principal schedule referees and ensuring things within the school Athletic Department were straight. Marny is thankful that she was able to have some great experiences in school that not everyone gets. As mentioned above Marny's leadership skills were shaped here in Mount Horeb before she ever joined the military. She served as a team captain for soccer and cheerleading and served within class leadership positions.

When Marny went off to college at UW-Whitewater, she started ROTC classes her sophomore year. She earned a BS degree in Elementary Education with Minors in Military Science and Elementary Math. While in college, Marny played for the Warhawks Women's Soccer team 94-97 and for the Women's Rugby team 96-99. She graduated from UW-Whitewater in May of 1999 after finishing an internship student teaching at an elementary school in Beloit.

Marny has deployed three times since 2003. She and her unit deployed to Kuwait in January of 2003 and was part of the first units to enter Iraq in March of 2003. That first deployment was January to August 2003, while deployed Marny served as a platoon leader and convoy commander for a group of PLS(palletized load system) trucks, delivering supplies all over Kuwait and Iraq. Her second deployment was September, 2007 to September, 2008, where she served as a MiTT(Military Transition Team) member. This is very difficult, and demanding work. She lived and worked with our Iraqi Army counterparts, providing mentorship and assisting them with missions. She was a Transportation officer for that deployment as well and conducted several convoys with her Iraqi counterparts throughout Iraq. Her current deployment is her first deployment to Afghanistan, she's been in Afghanistan since May 2017.

Marny was asked to come back to Artillery by her former 214<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander, COL Preston because of her knowledge, presentation and leadership skills. When they opened more positions to females in the Army COL Preston asked Marny to come work for him as an Artillery Officer. He knew that Marny had been an artillery officer and that she was an excellent leader. He also believed that it would set an excellent example for junior female officers. Marny didn't feel pressured, she's always up for a challenge.

## Marny Skindrud

She is currently serving as the JAGIC (Joint Air Ground Integration Center) Chief of Fires at the NATO Resolute Support Headquarters. In this role she works with Army and Air Force personnel, ensuring the ground commanders are provided the close air support from aircraft that they require to support their missions.

Marny has had a very successful career as an Army Officer. She has not only risen to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel but, she has received several awards as well. Her awards and decorations include the Bronze Stars Medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with 3 bronze service stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral 2, Combat Action Badge, and Joint Meritorious Unit Award.

After her current deployment is over next month, she will be headed back to Fort Sill, OK where she's planning to be the 428th Field Artillery Brigade Executive Officer. Marny has 18 years in service and plans to retire after 20 years in Blue Mounds, WI with her husband Lucas and daughters Camden and Aurora.

Please take the time to send Marny a thank you note for her service. If you mail a letter right away she may get it before she comes back from her deployment, the address there is – Marny Skindrud, CJ3-CJOC / BAF, APO AE 09354. Home address is 192 NE South Ridge Road, Elgin, OK 73538.

### Let us Never Forget that Freedom is NOT Free

Compiled by Jerry Hook based on input from Marny Skindrud

