

**MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**2023**

Updated: 11 November 2023  
Current to: 06 January 2014 (CG) and ORMM list 2023  
Totals: 06 January 2015 90 in total  
Pages: 54

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**Prepared by: Surgeon Captain John Blatherwick,  
CM, CStJ, OBC, CD, BSc, MD, DPH, FRCP(C), LLD(Hon), DSc(Hon)**

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6	6	Not Gazetted
Total:	90	(includes 6 names not gazetted and 2 to the US Army)

**MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

CG DATE	NAME	RANK	UNIT	DECORATIONS
29/11/08	<b>ABBOUD, Joseph Antoine Dave</b>	Major	R22eR JTF Afghanistan	<b>MSC MMV MSM CD</b>
03/07/10	<b>ANDERSON, Richard L.</b>	Corporal	3 RCR JTF Afghanistan	MMV CD
29/11/08	<b>BAKER, Cary</b>	Corporal	Mentors Afghan Army	MMV
29/11/08	<b>BANCARZ, Steven</b>	Corporal	JTF Afghanistan	MMV
19/07/08	<b>BEAULIEU, Michel</b>	Corporal	R22eR Afghanistan	MMV
06/2012a	<b>BÉLANGER, Brian</b>	Corporal	Medical Assistant Afghanistan	MMV
13/08/11	<b>BÉRUBÉ, Timothy David</b>	Sergeant	R22eR BG Afghan RCA	<b>MMM MMV CD</b>
19/07/08	<b>BORDELEAU, Joseph Maurice Jocelyn</b>	Captain	R22eR Afghanistan	MMV CD
27/03/10	<b>BURSEY, Michael C.J.</b>	M/Cpl	JTF Afghanistan June 08	MMV
11/02/12	<b>CARON, Guillaume Frédéric</b>	Lieutenant	OMLT JTF Afghanistan	MMV CD
11/02/12	<b>CASEY, Bradley D.</b>	Corporal	Treat Afghan National Soldier	MMV
23/06/07	<b>CHEVREFILS, Chad Gerald</b>	Corporal	'A' Company 1 RCR Afghanistan	MMV
04/08/12	<b>COLLETTE, Ashley</b>	Captain	1 RCR JTF Afghanistan	MMV
27/03/10	<b>CÔTÉ, Martin Joseph Jean</b>	Sergeant	JTF Afghanistan June 08	MMV CD
18/09/12a	<b>COUSINEAU, Marc-André</b>	Corporal	JTF Afghanistan R22eR	MMV
27/03/10	<b>CRANE, Robin John</b>	WO	JTF Afghanistan Aug 08	<b>MMM MMV CD (MID)</b>
24/02/07	<b>DENINE, Michael Thomas Victor</b>	Sergeant	1 PPCLI Afghanistan	MMV CD
29/11/08	<b>DION, Alexandre Benjamin Jonathan</b>	Corporal	R22eR JTF Afghanistan	MMV
19/07/08	<b>DODIER, Yan</b>	Corporal	'B' Company R22eR Afghanistan	MMV
19/04/08	<b>DOLMOVIC, Shane Aaron Bradley</b>	Private	Recon 2 RCR JTF Afghanistan	MMV
19/07/08	<b>DUBOIS, Éric</b>	M/Cpl	R22eR Afghanistan	MMV
27/03/10	<b>EJDRYGIEWICZ, Mark C.W.</b>	Corporal	JTF Afghanistan Sept 08	MMV
26/01/08	<b>FAWCETT, Derek John Scott</b>	Sergeant	'C' Company 1 RCR Afghanistan	MMV CD
11/02/12	<b>FIELDING, William Todd</b>	Captain	Captain of Chinook down Afghan	MMV CD
24/02/07	<b>FITZGERALD, Collin Ryan</b>	M/Cpl	1 PPLCI Afghanistan	MMV
13/08/11	<b>FRIGON, Simon</b>	M/Cpl	R22eR Battle Group Afghan	MMV
23/06/07	<b>FUNNELL, Jason</b>	Corporal	'C' Company 1 RCR Afghanistan	MMV

**MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

CG DATE	NAME	RANK	UNIT	DECORATIONS
27/03/10	<b>GALLANT, Brent W.L.</b>	M/Cpl	JTF Afghanistan June 08	MMV
19/04/08	<b>GIONET, Dave</b>	Cpl	Recon 2 RCR JTF Afghanistan	MMV
19/07/08	<b>GIRARD, Stéphane</b>	Sergeant	R22eR Afghanistan	MMV CD
19/07/08	<b>GONNEVILLE, Joseph Yves Léon</b>	WO	R22eR Afghanistan	MMV CD
27/03/10	<b>GREGOIRE, Russell J.R.</b>	Sergeant	JTF Afghanistan June 08	MMV
19/07/08	<b>GRENIER, Joseph Jacques Stéphane</b>	WO	R22eR Afghanistan	MMV CD

**Awarded to Members of the US ARMY**

04/08/12	<b>GRAVES, David Fletcher</b>	Specialist	US Army 71st Cavalry Afghanistan	MMV
04/08/12	<b>HEVER, Adam</b>	Staff Sgt	US Army 71st Cavalry Afghanistan	MMV
29/11/08	<b>HARDING, Christopher Lorne</b>	M/Cpl	R22eR JTF Afghanistan	MMV
11/02/12	<b>HARRIS, Tony Rodney Vance</b>	Private	1 <sup>st</sup> Air US Soldiers from Mortars	MMV
11/02/12	<b>HOLMES, Adam</b>	M/Bombardier	4 Days Combat Afghanistan RCA	MMV
29/11/08	<b>HOPKIN, Tod</b>	WO	R22eR JTF Afghanistan	MMV CD
19/07/08	<b>ISABELLE, Joseph Mario Sylvain</b>	WO	R22eR Afghanistan	MMV CD
18/12/10	<b>JACKSON, Michael William</b>	WO	JTF RCR Afghan August 06	<b>MMM MMV CD</b>

**MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

<u>CG DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DECORATIONS</u>
27/03/10	<b>KAPITANIUK, Jason William</b>	Sergeant	JTF Afghanistan June 08	<b>OMM MMV (CD)</b>
29/11/08	<b>KELLER, Bryce</b>	Corporal	R22eR JTF Afghanistan	MMV <b>Post</b>
19/04/08	<b>KILLAM, Gerald Alexander</b>	M/Cpl	Recon 2RCR JTF Afghanistan	MMV
27/03/10	<b>KOCHAN, Jordan E.</b>	Corporal	JTF Afghanistan Sept 08	MMV
24/02/07	<b>LAMONT, Jason Carl Allan</b>	Private	1 PPCLI Afghanistan	MMV
19/07/08	<b>LAPOINTE, Michel Louis</b>	Major	R22eR Afghanistan	<b>OMM MMV MSM CD</b>
18/12/10	<b>LEBLANC, Jeremy Joseph James</b>	M/Cpl	1 RCR JTF Afghanistan	MMV
11/02/12	<b>MacKILLOP, Michael A.</b>	Captain	Cdr Recon Platoon	<b>MMV MSM CD</b>
03/07/10	<b>McLAREN, Mark Robert</b>	Corporal	3 RCR JTF Afghanistan	MMV <b>Deceased</b>
24/02/07	<b>MAKELA, John David</b>	Corporal	1 PPCLI JTF Afghanistan	MMV
13/08/11	<b>MERCIER, Joseph Martin Stéphane</b>	Sergeant	R22eR Battle Group Afghan	MMV CD
13/08/11	<b>MICHAUD, Pier-Vincent</b>	LS	R22eR Battle Group Afghan	<b>MMM MMV (CD)</b>
11/02/12	<b>MIKKELSON, Gilles-Remi</b>	M/Cpl	Treat Afghan National Soldier	MMV
11/02/12	<b>MILLAR, Philip</b>	Private	Aid to US Soldier under fire Afghan	MMV
11/02/12	<b>MITCHELL, Paul Douglas</b>	M/Cpl	1 RCR Firefight in Afghanistan	MMV
04/08/12	<b>MONNIN, Eric</b>	Corporal	JTF Afghanistan	MMV
19/07/08	<b>MORLEY, Edward R.G.</b>	Corporal	Lord Strath Horse JTF Afghanistan	MMV
18/12/10	<b>MUNROE, Paul Alexander</b>	M/Cpl	JTF Afghanistan	MMV CD
27/03/10	<b>MYRONIUK, Tyler Brian</b>	Corporal	JTF Afghanistan Aug 08	MMV
11/02/12	<b>NELSON, John</b>	Private	Aid to Cdn Soldier under fire Afghan	MMV
23/06/07	<b>NIEFER, Sean Hubert</b>	M/Cpl	1 RCR Afghanistan	MMV
23/06/07	<b>O'ROURKE, Michael Patrick</b>	Private	1 RCR Afghanistan	MMV
03/07/10	<b>O'TOOLE, Joshua</b>	Corporal	3 RCR JTF Afghanistan	MMV
23/06/07	<b>ORR, Clinton John</b>	Corporal	23 Field Sqd 1 RCR Afghanistan	MMV

**MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

<u>CG DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DECORATIONS</u>
29/11/08	<b>PEEL, Robert</b>	Captain	Cdn Scottish JTF Afghanistan	MMV CD
19/07/08	<b>POELZER, Erik</b>	Corporal	Lord Strath Horse JTF Afghanistan	MMV
18/09/12a	<b>POULIN, Joseph André</b>	Sergeant	JTF Afghanistan Feb 2011	<b>MMM MMV CD</b>
24/02/07	<b>PROHAR, Derek</b>	Captain	Liaison US Special Forces	<b>MMV (MSM CD)</b>
27/03/10	<b>RACHYNSKI, Paul Daniel</b>	M/Cpl	JTF Afghanistan May 08	<b>MMM MMV (CD)</b>
13/08/11	<b>RANGER, Joseph Denis François</b>	WO	Mentor JTF Afghanistan	MMV CD
23/06/07	<b>REEKIE, Michael John</b>	Captain	1 RCR Afghanistan	<b>MMV (MSM CD)</b>
19/04/09	<b>RENAUD, Jay James</b>	Private	Recon 2 RCR JTF Afghanistan	MMV
27/03/10	<b>ROTONDI, Anthony J.R.</b>	Corporal	JTF Afghanistan May 08	MMV
11/02/12	<b>ROUSSEAU, Marc-André J.M</b>	M/Cpl	Defence Kandahar Airfield	MMV
23/06/07	<b>RUFFOLO, Joseph Jason Lee</b>	Corporal	1 RCR Afghanistan	MMV
Unknown	<b>SMITH, Joseph Armand Rico</b>	MWO	Afghanistan	<b>MMM MMV CD</b>
04/08/12	<b>ST-PIERRE, Charles</b>	M/Cpl	JTF Afghanistan	MMV
<b>03/07/10</b>	<b>TEDFORD, David Richard</b>	M/Cpl	3 RCR JTF Afghanistan	MMV CD
03/07/10	<b>TRAUNER, Michael</b>	M/Cpl	3 RCR JTF Afghanistan	MMV
19/07/08	<b>TREMBLAY, Joseph Hughes Stéphane</b>	Captain	R22eR Afghanistan	MMV CD
18/09/12a	<b>TREMBLAY, Marco</b>	Corporal	R22eR Afghanistan May 2011	MMV
27/03/10	<b>VERGE, Dale Milton</b>	WO	JTF Afghanistan - March 08	MMV CD
11/02/12	<b>VERRIER, Graham Marc</b>	Sergeant	1 RCR Counterattack Afghanistan	MMV CD
24/02/07	<b>WRIGHT, Michael Charles</b>	Major	1 PPCLI OC 'A' Co. Afghanistan	<b>MMV MSM* CD</b>

19 (smith not included)



**MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

CG DATE	NAME	RANK	UNIT	DECORATIONS
28/06/07a	<b>Two Names not announced (2)</b>	No Rank	JTF-2 Afghanistan	MMV
11/03/11a	<b>Two Names not announced (2)</b>	No Rank	JTF-2 Afghanistan	MMV
22/06/13	<b>One Name not announced (1)</b>	No Rank	CANSOFCOM or CDI	MMV
31/12/21h	<b>One Name not announced (1)</b>	No Rank	CANSOFCOM	MMV

6 Not Named

a after a date means not announced in Canada Gazette

h after a date announced in the Honours and Recognition to Members of the CAF for that year.

Names not announced are members of The CANSOFCOM or CDI whose identities cannot be released as it may put them and their families in danger.

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2	27	
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Total: 90 (includes 6 names not gazetted and 2 to the US Army)

**MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)  
Not Named**

CG DATE	NAME	RANK	UNIT	DECORATIONS	/
Unknown	<b>SMITH, Joseph Armand Rico</b>	MWO	Afghanistan	<b>MMM MMV CD</b>	

Known because he received the MMM in the CG of 01/06/19

**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**DENINE, Michael Thomas Victor** MMV CD  
Sergeant  
8 Platoon, 'C' Company, 1 PPCLI Task Force Afghanistan

CG: 24 February 2007  
GH: 27 October 2007  
DOI: 17 May 2006

“Sergeant Denine deployed with 8 Platoon, C Company, 1 PPCLI during Operation ARCHER in Afghanistan. On May 17, 2006, while sustaining concentrated rocket-propelled grenade, machine gun and small arms fire, the main cannon and the machine gun on his light armoured vehicle malfunctioned. Under intense enemy fire, he recognized the immediate need to suppress the enemy fire and exited the air sentry hatch to man the pintle-mounted machine gun. Completely exposed to enemy fire, he laid down a high volume of suppressive fire, forcing the enemy to withdraw. Sergeant Denine's valiant action ensured mission success and likely saved the lives of his crew.”



**Medals:** MMV - SW Asia with bar Afghanistan – Peacekeeping – NATO with bar former Yugoslavia - ? - CD

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**FITZGERALD, Collin Ryan** MMV  
Master Corporal  
5 Platoon, 'B' Company, 1 PPCLI Task Force Afghanistan

CG: 24 February 2007  
GH: 27 October 2007  
DOI: 24 May 2006

“Master-Corporal Fitzgerald deployed with 5 Platoon, B Company, 1 PPCLI Battle Group in Afghanistan. He is recognized for outstanding selfless and valiant actions carried out on May 24, 2006, during an ongoing enemy ambush involving intense, accurate enemy fire. Master-Corporal Fitzgerald repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire by entering and re-entering a burning platoon vehicle and successfully driving it off the roadway, permitting the remaining vehicles trapped in the enemy zone to break free. Master-Corporal Fitzgerald's courageous and completely selfless actions were instrumental to his platoon's successful egress and undoubtedly contributed to saving the lives of his fellow platoon members.”



**Medals:** MMV - SW Asia bar Afghanistan – General Campaign Star bar ISAF - Peacekeeping - NATO bar Former Yugoslavia – NATO possibly bar Kosovo

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**FUNNELL, Jason**

MMV

CG: 24 February 2007

Corporal - RCR

GH: 27 October 2007

7 Platoon, 'C' Company, 1 RCR Task Force Afghanistan

DOI: 03 September 2006



“On September 3, 2006, during Operation MEDUSA in Afghanistan, Corporal Funnell of 7 Platoon Charles Company braved intense enemy fire to come to the assistance of his comrades trapped in a disabled vehicle in an enemy kill zone. Ignoring his personal safety by twice crossing ground covered by effective enemy fire, Corporal Funnell successfully assisted in the treatment and evacuation of his injured and killed comrades while returning effective fire. His brave and professional actions saved lives and allowed the orderly withdrawal of his platoon under heavy fire.”

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon - Peacekeeping - NATO bar Former Yugoslavia – NATO bar Kosovo

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**LAMONT, Jason Carl Allan**

MMV

CG: 24 February 2007

Private – 1 Field Ambulance

GH: 27 October 2007

CFMS (Health Support Services) 1 PPCLI Task Force Afghanistan

DOI: 13 July 2006



“Private Lamont was deployed with the Health Support Services Company, 1 PPCLI Battle Group during Operation ARCHER. On July 13, 2006, an element of the reconnaissance platoon came under heavy enemy fire from a compound located in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, and was isolated from the rest of the platoon. During the firefight, another soldier was shot while attempting to withdraw back to the firing line and was unable to continue. Without regard for his personal safety, Private Lamont, under concentrated enemy fire and with no organized suppression by friendly forces, sprinted through open terrain to administer first aid. Private Lamont’s actions demonstrated tremendous courage, selflessness and devotion to duty.”

**Medals:** MMV – SWA with bar Afghanistan

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## CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)

**MAKELA, John David**

MMV

CG: 24 February 2007

Corporal - PPCLI

GH: 06 February 2007

1 PPCLI Task Force Afghanistan

DOI: 16 October 2006

“On October 16, 2006, Corporal Makela prevented a fatal attack on his combat logistics patrol by a suicide bomber in Afghanistan. As the turret gunner providing overwatch for the convoy, he accurately identified the approaching suspicious vehicle as a suicide bomber car. Despite the likely potential of an explosion, he maintained his exposed position and applied fire, resulting in the premature detonation of the bomber car. The explosion engulfed Corporal Makela's vehicle and seriously burned him. His valiant and courageous actions inevitably prevented the bomber from reaching his intended target and saved the lives of the other soldiers in the convoy. “



**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**WRIGHT, Michael Charles**  
Major – 1 PPCLI  
OC 'A' Company, 1 PPCLI Task Force Afghanistan

**MMV MSM CD**  
(later added a Bar to his MSM)

CG: 24 February 2007  
GH: 06 February 2007  
DOI: 19 August 2006



“On the night of August 19, 2006, Major Wright of Alpha Company, Task Force Afghanistan, demonstrated outstanding courage and exceptional leadership in combat. Directed to move to the Panjwayi District Centre to enhance security, his troops were rapidly engaged and encircled by a significantly larger enemy force. Under intense fire from small arms and rocket-propelled grenades coming from all directions, he refused reinforcements for safety reasons and led his embattled force to outmanoeuvre the enemy, inflicting serious enemy casualties. His courage and his leadership led to the defeat of a much larger enemy force without a single Canadian Forces casualty.”

Awarded the **Meritorious Service Medal (MSM)** as per the **Canada Gazette** 26 January 2008 of in the rank of Major.

**Medals:** MMV – MSM and Bar in 2022 – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon – General Campaign Star with Expedition Ribbon – General Service Medal with Expedition Ribbon with extra tour bar – Operational Service Medal with Expedition ribbon - Peacekeeping – NATO with bar former Yugoslavia with 2nd tour numeral – EIIR Diamond Jubilee – CD and bar – USA MSM

**Lieutenant-Colonel (late Brigadier-General) Charles WRIGHT, MMV, MSM, CD**



Born and raised in Southern Ontario, Lieutenant-Colonel Wright joined the Canadian Forces in 1990 and graduated from the Royal Military College in Kingston in 1994 with an honour's degree in History and Political Science. His first posting was to 2 PPCLI in Winnipeg, where from 1994 to 1999 he served as a rifle and anti-armour platoon commander and rifle company second-in-command, deploying with the unit as a platoon commander in A Company on Roto 0 of Op PALLADIUM in Bosnia in 1997. He served three years in Quebec City and Valcartier with 2e R22eR, completing a second tour in Bosnia in 2002 as a rifle company second-in-command. Posted to the Canadian Forces Joint Headquarters in Kingston from 2002 to 2004, he deployed to Afghanistan as the J3 Operations for the stand-up of Op ATHENA in Kabul in the summer of 2003.

LCol Wright returned to the Second Battalion as the unit moved to Shilo in 2004. Over the next four years, he served in staff positions as Adjutant and Operations Officer and commanded A Company and the Battalion's Task Force 1-08 Rear Party. He was awarded the Medal of Military Valour and the Meritorious Service Medal following his tour as Officer Commanding 'A' Company with Task Force 3-06 (First Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment) Battle Group in Kandahar Province in 2006-2007. In 2009, he graduated from the Joint Command Staff Programme at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto, where he also received a Masters of Defence Studies from RMC. In July 2009, he was posted to Headquarters 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group in Edmonton, where he served as G3 and, upon promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel in May 2010, as the Brigade Chief of Staff. Promoted to Colonel and to Brigadier-General.



Lieutenant-Colonel Wright is married to Hilary and they have two sons, Henry and Jonas, a year apart in age.

**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**PROHAR, Derek**

MMV MSM CD

CG: 24 February 2007

Captain

GH: 06 February 2007

Liaison Officer with United States Special Forces in Afghanistan

DOI: 05 to 10 September 2006

“Assigned as liaison officer with the United States Special Forces in Afghanistan during the battle at Sperwan Ghar, from September 5 to 12, 2006, Captain Prohar operated as the rear machine gunner on the battalion commander's vehicle. He was wounded by an improvised explosive device during an intense enemy ambush. Despite his injuries, he continued returning fire and assisted the commander with the control of the attack, which resulted in the successful seizing of key terrain. Captain Prohar's courage and actions earned him the respect of the allied soldiers of the United States Special Forces.”



**Medals:** MMV - MSM - SW Asia with bar Afghanistan – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon - CD

Captain Derek Prohar was awarded the **Meritorious Service Medal (MSM)** as per **Canada Gazette** of 11 February 2012 in the rank of Captain.

A graduate of McGill University, this is the second military decoration for Prohar, who previously received the Medal of Military Valour in 2007, after working as a liaison officer with the United States Special Forces in Afghanistan during the battle at Sperwan Ghar, September 5-12, 2006.

Prohar was a defensive back with the McGill Redmen football team for one season, then joined the hockey Redmen, where he played at forward and patrolled the blueline from 1994 to 1998. He won the University's Richard Pound Award in 1998 for proficiency and leadership in athletics before graduating with a bachelor's degree, majoring in economics and political science.

Prohar was an Operational Mentor and Liaison Team operations officer and headquarters company commander in Afghanistan. He planned and influenced operations, guaranteeing the necessary support to mentor teams operating in isolated and high-threat locations.

In 2006, he held the rank of captain and was working as the rear machine gunner on the battalion commander's vehicle when wounded by an improvised explosive device during an intense enemy ambush and despite his injuries. He continued returning fire and assisted the commander with the control of the attack, which resulted in the successful seizing of key terrain.



Lamont

Captain Derek Prohar

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**CHEVREFILS, Chad Gerald**  
Corporal – Royal Canadian Regiment  
1 RCR Battle Group Afghanistan

MMV

CG: 23 June 2007  
GH: 24 April 2007  
DOI: 19 August 2006



“On August 19, 2006, Corporal Chevrefils, a member of Alpha Company, 1st Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, was the driver of a light armoured vehicle during an engagement with numerically superior Taliban forces in Masum Ghar. During the three-hour firefight, he successfully manoeuvred the vehicle through difficult terrain with consummate skill, enabling it to remain unscathed by enemy fire. He subsequently dismounted his vehicle under enemy fire to assist in the recovery of another light armoured vehicle. Corporal Chevrefils' courageous and skillful actions helped to prevent the Taliban forces from outflanking the remainder of the Company and undoubtedly saved numerous lives.”

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon – Peacekeeping – NATO with bar Former Yugoslavia

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**NIEFER, Shaun Herbert**  
Master Corporal - RCR  
1 RCR Battle Group Afghanistan

MMV

CG: 23 June 2007  
GH: 24 April 2007  
DOI: 03 September 2006



“Master Corporal Niefer was a member of Charles Company, 1st Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, in Rotation 2 of Operation ARCHER in Afghanistan. On September 3, 2006, while engaged in combat operations in support of Operation MEDUSA, he selflessly ordered his vehicle into the enemy kill zone to support extraction of wounded comrades trapped by an enemy ambush. He subsequently provided covering fire from a highly exposed position to facilitate their evacuation and, by doing so, saved the lives of numerous fellow soldiers. His outstanding leadership, courage and valiant action brought great credit to Canada and the Canadian Forces.”

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon – Peacekeeping – NATO with bar Former Yugoslavia

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**O'ROUKE, Michael Patrick**  
Private - RCR  
1 RCR Battle Group Afghanistan

MMV

CG: 23 June 2007  
GH: 24 April 2007  
DOI: 03 September 2006

“On September 3, 2006, Private O'Rourke, a member of 7 Platoon Charles Company participating in Operation MEDUSA, selflessly ignored his personal safety by braving intense enemy fire to assist in the treatment and evacuation of his comrades trapped in a disabled vehicle. Twice crossing through sustained enemy fire, Private O'Rourke returned effective fire and successfully assisted in the evacuation of injured or killed personnel. His brave and professional actions saved lives and allowed the orderly withdrawal of his platoon u the Canadian Forces.”



**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon

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**ORR, Clinton John**  
Corporal  
23 Field Squadron 1 RCR Battle Group Afghanistan

MMV

CG: 23 June 2007  
GH: 24 April 2007  
DOI: 03 September 2006

“Corporal Orr was a member of 23 Field Squadron, 1st Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, in Rotation 2 of Operation ARCHER in Afghanistan. On September 3, 2006, he was operating an armoured vehicle attached to 2 Troop during an assault in Pashmul. Amidst intense combat action and under direct enemy fire, he placed himself at great risk by manoeuvring to recover one light armoured vehicle and only ceased his relentless attempts to extract a second one when informed that the vehicle's crew had withdrawn to safety. His focus on the mission and his courage in the face of danger have brought great credit to the Canadian Forces and to Canada.”



**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon

**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**REEKIE, Michael John**

MMV MSM CD

CG: 23 June 2007

Captain – 1RCR (now 2 PPCLI), ex Royal Westminster Regiment

GH: 24 April 2007

'A' Company 1 RCR Battle Group Afghanistan

DOI: 19 August 2006



“On August 19, 2006, while deployed with Alpha Company, 1st Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, in Masum Ghar in Afghanistan, Captain Reekie carried out valiant actions during an intense firefight with Taliban insurgents. Displaying superb judgement, he assessed the changing tactical situation and repositioned his vehicle to maximum advantage, enabling the successful interception and defeat of a numerically superior enemy force during the ensuing three-hour firefight. His outstanding initiative prevented the enemy from outflanking the position. Captain Reekie’s selfless courage and exceptional leadership undoubtedly saved the lives of numerous Alpha Company soldiers.”

Awarded **Meritorious Service Medal (MSM)** as per **Government House** of 09 November 2023.

**Medals:** MMV – MSM - General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and one extra tour bar – General Campaign Star with Expedition ribbon – SSM with bar Expedition - Peacekeeping – NATO bar former Yugoslavia – EIR Diamond Jubilee - CD

Commanding Officer 2 PPCLI effective 02 December 2019 in Shilo. Reached rank of Colonel. Retired by 2023.



**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**RUFFOLO, Joseph Jason Lee**  
Corporal - RCR  
'C' Company 1 RCR Battle Group Afghanistan

MMV

CG: 23 June 2007  
GH: 24 April 2007  
DOI: 03 September 2006

"Corporal Ruffolo was deployed with Charles Company of the 1st Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group in Afghanistan. On September 3, 2006, while engaged in combat operations in the opening phase of Operation MEDUSA, a bulldozer vainly attempted to extract his light armoured vehicle and came under heavy enemy fire. Without regard for his own safety, Corporal Ruffolo placed himself in a very vulnerable position to unhook his vehicle. In a subsequent attack, he again exposed himself to enemy fire to render first aid to a casualty. His courage and professionalism under extreme duress brought great credit to the Armed Forces and to Canada."



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**NOT NAMED (2)** MMV CG: Not Gazetted  
Unknown  
Afghanistan

GH: 24 April 2007  
DOI: 2006

**GOVERNMENT HOUSE - MERITORIOUS SERVICE DECORATIONS**

On June 28, 2007, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, on the recommendation of the Chief of the Defence Staff, announced the presentation of two Medals of Military Valour, two Meritorious Service Crosses, and seven Meritorious Service Medals to members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command for gallantry and devotion to duty in combat. For security and operational reasons, recipients' names and citations have not been released.

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**FAWCETT, Derek John Scott**  
Sergeant  
'C' Company 1 RCR Battle Group Afghanistan

MMV CD

CG: 26 January 2008  
GH: 24 September 2007  
DOI: 03 September 2006



“On September 3, 2006, while serving with Charles Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, in Afghanistan, Sergeant Fawcett demonstrated great valour during an intense firefight in which one Canadian soldier was killed and others were wounded. Continuously exposed to intense enemy fire, Sergeant Fawcett repeatedly crossed open terrain to lead the evacuation of casualties back to the designated collection point. Realizing that much of the Company’s senior leaders had been wounded, he took charge of a subsequent mass casualty evacuation. His actions and professionalism in combat saved the lives of his fellow soldiers and inspired those around him.”

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon – Peacekeeping – NATO with bar Former Yugoslavia - CD

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**BEAULIEU, Michel**  
Corporal  
Royal 22eR Battle Group Joint Task Force Afghanistan

MMV

CG: 19 July 2008  
GH: 04 June 2008  
DOI: 03 September 2006

“Corporal Beaulieu was the gunner on board a light armoured vehicle when, on October 5, 2007, during a combat logistic patrol in Afghanistan, the vehicle was severely damaged by an explosive device. Although he was injured and under sustained enemy fire, Corporal Beaulieu dismounted the vehicle and manually engaged the enemy, exposing himself to great peril. His heroic actions contributed to neutralizing the insurgents and saved the lives of many members of his platoon.”

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**BORDELEAU, Joseph Maurice Jocelyn**  
Captain  
Royal 22eR Battle Group Joint Task Force Afghanistan

MMV CD

CG: 19 July 2008  
GH: 04 June 2008  
DOI: 25 September 2007

“On September 25, 2007, while under enemy fire in Afghanistan, Captain Bordeleau expertly directed the intervention of the Quick Reaction Force while administering first aid to a critically wounded soldier. In addition to demonstrating leadership and control, Captain Bordeleau’s actions saved the life of a fellow soldier.”



**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**DODIER, Yan** MMV CG: 19 July 2008  
Corporal GH: 04 June 2008  
3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal 22eR Battle Group Joint Task Force Afghanistan DOI: 17 November 2007

“Corporal Dodier was deployed with B Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment, in the volatile district of Zharey, in Afghanistan. On November 17, 2007, during an ongoing combat operation, he selflessly drew enemy fire to his position, allowing the members of his platoon to suppress the enemy, which had surrounded and trapped them for several hours.”

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**DUBOIS, Érik** MMV CG: 19 July 2008  
Master Corporal GH: 04 June 2008  
3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal 22eR Battle Group Joint Task Force Afghanistan DOI: 27 September 2007

“On September 27, 2007, despite being wounded during a combat operation, Master Corporal Dubois carried, on his back, a critically wounded comrade over 150 metres of difficult terrain. In addition to assisting the soldier, his actions also enabled the safe withdrawal of his platoon from an enemy kill zone in Afghanistan.”

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**GIRARD, Stéphane** MMV CD CG: 19 July 2008  
Sergeant GH: 04 June 2008  
3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal 22eR Battle Group Joint Task Force Afghanistan DOI: 10 October 2007

“On 10 October 2007, Sergeant Girard demonstrated leadership and dedication as a mentor to the Afghan National Army. He selflessly exposed himself to enemy fire to better direct the advancing Afghan soldiers, enabling them to take control of a perilous situation and complete their assigned mission.”

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**GONNEVILLE, Joseph Yves Léon** MMV CD CG: 19 July 2008  
Warrant Officer – Royal 22e Regiment GH: 04 June 2008  
Operational Mentor and Liaison Team, Afghanistan DOI: 23 October 2007

“On October 23, 2007, during a complex combat operation in the district of Zharey, Warrant Officer Gonneville evacuated two wounded soldiers while under intense fire, and helped to successfully repel a determined enemy as a member of the Operational Mentor and Liaison team, in Afghanistan.”

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**GRENIER, Joseph Jacques Stéphane** MMV CD CG: 19 July 2008  
Warrant Officer GH: 04 June 2008  
3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal 22eR Battle Group Joint Task Force Afghanistan DOI: 27 September 2007

“Warrant Officer Grenier, then Sergeant, distinguished himself by his valiant conduct under intense fire, when his section was ambushed, in Afghanistan, on September 27, 2007. He selflessly exposed himself to great peril when he engaged the enemy to rescue and evacuate two wounded soldiers, all the while coordinating the tactical withdrawal of his troops. His immediate actions contributed to saving numerous lives.”

=====

**ISABELLE, Joseph Mario Sylvain** MMV CD CG: 19 July 2008  
Warrant Officer GH: 04 June 2008  
3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal 22eR Battle Group Joint Task Force Afghanistan DOI: 24 September 2007

“On September 24, 2007, during a combat operation in Afghanistan, Warrant Officer Isabelle provided life-saving first aid to seriously injured crewmates after their vehicle was destroyed by an enemy strike. Despite being seriously wounded and completely exposed to enemy fire, he led the successful evacuation of his injured platoon members while directing a counterattack against the insurgents.”

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**LAPOINTE, Michel Louis**

Major – Royal 22e Regiment  
3rd Battalion Royal 22eR Battle Group Joint Task Force Afghanistan

MMV MSM CD

CG: 19 July 2008  
GH: 04 June 2008  
DOI: 25 September 2007



“On September 25, 2007, Major Lapointe demonstrated remarkable leadership and courage. He inspired his troops, as well as the members of the Afghan National Police under his command, by quickly forming an ad hoc intervention force to counter a well-coordinated ambush by insurgent forces.”

Awarded the **Meritorious Service Medal (MSM)** as per **Canada Gazette** of 19 July 2008 in the rank of Major.

**Medals:** MMV – MSM – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon – Peacekeeping – UN Haiti with bar – EIR Diamond Jubilee – CD

In July 2017, he became the commanding officer of the command of the Joint Personnel Support Unit (JPSU) in the rank of Colonel.



**Colonel Michel Louis LAPOINTE, MMV, MSM, CD**



A native of Shawinigan South, Quebec, Colonel Lapointe enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1991. As a junior officer, he served with the Royal 22nd Regiment and deployed on domestic operations to the 1998 Ice Storm and the 1997 Manitoba Floods. He held staff appointments with the 5th Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group, Army Headquarters and Strategic Joint Staff. Colonel Lapointe has completed the U.S. Army Ranger course and is a recipient of the Medal of Military Valour and Meritorious Service Medal. He has operational tours to Haiti and Afghanistan. He also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Master's in Defence Studies from Royal Military College. He and his wife, Lt.-Col. Angie Lapointe, have two children, Charlotte and Chloe.



**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**MORLEY, Edward R.G.**

MMV

CG: 19 July 2008

Corporal - Lord Strathcona's Horse

GH: 04 June 2008

Royal 22eR Battle Group Joint Task Force Afghanistan

DOI: 24 September 2007

"On September 24, 2007, during a combat operation in Afghanistan, Corporal Morley left his own armoured vehicle to provide first aid to a critically wounded soldier until evacuation was possible. Under the threat of the enemy, he reacted courageously to ensure the survival of a comrade."

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**POELZER, Erik**

MMV

CG: 19 July 2008

Corporal - Lord Strathcona's Horse

GH: 04 June 2008

Royal 22eR Battle Group Joint Task Force Afghanistan

DOI: 24 September 2007

"On September 24, 2007, during a combat operation in Afghanistan, Corporal Poelzer demonstrated courage and exceptional technical skills by coordinating a vehicle recovery effort through hours of sustained enemy attacks. He continuously exposed himself to great risk while preventing a vital piece of equipment from falling into enemy hands."

=====

**TREMBLAY, Joseph Hughes Stéphane**

MMV CD

CG: 19 July 2008

Captain - Royal 22e Regiment (later GGFG)

GH: 04 June 2008

Royal 22e Regiment Battle Group Joint Task Force Afghanistan

DOI: 08 September 2007

"Acting as a mentor to the Afghan National Army during his deployment, Captain Tremblay, then Lieutenant, led Afghan soldiers during a combat operation on September 8, 2007, under enemy fire. His leadership and courage inspired his troops to bring the mission to its successful completion."

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and four extra tour bar – Peacekeeping – UNPROFOR with 2 tours MONUSCO (Congo) – UN Haiti – NATO bar former Yugoslavia – EIIR Diamond Jubilee – CD and Bar



**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**PEEL, Robert**  
Captain  
Mentors to an Afghanistan Army Company

MMV CD

CG: 29 November 2008  
GH: 28 October 2008  
DOI: 04 June 2008

**BAKER, Cary**  
Corporal

MMV

**BANCARZ, Steven**  
Corporal

MMV

“Corporals Baker, Ball and Bancarz, and Captains Peel and Snyder were deployed to Afghanistan to serve as mentors to an Afghan company, when they were ambushed by Taliban insurgents on June 4, 2008. With little chance of survival, they exposed themselves to great peril and retaliated against the enemy while encouraging the Afghan soldiers to do the same. Captain Snyder seized control of the situation and ensured that the Afghan soldiers retrieved their wounded comrades. Corporal Ball led a two-man team across broken terrain to secure an extraction route that allowed for the execution of a fighting withdrawal by Captain Peel and corporals Bancarz and Baker. Because of their dedication, leadership and valour, many Afghan and Canadian lives were saved.”

Corporal James Ball and Captain Jonathan Snyder received the **Star of Military Valour (SMV)** as per **Canada Gazette** of 29 November 2008 for this battle.



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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

<b>DION, Alexandre Benjamin Jonathan</b>	MMV	CG: 29 November 2008
Corporal		GH: 28 October 2008
3 <sup>rd</sup> Battalion R22eR Joint Task Force Afghanistan	DOI:	27 September 2007

“On September 27, 2007, in the Panjwayi district of Afghanistan, enemy forces ambushed Corporal Dion's platoon and grievously wounded a fellow soldier. Under direct and sustained enemy fire, he carried the injured soldier over 150 meters of difficult terrain to safety. Corporal Dion's valiant actions helped to save the life of his comrade and enabled his platoon to safely withdraw from the scene.”

=====

<b>ABBOUD, Joseph Antoine Dave</b>	MSC MMV MSM CD	CG: 29 November 2008
Major		GH: 28 October 2008
Commander 'B' Company 3 <sup>rd</sup> Battalion R22eR Joint Task Force Afghanistan	DOI: August 2007	

“A selfless and devoted commander of 'B; Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment, Major Abboud led his combat team during an arduous battle in Afghanistan that lasted two days, in August 2007. His courage and leadership inspired his troops and contributed to the success of the mission.”

Awarded **Meritorious Service Cross (MSC)** as per **Canada Gazette** of 29 November 2008 in the rank of Major

Awarded **Meritorious Service Medal (MSM)** as per **Canada Gazette** of 06 July 2019 in the rank of Colonel while serving as the Deputy Commander of Task Force Middle East in Jordan.

**Medals:** MSC – MMV – MSM - General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and one extra tour bar – Peacekeeping – UNPROFOR – NATO with bar Former Yugoslavia - CD



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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**HARDING, Christopher Lorne**

MMV

CG: 29 November 2008

Master Corporal

GH: 28 October 2008

6 Platoon, 'B' Company 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion PPCLI Joint Task Force Afghanistan

DOI: 08 July 2007

"Master Corporal Harding was deployed with 6 Platoon, B Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, in Afghanistan. When his section was attacked on July 8, 2006, he selflessly advanced across open terrain and commanded the battle, while providing first aid to a critically wounded soldier. His courageous actions under intense fire enabled his section to hold its position and to save the life of a comrade."

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**HOPKIN, Tod**

MMV CD

CG: 29 November 2008

Warrant Officer

GH: 28 October 2008

3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion R22eR Battle Group Joint Task Force Afghanistan

DOI: 22 / 23 August

2007

"On August 22 and 23, 2007, Warrant Officer Hopkin commanded the lead vehicle of a combat team through sustained enemy attacks, in Afghanistan, exposing himself to great risk in order to recapture a vital position. His composure and leadership were inspirational, and lead to the success of the mission."

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**KELLER, Bryce**

Corporal - PPCLI

PPCLI Battle Group Joint Task Force Afghanistan

MMV

**Posthumous**

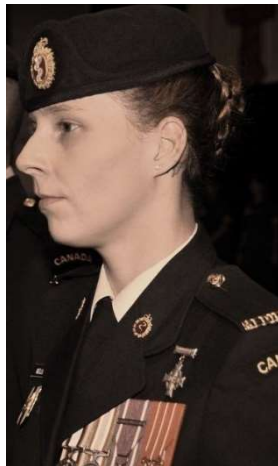
CG: 29 November 2008

GH: 28 October 2008

DOI: 03 August 2007

“On August 3, 2006, while exposed to intense enemy fire in Afghanistan, Corporal Keller demonstrated courage and leadership in order to allow his comrades to attend to a critically wounded soldier. Sadly, Corporal Keller made the ultimate sacrifice that day, but his selfless actions contributed to saving lives and enabled his platoon to hold vital terrain until reinforcements arrived.”

**Killed in Action:** Keller was killed on 03 August 2006 at age 27. He died after a rocket-propelled grenade attack conducted by Taliban militants near the village of Pashmul. This attack occurred in a Taliban hotbed about 25 km west of Kandahar City. Two other members of same battalion were killed in the attack. Thirty-five-year-old Sgt. Vaughan Ingram and 22-year-old Kevin Dallaire also lost their lives during this attack.



Officer Cadet Sarah Keller, wife of Corporal Bryce Keller  
1 Canadian Field Ambulance, receiving his MMV.

**KILLAM, Gerald Alexander**

Master-Corporal (now Sergeant) - RCR

2 RCR Battle Group, Task Force Afghanistan

MMV CD

CG: 19 April 2008

GH: 20 March 2008

DOI: 16 May 2007



“For extraordinary courage and leadership during intense combat with 2 Royal Canadian Regiment, Joint Task Force Afghanistan on 16 May 2007.”

“On 16 May 2007 Master Corporal Killam repeatedly exposed himself to lethal enemy fire during an ambush launched by insurgents in Sangsar, Afghanistan. Although separated from his platoon, he identified enemy positions and issued clear order that enabled his section to engage the enemy. Inspired by his leadership, Master Corporal Killam’s troops fought back a numerically superior enemy with no casualties to his section.”

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and one extra tour bar – Peacekeeping – NATO bar Former Yugoslavia – NATO bar Kosovo – CD



**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**GIONET, Dave**  
Corporal  
2 RCR Battle Group, Task Force Afghanistan

MMV

CG: 19 April 2008  
GH: 20 March 2008  
DOI: 11 April 2007

**DOLMOVIC, Shane Aaron Bradley**  
Private

MMV

“For extraordinary courage while under threat of fire, explosions and enemy attack during the rescue of fellow soldiers from a burning vehicle following an improvised explosive device explosion with the 2 Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, Task Force Afghanistan on 11 April 2007.”

“On 11 April 2007, Private Dolmovic and Corporal Gionet saved the life of a fellow crewmember after his vehicle struck and improvised explosive device in Nalgham, Afghanistan. After freeing the trapped driver, Private Dolmovic and Corporal Gionet performed life-saving first-aid, despite imminent risks of fire, explosions and enemy attack.”

**Medals (both):** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon



Corporal Dave Gionet, MMV



Private Shane Aaron Bradley, MMV

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**RENAUD, Jay James**  
Private  
2 RCR Battle Group, Task Force Afghanistan

MMV

CG: 19 April 2008  
GH: 20 March 2008  
DOI: 11 April 2007



“For extraordinary courage while under threat of fire, explosions and enemy attack during the rescue of fellow soldiers from a burning vehicle following an improvised explosive device explosion with the 2 Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, Task Force Afghanistan on 11 April 2007.”

“On 11 April 2007, despite his injuries, Private Renaud provided life-saving first aid to a seriously injured crewmate after his Coyote reconnaissance vehicle was destroyed by an improvised explosive device. At the time of the incident, Private Renaud was deployed as a surveillance operator with Reconnaissance Squadron, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group, Joint Task Force Afghanistan.”

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and 1 extra tour bar

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**BURSEY, Michael C.**  
Master Corporal  
Task Force Afghanistan

MMV

CG: 27 March 2010  
GH: 21 October 2009  
DOI: 03 September 2008



“On September 3, 2008, during an insurgent ambush in the Zharey district of Afghanistan, an anti-tank round destroyed a light armoured vehicle, resulting in numerous serious casualties. While exposed to sustained enemy fire, Master Corporal Bursey repeatedly returned to the vehicle, in which ammunition was exploding in the ongoing fire, to help extract and tend to the casualties. Master Corporal Bursey’s composure and decisive actions ensured critical care for the casualties until their evacuation.”

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and 1 extra tour bar

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**CÔTÉ, Martin Joseph Jean**  
Sergeant  
Task Force Afghanistan

MMV CD

CG: 27 March 2010  
GH: 21 October 2009  
DOI: 03 June 2008

“On June 2, 2008, insurgents ambushed a joint Canadian-Afghan patrol in the Zhari district of Afghanistan. As the patrol moved to seek cover, they triggered an improvised explosive device that seriously injured four members. Shaking off the effects of a severe concussion and oblivious to the ongoing attack, Sergeant Côté triaged the casualties, passed vital information to headquarters and began life-saving treatment. With the patrol unable to effectively break contact, he continued to expose himself to intense enemy fire, to treat injuries and encourage wounded personnel during the prolonged fighting withdrawal.”

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and 1 multiple tour bar  
– Peacekeeping – NATO bar former Yugoslavia - CD



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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**CRANE, Robin John**  
Warrant Officer  
Task Force Afghanistan

MMM MMV CD  
**Also MID**

CG: 27 March 2010  
GH: 21 October 2009  
DOI: 04 August 2008



“On August 4, 2008, insurgent forces surrounded an Afghan National Army company in a complex ambush in the Panjwayi district of Afghanistan. Warrant Officer Crane and Corporal Myroniuk selflessly remained in the danger zone to extract an Afghan casualty and support another Canadian soldier who was caught in the open. Together, they stood against over 30 insurgents using small arms fire and, when their ammunition was depleted, resorted to hand grenades to hold off the enemy. The courage of Warrant Officer Crane and Corporal Myroniuk saved Canadian and Afghan lives and prevented the company from being outflanked.”

Awarded a **Mention-in-Despatches** as per **Canada Gazette** of 27 March 2010.

Master Warrant Officer Crane was awarded a **Member of the Order of Military Merit (MMM)** as per **Canada Gazette** of 22 March 2014.

**Medals:** MMM - MMV – Southwest Asia with bar Afghanistan – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and multiple tour bar – Peacekeeping – UNPROFOR – NATO – Canada 125 Diamond Jubilee – CD

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**MYRONIUK, Tyler Brian**  
Corporal – Loyal Edmonton Regiment  
Task Force Afghanistan

MMV  
**Also MID**

CG: 27 March 2010  
GH: 21 October 2009  
DOI: 04 August 2008



“On August 4, 2008, insurgent forces surrounded an Afghan National Army company in a complex ambush in the Panjwayi district of Afghanistan. Warrant Officer Crane and Corporal Myroniuk selflessly remained in the danger zone to extract an Afghan casualty and support another Canadian soldier who was caught in the open. Together, they stood against over 30 insurgents using small arms fire and, when their ammunition was depleted, resorted to hand grenades to hold off the enemy. The courage of Warrant Officer Crane and Corporal Myroniuk saved Canadian and Afghan lives and prevented the company from being outflanked.”

Awarded a **Mention-in-Despatches** as per **Canada Gazette** of 27 March 2010.

**Medals:** MMV - General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and multiple tour bar

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**EJDRYGIEWICZ, Mark C.W.**

Corporal - RCAF  
Task Force Afghanistan

MMV

CG: 27 March 2010  
GH: 21 October 2009  
DOI: 03 September 2008

“On September 3, 2008, during an insurgent ambush in the Zharey district of Afghanistan, an anti-tank round destroyed a light armoured vehicle, resulting in numerous serious casualties. While under constant fire from the enemy, Corporal Ejdrygiewicz worked to extract the injured from the vehicle, in which ammunition began exploding, while alternately providing suppressive fire against the insurgents. Corporal Ejdrygiewicz’s selfless courage under fire was pivotal to the protection and treatment of casualties.”

**Medals:** MMV - General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and multiple tour bar



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**GALLANT, Brent W.L.**

Master Corporal  
Task Force Afghanistan

MMV

CG: 27 March 2010  
GH: 21 October 2009  
DOI: 03 September 2008

“On June 2, 2008, a Canadian soldier was wounded during an insurgent ambush in the Zharey district of Afghanistan. Surrounded on three sides, Master Corporal Gallant made his way through heavy enemy machine-gun fire to the casualty’s location and began treatment while using his body to shield the soldier from ricochets. Master Corporal Gallant’s unwavering devotion, courage and decisive actions were critical in the treatment and evacuation of the casualty, and were an inspiration to fellow soldiers of his platoon.”

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and multiple tour bar.



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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**GREGOIRE, Russell J.R.**  
Sergeant  
Task Force Afghanistan

MMV

CG: 27 March 2010  
GH: 21 October 2009  
DOI: 14 June 2008



“On June 14, 2008, Sergeant Gregoire’s section was ambushed in the Zhari district of Afghanistan. What was initially considered light contact quickly became a concentrated amount of small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire, splitting the section in two. With the lead element taking a serious casualty and in danger of being overrun, Sergeant Gregoire formulated an extraction plan. Regardless of the risks, he led the remainder of the section into heavier fire to provide cover for the beleaguered soldiers’ evacuation. Sergeant Gregoire’s selfless devotion and courage inspired his platoon throughout the three-hour engagement.”

**Medals:** MMV - General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon – Canada 125 - CD

**KAPITANIUK, Jayson William**  
Sergeant - PPCLI  
Task Force Afghanistan

**(MMM) MMV (CD)**

CG: 27 March 2010  
GH: 21 October 2009  
DOI: 14 June 2008



“On June 14, 2008, during a major battle group operation in the Zharey district of Afghanistan, elements of C Company were ambushed by insurgent forces. In an attempt to support a platoon that was pinned down under heavy fire, Sergeant Kapitaniuk repeatedly exposed himself to intense enemy fire to regroup his own troops and to relay counter-attack directives. His leadership, determination, and courage were vital to the effectiveness of his unit throughout the engagement and fighting withdrawal.”

**Medals:** MMM - MMV – Southwest Asia with bar Afghanistan – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and multiple tour bar – Peacekeeping – NATO bar Former Yugoslavia – ? – CD

Later awarded Canadian Forces Decoration (CD).

Awarded **Member of the Order of Military Merit (MMM)** as per the **CANFORGEN** of 11 December 2020 in the rank of Master Warrant Officer while serving with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry.

**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**KOCHAN, Jordan E.**  
Corporal  
Task Force Afghanistan

MMV

CG: 27 March 2010  
GH: 21 October 2009  
DOI: 03 September 2008

“On September 3, 2008, during an insurgent ambush in the Zharey district of Afghanistan, an anti-tank round destroyed a light armoured vehicle, creating a deadly mass-casualty situation. Exposed to sustained enemy fire and the exploding ammunition from the burning vehicle, Corporal Kochan, then private, assisted and treated one of the wounded soldiers who had been ejected from the vehicle by the blast. With insurgents targeting the casualty collection points, Corporal Kochan’s actions were vital to the treatment and evacuation of casualties.”



**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and multiple tour bar.

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**RACHYNSKI, Paul Daniel**  
Master Corporal  
Task Force Afghanistan

OMM MMV (CD)

CG: 27 March 2010  
GH: 21 October 2009  
DOI: 06 May 2008

“On May 6, 2008, a Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team patrol was ambushed in the Zharey district of Afghanistan. After neutralizing the initial threat, Master Corporal Rachynski selflessly led both Canadian and Afghan soldiers through heavy insurgent fire to rejoin his besieged patrol. Master Corporal Rachynski’s determination and calm under fire allowed his patrol to evacuate the wounded and execute a fighting withdrawal with no further casualties.”



**Medals:** MMM - MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and multiple tour bar - CD

Awarded Member of the Order of Military Merit (MMM) as per the Canadian Forces presentation of 11 May 2023 in the rank of Warrant Officer while he was serving at the Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre Detachment Kingston

**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**ROTONDI, Anthony J.R.**  
Corporal  
Task Force Afghanistan

MMV

CG: 27 March 2010  
GH: 21 October 2009  
DOI: 03 September 2008



“On May 6, 2008, a Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team patrol was ambushed in the Zharey district of Afghanistan. While exposed to intense enemy fire, Corporal Rotondi assisted two seriously injured fellow soldiers and relentlessly returned fire to allow first aid and casualty evacuation. Corporal Rotondi’s bravery and perseverance in the face of a determined enemy were inspirational to those around him and helped save the lives of fellow soldiers.”

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and multiple tour bar.

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**VERGE, Dale Milton**  
Warrant Officer - RCR  
Task Force Afghanistan

MMV CD

CG: 27 March 2010  
GH: 21 October 2009  
DOI: 30 March 2008

“On March 30, 2008, insurgents initiated a fierce and persistent attack on an Afghan police sub-station in Spin Pir, Afghanistan. Early in the action, Warrant Officer Verge sustained significant injuries. Oblivious to his wounds, he re-engaged with suppressive fire and directed effective point defence, neutralizing the enemy and repelling the attack. Warrant Officer Verge’s selfless courage, tactical acumen and leadership set an example of resolve and prevented the sub-station from being overrun.”

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and multiple tour bar – Peacekeeping – UN Haiti – NATO bar Kosovo - CD





**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**ANDERSON, Richard L.**  
Corporal – 3 Royal Canadian Regiment JTF Afghanistan  
Joint Task Force Afghanistan

MMV CD

CG: 03 July 2010  
GH: 31 May 2010  
DOI: 21 January 2009

“On 31 January 2009, Corporal Anderson came under small arms fire with his joint Canadian-Afghan patrol, in Zhari District, Afghanistan. During the initial stages of the ambush, an Afghan soldier was severely wounded and lay exposed to the relentless attack. As the battle raged around him, Corporal Anderson exposed himself to enemy fire while he and the patrol medic attempted to move the soldier to safety. With no cover, he immediately began to provide first aid despite enemy rounds impacting inches from his position. Corporal Anderson’s selfless disregard for his personal safety saved the wounded soldier’s life.”



**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and 1 extra tour bar – Peacekeeping – UNPROFOR – NATO bar Kosovo - CD

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**McLAREN, Mark Robert**  
Corporal – 1 Royal Canadian Regiment JTF Afghanistan  
Joint Task Force Afghanistan

MMV

**Killed in Action**

CG: 03 July 2010  
GH: 31 May 2010  
DOI: 06 November 2008

“On 06 November 2008, Corporal McLaren’s joint Canadian-Afghan patrol was ambushed in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. The attack seriously injured his team’s Afghan interpreter, paralyzing him and leaving him exposed to further enemy fire. Headless to the incoming fire, Corporal McLaren crawled 10 metres to his colleague’s position, extracted him to a safe location and administered first aid. Corporal McLaren’s courage and selfless devotion to his team prevented the interpreter’s immediate loss and allowed for his safe evacuation.”



Cpl. Mark McLaren, 23, was killed instantly when his armored vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) while on a joint patrol with the Afghan army in the Arghandab district, west of Kandahar city, Afghanistan on 06 December 2008.

**Medals:** MMV – Sacrifice - General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and multiple tour bar.

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**O'TOOLE, Joshua**  
Corporal – 3 RCR  
3 Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group Joint Task Force Afghanistan

MMV  
GH:

CG: 03 July 2010  
31 May 2010  
DOI: 21 October 2008



“On 21 October 2008, Corporal O’Toole was manning the defensive tower of a combat outpost, in Afghanistan, when it was attacked by insurgents. As rounds impacted the tower and rocket-propelled grenades sailed over his head, Corporal O’Toole left the security of his location to fire an anti-armour weapon at the attackers’ location. After a successful hit, he remained in a highly vulnerable position, taking up a heavy machine gun to continue returning fire. Corporal O’Toole’s fearless and relentless actions suppressed the enemy, allowing friendly forces to quickly establish defensive positions and defeat the attack.”

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with Southwest Asia ribbon

**TEDFORD, David Richard**  
Master Corporal – 3 RCR  
3 Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group Joint Task Force Afghanistan

MMV CD

CG: 03 July 2010  
GH: 31 May 2010  
DOI: 08 October 2008

“On 08 October 2008, Master Corporal Tedford’s patrol was ambushed in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. While providing cover for exposed troops, his vehicle’s main cannon jammed. As his gunner attempted to fix the weapon, he rose out of the turret to return fire with the machine gun mounted atop the vehicle. Realizing the cannon could not be repaired from inside, he exited the vehicle amidst a hail of bullets, cleared the jam and began pouring heavy fire upon the enemy. With fearless determination, Master Corporal Tedford’s selfless action in suppressing the enemy throughout the firefight ensured his patrol’s successful fighting withdrawal.”

**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**JACKSON, Michael William**

MMM MMV CD

CG: 18 December 2010

Warrant Officer

GH: 29 September 2010

Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group - Joint Task Force Afghanistan

DOI: 19 August 2006

“In the midst of a three-hour battle in Afghanistan on August 19, 2006, Warrant Officer Jackson and Master Corporal Munroe’s platoon was forced to conduct a withdrawal while under enemy fire. Fully exposed to the violence of the enemy, these soldiers risked their lives to coordinate the safe movement of personnel and damaged vehicles. Their heroic actions under constant fire enabled the platoon to regroup and continue the fight, while denying the enemy an opportunity to capture and make use of stricken Canadian equipment.”



Awarded **Member of the Order of Military Merit (MMM)** as per **Canada Gazette** of 22 March 2013 in the rank of Master Warrant Officer.

**Jackson’s Medals:** MMM - MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and multiple tour bar – Peacekeeping – Interfet – two NATO – Diamond Jubilee – CD and Bar

Retired in 2016 after 27 years of service in the rank of MWO

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**MUNROE, Paul Alexander**

MMV CD

CG: 18 December 2010

Master Corporal (Now Sergeant) – Royal Canadian Regiment

GH: 29 September 2010

Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group - Joint Task Force Afghanistan

DOI: 19 August 2006

“In the midst of a three-hour battle in Afghanistan on August 19, 2006, Warrant Officer Jackson and Master Corporal Munroe’s platoon was forced to conduct a withdrawal while under enemy fire. Fully exposed to the violence of the enemy, these soldiers risked their lives to coordinate the safe movement of personnel and damaged vehicles. Their heroic actions under constant fire enabled the platoon to regroup and continue the fight, while denying the enemy an opportunity to capture and make use of stricken Canadian equipment.”



## CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)

**TRAUNER, Michael**

MMV CD

CG: 03 July 2010

Master Corporal – 3 Royal Canadian Regiment  
3 RCR Battle Group Joint Task Force Afghanistan

DOI:

GH: 31 May 2010

18 September 2008

“On 18 September 2008, Master Corporal Trauner was providing security for military engineers, in Western Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, when his vehicle’s main armament was destroyed by a rocket-propelled grenade strike. With his dismounted colleagues pinned down by the ambush, he immediately emerged from the turret to engage the attackers with the machine gun mounted atop the vehicle. By placing himself in a highly exposed and vulnerable position, he was able to suppress insurgent fire and protect his fellow soldiers. Master Corporal Trauner’s selfless and tenacious actions undoubtedly saved many Canadian and Afghan lives.”

**Medals:** MMV – Sacrifice Medal – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and one extra tour bar – Peacekeeping – NATO with bar Former Yugoslavia - CD



On 05 December 2008 Trauner was part of a foot patrol assigned to investigate Taliban activity in a town west of Kandahar. It was a cold morning three weeks before Christmas. There was frost on the ground. The soldiers first examined a bomb site, then began to move out in search of the enemy, one platoon “leapfrogging” the next as choreographed in training.

Trauner was among the last in the company of 200 soldiers. He carried on his back a mortar tube and bombs; his assault rifle was slung over his shoulder, the barrel cradled in his left hand. He believes he was targeted for destruction because of the munitions strapped to his back. “They wanted to blow me up and take out the guys behind me and in front of me,” he says. Trauner was blown six metres into the air by a remotely detonated improvised

explosive device, the Taliban’s weapon of choice. He landed on his shoulder in the bomb crater, fully conscious but deeply confused. His body was smoking. The soldier behind him had been hit with shrapnel in the face, arm and leg.

“I heard them call in on the radio that there were two people seriously injured, one with amputations to the legs. I didn’t know that was me at all.” The explosion obliterated his legs and sent shrapnel tearing through his left forearm and hand. In shock, he couldn’t yet sense the extent of his wounds. Trauner lifted his head and saw his left arm pouring blood. The glove on his hand had melted in the blast. He put his head back into the dirt: he had been taught not to move in such a situation.

“I stayed as still as possible: I didn’t want to bleed out and die right then and there,” he says. The IED had been made from a mortar bomb stacked on top of a Russian artillery shell. Such makeshift bombs are responsible for 95 per cent of the most serious casualties suffered by Canadian troops in Afghanistan. Trauner was wearing body armour, ballistic eyewear and a helmet. He credits the armour and his height with preventing the shrapnel from reaching his vital organs — or the bombs on his back. “I wouldn’t be here if they blew up; they were 60-millimetre mortar bombs.”

A medic strapped combat tourniquets around Trauner’s wounded limbs, and within 20 minutes, he was loaded onto a U.S. Black Hawk helicopter. The pain — a powerful burning sensation — arrived as he was being airlifted to hospital. He wondered if he was about to die, but didn’t panic since he knew it was not something he could control. At a field hospital in Kandahar, a doctor asked him his name, the date, and then to rate his pain on a scale of one to 10. That’s when Trauner

finally lost his cool. "I don't have any legs! What do you think it is? It's 100!" The doctor injected him with a sedative. Medical officials would later tell him he twice flatlined that day before coming back to life.

Mike Trauner arrived at The Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre in a wheelchair on Jan. 26, 2009, the second of three soldiers from CFB Petawawa who would enter the facility that year. The rehab centre is a two-storey building, tucked behind the General campus next to a stand of trees. Its patients each face a personal mountain, one set before them by brain injury, stroke, spinal cord damage, lung disease or amputation. Its 62 beds are reserved for the region's most difficult rehab cases. Upon admission, each patient is assigned a team of doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, nutritionists, psychologists and social workers to guide their recoveries. For some, that journey is steep and pitted. Progress for them is measured in hard-won increments: one step, two pounds, three minutes. Others experience a near-miraculous ascent, entering the centre unable to lift an arm and leaving it months later able to dance. Whatever the physical challenge, the goal remains the same: to return home. Life after a serious injury may not always be the same, patients are told, but with resolve and dedication, it can be enjoyable and different.

Mike Trauner's mountain was hard to apprehend so big its shadow. His left leg had been amputated above the knee, and his right leg just below. His left hand was rescued from amputation during an 11-hour operation. Doctors had to set 25 bones broken between the end of his finger and elbow. He would ultimately undergo 14 surgeries on his injured limbs.

It was hard to imagine him returning to the military or to his favourite sports — football, rock climbing, running. Indeed, physiotherapist Marie Andrée Paquin, after assessing Trauner's condition, wrote down what she believed would be realistic goals for him: to walk with two canes for 500 metres. She thought he would require a wheelchair most of the day. Trauner, however, had different ideas.

Mike Trauner grew up in Sudbury certain in the belief that he would be a stationary engineer just like his father and grandfathers. The city's nickel mines always needed people to fix their boilers, turbines and pumps. But during the late 1990s, when Trauner graduated from Cambrian College with an engineering diploma, Inco and Falconbridge were in a downturn. He couldn't find work. So, when a high-school friend said he was about to enlist in the army as a cook, Trauner, then 18, decided to tag along. He joined the infantry. Trauner soon felt at home in the Armed Forces: he liked the relentless physical challenges, the military sense of purpose, and the highest adventure. He trained as a paratrooper.



His first deployment was to Drvar, Bosnia, as part of a NATO-led mission to stabilize the country. He was still there when al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked airplanes loaded with fuel and flew them into the World Trade Center and Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. Watching it unfold on television, Trauner knew his life had changed irrevocably. He was back at CFB Petawawa by late spring to train for deployment to Afghanistan. Soon after his return, he went to a local bar where he was introduced to Leah Cuffe, who had been quietly celebrating her birthday with a girlfriend. She had just moved to Petawawa following a breakup. At the end of the night, Trauner asked for her phone number, but Cuffe took his instead. She promptly lost it. Cuffe came across the number two weeks later and called. "I was new back in town, so I figured I needed some friends," she says. They were soon an item.

Their chemistry was infectious and together they built a community of friends. Cuffe took a job managing a furniture store. Meanwhile, Trauner's readiness training was in high gear. Late in 2002, he took part in a wintertime parachute drop onto Round Lake, west of Petawawa. Several paratroopers were hurt when they landed on a hidden pressure ridge formed by colliding slabs of ice. At first, Trauner thought he was OK and marched off the lake. But later, when the order was given to move to the next exercise, he couldn't lift his gear. X-rays revealed he had fractured his spine. The injury kept him on light duty for most of the next year. It also meant Trauner was forced to watch from the sidelines as other members of the Royal Canadian Regiment's Third Battalion went to Kabul, Afghanistan, in August 2003. "I was disappointed," he says. Trauner went back to training full time the following year. His unit, 3 RCR, was repeatedly placed on standby for Afghanistan. Finally,

in January 2008, the regiment secured its mission: it would form the core of the next task force in Kandahar. Trauner left Petawawa on Sept. 7, 2009. "It was awful," Cuffe says of that day. "It didn't really hit me that he was going until those buses started going. Then it was, like, 'Wow, this is really happening.'" As she said goodbye, Cuffe gave him a small pin, a guardian angel, and told him to keep it inside his shirt. It would be the only part of his uniform returned to Canada after the explosion.

By mid-2009, senior physiotherapist Marie Andrée Paquin thought Mike Trauner and his legs were ready for a new challenge. In five months, he had graduated from parallel bars, to a walker, to crutches, to canes to independent locomotion. Paquin thought he might be able to tackle the grassy hill behind the hospital. Walking on two prosthetic legs demands an intense expenditure of energy: about 200 per cent more than what the average person uses in a day. Many compare the experience to walking on stilts. Trauner uses his hip muscles to propel himself forward. And without ankles or a knee to make minute adjustments to his centre of gravity, his trunk muscles must constantly work to control balance. Uneven surfaces pose particular difficulty since a double amputee has no feedback from his feet to warn of divots or bumps. Paquin brought Trauner's crutches to the hill in case it proved too much. The scene was videotaped by Cuffe, who took a leave of absence from her job for the duration of Trauner's rehab. In the video, Trauner charges up the hill with a wide, determined gait. Paquin trails close behind with the crutches. As the hill steepens, Trauner slows and Paquin offers him her arm, but he pushes it away. "I don't want help," he says, leaning into the hill. At the top, Trauner turns and grins at the camera: another milestone gained on the hard road back. Paquin laughs at the memory. She faced problems with Trauner that she had never confronted in her career. Most amputees in the rehab centre have underlying medical conditions such as diabetes or vascular disease. But Trauner was young and fit and so anxious to discover the limits of his new body that Paquin feared he might injure himself. She had to weigh constantly whether to let him jump to the next phase of his rehab. Trauner would work five to six hours a day, mostly in the physiotherapy room and gymnasium. Paquin remembers throwing a nine-pound medicine ball back and forth with Trauner flat on his back, an exercise designed to develop the core muscles essential for balance.

"I'd be tired. I'd say, 'Do you want to stop?' He'd say, 'No, I'm OK.' He'd do hundreds."

Trauner's occupational therapist, meanwhile, had to stretch the fingers of his left hand to regain motion lost to inactivity and scar tissue. It is a sometimes a brutal process, says Dr. Nancy Dudek, the physician who guided Trauner's rehabilitation, but it is the only way to ensure a hand is not "stuck" in one position. Dr. Dudek encouraged the therapist to let Trauner decide what was too painful. "If he says it's OK, then just do," she instructed. "It was impressive to see what he would withstand." Trauner has regained functional use of the hand. Other patients would marvel at Trauner's athleticism. In the gymnasium, they would stop to gawk as he played badminton, floor hockey or basketball on mechanical legs fitted with combat boots. He boxed and performed martial arts. (Trauner taught self-defence in the military.) Aware of his effect on other patients, Trauner would walk laps of the gym with those discouraged by the pace of their own recoveries. He liked to motivate people. "There's some strength in him that's really different," says Paquin.

He would need that strength on his own bad days. The worst was undoubtedly in April, when his mother, Leona, 54, died of a massive stroke. She had taken her son's injury hard and had suffered its stresses. There were also physical setbacks. Last fall, the residual limb of Trauner's right leg shrank as his unused muscles contracted. It's a common problem for amputees. For Trauner, it meant that his prosthetic leg's socket, which had been moulded in February to fit like a glove, suddenly pained him. His baby-soft skin grafts bled. He had to go back to using a cane to reduce the pressure and bleeding. Refusing to use a wheelchair, he suffered through Remembrance Day at CFB Petawawa, where he met Prince Charles and Camilla. Doctors discussed the possibility of more surgery on Trauner's leg, but he opted against it. He hated the idea of going backward. After his prosthetic was remodelled — it took several weeks — Trauner resumed his rehab. Paquin soon found it difficult to keep him challenged. She would throw a medicine ball at him as hard as she could to test his balance as he walked. One day, he accidentally broke her glasses in hurling it back. Trauner would do things no one else had ever tried in rehab: he bounced on a trampoline and snowshoed.

"We usually don't push people that hard," says Paquin. "The patients don't want, don't need that, and don't have the potential to be pushed like that." Only once did he fall. It was during his final week of rehab when he went cross-country skiing. The conditions were icy and he went down awkwardly on his left knee. He wasn't injured. "I thought, 'Oh yeah, that's right, he is disabled,'" says Paquin. "Even me as his physiotherapist, I don't see his disability."

Leah Cuffe stood outside Trauner's hospital room in Landstuhl, Germany for 20 minutes, searching for the courage to face the future. "I knew that as soon as I opened the door, our entire life was changed, everything was different," she remembers. Cuffe had been awake three days earlier when her phone rang in the middle of the night. She noted the time on the alarm

clock: 3:46 a.m. Like every other military spouse, she knew what it meant. Yet none of it seemed real — “Impossible, it couldn’t happen to my Mike,” she had told herself — until she was standing in a German hospital. Cuffe was relieved after she opened the door and saw her Mike sitting up in bed, his big, open face undamaged. “I’m so sorry, honey,” he told her, apologizing for what had happened to their lives. Today, the couple continues to adjust to what Cuffe calls the “new normal.” “We still want to do all the things we used to do,” she says. “We just have to do them differently.” During the past 14 months, Trauner and Cuffe have confronted profound loss and frustration. But they’ve forged a new identity — they call it Team Trauner — to address each challenge together. The common-law partners plan to get married next winter. “We have learned to trust each other beyond any measure,” says Cuffe. Trauner officially checked out of the rehab centre on Jan. 15, although he was back the following week to celebrate Paquin’s birthday. The physiotherapist is like family now. He also met with Cpl. Andrew Knisley, 25, to mark the soldier’s “Alive Day,” the first anniversary of his near-death experience in Afghanistan. An IED destroyed Knisley’s right leg and seriously damaged his right arm. He now uses a prosthetic leg that straps to his pelvis. Both soldiers say they want to return to Kandahar to complete their tours of duty. Trauner likes the idea that, were he to step on another IED, he could replace his legs and keep on marching.

Cuffe says she won’t stand in his way. “He’s been in the military 12 years so I can’t tell him, ‘No,’” she says. “After this, you think I would, but it’s something he wants to finish.” Trauner, 29, has entered the next phase of his rehabilitation at CFB Petawawa. His goal is to pass the military’s battle fitness test, which requires soldiers to complete a 13-kilometre march with a 24.5-kilogram rucksack in a time of two hours and 26 minutes. Trauner has already walked 10 kilometres and marched two kilometres with a loaded pack. “In my ideal world, I’d like to stay in the military, do my part, do my job,” he says. If he can’t rejoin the infantry, he’d like to work as an instructor or an intelligence officer. He has three years to make the transition. “I lost everything I used to have, so I have to build myself back up to what I would perceive as normal. The only problem is that, as a soldier, it’s a really tough thing to do.”

Trauner lives now in the renovated basement of the three-year-old home he shares with Cuffe and their three dogs. They plan to sell the place after a new house is built that better suits his disability. In Petawawa, Trauner was at first self-conscious about going out in public — “People stare at you, treat you differently: they kind of treat you like you’re weak,” he says — but has since grown accustomed to the scrutiny. One boy, seeing his legs, thought he was a real-life Transformer. Some people, though, can be noxious, like the woman who told Cuffe that Trauner should never have been in Afghanistan in the first place. Seeing him now, Cuffe says, few people appreciate how much he’s sacrificed or how hard he’s worked on the road back. “People usually see him on his feet,” she says.

“What they don’t see is the end of the day when he gets home and his leg is bleeding, or he’s in pain ... He does have bad days and they don’t see that.” Trauner doesn’t like to talk about those days. He prefers to look to the future, or as he says, to “just soldier on.”

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**LEBLANC, Jeremy Joseph James**

MMV CD

CG: 18 December 2010

Master Corporal – 1 RCR

GH: 29 September 2010

1 Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group JTF Afghanistan

DOI: 14 October 2006



“On 14 October 2006, Master Corporal Leblanc’s section was occupying a position in Afghanistan when insurgents unleashed a devastating attack that resulted in several casualties, including the death of his section commander. Seamlessly assuming command, he rallied his section to return fire while personally tending to the wounded. Despite being injured himself and under constant fire, he continued to lead and inspire his section to keep fighting and hold its ground against a determined enemy. His selfless actions no doubt saved the lives of some of his fellow soldiers.”

**Munroe’s Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon – Peacekeeping – NATO with bar former Yugoslavia

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**TWO**

MMV

CG: Not Gazetted

No ranks given

GH: 11 March 2011

Canadian Special Operations Forces Command

DOI:

2010

“His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, announces the awarding of **three Stars of Military Valour and two Medals of Military Valour**, as well as **one Meritorious Service Cross, three Meritorious Service Medals and one Mention-in-Dispatches**, to members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM).

These members received their decorations today during a ceremony at Rideau Hall in the presence of the Chief of the Defence Staff. They were recognized for devotion and acts of valour in the presence of the enemy and for military deeds performed in a highly professional manner. For security and operational reasons, recipients’ names and citations are not released.”

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**BÉRUBÉ, T. David**  
Sergeant  
Joint Task Force Afghanistan  
2009

MMV CD

CG: 13 August 2011  
GH: 02 June 2011  
DOI: 29 May to 29 June

“From May 29 to June 29, 2009, Sergeant Bérubé repeatedly placed himself in exposed positions to coordinate fire support for his combat team during operations in Afghanistan. Often isolated and finding himself in dangerous positions, he fearlessly moved forward to gain a clear view of the battlefield and guide artillery and aviation assets onto their targets. His ability to simultaneously and accurately coordinate multiple gun batteries and attack helicopters, while under intense enemy fire, was a decisive factor in the engagements. His courage and outstanding soldiering ability were crucial to the defeat of the enemy.”



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**FRIGON, Simon R.**  
Master Corporal  
Joint Task Force Afghanistan  
2009

MMV

CG: 13 August 2011  
GH: 02 June 2011  
DOI: 07 May and 20 May

“As a section commander in Afghanistan, Master Corporal Frigon distinguished himself during two separate enemy engagements on May 7 and 20, 2009. In both instances his section was trapped and isolated during an ambush. Yet his unwavering composure and willingness to expose himself to enemy fire inspired his soldiers and instilled them with confidence. With little regard for his personal safety, he was able to precisely define the enemy location, defeat the initial attack and lead his section’s fighting withdrawal. Master Corporal Frigon’s courageous front-line leadership and tactical acumen were critical to repelling the enemy without taking casualties.”

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**MERCIER, Joseph Martin Stéphane**  
Sergeant  
Joint Task Force Afghanistan  
August 2009

MMV CD

CG: 13 August 2011  
GH: 02 June 2011  
DOI: 28 April to 15

“From April 28 to August 15, 2009, Sergeant Mercier displayed courage in the aftermath of several ambushes and improvised explosive device attacks in Afghanistan. Willing to expose himself to heavy fire, he often moved fearlessly throughout the battlefield to identify enemy locations, provide clear direction to his soldiers and position himself to effectively engage the enemy. Throughout these intense battles, his front-line leadership, tactical acumen and unwavering courage inspired confidence in his soldiers, kept them safe and enabled them to repeatedly defeat a determined enemy.”

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**MICHAUD, Pier-Vincent**  
Leading Seaman – CFHS  
Canadian/Afghan Patrol Joint Task Force Afghanistan

MMV

CG: 13 August 2011  
GH: 02 June 2011  
DOI: 29 May 2009



“On May 29, 2009, Leading Seaman Michaud was a member of a joint Canadian-Afghan patrol that was ambushed by the enemy, leaving one Afghan soldier dead and severely wounding two others. Immediately engaged in an intense, close-quarter firefight, Leading Seaman Michaud directed the Afghan soldiers to seek cover and then moved 50 metres to the casualties’ location, which provided a short 60-centimetre wall for cover. As bullets impacted all around his position, he calmly administered first aid to the casualties and personally brought them to the extraction zone, despite the unrelenting enemy attack. His courage and selfless actions undoubtedly saved the lives of the Afghan soldiers.”

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star SWA ribbon – Operational Service with Humanitas ribbon for Haiti

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**RANGER, Joseph Denis François**  
Sergeant  
Joint Task Force Afghanistan

MMV CD

CG: 13 August 2011  
GH: 02 June 2011  
DOI: 14 June 2009

“On June 14, 2009, Sergeant Ranger was mentoring an Afghan reconnaissance company during an air-mobile operation when they were attacked by insurgents. With the company taking heavy mortar fire and suffering numerous casualties, Sergeant Ranger rallied his soldiers, established a position and returned heavy fire. As mortar bombs continued to fall, and with little regard for his personal safety, he single-handedly secured a casualty evacuation point. His leadership, fearless engagement of the enemy and ability to stay composed were critical to the defeat of the insurgents and the successful evacuation of casualties.”



**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**CARON, Guillaume Frédéric**  
Captain (Then Lieutenant)  
Joint Task Force Afghanistan  
2009

MMV CD

CG: 11 February 2012  
GH: 09 September 2011  
DOI: April to October

“For outstanding leadership, courage and tactical acumen as a Platoon Commander of an OMLT in Afghanistan from April to October 2009.”

“As part of an Operational Mentor and Liaison Team in Afghanistan from April to October 2009, Lieutenant Caron contributed to the battle group’s operational success. While supervising an Afghan National Army company, he distinguished himself during combat operations through his courage on the battlefield, notably when he led the difficult recovery of an Afghan helicopter that had been shot down. Through his leadership, combat skills and tactical acumen, Lieutenant Caron has brought great credit to the Canadian Forces.”

**Medals:** MMV – Sacrifice – Gulf War – General Campaign Star with two extra tour bars – SSM with bar NATO – Peacekeeping – UNPROFOR – NATO bar Former Yugoslavia – CD and Bar



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**CASEY, Bradley D.**  
Corporal – Royal Canadian Health Services  
Joint Task Force Afghanistan – Treatment Afghan National Soldier

MMV

CG: 11 February 2012  
GH: 09 September 2011  
DOI: 18 February 2010

“On February 18, 2010, Corporal Casey risked his life to provide treatment to a wounded Afghan National Army soldier. With bullets striking around him, he provided critical treatment and transported the casualty to the medical evacuation helicopter. Despite being under constant fire, Corporal Casey never wavered from his task, ensuring the provision of exceptional medical care to a fellow soldier.”

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with Southwest Asia ribbon



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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**HARRIS, Tony Rodney Vance**

MMV

CG: 11 February 2012

Private

GH: 09 September 2011

Joint Task Force Afghanistan – First Aid to American Soldiers FOB ‘Wilson’

DOI: 23 November 2009



“On November 23, 2009, Private Harris was at Forward Operating Base Wilson, in Afghanistan, when insurgents unleashed a mortar attack. Without regard for his own safety, he ran to the scene of the impact and provided first aid to American soldiers. Noticing another soldier trapped inside a burning sea container, Private Harris went to his aid, single-handedly pulled him to safety and rendered life-saving first-aid as rounds continued to fall. Private Harris’ courageous and decisive actions under fire that day saved several lives and brought great credit to Canada.”

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with Southwest Asia ribbon and multiple tour bar

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**MackILLOP, Michael A.**

MMV MSM CD

CG: 11 February 2012

Captain

GH: 09 September 2011

Commander Recon Platoon Joint Task Force Afghanistan  
May 2010

DOI: October 2009 to



“As commander of a reconnaissance platoon from October 2009 to May 2010, Captain MacKillop disrupted insurgent activities in a volatile sector of Afghanistan through his courageous and relentless engagement of the enemy. Often facing fierce resistance and fire from multiple directions, he remained composed during intense battles, calmly providing direction and constantly looking to gain the advantage. Captain MacKillop’s exceptional leadership under fire and his ability to get the most from his soldiers were critical to consistently defeating insurgents in Afghanistan.”

Awarded **Meritorious Service Medal (MSM)** as per the **Canada Gazette** of 05 January 2019 in the rank of Major.

**Medals:** MMV – MSM - General Campaign Star with SW Asia Ribbon – SSM bar NATO - CD

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**MIKKELSON, Gilles-Remi**

MMV

CG: 11 February 2012  
GH: 09 September 2011  
DOI: 01 November 2009

Master Corporal (now Corporal)  
Joint Task Force Afghanistan – First Aid to Afghan Soldier

“On November 1, 2009, a member of Master Corporal Mikkelson’s joint Canadian-Afghan foot patrol was severely wounded by an improvised explosive device. During the ensuing ambush, Master Corporal Mikkelson selflessly crossed through intense enemy fire to provide life-saving first aid to the critically wounded Afghan soldier. Despite the danger, his outstanding courage saved a comrade’s life and brought great credit to Canada and the Canadian Forces.”



**Medals:** MMV – Southwest Asia bar Afghanistan – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon.

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**ROUSSEAU, Marc-André J.**

MMV

CG: 11 February 2012  
GH: 09 September 2011  
DOI: 03 August 2010

Master Corporal  
Joint Task Force Afghanistan – Defence of Kandahar Airfield

“On August 3, 2010, while Master Corporal Rousseau was conducting an exercise with a group of civilians at the Kandahar Airfield, insurgents blew a hole in the fence in an attempt to force their way inside. Despite being under heavy fire, Master Corporal Rousseau led two comrades over exposed ground, occupied a nearby vehicle and aggressively engaged the enemy. Without regard for his own safety, Master Corporal Rousseau demonstrated outstanding leadership and courage, which proved vital to winning the battle and saving countless lives on the airfield.”



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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**FIELDING, William Tod**  
Captain  
Commander Canadian Chinook Helicopter in Afghanistan

MMV CD

CG: 11 February 2012  
GH: 24 January 2012  
DOI: 05 August 2010



“On August 5, 2010, Captain Fielding’s Chinook helicopter was struck by enemy fire, in Panjwaji, Afghanistan, causing the fuel tank to explode and rendering the aircraft nearly inoperable. With the helicopter in flames and the cockpit rapidly filling with smoke, Captain Fielding made the time-critical decision to land in enemy territory rather than fly to a friendly landing zone. His outstanding courage and devotion to duty allowed him to execute an emergency landing and then lead the evacuation of the burning aircraft. His actions no doubt saved the lives of all crew and passengers that day.”

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**HOLMES, Adam**  
Master Corporal  
Four Days Continuous Combat in Afghanistan  
2010

MMV

CG: 11 February 2012  
GH: 24 January 2012  
DOI: 30 July to 02 August



“From July 30 to August 2, 2010, Master Corporal Holmes displayed tremendous courage and continuous composure while coordinating exceptional fire support during a four-day combat operation. Constantly under fire, he willingly and repeatedly exposed himself to attack while identifying enemy positions and directing fire upon them. In addition, he single-handedly turned back a group of insurgents who had come within 50 metres of a friendly position. Master Corporal Holmes’ valour and determination were critical to the success of the operation.”

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon

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**MILLAR, Philip**  
Private  
Insurgent Attack on Forward Operating Base Wilson in Afghanistan

MMV

CG: 11 February 2012  
GH: 24 January 2012  
DOI: 23 November 2009



“On November 23, 2009, Private Millar demonstrated great heroism during an insurgent attack on Forward Operating Base Wilson, in Afghanistan. With mortar bombs falling around him, he unhesitatingly ran to the impact area to provide first aid to a seriously wounded American soldier. Despite the danger, he remained with the casualty, fully exposed to the attack. Private Millar’s courageous actions under fire allowed for the best possible treatment to his comrade and brought great credit to the Canadian Forces.”

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**MITCHELL, Paul Douglas**

MMV

CG: 11 February 2012

Master-Corporal

GH: 24 January 2012

Leadership in Two Sustained Insurgent Attacks in Afghanistan

DOI: 05 June and 18 July 2010

“On June 5 and July 18, 2010, Master Corporal Mitchell’s front line devotion to duty and courageous actions under fire were instrumental in the defeat of two sustained insurgent attacks. While repeatedly exposing himself to enemy fire and fearlessly maintaining his position, he inspired other soldiers and ultimately repelled the enemy attacks. Master Corporal Mitchell’s selfless actions and disregard for his own safety undoubtedly saved the lives of his fellow soldiers.”



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**NELSON, John**

MMV

CG: 11 February 2012

Private

GH: 24 January 2012

Aid to a Canadian Soldier Under Fire in Afghanistan DOI:

23 November 2009

“On June 16, 2010, Private Nelson’s foot patrol came under attack by insurgents on three sides, in Afghanistan. Upon hearing of a casualty, Private Nelson, under his own initiative, rushed headlong into the raging battle to reach his wounded comrade. Bullets rained around them as he administered first aid. While risking his own life, Private Nelson displayed courage, composure and selflessness as he rendered the necessary assistance to save the life of a fellow Canadian soldier.”



**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon

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**VERRIER, Graham Marc**

MMV CD

CG: 11 February 2012

Sergeant

GH: 24 January 2012

Repelling Insurgent Attack in Afghanistan

DOI: 31 July 2010

“On July 31, 2010, Sergeant Verrier’s patrol was caught in open terrain by an insurgent ambush, during an operation in Afghanistan. Despite being fully exposed to enemy fire, he immediately initiated a frontal assault on the enemy position. He also inspired his fellow soldiers to follow and relentlessly engaged the insurgents until they broke contact. Sergeant Verrier’s selfless, courageous and decisive actions under fire were critical to protecting the remainder of his platoon and defeating the enemy ambush.”



**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon – Peacekeeping – NATO bar former Yugoslavia – CD

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## CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)

**COLLETTE, Ashley**

Captain – 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment  
Platoon Commander – JTF Afghanistan

MMV

CG: 04 August 2012

GH: 20 June 2012

DOI: May to December 2010

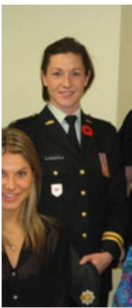


"As a platoon commander from May to December 2010, Captain Collette demonstrated front line leadership that was critical to her soldiers' success during intense combat in Afghanistan. Stationed in volatile Nakhonay, her platoon regularly faced the threat posed by improvised explosive devices, all while repelling numerous attacks on their base. Despite suffering casualties within the group, she kept her soldiers focused and battle-ready; her desire to succeed never wavered. Captain Collette's fortitude under fire and performance in combat were critical to defeating the enemy and disrupting all insurgent attempts to reoccupy this key village."

**The first Female to receive the Medal of Military Valour.**

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon

**Captain Ashley Collette, MMV, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment**



Captain Ashley Collette was the only woman in her platoon of soldiers on the Afghan front line - and she was in charge. In the Canadian armed forces, unusually, every job is open to women - and both sexes live together and fight together. On the first day that Captain Ashley Collette and her platoon of 60 men were deployed in the remote town of Nakhonay, near Kandahar, they came under attack

"I don't think that the enemy liked our presence," she says with a soldier's understatement. "It's kind of in the middle of where they want to be." That first day set the pattern for the next few months. Twice a day, Six Platoon - part of Bravo Company in the First Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment - endured enemy fire, both on patrol and directly on the camp. It was so regular that the soldiers nicknamed it "contact o'clock".



But Collette says being shot at made a sort of sense to her troops - they could see the bullets lighting up the sky and mountains as they came towards them. It was the IEDs (improvised explosive devices) and - towards the end of their rotation - suicide bombs, that wore on their nerves.

On 21 June, Sergeant Jimmy MacNeil, an engineer attached to the platoon, was killed by a bomb while on a foot patrol. He was a kind, popular soldier, and a close friend of Collette's. The hours following his death were frantically busy and it wasn't till later in the day that she got a chance to reflect. Then she went and sat by herself on a sandbank in the camp.

"We still had six months to go," she says. "I remember thinking 'How am I, one, going to hold it together myself, and two, going to hold together this group of 60 people who are devastated by this event?'"

Then, two of her men came and sat next to her, one on either side. Neither said anything - and she knew that she didn't need to say anything, that they understood how she felt. Collette did hold it together. After returning from her tour, she was awarded the Medal of Military Valour, one of Canada's highest military honours, for her leadership in Afghanistan. (She is keen to attribute the accolade to the work of her whole platoon.)



Around 12% of soldiers serving in the Canadian army are women and they have been integrated into combat positions since 1989. The US and Brazil are currently in the process of working out the best way to place women in combat roles. The UK, which has not yet taken this step, will review its policy in the next five years.

Those who argue against putting women into combat sometimes say that a woman would not be able to carry a wounded fellow from the battlefield. Collette says she was tested every year in "soldier carry" and "soldier drag" exercises. Although she was paired with



someone of a similar weight to herself, lifting bigger people using the "fireman's carry" is not as hard as you might think when you know how.

A priority in any infantry unit is to develop team cohesion. The traditional way to do this is to train, eat and sleep as a unit. But when Canadian female soldiers were first placed on the front line, they were segregated from the men. It didn't work. Now they are mixed in together, and sleep in the same dorm. The soldiers constructed a raised platform to give themselves more space. This does present some logistical challenges, but Collette took pains to be modest. While the men slept in boxer shorts, she would wear pajamas. While training in Canada, she would climb into a cupboard to change, or pull her sleeping bag around her and change underneath. "Normally this would be a successful endeavour," she says wryly, before going on to describe a sleeping bag malfunction in which somehow the thing slipped from her grasp and she was left standing in electric blue knickers and bra. Someone shouted "Look at Ashley!" and all the men turned to laugh.

"I laugh with them because what can you do? I pull the sleeping bag up and change my clothes and everyone carries on, because you have way bigger things to worry about." In Afghanistan, she shared a room roughly 3m x 4.5m (10ft by 15ft) with up to 10 people. But if anybody needed privacy, they would just ask for it. When you share a small space with a group of men for a length of time, they become like your brothers, she says.

When men from other units came to her platoon and made the mistake of commenting on her appearance, her own soldiers cut them down. "Soldiers from my platoon would look at those attachment soldiers and say, 'That's really irrelevant in this scenario. Keep your comments to yourself - that's our platoon commander.'"

After her return from Afghanistan, some of her men approached her with a confession. "They said, 'In the beginning we were wary of you, but now we would follow you anywhere,'" she says. But then, she believes it's natural for soldiers to be wary of a new commander, regardless of the gender. "They always want to feel out your style of leadership." She describes her own style as compassionate - "I believe in second chances" - and perhaps a little more democratic than some, prepared to listen even to the lowest ranks. But she quickly adds that she is authoritative when she needs to be.

A particular concern to her before her rotation was how she would be received by the Afghan village community - whether her sex would prevent her from establishing vital links with local leaders.

"I thought that they wouldn't even listen to me, I thought that they would poke fun at me," she says. "But they didn't care at all." And this was in Panjwai district, the Taliban's birthplace.



She was very popular with the village children, especially the girls, who would run after her with gifts of jewellery - but Collette says this was because she was kind, not because she was a woman.

Although the village chiefs accepted the fact of Collette's gender, their wives were incredulous. After she had been in Nakhonay for about a month she was summoned to have tea with them and was quizzed about everything from what she liked best about Afghanistan to when she was going to settle down with a nice Muslim boy.

The occasion was made even more surreal by the fact that her interpreter was not permitted in the room because he was male. Consequently, they were forced to make small talk at the top of their voices, so they could be heard through the walls.

Since her deployment, Collette has married and is currently taking a break from active service to complete an MA in social work. But she has every intention of returning to uniform, as a mental health specialist.

She is passionate that people see her as a soldier, rather than a "woman soldier" and describes the whole debate about whether women can handle a combat job as "null and void". "In my experience," she says, "there's no reason why a band of brothers cannot be a band of brothers and sisters."

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**MONNIN, Eric**

MMV

CG: 04 August 2012

Corporal

GH: 20 June 2012

Rendering First Aid and Extraction to Wounded Soldiers

DOI: 09 July 2010



“On July 9, 2010, two of Corporal Monnin’s fellow soldiers were wounded during a combat operation in Afghanistan. Under increasing enemy fire, he requested permission to move forward and then sprinted across the exposed terrain to reach their position. As bullets continued to fly, he rendered first aid, assisted with the wounded soldiers’ extraction, and rejoined his platoon for the remainder of the engagement. Whether rendering first aid under fire or engaging the enemy, Corporal Monnin saved the lives of his comrades through his courageous and selfless actions.”

**Medals:** SMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon

**ST-PIERRE, Charles**

MMV

CG: 04 August 2012

Master Corporal

GH: 20 June 2012

Fire Support for 4 Days constantly under fire  
2010

DOI: 30 July to 02 August

“From July 30 to August 2, 2010, Master Corporal St-Pierre displayed courage and composure while providing fire support coordination during a four-day combat operation in the Arghandab Valley of Kandahar, Afghanistan. Constantly under fire, he willingly and repeatedly exposed himself to attacks while identifying enemy positions and directing fire upon them. Despite being struck in the helmet by an enemy bullet, he never wavered from his responsibilities. Master Corporal St-Pierre’s courage and soldiering ability were critical to the success of the operation.”

**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**GRAVES, David Fletcher**  
Specialist – US Army  
Defence of the Kandahar Airfield  
2010

MMV  
American Citizen

CG: 04 August 2012  
GH: 20 June 2012  
DOI: May to December

**HEVER, Adam**  
Staff Sergeant – US Army, 1st Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment  
Defence of the Kandahar Airfield

MMV

“On August 3, 2010, Specialist Graves and Staff Sergeant Hever, both of the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 71<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment of the United States Army, and part of the Canadian-led Task Force Kandahar, were conducting a training exercise within Kandahar Airfield, when insurgents tried to force their way inside the compound. Unarmed and under fire, Specialist Graves and Staff Sergeant Hever secured weapons and moved to a position of cover in order to engage the enemy. Despite intense enemy action, they maintained their position and delivered accurate return fire. Their courage, decisiveness and soldiering ability neutralized the attack and enabled friendly forces to find safety.

These are the only two non-Canadian recipients of the Medal of Military Valour

**Hever’s Medals:** 8 including Army Commendation Medal and the Medal of Military Valour (Photo at right)



Graves receiving MMV from  
GG 13 November 2012 at left.



**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**BÉLANGER, Brian**

Corporal – Canadian Forces Health Services  
Patrol Medical Technician

MMV

CG:  
GH: 20 June 2012  
DOI: 13 April 2011



“On April 13, 2011, Corporal Bélanger’s joint Canadian-Afghan patrol was ambushed in the Panjwayi district, resulting in an Afghan soldier being wounded. Exposing himself to enemy fire, Corporal Bélanger, the patrol’s medical technician, resolutely made his way to the wounded soldier and dragged him to cover. As bullets continued to ricochet around them, he administered first aid. Because of his professionalism and dedication, Corporal Bélanger saved the life of a fellow soldier.”

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and two additional tour bars

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**COUSINEAU, Marc-André**

Corporal – Royal 22e Regiment

MMV

CG:  
GH: 18 September 2012

3 Platoon ‘A’ Company R22eR Battle Group JTF Afghanistan

DOI: 09 April 2011

“On April 9, 2011, upon intercepting enemy radio transmissions, 3 Platoon, A Company, awaited an attack on the security cordon established to the north of Zangabad, Afghanistan. When the first insurgent shot rang out, Corporal Belzil and Corporal Cousineau moved in that direction with their anti-tank gun, coming across a Canadian section and its Afghan counterpart pinned down under enemy fire, as well as a seriously wounded Afghan soldier lying out in the open. Thanks to Corporal Cousineau’s effective covering fire, and despite heavy enemy fire, Corporal Belzil succeeded in destroying the stronghold from which the deadly insurgent shots originated. They both then pulled the wounded soldier to cover and administered first aid. Corporal Belzil and Corporal Cousineau’s composure and disregard for personal danger helped to push back the enemy attack and save the life of an Afghan soldier.”

**Corporal Jean-François Roger Donald BELZIL received the Star of Military Valour (SMV).**

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**POULIN, Joseph André Steve**  
Sergeant  
Tank Commander – Joint Task Force Afghanistan

**MMM MMV CD**

CG: Not Gazetted  
GH: 18 September 2012  
DOI: 18 December 2010  
17 February 2011

“Sergeant Poulin distinguished himself through his bravery as a tank commander by ensuring security during a road construction project in Afghanistan. On several occasions, notably December 18, 2010, February 17, 2011, and April 23, 2011, he placed his tank in dangerous positions to protect civilians, coalition colleagues and Afghan security forces. Sergeant Poulin’s courage and professionalism were instrumental in ensuring the success of this operation.”

Awarded **Member of the Order of Military Merit (MMM)** as per the 78<sup>th</sup> list of 27 January 2022 in the Rank of Master Warrant Officer.

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**TREMBLAY, Marco**  
Corporal – Royal 22e Regiment  
Royal 22eR Battle Group – JTF Afghanistan

**MMV**

CG: Not Gazetted  
GH: 18 May 2011  
DOI: 18 May 2011

“On May 18, 2011, during an enemy ambush in Sperwan Ghar, Afghanistan, Corporal Tremblay demonstrated courage and determination. When the first enemy shots were fired, a Canadian soldier was hit in the leg and unable to take cover. Keeping calm under continuous fire, Corporal Tremblay reached the soldier, immediately applied a tourniquet to stop the bleeding and, during a lull, dragged the soldier to safety. Corporal Tremblay’s bravery enabled him to save the life of a Canadian soldier.”

**Medals:** MMV – General Campaign Star with SWA ribbon and one extra bar



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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**ONE**

MMV

CG: Not Gazetted

No ranks given

GH: 07 June 2013

A Detachment Member of the Embedded Partner Team Kandahar Response Team  
2011

DOI: 07 May 2011 – 08 May

“On May 7, 2011, shooting rang out close to an Afghanistan Police checkpoint just outside the walls of the Kandahar Provincial Response Company compound. As the shooting and the attacks around the city started to grow in intensity, the Afghan government decides to call the Kandahar Provincial Response Company to help quell the insurgent surge.

The Kandahar Provincial Response Company was a well-trained and well-led, limited-notice response force comprised primarily of Afghan police who are trained and mentored by members of Canadian Special Operations Forces Command. After brief orders were issued to the force, including their Canadian Special Operations Regiment mentors, they moved to the centre of the city to conduct a reconnaissance on the massive building they had been asked to clear by the American Force Commander. What they saw in front of them was a maze of vendor stalls and shops littered with rugs and tapestries capable of hiding even the largest enemy opposition force from sight. Over the next 24 hours, the Kandahar Provincial Response Company would face one of its greatest challenges and stretch its personnel, leadership, and mentors to its brink.

A Detachment Member within the Embedded Partner Team responsible for providing tactical casualty care and mentoring the Kandahar Provincial Response Company was awarded the **Medal of Military Valour**. During the night of May 7/8, 2011, this member was involved in treating and transporting casualties for twelve continuous hours under intense enemy fire.”

“His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, announces the awarding of **2 Stars of Military Valour and 1 Medal of Military Valour**, as well as **1 Meritorious Service Cross (to one of the recipients of the SMV), 3 Meritorious Service Medals**, and **1 Mentioned-in-Despatches** to members of the Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM) and the Chief of Defence Intelligence (CDI). The decorations were presented on 7 June 2013 by the Governor General, during a ceremony at Rideau Hall. General Tom Lawson, Chief of the Defence Staff, was also in attendance. The recipients were recognized for devotion to duty and acts of valour in the presence of the enemy and for military deeds performed in a highly professional manner. During the ceremony, the Chief of the Defence Staff presented the **Chief of the Defence Staff Commendation** to two CANSOFCOM members. For security and operational reasons, recipients’ names and citations will not be released.”

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**CITATIONS for the MEDAL of MILITARY VALOUR (MMV)**

**ONE – Name Not Released**

MMV

CG: Not Gazetted

No ranks given

GH: nil

Canadian Special Operations Forces Command

DOI: 2020 or 2021



“One member of the CANADIAN SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES COMMAND. For security and operational reasons, the name and citation of the recipient is not released.”

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