

2019

**JOHN K. SINGLAUG/JEDBURGH AWARD**

**MASTER SERGEANT USIEL "RG" ARGUELLES**

Master Sergeant Usiel "RG" Arguelles was born in Juarez, Mexico. In 2005, he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a Mortarman (11C) and completed One Station Unit Training and Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia. His initial assignment was with the 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. During his time with 3/505 PIR, MSG Arguelles deployed twice for 12 and 15 months in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

In early 2011, MSG Arguelles attended Special Forces Assessment and Selection at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Upon completion of the Special Forces Qualification Course in August 2012, MSG Arguelles was assigned as an 18B, Special Forces Weapons Sergeant, to the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Carson, Colorado. While assigned to 4th Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), MSG Arguelles participated in two Joint Combined Exchange Training deployments to Romania and Estonia, as well as an operational deployment in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan as part of the Regional Task Force-Central Asian States (RTF-CAS) during RESOLUTE SUPPORT Mission-V. In 2017, he was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) as a Senior Weapons Sergeant. In *this* capacity, MSG Arguelles deployed to Camp Brown, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan in support of RESOLUTE SUPPORT Mission-VIII. Following the deployment, MSG Arguelles assumed responsibilities as the Operations Sergeant for Special Forces Operational Detachment - Alpha 0211. Following pre-mission training with the detachment, he again deployed in support of the RESOLUTE SUPPORT Mission-XI to Camp Golin, Kunduz Province, Afghanistan in 2019.

MSG Arguelles' military education includes: Special Forces Qualification Course (SFQC), Master Leader Course (MLC), Senior Leader Course (SLC), Advanced Leader Course (ALC), Warrior Leader Course (WLC), Airborne School, Air Assault School, Long Range Surveillance Leaders Course, Ranger School, SERE-C, SOF Sniper Course-Level 2, and the Static Line Jumpmaster Course.

His awards and decorations include the Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal w/Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/two Oak Leaf Clusters, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Canada Airborne Badge and the Estonia Airborne Badge.

2019

**JOHN K. SINGLAUG/JEDBURGH AWARD**

**MASTER SERGEANT USIEL "RG" ARGUELLES**

Master Sergeant Usiel "RG" Arguelles' contributions to Special Operations Forces over the last two years truly embody the personal courage, visionary leadership, and strong intellect associated with the MG(R) John K. Singlaub Award. As a combat leader, MSG Arguelles has experienced firsthand the personal sacrifice and commitment our Soldiers make in defense of our Nation. MSG Arguelles exemplifies the ARSOF Next traits of toughness, audacity, and love through his demonstrated devotion to duty, commitment to his brothers-in-arms, and unequalled performance in combat safeguarding our national interests.

MSG Arguelles has demonstrated unmatched toughness throughout his career in the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne). As a Senior Weapons Sergeant for Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha (SFOD-A) 0241 during RESOLUTE SUPPORT Mission-VIII (RSM-VIII), MSG Arguelles demonstrated aggression and drive as the maneuver leader of a 38-man assault element on 20 partnered combat operations within the volatile and dangerous Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. This aggression came to a head when MSG Arguelles sustained shrapnel wounds to his arm and multiple concussions from enemy fragmentation grenades. Despite sustaining these injuries, MSG Arguelles remained in country and finished the deployment with his detachment. Even after these events and an all-in-all arduous deployment, MSG Arguelles volunteered for assignment as the Operations Sergeant for SFOD-A 0211. Due to MSG Arguelles' operational experience and warrior ethos, SFOD-A 0211 deployed to the strategically crucial and historically hostile Kunduz Province. During RSM-XI, MSG Arguelles truly showed the toughness inherent upon a senior Special Forces Noncommissioned Officer. During a named operation in Tawlaka Village, Kunduz Province, MSG Arguelles skillfully directed four separate maneuver elements to secure multiple MEDEVAC sites, facilitating the evacuation of 10 casualties under fire and saving numerous Afghan Commandos and U.S. service members' lives. As a selfless leader and mentor, MSG Arguelles displayed the toughness after this difficult mission that other Green Berets and Soldiers could look to in their time of need, setting the example that enabled SFOD-A 0211 to protect the Provincial Capital of Kunduz City from a major multi-pronged Taliban offensive during critical negotiations between the Taliban and U.S. Government. MSG Arguelles' resilience and steadfastness in the most extreme circumstances provided a cornerstone for his detachment to lean upon throughout his time in the U.S. Army Special Forces. From this rock-solid foundation, springs an audacity that further sets MSG Arguelles apart from his fellow Green Berets.

Audacity can be thought of as the intangible quality of ARSOF Soldiers that allows them to make tough choices and take bold actions. In this regard, MSG Arguelles is without peer, as he has consistently sought the toughest assignments and most demanding operations while serving in combat. This quality manifested itself during RSM-VIII, when MSG Arguelles volunteered to personally lead a combined U.S. and Afghan ground assault force to secure a previously unoccupied and austere airfield, setting the

**2019**

**JOHN K. SINGLAUG/JEDBURGH AWARD**

**MASTER SERGEANT USIEL "RG" ARGUELLES**

conditions to enable the airlift of more than 300 tons of equipment and supplies crucial to sustain the Operation. As a direct result of MSG Arguelles' efforts, the Operation was able to reduce foreign influence within Afghanistan. This operation pushed MSG Arguelles far beyond the scope of his duties as a Senior Weapons Sergeant, but would serve him well a year later as the Operations Sergeant for SFOD-A 0211. In this role,

**2019**  
**JOHN K. SINGLAUG/JEDBURGH AWARD**  
**MASTER SERGEANT USIEL "RG" ARGUELLES**

**USASOC INAUGURAL MAJOR GENERAL (RET) JOHN K. SINGLAUB AWARD**

As the Senior Weapons Sergeant for Special Forces Operational Detachment - Alpha (SFOD-A) 0241 during RESOLUTE SUPPORT Mission-VIII, MSG Arguelles received the Silver Star Medal for his heroic actions during a combat operation in which he selflessly protected his wounded teammates by personally destroying multiple barricaded Taliban fighters despite losing use of his arm from enemy grenade shrapnel.

During RESOLUTE SUPPORT Mission-VIII, MSG Arguelles demonstrated immense tactical acumen as the Main Effort Cell Leader for 20 partnered combat operations, maneuvering Afghan Special Operations Forces as well as U.S. Special Forces and Infantry Soldiers, resulting in no loss to U.S. personnel and over 100 enemy killed in action. MSG Arguelles went above and beyond the scope of his duties during a named operation by leading a combined element of Afghan and U.S. personnel to secure an austere airfield and coordinate the airlift of 300 tons of supplies. These personal efforts were critical to sustaining six combat missions and degrading strategic foreign influence in Afghanistan.

As the Operations Sergeant for SFOD-A 0211 during RESOLUTE SUPPORT Mission-XI, MSG Arguelles performed flawlessly under fire during a named operation by personally directing four separate maneuver elements to execute multiple successful MEDEVACs. His deliberate actions saved the lives of a critically wounded Green Beret and multiple wounded Afghan Commandos during 36 hours of close combat.

MSG Arguelles' leadership and quick thinking were essential in providing the fires support, battle tracking, and QRF which protected the Kunduz Provincial Capital from being overrun by a major Taliban offensive on 12 April 2019. His personal efforts denied the Taliban a strategic victory during critical negotiations with the U.S. government.

In November 2019, MSG Arguelles was hand selected to support 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne)'s pre-mission training. His operational experience and attention to detail provided the A/1/10 SFG(A)'s command team essential feedback on best practices as the unit prepares for combat operations during a future RESOLUTE SUPPORT Mission rotation.

SFOD-A 0211. In this role, MSG Arguelles exemplified audacity as he directed U.S. and Afghan maneuver elements at a blistering OPTEMPO throughout 24 partnered operations and 18 enabled operations over the duration of RSM-XI. This pace forced MSG Arguelles to exercise organizational leadership by managing personnel, equipment, and Afghan partner forces. On one occasion, MSG Arguelles battle tracked three separate Afghan Commando Companies, executing three simultaneous clearance operations in three separate provinces in Northern Afghanistan. MSG Arguelles garnered unyielding respect from superiors, peers, and subordinates alike due to his balanced approach between combat audacity and compassion for his Soldiers.

MSG Arguelles' love for fellow Soldiers was evident during RSM-VIII when he served as the main effort assault leader during a combat operation when he fearlessly rushed a building containing multiple enemy fighters who had pinned down his element with withering fire. Enemy fighters threw fragmentation grenades in close proximity, wounding MSG Arguelles and a teammate. Despite being unable to use one arm, MSG Arguelles placed himself between the still incoming fire and his wounded teammate, destroying the enemy fighters with a combination of his personal weapon and hand grenades. MSG Arguelles exemplifies the credo to which all Soldiers aspire: "Greater love hath no man than this; that a man lay down his life for his friends." MSG Arguelles received the Silver Star Medal for his actions during the operation. As the Operations Sergeant for SFOD-A 0211 and overall Camp Commandant for Camp Golin, Kunduz Province during RSM-XI, MSG Arguelles served as a mentor for 230 infantry and engineer Soldiers, more than 20 enabler personnel, and finally the Green Berets of SFOD-A 0211. In this capacity, MSG Arguelles provided young Soldiers, NCOs, and Officers clear guidance, sound advice, and an example to live by during difficult times in combat. MSG Arguelles did this out of love for his fellow Soldiers and teammates, going beyond even what could be expected of him by maintaining and improving not only Camp Golin, but an adjacent coalition camp, providing critical logistics support for over 60 additional combat operations beyond those of SFOD-A 0211.

MSG Arguelles personified toughness above and beyond what is expected of ARSOF Soldiers by overcoming wounds and injuries he sustained in combat to successfully lead a Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha through a highly kinetic deployment to Afghanistan. Furthermore, MSG Arguelles displays audacity when it matters most, by leading Green Berets through harm's way on multiple occasions, utilizing his eight years of Special Operations experience, technical expertise, and tactical acumen to accomplish the mission as a maneuver leader on over 40 combat operations over the past two years. Finally, MSG Arguelles epitomizes love for his fellow Soldiers by improving all those who have benefitted from his mentorship and placing himself between enemy fire and his teammates to protect those he holds dear. MSG Arguelles would not say these things about himself as he is ever the Quiet Professional, simply content just to work alongside his teammates and fellow ARSOF Soldiers as shown daily through the passion and drive with which he performs his duties. MSG Arguelles' actions and deeds as a Green Beret,

leader, mentor, and friend, make him more than deserving of the USASOC Inaugural MG (RET) John K. Singlaub Award.