

2021

John K. Singlaub/Jedburgh Award

Chief Warrant Officer Three Michael R. Montenaro

Chief Warrant Officer Three Michael R. Montenaro is the recipient of the 2021 MG John K. Singlaub/Jedburgh Award. The award was presented on 5 May 2022 by Jonathan Braga, USASOC Commanding General, and SOA President Doug Godshall during the conduct of the Red & Black Ball.

MG Richard Angle, Commanding General of the 1st Special Forces Command, fully endorsed CW3 Michael Montenaro's selection for the Singlaub Award. CW3 Montenaro's performance is of the highest caliber and unmatched in 1st Special Forces Command. His dedicated military service and exceptional achievements show that he is truly deserving of this award for his tremendous contributions.

He exemplifies the Army Special Operation Forces' next traits of toughness and audacity. And epitomizes the Army Special Operation Forces' promise to "Protect the Nation, Without Fear, Without Fail, and Without Equal."

Michael Montenaro was born in Columbus, Ohio. In 2002, he enlisted in the U.S. Army under an 18X contract and completed One Station Unit Training and Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He then attended the Special Forces Assessment and Selection at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Upon completion of the Special Forces Qualification course in August 2004, he was assigned as an 18E, Special Forces Communications Sergeant, to the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Ft. Bragg.

As a Special Forces Communications and Intelligence Sergeant for Special Forces Operational Detachment – Alpha (SFOD-A) 7123, he deployed three times in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. In 2007, he received two Purple Heart decorations for his wounds during combat operations.

As a turret gunner during an operation 47 Mizan District, Zabul Province, dismounted members of his Detachment came under direct fire and were pinned down behind a wall. He maneuvered his Ground Mobility Vehicle (GMV) to a support by fire position and provided suppressing fire which allowed trapped members to bound out of harm's way. While providing continuous suppressing fire, he was shot in both his arm and chest.

In 2008, SGT Montenaro continuously conducted intelligence updates and trained Afghani Commandos in marksmanship, small unit tactics, and mission planning.

In 2009, SGT Montenaro deployed to El Salvador where he assisted in training Salvadorian Soldiers earning the El Salvadoran Distinguished Service Medal.

Montenaro was selected to attend the Special Forces Warrant Officer Technical and Tactical Course in 2010, followed by a deployment to Afghanistan. He served as the assistant detachment commander for a highly classified and sensitive mission involving UW and Advent Laden operations directly supporting USCENTCOM Commander's objectives for ACCM IVY GHOST. His professional demeanor and command presence allowed him to synchronize all sensitive activities with multiple agencies within the intelligence community.

As the Company Operations Warrant for SFOD-B 7120, CW3 Montenaro conducted consecutive deployments to Colombia in support of SOCSOUTH Commander's objectives. He oversaw all operations for 20 elements in 2 different countries, gaining approval for 300 CONOPS. CW3 Montenaro obtained approval for operational support to Colombian military efforts to recover a kidnapped Colombian general officer by assisting partner forces on the target. This was the first type of USSOF operational support since 2008.

CW3 Montenaro's expertise in battle tracking and sensitive activities were paramount during his assignment to SOCSOUTH.

In 2017, during natural disaster of Hurricane Irma, Montenaro developed a geospatial tracking system to track all personnel supporting TF Wayland Islands and conducting evacuations. Additionally, as the Chief of Operations, he oversaw all sensitive activities conducted in six different countries and coordinated all operations with multiple JIIM members.

In 2020, CW3 Montenaro was hand selected to be the Company Operations Officer for Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion 7th SFG(A). His operational experience and mental agility allowed him to spearhead the transition of the company from the SOUTHCOM Crisis Response Force to the Hard Target Defeat Company while simultaneously preparing the company for their first Company level SOUTHCOM rotation in over ten years.