

Enlisted Hero Walk Lackland AFB



Senior Airman Bradley Smith



Silver Star

Global War on Terror

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to Senior Airman Bradley R. Smith, United States Air Force, for gallantry in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States while serving with the 10th Air Support Operations Squadron, in action near Badvan village, Afghanistan, on 3 January 2010. On that date, Airman Smith's platoon was ambushed by simultaneous mortar, improvised explosive device, and machine gun fire while on foot patrol, leaving a Soldier and Airman immobilized in an adjacent creek and a second Soldier missing. Airman Smith, returning fire, ran without hesitation through the lethal crossfire into the creek to save his comrades. Still exposed to enemy fire, and without regard for his personal safety, he rescued the disoriented and blinded Airman from the water and recovered the mortally wounded Soldier. Airman Smith then administered rapid first aid to his fellow Airman's head and eyes. After stabilizing the wounded, Airman Smith continued returning fire and coordinated close air support. He controlled three formations of Kiowa attack helicopters, expending all

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available munitions on surrounding enemy positions. Airman Smith did not hesitate to act upon hearing of the still-missing Soldier's location. He volunteered to proceed 200 meters into the village to recover the Soldier, knowingly exposing himself to continued enemy fire for a second time while disregarding the dangers of the ongoing firefight and the risk, consequences, and threat of further improvised explosive devices as explained by the platoon leader. Determined not to leave a fallen comrade behind, he retrieved the dismembered Soldier and maneuvered toward the casualty collection point. A second improvised explosive device detonated as he approached the collection point, killing him instantly. By his gallantry and devotion to duty in the dedication of his service to his country, Airman Smith has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.