Steve Phillis MOH Fact Sheet

Desert Storm

US had 1,800 fixed and rotary wing assets of the 2,250 coalition A/C

Lost 28 aircraft

Lost 5 helicopters

KIA 154 troops

Danger

- 100 Miles North

- The Medina Division was well equipped, battle tested, dug in, and 85 percent combat effective.

- The Division 6 x 3, 10,000 soldiers

- 150 mobile AAA systems and 24 SA-13 Batteries.

- 4,000 foot floor

- Dark green A-10s easy to see

- When the checked into the area they could hear it was hot

- The Medina Division fought hard - Battle of Medina Ridge

Heroism

- Orbited directly overhead to monitor Rob’s parachute descent, exposing himself to intense enemy fire.

- By staying overhead Steve made himself a target for every Iraqi SAM and AAA operator in the Medina Division

- He went to extraordinary lengths to get another flight of A-10s on scene to support his SAR efforts.

- 3 minute after Lt Sweet ejected, Steve dispensed high visibility pyrotechnic flares

- After being hit by a SAM seconds later, remained focused on others by urging the inbound A-10 flight to depart

- Maintained heroic calmness knowing that his aircraft was going down as evidenced by his final radio call, “Enfield 3-7 is bag as well.”

- Steve departed the area where Rob had been shot down to allow inbound SAR forces to find and recover Rob

Valor Award Standard

Medal of Honor- Distinguish himself conspicuously by gallantry (and intrepidity) at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty” - Requires acts of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his comrades, and must have involved risk of life.

Silver Star

-Gallantry in action

Air Force Cross

– Extraordinary heroism

Award Timing

MIA 15 February

War ends 28 Feb

POW Release 5 March

Wreckage Discovered 22 March

A-10 return to Myrtle Beach 25 March

Death Certificate 8 April

Silver Star 16 April

Funeral: 18 April

Final Report of Casualty 22 April

Silver Star Citation: On February 15, 1991 while leading a two‑ship of A‑10 performing battlefield air interdiction against the Republican Guards Elite Medinah Armored division. Just north of the northwestern border of Kuwait. His wing‑man was shot down by surface‑to‑air missiles. In the face of heavy enemy anti‑aircraft artillery and surface‑to‑air missile fire, and without regard to his personal safety, Capt. Phillis protected his downed wing‑man and began to coordinate search and rescue efforts. While engaged in the search and rescue coordination he made the ultimate sacrifice while rendering aid to his fellow airman. He also received the Purple Heart for his actions on 15 February, 1991 (Dated April 16, 1991).

Why Now?

30 Year Anniversary – The National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial

POTUS

Will have the opportunity to shape our recognition of our Desert Storm Veterans

Second Iraq War 2003-2011

Beau Biden – Army JAG MD ARNG joined in 2003 Iraq 2008-09

Brain tumor May 2010, MD Anderson 2013, Walter reed 2015, died May 30, 2015, age 46

POTUS linked his death to burn pits