



## U.S. Army Ranger Sergeant First Class Cory Rensburg Honored As HERO During State Of The Union Address

Monday, February 3, 2014 | Becky Bratu, NBC News

State Of The Union Address Video Clip: <http://www.nbcnews.com/video/nbc-news/54208276#54208276>

Sgt. First Class Cory Rensburg's story of courage, struggle and survival had the entire room in a standing ovation near the end of the State of the Union address Tuesday — as President Obama recognized one of



the nation's wounded heroes as a symbol for the country's own resilience. Praising the 30-year-old Army Ranger, Obama said that "like the Army he loves, like the America he serves, SFC Cory Rensburg never gives up, and he does not quit." The president added that "men and women like Cory remind us that America has never come easy." The unifying moment — which made both Republicans and Democrats, some misty-eyed, stand and applaud in unison — was the emotional highlight of a speech marked by Obama's vows to use executive powers to sidestep Republican roadblocks on Capitol Hill.

Rensburg and his father, Craig Rensburg, a retired Air Force Reserve firefighter, were seated next to first lady

Michelle Obama, who also received a shorter standing ovation earlier. As he introduced Rensburg to the audience, Obama described his first impression of him: "A strong, impressive young man, with an easy manner, sharp as a tack." President Barack Obama's talks about Sergeant First Class Cory Rensburg during the State of the Union address. Rensburg, who has met Obama three times, joined the Army on his 18th birthday and was first deployed in 2003.

Since then, he's been on 10 deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan. It was on his last deployment, in Oct. 2009, that he was nearly killed by a roadside bomb in Kandahar, Afghanistan. The blast propelled him



into a canal, face down in water with shrapnel in his brain and a head wound. One of Rensburg's fellow Rangers perished in the explosion. The bomb left Rensburg in a coma for three months, partially paralyzed, barely able to speak and brain-damaged. But after enduring dozens of surgeries and hours of rehabilitation therapy over the years, Rensburg is now able to walk and speak, although he still struggles on his left side and is blind in his right eye. Last year, Rensburg was finally able to return home to Phoenix, Ariz., where he continues working on his recovery and enjoys cycling.

Among many honors, Rensburg has been awarded the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal and the Bronze Star. On Tuesday night, the State of the Union also brought him a nation's gratitude. Obama said Rensburg acknowledged his recovery has not been easy, as "nothing in life that's worth anything is easy." But the commander-in-chief equated Rensburg's strenuous path to recovery to the nation's own struggle to uphold its ideals of freedom and democracy. "Sometimes we stumble; we make mistakes; we get frustrated or discouraged," Obama said in his speech. "But for more than 200 years, we have put those things aside and placed our collective shoulder to the wheel of progress."

VIDEO: A Day In The Life Of An Army Ranger - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGMcUvLRaQI#t=39>



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Please support wounded warriors comparable to SFC Rensburg by joining the Sarasota Military Academy Wounded Warrior Project Student Ambassadors! <https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org/individual-fundraising/SMA>

1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the pros and cons synonymous with chronically dispatching select members of the United States Armed Forces for multiple overseas deployments. Sergeant First Class Cory Rensburg participated in an unprecedented ten combat deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan. During his final deployment, he was nearly killed by a roadside bomb in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Do you believe a restriction should be placed upon the number of mandatory deployments with which one may participate? Thoroughly explain your reasoning and provide specific artifacts and evidence *not* limited solely to article above to support your response. Create and illustrate a Venn Diagram to effectively explore relationships and patterns and to make arguments about relationships between sets.

**(LA.910.3.2.2; LA.910.1.6.2; MA.912.D.7.2; MA.912.A.10.1)**

**Next Generation Sunshine State Standards** adapted from [floridastandards.org](http://floridastandards.org). Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with state standards and annotated adjacent to the respective inquiry.

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2. **SAME-DIRECTION TRAVEL:** An industrial strength High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) departs a forward operating base (FOB) at 1300 at an average rate of 35 miles per hour. Once it became evident that they neglected inadvertently to secure their essential Night Vision Goggles, a secondary vehicle was dispatched to provide support. An hour later an IAV Stryker departs base at 50 miles per hour along the same route on a path parallel to the first. How long before the Stryker catches the HMMWV? (**MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.3.5**)
3. **ROUND-TRIP TRAVEL:** Private Backwash painstakingly navigates through an Iraqi desert. Because of an insurmountable unforeseeable sandstorm, she averages 2 miles per hour. On her commute back to post, she averages approximately 4 miles per hour. If the total travel time is 2 hours, how long did it take her to initially navigate through the desert? Design a table and explain your reasoning. (**MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.3.5; MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.3.2**)
4. **OPPOSITE-DIRECTION TRAVEL:** While participating in a joint operations force, an Army Sergeant coupled with a Marine Corporal are patrolling in opposite directions on a straight path. The corporal is travelling 2 miles per hour faster than his colleague and after 2 hours they are 8 miles apart. Write and solve an equation to determine the rate of the Sergeant and Corporal. (**MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.3.5; MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.3.2**)
5. During a recent visit to Fort Lewis, Washington with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the fabled 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment - Matt Gallagher of TIME Magazine, wrote "*Conventional Army units deploy for 12 months at a time before returning home for another year or so, but the Rangers' rotations tend to last only 3-6 months, with far less stateside time between deployments.*" Illustrate these preliminary findings on a graph as a compound inequality. Explain your mathematical reasoning in selecting either an open or closed dot as you graph your inequality. Explain how one might interpret phrases like "at least" and "at most" in an inequality in a real-world situation. Decipher the meaning of the text as articulated in Gallagher's August 2011 article, 'A Ranger's Life Between Combat Tours' - "*A world where a 26-year old squad leader is considered a geriatric.*" (**MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.2.1; MA.912.A.2.2; MA.912.A.3.4/5**)
6. October 1993 - Mogadishu, Somalia. The late heroic Sergeant Casey Joyce served as a US Army Ranger Team Leader. While embedded behind enemy lines at the infamous Bakaara Market, he detected multiple blatant obstructions such as inoperative household appliances located halfway between a series of wrecked cars and war torn apartment buildings. The apartments are located halfway between the wrecked cars and the coast of Somalia. Prove the distance between the wrecked cars and the appliances are the same as the distance between the apartments and the coast of Somalia. (**MA.912.G.4.5; MA.912.G.1.2; MA.912.G.8.2; MA.912.G.8.5; MA.912.G.8.6**)
7. An excerpt of the Ranger Creeds states, "Readily will I display the intestinal fortitude required to fight on to the Ranger objective and complete the mission, though I be the lone survivor." Articulate these words into a conditional or a logical statement, which contains a hypothesis and conclusion in if-then form, the converse, the inverse, and the contrapositive. Decide whether each statement is true or false. Use the Law of Detachment to make a valid conclusion in the true situation. If applicable, employ the Law of Syllogism to write a new conditional statement that follows from the pair of true statements. (**MA.912.D.6.2; MA.912.G.8.2; MA.912.G.8.4**)
8. Identify and thoroughly support your reasoning regarding which of the following that best describes the author's attitude toward the selfless sacrifices of our beloved service members: flippant disregard, mild frustration, passive resignation or an informed citizen. Explain the intended purpose of this article and identify any indicators or supporting evidence, which suggest the author may possess a bias for or against members of the United States Armed Forces. Provide an inference aspiring service members may derive from this material. The point of view assumed throughout the passage is best described as first person, second person, third person, or a combination of first and third person. How may this article be referenced for an independent student research project addressing the physical cost of war? Explain specifically how the images contribute to the validity of the aforementioned passage. (**RI.9-10.1 - 10.6**)
9. Using contextual clues only, determine the most complete and accurate definitions of following italicized terms: *collective, equated, gratitude, enduring, rehabilitation, perished, shrapnel, propelled, unison, unifying, strenuous, resilience, and ovation* as obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. (**LA.910.1.6.3; LA.910.1.6.1**)
10. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Provided the fact that this story is continuously evolving, create an updated concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above incorporating the following italicized term: *Pacifist* adj. One who is in opposition of war or violence. (**LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5**)

*¡Viva el Daughtry Times. Eso es todo. ¡Due Monday, February 10, 2014*

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