

Fallen Medic Receives Silver Star For Heroism Under Fire

Monday, February 10, 2014 | Michelle Tan, Military Times

Shannon Chihuahua: Taps and 21 Gun Salute Video Clip: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_usD2sk_RgI

An Army medic who ran through a barrage of enemy fire to reach his wounded fellow soldiers was posthumously awarded the Silver Star during a ceremony Friday at Fort Campbell, Ky. Specialist Shannon



“Doc” Chihuahua, 25, was killed Nov. 12, 2010. The Silver Star, the nation’s third highest award for valor, was presented to his family. Brig. Gen. Mark Stammer, the acting senior commander of Fort Campbell, presided over the ceremony. Chihuahua was assigned to 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

On Nov. 12, 2010, soldiers from the battalion’s 3rd Platoon, D Company, were tasked with setting a blocking position in the Watapur Valley in Afghanistan’s Kunar province, according to information from the 101st Airborne Division. After setting up their overwatch position, the soldiers came under a complex enemy attack, according to information from the 101st

Airborne. Using small-arms and machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades, the enemy tried to overrun the platoon’s position, according to an account of the battle by Sgt. Kevin Garrison.

Garrison, who was a squad leader on the ground that day, shared his story with a member of the public affairs team for 1st BCT three months after the attack. The enemy fighters had crawled up the mountainous terrain and were bounding up to the soldiers’ position, Garrison said in his account. The soldiers were taking fire from three or four directions, Garrison said, and the rough terrain stopped them from moving effectively.

Several soldiers were wounded almost immediately, according to information from the 101st Airborne. Chihuahua “left the safety of his position and ran through heavy machine gun fire to attend to his fellow soldiers’ wounds,” according to the information provided by the 101st Airborne. Under heavy fire, Chihuahua moved from soldier to soldier and continued to render medical care. “Advancing on the platoon’s position, the enemy began massing fire on Spc. Chihuahua’s position,” according to the information from the division. “Despite the heavy incoming enemy fire, he made his final move as a combat medic to yet another wounded soldier.” A “barrage of RPG fire” fatally wounded Chihuahua. His actions are credited with directly saving the lives of “several” soldiers.

Chihuahua’s fellow soldiers described him as a professional who always went out of his way to hone his medical skills, seek extra training and help the Afghans, according to the 101st. The engagement on Nov. 12, 2010, wasn’t the first time Chihuahua showed his courage under fire, according to the division. He had already received the Combat Medical Badge, which is earned for actions performed under fire, and he was wounded in action three months before his death and awarded the Purple Heart. Chihuahua, of Thomasville, Ga., enlisted in the Army in July 2008. He is survived by his wife, Kristen, and two daughters. Chihuahua also is survived by his parents, two sisters and two brothers.



The Silver Star, officially referred to as the Silver Star Medal by all of the United States Armed Forces, is the third highest military decoration for valor that can be awarded to any person serving in any capacity with the United States Armed Forces. The medal is awarded for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States. The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918 (amended by an act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to Specialist Shannon Chihuahua, United States Army, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in connection with military operations against an armed hostile force while serving as a Platoon Medic for 3d Platoon, Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM X-XL, on 12 November 2010. Specialist Chihuahua demonstrated the highest standards of performance and valor, placing his own safety second to that of his fellow Soldiers. His selfless actions and disregard for personal safety reflects great credit upon him, Task Force Bulldog, Task Force Bastogne, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and the United States Army.



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Next Generation Sunshine State Standards adapted from 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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1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the pros and cons synonymous with reserving major achievement medals comparable to the Silver Star posthumously as opposed to survivors. Many argue one is not worthy of recognition for valor simply for employing measures inherent to the duties and responsibilities of his position. "Doc" Chihuahua was reportedly exceedingly respected amongst his colleagues and frequently commended for employing initiative in absence of orders. Similarly to recognition in numerous unrelated occupations, do you believe the award criteria is flawed, biased, and/or subjective to one's popularity amongst his peers as opposed to truly demonstrating a heroic act of valor? 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)**
2. Patrick Wintour as his associates in Afghanistan previously noted U.S. President George W. Bush demanded that the Taliban hand over Osama bin Laden and expel al-Qaeda. The Taliban requested that bin Laden leave the country, but declined to extradite him without evidence of his involvement in the 9/11 attacks. The United States refused to negotiate and launched Operation Enduring Freedom on 7 October 2001 with the United Kingdom. Effectively employ the process referred to as unit or dimensional analysis and write out the appropriate conversion factors necessary to determine the number of seconds troops have engaged in war with Afghanistan upon receipt of this document - 4509 days later. **(MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.1.4/5; MA.912.A.2.13)**
3. In accordance with the applicable 2010 Military Pay Scale Chart, at the time of his premature demise, United States Army Specialist Shannon "Doc" Chihuahua, was earning \$1986.30 per month. In a feeble attempt at keeping up with inflation, since 1 January 2014 one serving in a similar capacity is presently earning \$2101.80. Identify the percent of change and describe as an increase or decrease. **(MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.1.1)**
4. The scale of a map in Watapur Valley in Afghanistan's Kunar province equates to 1 inch: 17.5 miles. Find the actual distance corresponding to a map distance equivalent to 12.75 inches. **(MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.1.5)**
5. It has become increasingly evident to ensure a safe and orderly mass exodus of noncombatant civilian personnel, two additional intersecting evacuation routes must be established adjacent to the Watapur Valley, one parallel to the existing road and the other perpendicular. The equation of the line representing the existing road is $y = 1/2x - 1/3$. Identify the equations of the lines representing the new roads. Write the equation in slope-intercept form. Identify the slope and y-intercept. Transform the equation to standard form. **(MA.912.G.8.2; MA.912.G.8.3)**
6. Provided information obtained via the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army, the Silver Star is a gold five-pointed star, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in circumscribing diameter with a laurel wreath encircling rays from the center and a $\frac{3}{16}$ inch diameter silver star superimposed in the center. The pendant is suspended from a rectangular shaped metal loop with rounded corners. The reverse has the inscription FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION. Assuming one wanted to maintain the integrity of the dimensions while simultaneously increasing the size by 1500%, what would the new dimensions equate to? Write and solve a proportion as well as a percent equation. Identify the means and extremes of the proportion. Express your answer as a fraction, decimal, and percent. Explain how to employ cross products to solve a proportion. Illustrate the original aforementioned image as well as enlarged figure. **(MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.1.1)**
7. 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 employed throughout the passage is best described as first person, second person, third person, or a combination of first and third person. Identify ways in which this article be referenced for an independent student research project regarding posthumous commendations. Explain specifically how the image contributes to the validity of the aforementioned passage. **(RI.9-10.1 - 10.6)**
8. Using contextual clues only, determine the most complete and accurate definitions of following italicized terms: *barrage*, *posthumously*, *valor*, *presided*, *terrain*, *render*, *hone*, *gallantry*, *conspicuous*, *intrepidity*, and *selfless* 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)**
9. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Provided the fact that this story is incomplete, create an updated concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above incorporating the italicized term: *Maladroit* adj. Clumsy; inept. **(LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5)**

Nech žije Daughtry Times. To je všetko. | Due Monday, February 17, 2014

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