

Sergeant Joshua Hull Awarded Bronze Star

Staff Sergeant Joshua G Hull received a Bronze Star and Combat Action Badge on July 12, during an awards ceremony in Spring Lake Park, MN

Hull was awarded these medals for his exceptionally meritorious service during action in the Konar Province of Afghanistan, where he was deployed with the US Army from December 2006 thru January 2008 serving with the 13th Psychological Operations Battalion (Airborne), as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During this time he participated in more than 40 combat patrols while operating from 14 different Forward Operating Bases, and Vehicle Patrol Bases. In one particular mission, Hull was leading a team supporting a platoon -plus size element engaged in an assault on hostile elements in the Watapur Valley. They became heavily engaged and were pinned down by enemy forces. The severity of the engagement is indicated by the fact that two soldiers were killed by enemy fire, while another 8 were seriously wounded. Hull was commended for his courage and action to fill a hole in the hastily established perimeter left when two different machine gunners were killed by enemy sniper fire, including his retrieval of one of the fallen soldier's, and taking over that position. Even after being awake for more than 60 hours, he continued to carry on the mission, in spite of a lack of water, and severe heat cramps.



At the ceremony, Hull was commended by his commanding officers, including Lt Col Jeffery Scott, (pictured on left above, with Sgt Hull) for his outstanding leadership skills, his willingness to take on tasks regardless of recognition as well as the application of his civilian skills in repairing, modifying and

maintaining equipment that was damaged from hostile terrain and repeated enemy contact, enabling the teams to carry out their missions.

Joshua returned home in March of 2008, and has returned to his civilian job as a mechanic at Jeff Foster Trucking. He lives outside of Duluth, and plans to be married on July 25 to Christen Bokinskie, of Alexandria MN. Christen is the daughter of Chuck and Carol Bokinskie of Alexandria; Joshua is the son of Greg and Shele Hull, of Two Harbors -- and they are all pretty damn proud of him.

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