

BIOGRAPHY – Staff Sgt. Walter Talens

Staff Sgt. Walter Talens is currently a broadcast NCO with 82ND Airborne Division at ISAF Regional Command South (RC-S) in Afghanistan. He is the broadcast NCOIC of the 319TH Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD) and operated as the Media Support Center Forward (MSC-F) NCO at Camp Nathan Smith (CNS) in Kandahar City, Afghanistan.

During his assignment as Media Support NCO at Camp Nathan Smith, Staff Sgt. Talens went beyond his required duties by seeking stories to produce in his spare time. The stories produced at Camp Nathan Smith have been featured on the Pentagon Channel's "In the Fight" program and American Forces Network "Enduring Freedom."

As an RC-S PAO Staff Sgt. Talens is credited with producing the first story about an Afghan Translator titled "Afghan Translator Breaks Gender Barriers," he was awarded the Combat Action Badge for his action during a media escort mission, and publicly thanked by the US Ambassador to Afghanistan Ryan Crocker during a speech for protecting State Department employees during the Camp Nathan Smith attack on October 27, 2011.

Prior to joining RC-S PAO, Staff Sgt. Talens volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan with the 319TH MPAD. He was assigned as the Broadcast NCOIC, responsible for the training and development of five new broadcasters augmented to the 319TH MPAD.

Staff Sgt. Talens was also the Broadcast NCOIC at the 302ND MPAD and produced stories in Balikatan 2011, Golden Cargo 2010, Golden Coyote 2009, Golden Medic 2007, and was the Operation NCOIC for the coverage of the 82ND and 83RD Academy Awards. During this time, he also completed BNCOC Phase 2 with honors and the Broadcast Management Course at DINFOS.

Before joining the 302ND MPAD and becoming an Army Broadcaster, Staff Sgt. Talens was assigned as the First Sergeant of the 352ND Combat Support Hospital HHD for two years. Before transferring out of the 352ND CSH HHD, Staff Sgt. Talens acquired a B.A. in Radio, Television, and Film.