



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
319<sup>TH</sup> MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT  
KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, AFGHANISTAN  
APO AE 09355

AFCS-PAM

21 December 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR Office of the Public Affairs, U.S. Army Reserve Command, ATTN:  
ARRC-ARC-PA, Fort Bragg, North Carolina 28310-5010

SUBJECT: Nomination for SSG Walter Talens as Brumfield Journalist (Broadcaster) of the year.

1. SSG Talens is the top performing broadcast journalist in the 319<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. He brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and guidance to a unit with inexperienced broadcasters, all who have graduated from the Defense Information School within the past two years.

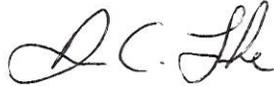
2. As the newly assigned Broadcast NCOIC, SSG Talens quickly organized the unit broadcasters by establishing a training plan that prepared them for their wartime mission in Afghanistan. During this deployment, he was assigned as the Camp Nathan Smith NCOIC tasked to provide public affairs support to the U.S. State Department and Kandahar Provisional Reconstruction Team. He was praised on his efforts by the State Department supervisor at Camp Nathan Smith who said "I am writing this note to praise Walter Talens. Since February 2011, I've had the pleasure and honor of working with several people who have had his current position. They've all been wonderful but Walter is in a class of his own with his initiative, solid work ethic and commitment to self improvement. He's also incredibly respectful to everyone including to our Afghan brothers. I just wanted to pass on this note of praise to you."

3. SSG Talens has far and away produced the most video stories of any broadcaster in the unit. Along with the quantity of the stories he's produced, he has also been recognized for his story quality. Two of his video's were selected to be part of the Pentagon Channel's program "In the Fight", a monthly 30 minute show that highlights military stories from around the globe. One of his stories was also shown on the AFN program Enduring Freedom.

4. Beyond his technical efforts, SSG Talens continues to show his abilities as an Army warrior. In October, SSG Talens was awarded the Combat Action Badge for his actions in a VBIED attack during a public affairs escort mission at Kandahar Airfield. Later in October, he helped to secure and defend Camp Nathan Smith by protecting U.S. State Department officials during a Taliban ground attack on the camp. His actions were specifically recognized in a speech given later that week by the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan, Ryan Crocker.

5. SSG Talens is in compliance with the height and weight standards of AR 600-9. He scored 252 during his June 2011 physical training test. He exhibits the Army core values.

6. As stated in this memo, SSG Talens has shown he is the complete public affairs Soldier. He has done this with his quality broadcast product, mentoring and training provided to unit Soldiers, and his actions in the combat. This is why SSG Talens should be chosen as the journalist of the year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.C. Luke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DARREN C. LUKE  
MAJ, AG  
Commanding