



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 3D ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION
BUILDING 24002 BATTALION AVENUE
FORT HOOD, TX 76544-0000

AFVA-UAG-CD

6 February 2015

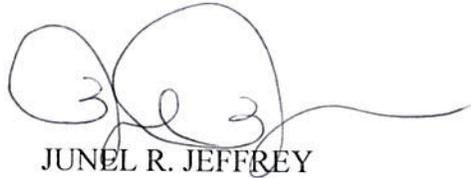
MEMORANDUM FOR Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, U.S. Army Public Affairs, ATTN:
(SAPA-ZDA), Washington, DC 20310-1500

SUBJECT: Nomination for SGT Brandon Banzhaf as Keith L. Ware's James P. Hunter Award
for Outstanding New Writer

1. SGT Banzhaf is one of the best and brightest Soldiers I have had the pleasure of working with. On top of being a knowledgeable Soldier, SGT Banzhaf is a talented photo journalist who performs well above his grade and exhibits an exemplary level of dedication and professionalism to the Public Affairs craft that rivals anything I've witnessed within my tenure within our field.
2. Working above his grade as the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team PA NCOIC – normally a staff sergeant position, SGT Banzhaf does not miss a beat. A top content producer within the 1st Cavalry Division, his articles garner well-deserved accolades from senior brigade and division-level leaders. SGT Banzhaf's products are often included in local mainstream newspapers and were featured several times within DoD-level news, which consistently broadens our command's organizational messaging and greatly increases the morale of our Soldiers.
3. Part of the reason SGT Banzhaf is such a phenomenal photojournalist is due to his great level of innovation and his ability to find the "extra" even within the ordinary. He recently wrote an article about a steel welder within our formation that was featured on the DoD website, in the CSA daily news update, and has received more than 21,000 social media views to date. His work embodies that of a seasoned military journalist, rather than one who is fairly new to this craft. SGT Banzhaf is creative and demonstrates a keen ability to tell the Army story.
4. In addition to mission-related work assignments, SGT Banzhaf's talents extend beyond the office. Even with the high pace of our office, he is working steadily toward a Bachelor's degree. He recently earned eight college credit hours and plans to take at least 24 more credits in the upcoming year. His zeal for learning extends even outside of the classroom and the print field, as he is also getting and one-on-one training from a local Public Affairs Detachment broadcaster on how to produce videos, another skill that positively separates him from his peers.
5. SGT Banzhaf is in compliance with AR 600-9 height and weight standards. He scored 215 during his April 2014 physical training test. Despite suffering an injury, SGT Banzhaf has maintained his personal level of fitness and surpassed the training standard by exercising on his own several times per day. His efforts reflect an awe-inspiring level personal and professional drive.

6. My brigade shop consists of just SGT Banzhaf and me. I'm not really sure what I would do or how I'd get along without SGT Banzhaf's skill, professionalism, innovation, and his ability to operate autonomously. Along with his prowess as a noncommissioned officer, he is a skilled journalist working above his grade early point in his career. He puts the mission first and seamlessly focuses his skills on telling the story of our Soldiers to the world. SGT Banzhaf is a rising star who most definitely has earned the title of outstanding new writer.

7. The point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned at junel.r.jeffrey.mil@mail.mil or (254) 288-7059.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. R. Jeffrey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JUNEL R. JEFFREY
MAJ, FI
Public Affairs Officer

SERGEANT BRANDON BANZHAF

Sergeant Brandon Banzhaf is the public affairs specialist noncommissioned officer assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

During his time as a Public Affairs Specialist, Banzhaf has provided coverage for seven battalions, was chosen amongst other Public Affairs Specialist to go to South Korea to highlight the rotational forces deployed on the peninsula, and revitalized the Unit Public Affair Representative program resulting in the most successful UPAR program in the 1st Cavalry Division.

Banzhaf re-enlisted and was awarded the MOS 46Q in 2013. He attended and graduated from the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Maryland in December 2013.

Banzhaf joined the United States Army in 2009, enlisting as a microwave systems operator maintainer. He attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, followed by Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon, Georgia. His first duty assignment was to the 72nd Signal Battalion located in Mannheim, Germany where he then moved with the unit to Schweinfurt, Germany.

Sergeant Brandon Banzhaf was born in New Milford, Connecticut in 1991 to Robert and Robin Mott. He graduated from Northwestern High School in Rock Hill, South Carolina in 2009.

Sergeant Banzhaf's short term goals include completing his bachelor's degree in Network Security and Management and to be promoted to Staff Sergeant. His long term goals are to receive a second degree in journalism.

Banzhaf's awards and decorations include the Two Army Achievement Medals, an Army Good Conduct Medal, and a Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon.



BANZHAF