
**Marine Corps Recruit Depot
Public Affairs Office
1600 Henderson Ave. Suite 120
San Diego, CA 92140**



ADVISORY 12-01

DATE: February 7, 2012
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MARINE DRILL INSTRUCTOR TO RECEIVE SILVER STAR MEDAL

WHAT: Sergeant Philip A. McCulloch Jr. will be presented the military's third highest award for valor, the Silver Star Medal at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego (MCRD SD) and the Western Recruiting Region (WRR) during a morning colors ceremony.

WHEN: The ceremony will be held Friday, February 10, 2012 at 8 a.m.

WHERE: The ceremony will be held in the Pendleton Hall courtyard.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Sergeant Philip A. McCulloch Jr. is a native of Tucson, Ariz., and was raised in Galveston, Tx. He currently serves as a drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego for Company M, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, 3rd Recruit Training Regiment. McCulloch will be awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry during combat actions in Afghanistan while serving as a squad leader with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment.

MEDIA INSTRUCTIONS: Press interested in covering the event must RSVP with the Public Affairs Office no later than noon on Feb. 9, for coordination purposes.

Media attending the event should meet at Gate 2 at the intersection of Barnett Avenue and Henderson Avenue between 7:15 and 7:30 a.m.

Media arriving after 7:30 a.m. will not be able to cover the ceremony.

Included in this release is Sgt. McCulloch's award citation for your use.

For more information, or to RSVP, call the Public Affairs Office at (619) 524-8724 or (619) 778-0734 or email us at marc.ayalin@usmc.mil and rdsd_pao@usmc.mil.



COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR medal to

SERGEANT PHILIP A. MCCULLOCH JR.
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as Squad Leader, 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 8, 2d Marine Division (Forward), I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) Afghanistan on 8 January 2011 in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. During a six-hour engagement with insurgent forces in Sangin District, Sergeant McCulloch led his squad of Marines in a determined pursuit of a numerically superior enemy force. After being attacked by enemy fighters, he personally led his squad's counter attack by assuming point and closing on the enemy, pausing just long enough to destroy an enemy fighting position with an AT-4. Once he regained the initiative, he pursued the enemy into a nearby row of compounds and forced them into fixed positions where many of them were destroyed by close air support and indirect fires, combined with maneuver. Maintaining constant pressure on the enemy, he forced them to fall back as aircraft departed for fuel and ammunition resupply. Throughout the engagement, he aggressively drove his Marines to remain focused, exposing himself to enemy fire to identify enemy positions and coordinate fires in support of maneuver. Even after beginning to return to base, as the enemy again engaged the Marines, he controlled another section of helicopters with devastating effects, allowing his squad to return to friendly lines. Only after six hours of fighting, with his squad dangerously low on ammunition and himself wounded in the leg, did he return to friendly lines. By his bold leadership, wise judgment, and complete dedication to duty, Sergeant McCulloch reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

For the President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "James M. Mattis", written over a horizontal line.

Commandant of the Marine Corps



Enclosure (1)