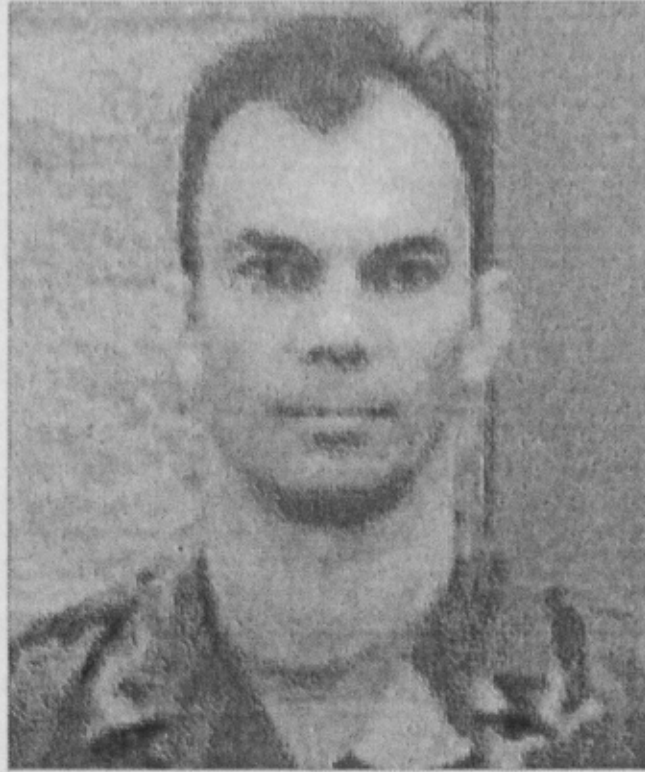


VANCE BARRACKS  
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF  
STAFF SERGEANT GENE ARDEN VANCE, JR.  
1963 – 2002



STAFF SERGEANT GENE ARDEN VANCE JR. WAS BORN ON 30 NOVEMBER 1963 IN FRANKFURT, GERMANY, THE SON OF AN ARMY SPECIAL FORCES OFFICER. AFTER GRADUATING FROM OCEANA HIGH SCHOOL IN OCEANA, WV, IN 1981, HE JOINED THE ARMY, COMPLETING BASIC AND ADVANCED TRAINING AT FORT GORDON, GA. HE WAS STATIONED IN GERMANY, WHITE PLAINS, NM, AND AT THE PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY. IN 1990 HE LEFT ACTIVE DUTY, BUT HE JOINED THE WEST VIRGINIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD IN 1992 AND GRADUATED FROM THE PERSIAN FARSI BASIC COURSE AT THE DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER IN AUGUST 1998.

SERGEANT VANCE WAS CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2001 AND IN FEBRUARY 2002 HE DEPLOYED TO EASTERN AFGHANISTAN NEAR SHKIN WITH THE 2<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION, 19<sup>TH</sup> SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE), WEST VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD. ON 19 MAY 2002, HE WAS KILLED

WHEN HIS PATROL WAS AMBUSHED BY ENEMY FORCES. ON 26 MAY 2002 HE WAS POSTHUMOUSLY PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF STAFF SERGEANT, AWARDED THE LEGION OF MERIT, BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH OAK LEAF CLUSTER, PURPLE HEART MEDAL, AND THE WEST VIRGINIA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL FOR HIS HEROIC COMBAT ACTIONS

IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR. STAFF SERGEANT GENE VANCE WAS A DEDICATED SOLDIER AND LINGUIST WHO USED HIS SKILLS AND TRAINING TO CARRY THE FIGHT TO THE ENEMY. HE WAS AN EXEMPLARY MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED

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