

From: William Morris
To: James Mathews

Friday, January 31, 2010

Subject: Statement of Gulf War Combat Service

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED - FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY – Not Transferable

To Whom It May Concern,

James A. Mathews (XXX-XX-XXXX), MOS 13M10, was assigned to 'A' Battery 40th Field Artillery, MLRS (A/40th FA, MLRS) consecutively before, during and after the period of Dec. 27, 1990 to Jun. 17, 1991.

James A. Mathews was present for duty in the Kuwait Theater of Operations (KTO) and accounted for during the complete period of time A/40th FA, MLRS conducted combat operations in support of the designated campaigns: Operations Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm and Operation Provide Comfort.

James A. Mathews was assigned to the A/40th FA, MLRS Ammunition Platoon. James Mathew's primary duties as an MLRS Ammunition Specialist included (but were not limited to) supplying rocket ammunition to the 9 A/40th MLRS Rocket Launchers while in direct contact with enemy forces. James A. Mathews made constant trips back and forth from the unit supply trains to the front lines of the various battle areas, supplying rocket ammunition to A/40th FA, MLRS rocket launchers during the movement to contact and during active enemy engagements with Iraqi Republican Guard Forces.

James A. Mathews personally witnessed much destruction, devastation and death. In particular, Mathews made several trips through the area known as the 'Highway of Death' shortly after it was carpet-bombed by Coalition Air Forces to stop the fleeing Iraqi units attempting to escape back across the border to Iraq. This area had mine fields on both sides of the road, preventing any circumnavigation of the destruction area. The road itself was littered with destroyed vehicles and dead and dying enemy personnel during Mathew's several trips through the 'Highway of Death' area.

James A. Mathews was present with A/40th FA, MLRS – 3rd Armored Division, approximately 20 kilometers, directly downwind of the Khamisiyah, Iraq weapons cache, when more than 1,200 Sarin filled rockets and other chemical munitions were destroyed by US Forces.

James A. Mathews was also present while A/40th was positioned in very close proximity to burning oil wells in the Rumaila oil fields of Southern Iraq and Northern Kuwait. Mathews and A/40th personnel operated next to these burning oil wells and underneath oil fire smoke for a period of no less than 45 consecutive days. From the A/40th unit location, you could count 38 burning oil wells whose smoke and oil residue totally blocked out the sun during the 45 days A/40th was in the area. Oil and oil residue were so thick in the air that the use of vehicle windshield wipers was necessary in order to be able to see while driving.

James A. Mathew's performance directly contributed to the successful delivery of 300+ rockets on enemy positions by A/40th FA. The Department of the Army awarded A/40th FA personnel a *Meritorious Unit Commendation* for combat action.

James A. Mathews is authorized the following awards and decorations on a permanent basis:

- 1) Southwest Asia Service Medal with 3 bronze campaign star devices
- 2) Liberation of Kuwait Medal – Saudi Arabia
- 3) Liberation of Kuwait Medal – Kuwait
- 4) National Defense Service Medal
- 5) Humanitarian Service Medal
- 6) Meritorious Unit Commendation - *Army General Order #14 (pg. 37) APR 11, 1997* – 'A' Battery 40th FA, MLRS
- 7) 3rd Armored Division Combat Patch

For further information, contact me at 205-242-7549 or by email at: wcmorris@createdesignsolutions.com

-End of Statement-



William Morris
A/40th FA, MLRS – 3rd Armored Division
DEC 1988 - JUN 1991