



Biographical Sketch

U.S ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, FORT BRAGG, NC 28310 910-432-6005

SERGEANT PHILIP J. SVITAK

Operation Enduring Freedom

Sgt. Philip J. Svitak is a native of Lincoln, Neb. He enlisted in the Army in 1989.

After graduating from Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training as a medium helicopter repairer, Svitak was assigned to the Special Operations Aviation Training Company, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne). After completing the initial training for 160th SOAR (Abn.), or Green Platoon, Svitak was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 160th SOAR (Abn.). While assigned to 2nd Battalion, Svitak served with D and A companies until he was honorably discharged in 1994. Svitak re-entered the Army in 1998 and was re-assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 160th SOAR (Abn.).



Svitak deployed with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 160th SOAR (Abn.), during Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Svitak has also deployed on numerous Joint Readiness Exercise, National Training Center and Joint Readiness Training Center rotations in support of special operations forces. Svitak served as a crew chief and flight engineer and flew more than 1,200 hours in peacetime and combat, including more than 600 night vision goggle hours. He deployed with Company A to multiple areas across the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He logged more than 150 hours of combat flight time during missions in support of special operations forces.

Svitak was a commandant's list selectee from the Primary Leadership Development Course and a graduate of the Army Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Course.

His awards and decorations include two Army Commendation Medals, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Aircraft Crewmember Badge.

Svitak is survived by his wife, Laura, children Ethan and Nolan of Clarksville, Tenn., and his parents Richard and Roseann Svitak of Neosho, Mo.