

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS REGIMENT



**SERGEANT FIRST CLASS
MATTHEW S. SLUSS-TILLER**

Inducted October 2011



SFC Matthew S. Sluss-Tiller was born 14 February 1974, in Ashland, Kentucky. He graduated from Lawrence County High School in 1993.

SFC Sluss-Tiller enlisted in the United States Army Reserves as a heavy construction mechanic in 1991 and served at the 261st Ordnance Company located at Cross Lanes West Virginia. In 1993 SFC Sluss-Tiller enlisted in the United States Army as a signal specialist and served at Fort Bragg North Carolina, Kitzengin Germany, and Kuwait. He was assigned to the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne) at Fort Bragg in April 2009 and has served as the Civil Affairs Noncommissioned Officer in Civil Military Operations Cell and most recently as Team Sergeant of Civil Affairs Team 622.

During his career, he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. A roadside bomb in a remote area of Pakistan near the Afghan border killed he and other members of a Civil Affairs team, heading to represent the United States at the dedication of a Pakistani girl's school. Sergeant Sluss-Tiller was also working with his team to help train the Pakistan Paramilitary Frontier Corps in counter insurgency techniques and to guard the volatile border. At his funeral, his friends remembered that he was a soldier who always strived to do things right. "He was part of America's Army Special Operations Forces and such -- one of the finest soldiers in the world," Lt. Gen. John Muholland said. "That's no exaggeration, that he was embarked on a very important if not critical mission that is directly tied to the security of this country."

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with 1 Bronze OLC, Army Commendation Medal with 4 Bronze OLC, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal with 4 Bronze OLC, National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. He was also awarded the Senior Parachutist's Badge, Gold Recruiter's Badge with 3 sapphires, and German Jump wings. SFC Sluss-Tiller is a graduate of the US Army Jumpmaster course and Master Jumpmaster course, Air Movement Operations course, Military Transition Team course, and Advanced and Basic Noncommissioned Officer course.

He is survived by his wife Melissa and daughter Hannah of Sanford, NC, father Edward Tiller of Sevierville, TN, mother Jane Blankenship, and step father Forest Blankenship of Sanford, NC.