

Missouri National Guard 1-129th Field Artillery Soldier Helps Save Lives **News**

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Chillicothe, MO - A Missouri National Guard field artillery Soldier's commute home last October turned into an opportunity to use his training to save a life.



Pvt. Matthew Duncan, a cannon crewmember assigned to Battery B, 1-129th Field Artillery, was driving home late on Missouri Highway 24 on October 13 when he noticed gravel spread across on the black top and skid marks leading off the edge of the road. He immediately stopped and discovered a wrecked vehicle, then called 911.

When the emergency call was complete, Duncan went down to the wrecked vehicle to assist the occupants. As he approached the vehicle, he found a male and assisted him to the side of the roadway and worked to stabilize him and keep him alert. Then, Duncan heard a noise. When he went to investigate the noise, he found a female who had been ejected during the accident.

Duncan reassured her that everything was alright as he worked to stabilize her injuries. He made sure she didn't asphyxiate on her tongue and worked to control her bleeding. Duncan again called 911 to inform them there were multiple injuries and one occupant was critical. He continued to stabilize the two until help arrived.

After emergency services and local law enforcement arrived, Duncan continued to assist with clean up of the scene and gathered all of the individual possessions that were thrown from the car during the accident.

Duncan has maintained constant contact with the families of the two individuals, filling in missing information for the victims and regularly visited them as they recovered in the hospital. Duncan has been hailed as a hero by the family of the victims, who have contacted Duncan's commander to praise his actions that night.

As a result of his actions, Duncan was been awarded Soldier of the Month for October and received a Battalion Commander's and Command Sergeant Major's Award for Excellence Coin.