

Missouri National Guard soldiers receive medals and awards

News

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Members of a Missouri National Guard Agri-Business Development Team have received medals and awards for repelling an attack by Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan on Sunday, April 15th. Among the soldiers recognized were Senior Airman Ryan Derickson of Chillicothe, Staff Sergeant Troy Green of Cameron, Sergeant Derek Logsdon of Bevier, and Specialist Bobby Smith of Linneus. All four men were awarded a "Combat Action Badge".

The National Guard said 23 Missouri National Guardsmen were awarded a Combat Infantry Badge, two got a Combat Medical Badge, five received a Commendation Medal with Valor, fifteen received a Purple Heart for Wounds Received in Combat, and two were recommended for the Bronze Star with Valor.

During the April attack on Forward Operating Base Finely Shields, Taliban insurgents used a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device to breach a wall of the compound. The National Guard said Taliban fighters then entered the compound through the breach, and a fire-fight ensued with Afghan army forces and Missouri National Guardsmen.

One Afghan soldier was killed and several Missouri National Guardsmen were wounded.

About fifty-five soldiers and airmen comprise the Missouri Agri-Business Development Team #6, which arrived in Afghanistan in March. For several years, those teams have been helping Afghan farmers in the Nangarhar Province create a sustainable agriculture program.