



Sergeant First Class Mark D. Leshikar, US Army
A Company-19th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
September 20, 1984 – March 21, 2018

SFC Mark D. Leshikar was born September 20, 1984, in Elko, NV. Mark was a 2002 graduate of Bellingham High School in Bellingham, Washington where he excelled in academics, football and wrestling. An avid outdoorsman, he loved to hunt and fish.

Fueled by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Mark, who was a high school senior at the time asked his mother to sign a consent form allowing him at age 17 to join the U.S. Air Force. After 9/11 “his biggest dream was to protect America” according to his mother. While stationed at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX he was selected for the Air Force Honor Guard. Following separation from the Air Force, Mark joined the Washington National Guard with the ultimate goal of joining the Army’s Special Forces ranks. In January 2009, Mark enlisted in the Army as a Combat Engineer. He received basic and advanced individual training at Fort Sill, OK and in May 2012, he graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course earning the honor of wearing the Green Beret. He was assigned to A Co. 1st Battalion 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) as a Weapons Sergeant.

SFC Leshikar deployed to Afghanistan in 2015. In 2017 he volunteered to deploy to Tajikistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) where he suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

SFC Leshikar was a patriot and an elite and respected soldier who valued family, friendship, and loyalty. He lived the motto of the U.S. Army Special Forces: *de oppresso liber* (Latin for ‘to free from oppression’)

