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NEWS RELEASE

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DNI Awards First Intelligence Community Medal for Valor

Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell has awarded the first ever Intelligence Community Medal for Valor to the late Marine Lance Cpl. James E. Swain.

The Intelligence Community Medal of Valor, the IC's second highest award for bravery, will be presented to Lance Cpl. Swain's family during a Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. ceremony Nov. 14, 2008 at 11 a.m.

Lance Cpl. Swain, a Kokomo, Ind. native, died Nov. 15, 2004 of wounds received while serving as a Marine Corps intelligence analyst during the battle of Fallujah in Iraq. He was attached to Company K, 3rd Bn, 1st Marine Regimental Combat Team, 1st Marine Division, and was tasked with providing targeting information to attacking Marines.

During a collection mission on Nov. 15, 2004, Lance Cpl. Swain volunteered to assist with security by manning a vehicle mounted machine gun. As Marines prepared to enter a building, Lance Cpl. Swain identified an insurgent ambush. He immediately opened fire, alerting his fellow Marines and suppressing the ambush but exposing himself to the enemy. Lance Cpl. Swain's heroic actions saved the lives of his fellow Marines, but cost him his own life when he fell mortally wounded.

In recommending the award, Marine Corps Director of Intelligence Brig. Gen. R. M. Lake wrote that Lance Cpl Swain's "heroism and courage in supporting the Intelligence Community's mission and our nation's security typify the core values we all strive to meet on a daily basis."

The Medal for Valor recognizes heroism and courage in connection with an Intelligence Community contribution to national security. It is second only to the Intelligence Cross in IC awards for bravery. The DNI established the awards Oct. 1, 2008 to properly acknowledge the extraordinary and sometimes unsung accomplishments of Intelligence Community members.

The Director of National Intelligence oversees the 16 federal organizations that make up the intelligence community. The DNI also manages the implementation of the National Intelligence Program. Additionally, the DNI serves as the principal advisor to the president, the National Security Council and the Homeland Security Council on intelligence issues related to national security.

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MEDAL AND RIBBON
INTELLIGENCE MEDAL FOR VALOR