**Sergeant First Class Matthew Wright**

Sergeant First Class (SFC) Matthew Wright is a native of Charleston, West Virginia but was raised in a military family. He enlisted into the US Army as an Infantryman in the summer of 2002 and attended One Station Unit Training (OSUT) with 1-46th Infantry Battalion at Fort Benning, GA. Upon completion of OSUT, SFC Wright was assigned as a machine gunner with the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY. During his tenure at the 10th Mountain Division, SFC Wright deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom from March 2003 to November 2003 and deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom from June 2004 to June 2005.

After his first reenlistment, SFC Wright was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, KS. During his tenure with the 1st Infantry Division, SFC Wright deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom for 15 months as a part of the “Surge” as a team and squad leader. During the “Surge”, SFC Wright was selected for Drill Sergeant Duty at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. He served as a Senior Drill Sergeant for two years with the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 3rd Chemical Brigade, Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

After his Drill Sergeant duties, SFC Wright was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA. There he served as a platoon sergeant and deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom as a part of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force (CJSOTF) East. During the 12-month deployment, SFC Wright was a part of Village Stability Operations (VSO) and was responsible for more than 63 Soldiers spread across four different provinces in Eastern Afghanistan.

Once SFC Wright returned from Afghanistan, he was selected for instructor duty at the Infantry School in Fort Benning, GA. There he served as the senior instructor for the Advanced Situational Awareness (ASA) program. He was responsible for conducting more than thirty 40-hour courses each year. After his three years as a senior instructor were complete, SFC Wright volunteered for ROTC duty. He served as a Military Science Instructor at Shippensburg University for five years, until his retirement from the Army in 2022.

SFC Wright’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (two oak leaf clusters), Meritorious Service Medal (three oak leaf clusters), Army Commendation Medal (four oak leaf clusters), Army Achievement Medal (seven oak leaf clusters), Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Drill Sergeant Badge, Basic Army Instructor Badge, and Air Assault Badge.

SFC Wright is married to the former Randi Goseland of Chapman, Kansas, and they have four daughters, Madeline, Abigail, Natalie, and Kaitlyn, and one son, Lucas. They reside together in Chambersburg, PA.