



Individual Award Nomination Form

Point of Contact: awards@ngaus.org

Nomination Deadline: May 15

Award Nominated to Receive: Eagle Rising Award for Warrant Officers

Nominated By: COL Benjamin T. Cleghorn, Commander, 141 Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB). The ND TAG Endorsement is also included.

Name/Rank/Duty/Title/ Organization or Unit of Assignment of Nominee:

Michael J. Mahon, CW2, 835th Engineering Utilities Detachment, 141 Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB), North Dakota Army National Guard.

Years in the National Guard: 8.5 (21.5 total service time)

Justification for Award:

CW2 Michael Mahon is a tenacious and mission driven Warrant Officer and he applied his superior skill as a experienced Engineer Warrant Officer at the right times and place, greatly benefiting many within the US Army during 2022. Specifically, during the period of January to June of 2022, Chief Mahon was heavily utilized by the 111th Engineer Brigade, 444 Engineer Facilities Detachment, Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR), and Special Operations Joint Task Force OIR. He facilitated the redesign of large warehouse and generated all the necessary plans, material requirements, and planning factors to construct a hasty medical treatment facility on Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar. This facility was the number one construction priority in CENTCOM at the time and led to the treatment and processing of over 3,000 at risk Afghan Refugees. Chief Mahon was tasked with coordinating and executing all construction operations in the Eastern Syria Security Area (ESSA). He supervised 92 projects totaling over \$1.7 million dollars of force protection and base quality improvements across seven bases. As he supervised construction across the ESSA for multiple organizations, CW2 Mahon was the lead LNO between the Engineer Brigade, Prime Power, the Corps of Engineers, and Maneuver Task Forces. He provided continuity between all organizations, agencies, and customers at a level that reduced the construction timeline by streamlining communication between all stakeholders.

Chief Mahon is continually executing professional and personal development. During this award period he completed WOAC Common Core on top of completing two semesters toward his

Doctoral Thesis in Environment Engineering at UND. He is a true lifelong learner.

Chief Mahon is actively involved with the Parents Helping Parents Organization. As a parent of a child with special needs, he strives to foster collaboration for those raising children with special needs. He actively shares his experiences and insight and encourages others to share knowledge gained for new parents of children with special needs.

Chief Mahon's ability to cut through needless communications and meetings to push through to execution is impressive. He identified critical needs for infrastructure and protection and refused to accept unnecessary delays in construction planning. As a leader and expert engineer, he had the innate ability to brief complex plans and requirements in way so that non-engineer leaders understood the importance. Chief Mahon's team in Eastern Syria accomplished more in six months than had been accomplished in the past two years.

Proposed Citation:

CW2 Michael J. Mahon distinguished himself by exceptional achievement due to his dedication to duty, his highly visible professionalism and applied mentorship within the North Dakota Army National Guard. Chief Mahon's ability to cut through needless communications and meetings to push through to execution is impressive. He identified critical needs for infrastructure and protection and refused to accept unnecessary delays in construction planning. As a leader and expert engineer, he had the innate ability to brief complex plans and requirements in way so that non-engineer leaders understood the importance. Chief Mahon's team in Eastern Syria accomplished more in six months than had been accomplished in the past two years. For his superior accomplishments, Chief Mahon was selected as the 2022 Warrant Officer of the Year by the National Guard Association of North Dakota. CW2 Michael Mahon's superior performance exemplify the highest standards of commitment and he is very deserving of the Eagle Rising Award for Warrant Officers.

Biographical Summary

Name: Mahon, Michael James

Status/current unit address: 4417 Highway 20, Devils Lake, ND 58301

Primary MOS: 120A

Duty MOS: 120A

Present grade/rank: W2/CW2

Date of rank: 2020/04/25

Years of service: 25 years

Date of birth: 1974/02/22

Place of birth: Minnesota

Marital status: Single

Civilian Education: EMT-B, East Grand Forks Technical College, East Grand Forks ND
BS, Psychology from the Univ. of MD Univ. College, College Park MD
MA, Education from Central Michigan Univ., Mt Pleasant, MI
BS, Civil Engineering from Michigan Technological Univ., Houghton MI
MS, Mining and Explosives Engineering, New Mexico Tech, Socorro NM
Ph.D. candidate, Univ. of North Dakota, Grand Forks ND

Military Education:

Hospital Corpsman A-School (USN), PO3 Leadership (USN), EVOC-Instructor, Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support, CPR Instructor-Trainer, Field Medical Service School (USN), PO2 Leadership (USN), PO1 Leadership (USN), Emergency Medical Tech-B, Combat Lifesaver Course, Combat Life Saver Instructor Course, Advanced Trauma Life Support Course, Chief Petty Officer Indoc Course (USN), Convoy Security Operations Course (USN), Marine Corps Marital Arts – Green Belt Course, BCT, WOCS, 120A WOBC Course, Environmental Officer Course, Antiterrorism Officer Basic Course, WOAC DL Course

Decorations, Awards, and Citations:

Fleet Marine Force Enlisted Warfare Specialist Badge, Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist Badge, Small Craft Insignia Badge, Norwegian Foot March Bronze Badge, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal with "C" Device, Navy Achievement Medal (2), 9-11 Ribbon, USN Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal (2), USN Fleet Marine Force Ribbon, USN & USMC Expeditionary Medal, National Defense with (1) Bronze Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with "FMF" and (2) Bronze Stars, Operation Inherent Resolve Medal with (1) Bronze Star, GWOT Expeditionary Medal, GWOT Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device and "Hour Glass" and "4", Army Service Ribbon, USN Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (3), USN & USMC Overseas Service Ribbon (2), Navy Expert Pistol Medal, Navy Expert Rifle Medal, Emergency Service Ribbon (2), North Dakota National Guard Service Ribbon, North Dakota BCT Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation, USCG Unit Commendation with "O" device, USN Meritorious Unit Commendation (3)

Significant Experience:

Seven years of U.S. Army engineering and over 22 years of civilian engineering experience. He was personally engaged in a wide array of US Army horizontal and vertical engineering projects within North Dakota and locations in six countries within US CENTCOM, supporting Operations Inherent Resolve, Spartan Shield, and Allies Welcome. During a military career that has spanned over 23 years, he has served with nearly every branch of service and completed multiple deployments to the CENTCOM area of operations. Recalled to active duty as a Navy reservist within days of the September 11th attacks, Mr. Mahon was personally tasked with the care and well-being of a 35-man small boat patrol craft unit, providing water-borne 24-hour force protection to multiple bases within the U.S. and overseas. After serving 2 ½ of 3 years after 9/11 on active duty as a recalled reservist, then Chief Petty Officer Mahon was re-assigned to a Naval Mobile Construction Battalion and deployed again to Iraq during which he conducted 177 missions. During the most recent deployment, managed planning, quality assurance, and quality control inspections of over 92 construction missions with a combined monetary value in excess of \$1.7 million and 7,500 man-hours, and acted as OIC for an 11-person skilled repair and assessment team providing critical infrastructure repair and force protection improvements to five bases throughout eastern Syria. He additionally mentored three warrant officer candidates to successful acceptance to WOCS.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael James Mahon

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mahon is the North Dakota Army National Guard (NDARNG) 835th Engineering Utilities Detachment Construction Engineer.

Chief Mahon enlisted in the United States Navy in November 1993 and attended Boot Camp and Hospital Corpsman A-School. After 5-years of active duty, 3 of which served with the United States Marine Corps, he was released and enlisted in the United States Navy Reserve in August 1999. After an additional 8 years of service, 3 ½ on active presidential recall orders, he left the USN as a Chief Hospital Corpsman. In 2014, he returned to military service with the Minnesota Air National Guard, transferred to the North Dakota Army National Guard in January 2016, and attended Warrant Officer Candidate School in 2018, being appointed to WO1 in April 2018.

While serving on active duty in the United States Navy from 1994-1996, stood duty on a primary response ambulance and served as the Medical Department Leading Petty Officer. He received a Navy Achievement Medal for accomplishments while in that role.

Completing initial active duty time with the Navy while stationed with the United States Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton and Okinawa, Japan, received multiple personal and unit awards, including Sailor of the Quarter and General Officer Letters of Appreciation.

From 1999 to 2004, while attached to the Naval Coastal Warfare, a Naval Reserve-based command, he served in both a Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit and an Inshore Boat Unit, providing force protection in bases on the west coast of the U.S., in Egypt, and Kuwait through multiple deployments. While serving on active duty orders immediately following and in response to the 9/11 attacks, he provided front-line emergency and routine medical care for 35-50

U.S. medical personnel full-time, receiving personal recognition and multiple campaign and overseas service medals, broadening upon the continued development of routine and emergency medical treatment expertise, trained on law enforcement and waterborne tactical response tactics, techniques, and procedures, becoming certified to lead multi-vessel tactical response teams.

Moving on from Coastal Warfare, Mr. Mahon continued to expand upon his breadth of operational experience, being reassigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Eighteen, serving in the medical department in preparation for a battalion deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom. While deployed, he operated as the sole medical representative on a convoy security team in a combat environment. During the operational period from September 2006 to April 2007, he completed 177 missions, covering 12,796 miles while traveling between 22 separate bases, and safely escorting 6,319 personnel in 5,013 vehicles. During those missions, he treated 12 musculoskeletal injuries, 12 gastrointestinal complications, and 25 preventative medicine procedures within the tactical operating environment. He employed life-saving combat trauma emergency medical interventions on two separate incidences, treating multiple third-country nationals, including medical evacuation and ongoing treatment until released to a higher level of care. He received a Navy Achievement Medal, multiple unit, campaign, and additional citations and awards for his efforts.

After being officially released from his military contract in 2010, he returned to service in 2014, enlisting in the Minnesota Air National Guard. Over the next 18 months, he received on-the-job training in explosive ordnance disposal before crossing over to the North Dakota Army National Guard in 2016.

Enlisting in the ND ARNG in 2016, he had to attend basic training... again. Initially assigned as a 12T with the 141 Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, he was called to State Active Duty to assist with the Dakota Access Pipeline from January to February 2017.

In March 2018, he reported to WOCS to complete basic training... again, being appointed to a warrant officer upon completion and finishing 4th of 87 in the class. Over the course of 2019, he attended six months of WOBC for 120A, graduating 2 of 14 in a reserve/national guard class with a 92.74% and being named to the Assistant Commandant's List.

In 2020, he was activated under Title 10 orders to assist with the North Dakota response to COVID and worked in the command cell coordinating all testing efforts throughout the state, receiving the Armed Forces Service Medal.

In August 2021, he was again activated under Title 10 orders for training and follow-on deployment in support of US CENTCOM operations. After conducting a project assessment in Jordan, he immediately redeployed to Camp As Sayliyah in Qatar in support of berthing construction development for personnel supporting Operation Allies Welcome. He liaised and coordinated with a multitude of commands and personnel across a wide range of operational areas, establishing lines of communication that previously did not exist to develop a safe and compliant project within a vast array of policies and regulations.

In November 2021, he redeployed to Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia to provide technical guidance on a critical lift project and US CENTCOM top priority projects that increased the long range defense capabilities for bases throughout the region. His efforts pushed several high-priority projects forward toward completion.

In December 2021, after a brief dwell time in Camp Buehring, Kuwait, he pushed forward to Al Asad Air Base in Iraq. Through direct coordination with multiple entities, his team completed one planned plus three additional projects in the time allocated. Through their efforts and his direction, they repurposed multiple unused facilities, completing the three additional projects with a zero-cost materials budget, increasing force capabilities and protection while saving significant money and troop labor time.

From January – May 2022, he was assigned as the OIC of the Skilled MOS Assessment and Repair Team (SMART) operating across five bases in Eastern Syria. Under his leadership, the pilot program for this new theater engineering implement quickly became a critical force-protection and combat readiness asset. Under his leadership, he assessed and prioritized projects on the five geographically dispersed outposts, coordinated with Infantry, USACE, TEB, and Combined JTF OIR leadership to address health, safety, and security concerns. The team's coordinated efforts completed many projects and saved the CJTF and SOJTF countless time, resources, and financial encumbrances during the 90-day mission cycle.

Upon redeployment back to the U.S., for the remainder of 2022, he helped guide the unit into reintegration for state-side M-day operations. He continued to provide technical assistance, mentorship, and leadership on two demolition projects, three building improvement projects, and two civil equipment projects. He currently lives in Minnesota and is employed with Krech Ojard and Associates as a Senior Professional Engineer / Senior Project Manager working on various civil, marine, and railroad projects; he is licensed as a Professional Engineer in 10 states and continues his studies as a third-year Ph.D. candidate in Environmental Engineering with the University of North Dakota.



**NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
P.O. BOX 5511
BISMARCK, ND 58506-5511**

*The Honorable Doug Burgum
North Dakota Governor*

*Major General Alan S. Dohrmann
The Adjutant General and
Director of Emergency Services*

27 April 2023

National Guard Association of the United States
Attention: NGAUS Awards Program
1 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, D.C., 20001

Dear Committee Members:

It is with great pleasure that I endorse the nomination of CW2 Michael Mahon for The Eagle Rising Award for Warrant Officers.

CW2 Michael Mahon was heavily utilized by the 111th Engineer Brigade, 444 Engineer Facilities Detachment, Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR), and Special Operations Joint Task Force OIR. He supervised 92 projects totaling over \$1.7 million dollars of force protection and base quality improvements across seven bases.

CW2 Mahon is an officer of impeccable moral character and integrity and is hands-down the NDNG's best candidate for the Eagle Rising Award for Warrant Officers. Lastly, for his outstanding professionalism and performance he was selected by the National Guard Association of North Dakota as their fifth recipient of the Warrant Officer of the Year.

Please direct any questions to Col Greg McDonald, 701-866-9057 or by email to gmcdon49@gmail.com.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ALAN S. DOHRMANN".

**ALAN S. DOHRMANN
Major General, NDNG
The Adjutant General**



NORTH DAKOTA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

141ST Maneuver Enhancement Brigade
3270 40th Street North
Fargo, North Dakota 58102

NGND-141MEB-Z

13 April 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR President of the Eagle Rising Award for Warrant Officers Board

SUBJECT: CW2 Michael Mahon – Accomplishments

1. Purpose. Provide an overview of contributions and accomplishments which align with my recommendation for CW2 Michael Mahon to be considered as a recipient of the Eagle Rising Award.

2. Overview. CW2 Mahon was selected above his peers as the North Guard Association of North Dakota Warrant Officer of the year. His military and civilian contributions to the state, nation, and community are second to none. CW2 Mahon was most notably recognized during his CENTCOM deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. As a junior 120A, CW2 Mahon quickly established himself as the subject matter expert for all general engineering operations at echelons above his assignment. Outside of the military, CW2 Mahon dedicates time to his family, community, and employer.

a. Mission Accomplishments. CW2 Mahon's technical skills are unmatched. While mobilized, he was known by multiple Brigade Commands and frequently requested above organic assets. He supervised the completion of over 90 individual projects worth nearly \$2 million. His efforts led to timely processing and treatment of over 3,000 Afghan Refugees and improved force protection efforts necessary to sustain the force. CW2 Mahon spearheaded a team responsible for missions in Syria and throughout the entire CENTCOM Area of Responsibility. He successfully completed more missions in a six-month timeframe than prior rotations were able to accomplish over the last two years.

b. Community Accomplishments. CW2 Mahon is a productive and active member of the Parents Helping Parents Organization. His extensive knowledge and dedication to special needs children benefited the local and surrounding communities. CW2 Mahon's leadership in the community fostered a positive climate to support families and their loved ones with disabilities. His character, commitment to the community, personal values, and desire to care for others is demonstrated in and out of uniform.

3. POC is the undersigned at (701) 368-2251 or vail email at benjamin.t.cleghorn.mil@army.mil.

BENJAMIN T. CLEGHORN
COL, MP, NDARNG
Commanding



NORTH DAKOTA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
HEADQUARTERS, 142ND ENGINEER BATTALION
747 7TH STREET SE
VALLEY CITY, ND 58072-4119

NGND-142B-Z

10 April 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR President of the Eagle Rising Award for Warrant Officers Board

SUBJECT: Accomplishments and contributions of CW2 Michael Mahon

1. Overview. It is without reservation that I recommend CW2 Mahon for the Eagle Rising Award due to his significant personal sacrifice and contributions to his State, Country, and community throughout FY22. CW2 Mahon exemplified the Army Values and characteristics of the Warrant Officer Corps. He mastered his trade both technically and tactically during an overseas deployment to CENTCOM in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. He provided sound leadership, mentorship and expert technical engineering knowledge that provided continuity between multiple agencies and assisted in streamlining communication with all stakeholders.

2. Military. Throughout FY22, CW2 Mahon was the most experienced and qualified Engineer Warrant Officer in CENTCOM. He was heavily utilized by the 111th Engineer Brigade, 444 Engineer Facilities Detachment, Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR), and Special Operations Joint Task Force OIR. He facilitated the redesign of large warehouse and generated all of the necessary plans, material requirements, and planning factors to construct a hasty medical treatment facility on Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar. This facility was the #1 construction priority in CENTCOM at the time and led to the treatment and processing of over 3,000 at risk Afghan Refugees. Chief Mahon was tasked with coordinating and executing all construction operations in the Eastern Syria Security Area (ESSA). He supervised 92 projects totaling over \$1.7 million dollars of force protection and base quality improvements across seven bases. CW2 Mahon's ability to cut through needless meetings to push through to execution was impressive to work with. He identified critical needs for infrastructure and protection and refused to accept unnecessary delays in construction planning. CW2 Mahon had the innate ability to brief complex plans and requirements in ways that non-engineer leaders understood the importance of his requests. CW2 Mahon's team in Eastern Syria accomplished more in six months that had been accomplished in the past two years.

3. Additional Contributions. CW2 Mahon is actively involved with the Parents Helping Parents Organization. As a parent of a child with special needs, he strives to foster collaboration for those raising children with special needs. He actively shares his experiences and insight, and encourages others to share knowledge gained for new parents of children with special needs.

4. I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions concerning this recommendation at 701-400-8944 or robert.l.bohl.mil@mail.mil.

ROBERT L. BOHL
LTC, EN, NDARNG
Commanding