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Photos of Master Sgt. Gary Gordon and Sgt. 1st Class Randy Shughart—who sacrificed their own lives to save others during the October 3, 1993 Battle of Mogadishu—as they appeared on the cover of the Fall 1994 issue of *NCO Journal*. Online via the Department of Defense.

Effective leadership wins battles, but personnel have to be properly equipped. Today, Rangers and Delta Force commandos are still sent into harm's way, fighting terrorism and doing what their country asks of them.

Washington has learned lessons from the Battle of Mogadishu in which so many people were killed and wounded:

- Rangers receive more training than they did before, including urban warfare.
- Soldiers simulate actual battlefield combat at Ft. Polk, Louisiana.
- Better technology (such as personal combat computers and drones which patrol for thirty-six straight hours) help to keep soldiers safe.

The lessons of Mogadishu, which benefit today's fighting men and women, came at a price. That price was paid both by those who were injured and by those who died.

Three survivors of the Mogadishu battle talk about what happened (and expound on the lessons which were learned as a result). Col. (ret) Larry Perino, Col. (ret) Lee VanArsdale and Master Sgt. (ret) Kyle Lamb have a compelling story to tell.

The movie, Black Hawk Down, portrays the courage of those who fought. Many of the film's characters, however, are composites of real soldiers. Hereafter are links to information and pictures of the actual soldiers who died at Mogadishu.

- Donovan ("Bull") Briley
- Daniel Busch
- James Manuel Cavaco

- [William D. Cleveland ,Jr.](#)
- [Thomas J. Field](#)
- [Earl Fillmore](#)
- [Raymond Alex Frank](#)
- [Cornell Houston](#)
- [Gary Ivan Gordon](#), whose body was dragged through the streets of Mogadishu by a mob. He was awarded the [Medal of Honor](#).
- [J. Casey Joyce](#)
- [Richard Kowalewski](#), who was killed when an RPG went through his body. [Dale Sizemore](#) described what he saw as he identified his [friend](#).
- [Timothy \("Grizz"\) Martin](#)
- [Dominick Pilla](#) - the [first soldier](#) to die in the battle.
- [Matthew Rierson](#), Delta Force [Team Leader](#)
- [Lorenzo Ruiz](#)
- [Randall D. Shughart](#), who, like Gary Gordon, received the Medal of Honor.
- [Jamie Smith](#), whose father lost a leg in Vietnam.
- [Clifton P. Wolcott](#) - pilot of the first downed Black Hawk, "Super 61"

These are the fallen heroes of [Mogadishu](#), sent to do a job without proper equipment or sufficient backup. They are loved and remembered by their families. They will not be forgotten by their friends and country.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are exceedingly grateful to the Rangers who reviewed this story for accuracy.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-REAL-HEROES-Black-Hawk-Down>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-REAL-HEROES-Black-Hawk-Down>

Media Stream



Donovan "Bull" Briley - Black Hawk Down

Photo, Night Stalkers Memorial.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Donovan-Bull-Briley-Black-Hawk-Down>



Daniel Busch - Black Hawk Down

Photo, Night Stalkers Memorial.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Daniel-Busch-Black-Hawk-Down>



James Cavaco - Black Hawk Down

Photo, Night Stalkers Memorial.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/James-Cavaco-Black-Hawk-Down>

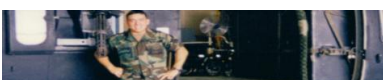


William D. Cleveland, Jr. - Black Hawk Down

Photo, Night Stalkers Memorial.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/William-D.-Cleveland-Jr.-Black-Hawk-Down>



Thomas J. Field - Black Hawk Down

Photo, Night Stalkers Memorial.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Thomas-J.-Field-Black-Hawk-Down>

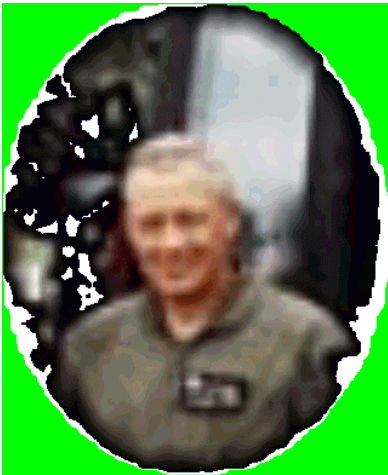


Earl Fillmore - Black Hawk Down

Photo, Night Stalkers Memorial.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Earl-Fillmore-Black-Hawk-Down>



Raymond Alex Frank - Black Hawk Down

Photo, Night Stalkers Memorial.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Raymond-Alex-Frank-Black-Hawk-Down>



Cornell Houston - Black Hawk Down

Photo, Night Stalkers Memorial.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Cornell-Houston-Black-Hawk-Down>



Gary Gordon, Mob Victim

Photo, Night Stalkers Memorial.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Gary-Gordon-Mob-Victim>



Richard Kowalewski - Black Hawk Down

Photo, Arlington Cemetery web site.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Richard-Kowalewski-Black-Hawk-Down>



Timothy "Griz" Martin - Black Hawk Down

Photo, Night Stalkers Memorial.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Timothy-Griz-Martin-Black-Hawk-Down>



Dominick Pilla - Black Hawk Down

Photo, Night Stalkers Memorial.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Dominick-Pilla-Black-Hawk-Down>



Lorenzo Ruiz - Black Hawk Down

Photo, Night Stalkers Memorial.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lorenzo-Ruiz-Black-Hawk-Down>

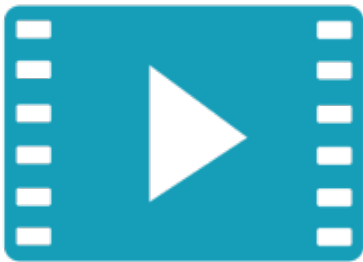


Matthew Rierson - Black Hawk Down

Photo, Night Stalkers Memorial.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Matthew-Rierson-Black-Hawk-Down>



Trailer - Black Hawk Down

Additional information from the [official site](#) provides more credits for the film:

From director Ridley Scott (Gladiator, Hannibal) and producer Jerry Bruckheimer (Pearl Harbor, Armageddon) comes a gripping true story about bravery, camaraderie and the complex reality of war.

Black Hawk Down stars an exceptional cast including Josh Hartnett (Pearl Harbor), Ewan McGregor (Moulin Rouge), Tom Sizemore (Saving Private Ryan), Eric Bana (Chopper), William Fichtner (The Perfect Storm), Ewen Bremner (Snatch) and Sam Shepard (All The Pretty Horses).

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Trailer-Black-Hawk-Down>