

Citation

The length of the Citation must not exceed the space provided except in the case of a VC/GC recommendation

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JORGE EMANUEL MENDONÇA

Place.....BASRAH, IRAQ.....

Date of action or period covered by the Citation....JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2003

How employed.....COMMANDING OFFICER 1ST BATTALION THE QUEEN'S LANCASHIRE REGIMENT

Flying Awards Only	a Total Log Book hours	b Total hours flown on duties covered by recommendation	c Hours flown under b during last 6 months	d Type of aircraft flown under b
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Lieutenant Colonel Mendonca's dynamism, leadership and bravery have been the driving force behind his Battalion's achievements in Central Basrah. His Area of Operations was the Brigade's vital ground and success here was pivotal in the battle for both security and the hearts and minds of all of the people of South East Iraq. His personal contribution as well as that of 1 QLR has been immeasurable and has made a massive difference to the whole region.

Basrah is the second city of Iraq with a population of around 1.5 million. Its police force was corrupt, ineffective and not respected. Organised crime was prevalent and the presence of Former Regime Loyalists and Foreign Fighters increased dramatically during 1 QLR's tour. It was an immature operational environment where first principles thinking was required, and where much of the information required for decisions had to be found to begin with. The threat to Coalition Forces resulted in over 100 direct attacks against them in the city, resulting in death and injury. Lieutenant Colonel Mendonca took command of a very tricky and dangerous situation and launched a series of well thought through and bold initiatives to regain control. He established, trained and deployed a Police Support Unit; he conceived, qualified and delivered a Neighbourhood Watch scheme that was subsequently adopted across the Divisional area. Under his guidance the standards of the local police improved and they started to find the self respect so necessary in an unstable environment. His drive and energy was infectious, and 1 QLR were instrumental in quelling the serious riots on 9/10 August as well as the arrest and detention of over 60 terrorists and some 130 criminals. Furthermore, his resources were spread thinly and this required an inventive approach; not only did he deliver a more secure environment, but his efforts in fuel, electricity and water distribution contributed hugely to the city's stability. Inspired by him, 1 QLR's presence and professionalism ensured a more protected environment in which economic regeneration could flourish.

Lieutenant Colonel Mendonca's personal leadership has been seriously impressive. Not only does he direct operations in a highly effective manner, but he leads from the front and constantly puts himself in harm's way. He does not interfere with his junior commanders but he has that keen instinct to know where to be and at what time to influence every crucial situation. His presence certainly gave commanders confidence during very dangerous situations and always prevented situations from getting out of hand. On 9 August he single-handedly prevented a disturbance from getting out of control in old Basrah when he confronted the rioters on his own and managed to persuade them to disperse. On many occasions both he and his tactical headquarters were first on the scene, and the personal example he set to the rest of the Brigade was exemplary in this respect. His management of the immediate aftermath of the death of the 3 RMPs in Basrah was just one example of this. He often had to rally his men after tragic setbacks. His focused aggression, strong drive and rousing leadership during several fire fights made all the difference and inevitably resulted in success. His leadership on 9 August during a contact in the Ashar market area when he led the charge against 3 armed men who had opened fire on his patrol was first class. His tour has been characterised by great tenacity, inspirational boldness and undoubted courage – both physical and moral, and his battalion and the community have benefited as a result.

Lieutenant Colonel Mendonca has been truly inspirational. Faced with a task of mammoth proportions he has produced some exceptional ideas, has led his battalion with flair and élan and has shown a degree of bravery that puts him well above any other individual across the Brigade. He has made a huge difference. The fact that Basrah has settled down has calmed the whole of the south east of Iraq. Although only one man in Basrah, the effect of his actions has found resonance at the national level. His outstanding leadership, personal courage and incredible successes are worthy of national recognition.

Signature of 
 Initiating Officer..... Rank....Brigadier
 Date..5th October 2003 Place: Iraq