

McElroy returns to unit after injured by IED

Written by Staff Reports

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Mark McElroy Jr. served with the BCO 1-501st Airborne infantry, US Army in Southern Afghanistan on the Pakistan border.

McElroy was on a combat outpost called “Chergowtaw,” which they defended daily from the enemy. He said it was exhausting; a 24-7 operation with very little sleep. McElroy had more than 300 combat patrols — day and night.

In March, during a dismount patrol, McElroy was hit by an IED (Improvised Explosive Device). He said he felt like a horse had kicked him in the chest. He was severely injured and airlifted out.

He said he was thankful to God he was alive and made full recovery and continues to fight with his unit. McElroy is now stateside.