



Sergeant Todd Matthew Langley was killed during operations in Afghanistan on 4 July 2011 while deployed as a commando section commander – on his fifth operational deployment to the Middle East Area of Operations.

Sergeant Langley is survived by his loving family, including a brother who is a corporal in the Australian Army.

Todd Matthew Langley was born in Margaret River, Western Australia, in 1976. He enlisted in the Army on 18 April 1993 and was eventually posted to the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR).

Later, on completion of the commando selection and training course in 2004, he was posted to the then 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (Commando), now 2nd Commando Regiment.

Shortly after his death, Defence released a statement on behalf of his wife, Reigan, and his parents Val and Neville.

"Todd was an all-round great guy. At work he was a soldier's soldier, a true professional who took pride in his work and who was caring.

"The Army had been part of Todd for all of his adult life. His job saw him based out of Townsville with 1RAR for eight years and Holsworthy for the past seven, where he served with 2 Commando Regiment.

"Todd epitomised the spirit of the Aussie Digger – loyal, hard working and well respected.

"Privately, he was a loving son who had grown up in the Western Australian towns of Katanning and Broome Hill. He was also a husband and father to three beautiful girls and a young son who has inherited his Daddy's personality.

"We have some wonderful family memories, including a holiday before Todd's deployment, which we will always cherish.

"There are so many wonderful things we will remember about Todd, including his competitive streak when playing board games, his fascination with world affairs and the fact that he was a big kid at heart.



"The children are so proud of their Daddy and the work that he did. They knew their Daddy was a soldier, and missed him terribly each time he went away. But they, and the rest of the family, were always so proud of him at the same time.

"We are so devastated by Todd's passing. He was a beloved son, husband, father, brother, uncle, son-in-law and brother-in-law who will always be in our hearts."

On just his second day in office, it was the sad duty of new Chief of Defence Force General David Hurley to deliver the news of Australia's 28th operational death in Afghanistan.

"Sergeant Langley was a brave and professional soldier, who never took a backward step," General Hurley said.

"Despite their grief, his comrades say he will continue to inspire them.

"Sergeant Langley was an exceptionally experienced and decorated soldier. He was on his fifth deployment to Afghanistan and had also undertaken two deployments to East Timor.

"He was awarded two Commendations for Distinguished Service, firstly in 2002 and then 2008.

"His SOTG mates describe him as an exemplary warrior – a true leader who always brought out the best in those around him."

General Hurley said the commando section commander was leading his team in the thick of battle when he was killed in action.

"Sergeant Langley sustained a gunshot wound to the head and, despite emergency first-aid treatment from a medical officer, he died on the battlefield from his wounds."

On 11 July, Sergeant Langley's earthly remains were returned to his grieving family at RAAF Base Richmond.

Soldiers from 2 Commando Regiment formed an honour guard and bearer party to escort the casket from the aircraft.

Chief of Army Lieutenant General David Morrison spoke of honouring the fallen warrior who died in the service of his country.

"It is very appropriate that Australia and its Defence Force recognises this great Australian," Lieutenant General Morrison said.

"He was a great family man, a great husband and father and, as a soldier, a great example to all those who knew him and had the chance to serve with him."

In a second statement released by Defence, Reigan Langley said her husband loved being in the Army and was a soldier's soldier. He loved being a commando, and this showed how passionate and dedicated he was in all that he did.

"I will miss him every day for the rest of my life. I and our family, fully supported Todd's chosen career of being a soldier," she said.

"Todd was also an amazing family man, he was the love of my life, and we will miss him forever.

"As a family, we have had many shared moments that took our breath away. We will miss and cherish Todd's memory and he will live on forever in our hearts. I know he will always be watching over us to keep us safe.

"Each time I look at our children, I will always be reminded of Todd as he lives on through them.

"Todd will always be a true hero in our hearts."

Sergeant Langley was buried with full military honours on 15 July at Sydney's Woronora Cemetery.



BEST OF THE BEST