

## TROOPER JASON BROWN

### Rest in peace my son Your duty is done

**T**rooper Jason Brown from the Perth-based Special Air Service Regiment died as a result of multiple gunshot wounds

sustained during an engagement with Taliban insurgents on August 13.

Trooper Brown's parents, Graham and Ann, along with his sister Stephanie reflected on the life of the 29-year-old soldier.

"Jason was a career soldier who dreamed from a young age of being nothing else," they said in a statement.

"Everyone who knew him knew his dream. He strived to be the best he could be at his job and was successfully accepted into the elite Special Air Service Regiment.

"He was born to be a soldier, and believed in what he was doing. He died doing what he loved. We are all very proud of him.

"We will miss him dearly, as will his army mates, who were his second family."

Trooper Brown joined the Army in June 2000 and joined the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (Commando) in 2004. On successful completion of the 2007 selection course, Trooper Brown became a member of the Special Air Service Regiment.

This was his first tour to Afghanistan, but he had served three tours in East Timor.

Trooper Brown was farewelled by his mates from Camp Russell in a moving ramp ceremony at the Multi-National Base, Tarin Kot, on August 16.

Commander Joint Task Force 633 Major General John Cantwell said it was a very moving service that allowed Jason's mates to remember him in a way that only those who have forged the closest bonds possibly can.

"It was a warrior's send-off by our nation's finest warriors – something I'm sure Jason would have been extremely humbled by, but something he truly earned with his dedicated and selfless service," he said. The memorial service was followed by a traditional ramp ceremony with more than 1000 Australian, International Security Assistance Force and Afghan soldiers lining the road to the Tarin Kot airstrip to pay their final respects as Trooper Brown's flag-draped casket moved past.

Trooper Brown's casket, borne on a RAAF C-17 Globemaster, was met by his family, friends, colleagues and dignitaries at RAAF Base Pearce in Western Australia on 18 August.

His funeral, held in Sydney on 26 August at the Queen of Peace Church, Normanhurst, was attended by several hundred friends

and brothers-in-arms including members of the Special Air Service Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Commando Regiment and Incident Response Regiment.

Jason's father, Graham, farewelled his son with a moving eulogy.

"Jason, your mum, sister and I are extremely proud of you. We will remember you always and every day, as a young man, for the rest of our lives.

"Even when all your loved ones and mates have left this world you will always be remembered by the regiment – they will never forget you, as the regiment will live on.

"Rest in peace my son as your duty is done."

Trooper Jason Brown was laid to rest at Castlebrook Cemetery.



## LANCE CORPORAL JARED MACKINNEY

### Family man – soldier

**T**wenty-eight-year-old Lance Corporal Jared MacKinney, serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Mentoring Task Force in Afghanistan was killed in action following an intense firefight with Taliban insurgents on 24 August.

A member of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, Lance Corporal MacKinney was involved in a dismounted partner patrol with the Afghan National Army in the Deh Rawud region when the engagement took place.

In what has since become known as the Battle of Derapet, 20 Australian and 20 Afghan soldiers on the patrol remained in contact with up to 100 Taliban insurgents for almost three hours before withdrawing, after inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

An AH-64 Apache helicopter, GPS-guided 155mm artillery and 25mm-armed Australian ASLAVs fired in support of the patrol during the engagement.

No other Australian or Afghan soldiers were wounded in the firefight.

Lance Corporal MacKinney was an experienced soldier and was on his second operational deployment to Afghanistan. He was felled by a single gunshot early in the battle and died in the arms of his mates who tried desperately to save him.

Family, friends and colleagues were on hand to welcome Lance Corporal MacKinney home as he was returned to Australia in a Royal Australian Air Force C-17 Globemaster.

7<sup>th</sup> Brigade Commander Brigadier Paul McLachlan paid tribute – "Today we bring 'Crash' home and restore him to the loving arms of his family," he said.

"Crash" [a nickname given to him by his father-in-law, David, at their first meeting] MacKinney will be remembered as a great mate, a loving husband and father," Brigadier McLachlan said.

"He passes in to the glorious history of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment."

The life of Lance Corporal Jared MacKinney was celebrated at a moving military funeral at Ashgrove Baptist Church in Brisbane on 10 September. Brigadier McLachlan, Commander of the Brisbane-based 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade, told the packed church that Lance Corporal MacKinney died fighting alongside his section, honouring his responsibilities to his men, leading them from the front and protecting them in battle.

"All who knew 'Crash' well would expect



nothing less of him, they know he could never let his mates down.

"He was a soldiers' soldier and despite the imminent dangers, wild horses could not have turned him into a spectator on this day," Brigadier McLachlan said.

Mrs MacKinney paid tribute to her husband saying, "Jared was a doting father and nothing meant more to him than family. He was really the best husband and we shared the most amazing 11 years together."

Lance Corporal MacKinney leaves behind wife Beckie, who gave birth to the couple's second child on the day of the funeral, and three-year-old daughter Annabell.

