



**The NCOA Marine Corps Vanguard Award is presented in honor and memory of Medal of Honor recipient Corporal Larry L. Maxam.**

**The NCOA Military Vanguard recipient for the U.S. Marine Corps is Staff Sergeant Samuel S. Mullins.**

On December 6, 2019 at approximately 0642 Central Standard Time (CST), Staff Sergeant Mullins conducted a physical training event with Aircrew Candidates on board NAS Pensacola., he was informed of an active shooter in an adjacent building. A gunman in Building 633 fired shots throughout the hallways and offices, leaving three dead and eight others wounded.

Staff Sergeant Mullins accompanied by Gunnery Sergeant Ryan Masel walked over to Building 633 to investigate. Recognizing the familiar sound of gunfire, he sprang into action and entered the building without hesitation. He selflessly moved through the hallways and attempted to locate any victims. At 0652 CST, Staff Sergeant Mullins identified the gunman down a hallway. The gunman began to move in his direction which prompted Staff Sergeant Mullins to hastily exit the building with Gunnery Sergeant Masel. He relayed information about the gunman and his location to two police officers outside.

At approximately 0654 CST, more gunfire erupted as Staff Sergeant Mullins spoke with the two police officers. Recognizing his exposed position, he ran around to the side of Building 633 utilizing bushes and minimal cover. He spotted the first victim on the ground at the foot of the stairs of Building 633. Without the aid of cover, he selflessly moved to the victim and carried him to a concealed position behind a bush. He identified multiple gunshot wounds on the victim and helped load the victim in a Sheriff's vehicle to be taken to a trauma facility.

At approximately 0702 CST, Staff Sergeant Mullins rushed back through the front entrance of Building 633 and located a second victim at the top of the stairs. With the help of Gunnery Sergeant Masel and a police officer, they moved the victim away from the building behind the cover of a police vehicle. Staff Sergeant Mullins immediately began chest compressions and rescue breaths. He performed three to four rounds of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) before passing off lifesaving efforts.

At approximately 0709 CST, a third victim was brought out from Building 633. As the victim was being wheeled out of the building on a chair, Staff Sergeant Mullins sprang into action to assist. With the help of two police officers and two other instructors, he moved her away from the building and behind bushes for concealment. Staff Sergeant Mullins attempted to keep the victim calm while the others began lifesaving efforts. Overall, Staff Sergeant Mullins provided lifesaving assistance to one gunshot victim, attempted to save the lives of two others, and aided police and medical personnel with vital information.

Staff Sergeant Mullins' quick thinking, exceptional bravery, and selfless actions saved a life and prevented further harm of several victims, thereby reflecting great credit upon himself and upholding the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.