

Photography has many powers and abilities to convey a message. With each photo taken in combat a feeling/meaning is brought to mind. Ralph was in the thousands of photos he took and in his photos there is a meaning that represents him. Over the course of this project I interviewed three marines and got two responses. I'm using their stories and description of Ralph from the two marines in his brigade.



In this picture I would say that it represents his work ethic. Ralph was described as having a very high quality, and thorough work ethic. In this picture you can see Ralph and his fellow cameraman Armando Mendoza working on their job. This photo portrays his work ethic by showing him printing out his photos while back on base instead of out taking pictures, this means it's after their mission and in their off time.



Ralph was described as being in the thousands of pictures while on his tour. I chose this picture so I can describe some history of combat photography and him. Combat Photography started in 1847 by an unknown photographer. Over the course of the start of this photography to now the risks have definitely increased because of acts of terrorism. 36 combat photographers were either killed or abducted in the Iraq war from 2003-2009. One thing that has changed from the start to now was the equipment. The Canon 5D Mark III is a camera favored by COMCAM because of the beating that it can take. Ralph had a talent in his MOS as his troops have said.



This is a picture that Ralph took himself. His job took devotion, there were some photographers that never even deployed, then there were some that deployed but never left the base, but in Ralph's case he was stuck to an infantry line watching all the firefights and civilian action that was happening and capturing those moments. This photo shows troops getting ready to shoot a multipurpose assault weapon and without people like Ralph there wouldn't be pictures like this.

<https://www.facebook.com/UnitedStatesGruntCorps/videos/476974869450622/>

This video was taken by Ralph during his employment in Afghanistan. Without combat photography we wouldn't be able to see what actually goes on overseas. Not only is it important to the public but the photos that are taken can be used by the government, and the military. Ralph took this job to then come home and be an honors art teacher at his local high school but his time was cut short.

“there's heroes and there's legends. Heroes get remembered but legends never die”

This was a quote that will always remind me of Ralph. He was for sure a hero to me but to everyone he was a legend. His happy and joyful presence spread to everyone in the room with one smile. He will forever and always be in our hearts. Rest in peace Ralph.