

Brave pal remembered

Corporal says sapper killed by roadside blast in Afghanistan 'was my best friend'

By **JOE WARMINGTON, SUN MEDIA**

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His corporal, boss and closest pal described Sapper Sean Greenfield as proud, confident, brave, skilled, in great physical shape and a completely committed soldier.

"He was my best friend," Cpl. Greg Hudson said of the 25-year-old Greenfield, killed by an improvised explosive device near Kandahar City Jan. 31 and laid to rest in Petawawa yesterday. "He was a great guy."

But Hudson, also 25, said Greenfield was even more.

He was also a great soldier. And he worked very hard at being one. "We would spend a lot of time in the gym and pumped a lot of iron together," said Hudson in an interview with the Sun this week. "He was super fit."

In off-duty time he might relax by playing Green Day on his guitar and enjoy a barbecue with his pals. But when it was patrol time, he was as capable and competent as you can get, Hudson said.

Greenfield, whose family lives in the Petawawa area, took his job seriously -- as did the whole team which wanted to find the explosives and detonate them to protect the other soldiers and innocent civilians, Hudson said.

They had done this successfully on seven previous IEDs they located. The eighth one they found was under the vehicle.

"It just happens in the blink of an eye," Hudson said. "I heard the explosion and then there is dust."

The training kicks in and everybody gets out and the wounded get medical treatment. It would not help Greenfield. "It didn't hit me at first (that his pal was gone)," he said. "It was unbelievable at first. You don't realize the severity of it."

But back at the base, reality sinks in: Another one is gone. Greenfield was the 108th soldier to die in Afghanistan.

As difficult as it is, he said, he and Greenfield, and all of the others who do the field work of looking for explosives, are completely aware of the risks and even had a joking code about it.

"We would always joke around with guys - if one of us gets smoked, we would get their computer," said Hudson, who said this is the best way to keep things light.

There is a lot of pressure and fear but "you get used to it and you learn how to deal with it."

Hudson escorted his friend's body back to Canada and said he wanted to make sure it was done with the same kind of precision as they would have conducted in the field. He wanted Greenfield's journey home to be perfect.

"I know he would have done the same for me."

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