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MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**



**LIEUTENANT GENERAL YOGESH KUMAR JOSHI**  
**(Then LIEUTENANT COLONEL)**

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	IC-40500
<b>RANK</b>	Lieutenant Colonel, [Later Lieutenant General (Retd.)]
<b>NAME</b>	Yogesh Kumar Joshi
<b>SON OF</b>	Rampal Joshi
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Faridabad, Haryana
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	13 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION</b>	12 June 1982
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Vir Chakra / 20 June 1999
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	Kargil War/Op VIJAY



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	Param Vashisht Seva Medal (PVSM) Uttam Yuddh Seva Medal (UYSM) Ati Vashisht Seva Medal (AVSM) Sena Medal (SM)
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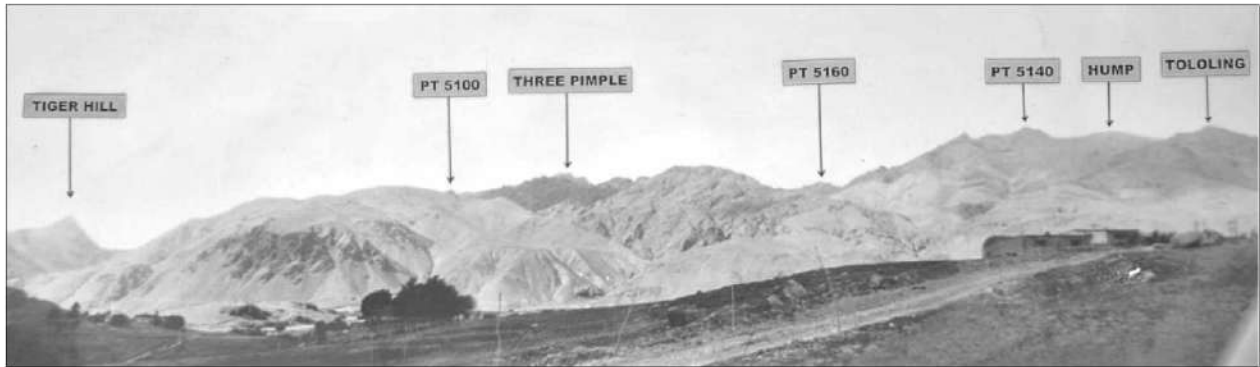
Lieutenant Colonel Yogesh Kumar Joshi was born on 05 January 1962 in Faridabad, Haryana. His father Mr Rampal Joshi worked in railways' accounts department. Lt Col Joshi did his primary schooling from various places and completed his secondary school from Kendriya Vidyalaya Faridabad. After completing his schooling, he joined the National Defense academy, Khadakwasala. After completing his training, he was commissioned into the 13 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles on 12 June 1982.

The Jammu and Kashmir Rifles has a unique regimental history. It was raised in 1821 as J&K State Forces by Maharaja Gulab Singh. As a state force, Jammu and Kashmir Rifles fought as Imperial Service troops in both World War I and II. It contributed immensely during 1947-48 war. The J&K State Forces are the only erstwhile Princely State Force of India to be absorbed en bloc into the Indian Army as a distinct and separate Regiment. In 1963, the designation was changed to Jammu & Kashmir Rifles. During the Kargil conflict in 1999, the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles created a saga of bravery and sacrifice.

Kargil conflict started in 1999 when the Pakistan army surreptitiously occupied the winter vacated posts on Indian side of Line of Control. On 03 May 1999, enemy intrusions were detected and Operation Vijay was launched by the Indian Army to evict the intruders from Indian Territory. After two months of violent confrontation, the war came to an end on 26 July 1999.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE



*Panoramic view of operation areas during Op VIJAY by 56 Mountain Brigade*

Source: Kargil War Memorial (J&K)

The battle of Tololing was a pivotal battle of the Kargil War which turned the tide in favour of India. Tololing is only 4 km from Dras, with excellent domination of the National Highway IA (NH1A) by observation and fire, the life line to Leh. It is an ideal location to interdict the NH1A, and the capture of Tololing was vital for the safety of the highway. Tololing is connected with Point (Pt) 5140 via hill feature called Hump and formed a complex. Pt 5140 is a majestic feature, imposing over the entire Tololing complex, from where the intruders were able to bring down precise fire to interdict the highway. The ridge is located between two nalas, the Bimbat nala in the east and the Tololing nala in the west, both flowing from north to south.

As the Kargil War progressed, the capture of Tololing became essential to flush out the Pakistani intruders. On 19 May 1999, 56 Mountain Brigade was given the task to capture Tololing and on 23 May 1999, 18 GRENADIERS were deployed to capture Tololing. 1 Naga was tasked to attack Pt 5140 from the East on 22 May 1999 so that it did not interfere with the capture of Tololing. Attack on Tololing and Pt 5140 could not progress as planned due to heavy enemy fire and difficult terrain, therefore the attack plan was revised. 18 GRENADIERS was now tasked to provide a firm base and 2 RAJPUTANA RIFLES was to attack Tololing and secure the feature by 13 June 1999. After more than three weeks of bitter fighting, Tololing Top was captured. This was the turning point of Kargil conflict. 18 GRENADIERS had set the stage and 2 RAJPUTANA RIFLES finished the task against overwhelming odds and at a great price. At this stage, 18 GRENADIERS was ordered to maintain the momentum of attack and exploit the success to capture Hump. The Grenadiers drove the enemy out of Hump and the adjacent Bumps. In mid-June 1999, 13 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles (13 JAK Rifles) and 18 GRENADIERS were tasked to recapture Point 5140 (about 1500 metres North of Tololing on the same ridgeline) by 56 Mountain Brigade.





रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE

The first objective, Rocky Knob at the base of Point 5140 and about 800 metres away provided the best avenue for mounting an attack on Point 5140. It was allotted to 13 JAK Rifles. The attack commenced on 15 June. Intense artillery shelling preceded the assault. As the battle raged on, the commanding officer had to be evacuated due to medical reasons. Major Yogesh Kumar Joshi, the second-in-command, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel and given the reins of the battalion in the middle of the battle. While the capture of Rocky-Knob was in progress, Captain Sanjeev Singh Jamwal and Captain Vikram Batra, company commanders of Bravo and Delta companies, were busy carrying out reconnaissance for approaches to Pt. 5140. Lt Col Yogesh Kumar Joshi devised a plan based on synchronised action to achieve absolute surprise. He personally evaluated all of the attack preparations. On June 20, 1999, Lt. Col Joshi kept encouraging his company commanders and positioned himself ahead throughout the attack without bothering for his personal safety. He adapted to shifting battle situations with outstanding presence of mind. His leadership from the front boosted the morale of his troops. Taking encouragement from him, the attacking companies overcame adversity, inhospitable terrain and intense enemy fire to finally capture strategic peak of Point 5140. The enemy had put in place seven sangars on Point 5140: two at the highest point and five towards the east. By the morning of 20 June, all these sangars were cleared and the Pakistanis driven out from Point 5140.



The CO, Lt Col YK Joshi, and Subedar Major Parkash Chand, with the COAS after the presentation of the COAS's Unit Citation and the title, 'Bravest of the Brave', on Army Day, 15 January 2000, at New Delhi



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**DEFENCE**

Lt. Col Yogesh Kumar Joshi demonstrated superb leadership, outstanding command and control, and valour beyond the call of duty, resulting in the deaths of six enemy intruders and the recapturing of the strategically important Point 5140 in the Drass Sector.

On 1 February 2020, he was appointed as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Northern Command at Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir. Serving a tenure of two years as GOC-in-C, on 31 January 2022, Lt General Yogesh Kumar Joshi retired from the Indian Army after an illustrious career in uniform.



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
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## CITATION

Lieutenant Colonel Yogesh Kumar Joshi (IC-40500) 13 Jammu And Kashmir Rifles  
(Effective date of the Award: 20<sup>th</sup> June, 1999)

Lieutenant Colonel Yogesh Kumar Joshi, 13 Jammu & Kashmir Rifles, was tasked to capture the strategically vital Point 5140 in Drass Sector during "OPERATION VIJAY".

Lieutenant Colonel Joshi conceived a brilliant plan catering for coordinated action to achieve total surprise and psychological dominance over the tactically better positioned enemy. He also personally supervised all preliminary actions before the attack.

During the attack on 20 June 1999, Lieutenant Colonel Joshi kept motivating his company commanders and kept staging himself forward with utter disregard to his personal safety. Displaying exceptional presence of mind, he responded to changing battle situations in a most competent manner, His leading from the front and being well forward in battle acted as a morale booster to the attacking troops. Drawing inspiration from him, the attacking companies surmounted the heavy odds, rugged in-hospitable terrain and enemy fire to close in and capture the objective, important peak of Point 5140.

Lieutenant Colonel Yogesh Kumar Joshi displayed exemplary leadership, outstanding command and control and valour beyond the call of duty, leading to killing of six enemy intruders and recapturing of the strategically vital Point 5140 in Drass Sector.

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Reference: Gazette of India, Notification No. \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
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## VIDEOS

1. Special Programme 'Kargil: Battle for the Peaks' (Source: DD News)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=340P3vqWtzo>
2. President Kovind presents Uttam Yuddh Seva Medal to Lt General Yogesh Kumar Joshi, AVSM, VrC, SM (Source: Official YouTube Channel for President of India)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgJSvHknxvw>
3. Lt Gen YK Joshi Salutes Kargil War Heroes, says "Each Soldiers' Dignity is in Death"  
(Source: CNN News18)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lIRiiXWWak>
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रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
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8. Kargil- A Matter Of Honour | Patriot With Major Gaurav Arya (Source: Republic World)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-t3-Rh99tI>
9. मिलिए Lt Gen YK Joshi से जिनके आगे हारा China-Pakistan | वनइंडिया हिंदी (Source: Oneindia Hindi)  
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