



रक्षा मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
DEFENCE



### COLONEL MAGOD BASAPPA RAVINDRANATH

<b>SERVICE NUMBER</b>	IC-38662
<b>RANK</b>	Colonel
<b>NAME</b>	Magod Basappa Ravindranath
<b>SON OF</b>	Magod Basappa
<b>RESIDENT OF (Village/District/State)/ DOMICILE</b>	Bangalore, Karnataka
<b>UNIT/REGIMENT/CORPS</b>	2 Rajputana Rifles
<b>SERVICE</b>	Indian Army
<b>DATE OF ENROLMENT/ COMMISSION</b>	07 June 1980
<b>AWARD/DATE OF ACTION</b>	Vir Chakra / 28 June 1999
<b>WAR/BATTLE/OPERATION</b>	Kargil War / Op VIJAY
<b>OTHER AWARDS WITH DATE</b>	



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Colonel Magod Basappa Ravindranath was born on 15 May 1959 in Kundoor village in Karnataka. He studied at Sainik School Vijayapura. He was commissioned into the Indian Army on 07 June 1980. With a career spanning over two decades, Colonel Ravindranth has held different positions and responsibilities from being an instructor at Army War College in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh to dealing with counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir.<sup>1</sup> During the Kargil War, Colonel Ravindranath was the Commanding Officer of 2 RAJ RIF and led the unit to victory in Tololing Operation, Point 4590 and Area Three Pimples (Area Black Rock). In April 2018, he succumbed to cardiac arrest.

The Rajputana Rifles is the senior most Rifle Regiment of the Indian Army. Its first battalion was raised in January 1775. The Rajputana Rifles has a long and glorious history. The Regiment took part in some of the bloodiest battles in many theatres of the world. During World War II, the battalions of this Regiment fought in every theatre in which the Indian Army was involved. Three of them, the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and Medium Machine Gun Battalions fought in Eritrea in North Africa and Italy as part of the famous 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Division, whose fighting record was one of the finest in World War II. Post-independence the regiment took part in many battles and operations including the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Congo. The Rajputana Rifles fought gallantly in the 1965 and 1971 India Pakistan wars. During the Kargil War, the Rajputana Rifles displayed exemplary valour and determination especially in the Tololing Operation. The 2 RAJ RIF was conferred India's first 'Instant Unit Citation' by General VP Malik, the then Chief of the Army Staff.

The genesis of Indo-Pak conflict can be traced back to the year 1947. The bone of contention between India and Pakistan are the attempts by Pakistan to annex the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir by any means. The Kargil war of 1999 was fought 52 years after independence. The war commenced shortly after the signing of the Lahore declaration in 1999, when the Pakistan army surreptitiously occupied the winter vacated posts of the Indian Army. This act is thought to be the brain-child of General Pervez Musharraf, then chief of the Pakistan Army. On 03 May 1999, intrusions were detected. On 26 May<sup>2</sup>, the first air to ground strike was launched by the Indian Airforce (IAF), followed by Operation Vijay, by the Indian Army to evict the intruders from the Indian territory<sup>3</sup>. After two months of violent confrontation, the war came to an end on 26 July 1999.

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<sup>1</sup> Kargil War hero dies on way to jog, (timesofindia.com)

<sup>2</sup> Kargil 1999: The Impregnable Conquered Lt. Gen Y M Bammi. (2002) Gorkha Publisher

<sup>3</sup> From Surprise to Reckoning: The Kargil Review Committee Report (2000) Sage Publications, New Delhi (Pg no 104-105)



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The rugged heights in Dras sector provided unobstructed view of the National Highway 1A. The intruders from Pakistan had occupied well-coordinated defences on the heights. It was imperative for the Indian Army to clear the enemy from these features to secure the highway. After successful eviction of enemy from Tololing, the 2 RAJ RIF was tasked to capture Area Three Pimples Complex in the Dras sector. It is a cluster of sharp conical features in close proximity to each other between Sando and Tololing Nullahs and comprises of Knoll, Three Pimples and Lone Hill. Colonel MB Ravindranath, Commanding Officer of the 2 RAJ RIF sent out patrols to recce the area before the attack was launched. Based on the information from the patrols, it was decided that the best approach to attack Three Pimples was from the South-East direction. Colonel Ravindranath's skill and professional acumen contributed immensely to the victory of 2 RAJ RIF during the operations at Point 4590 and Area Three Pimples

Colonel MB Ravindranath was the Commanding Officer of 2 Rajputana Rifles tasked to capture the heights of Tololing, Point 4590 and Area Black Rock in the Dras sector during the Operation Vijay in 1999. The officer executed a meticulous plan and personally led the reconnaissance team of his battalion under enemy artillery and small fire arms. On 12 June 1999, during the Tololing operation, the leading company came under heavy enemy fire. Realising the seriousness of the situation, Colonel Ravindranath reached the spot and took control of the situation, finally resulting in the capture and consolidation of Tololing and Point 4590. After the success at Tololing heights the 2 RAJ RIF was tasked to capture features in Area Black Rocks. On the night of 28 June 1999, when during the operation at Area Black rocks, the assaulting company lost two officers; Major Padmapani Acharya and Captain Neikezhakuo Kenguruse. Colonel Ravindranath moved forward to rally his troops and personally led the assault once again resulting in an early capture of the objective.

Colonel Ravindranath displayed exemplary leadership infused with skills and acts of valour in the face of enemy for he was awarded the Vir Chakra.





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## CITATION

Colonel Magod Basappa Ravindranath (IC-38662) 2 Rajputana Rifles  
(Effective date of Award: 28<sup>th</sup> June, 1999)

During OPERATION VIJAY, Colonel Mogad Basappa Ravindranath, Commanding Officer 2 RAJPUTANA RIFLES, was tasked to capture the strategic heights of Tololing, Point 4590 and Area Rock in the Drass Sector, which dominated the Srinagar-Leh road.

Colonel Magod Basappa Ravindranath went about the task in a meticulous manner in which he personally led the reconnaissance teams of his Battalion under enemy artillery and small arms fire.

During the assault on 12 June 1999 at Tololing, the company was under constant enemy artillery shelling and heavy automatic fire. Realising the gravity of the situation, Colonel Magod Basappa Ravindranath reached the spot and quickly restored the situation by his personal influence, which ultimately led to beating back the enemy counter attacks and consolidating hold on Tololing and Point 4590.

In continuation of the Tololing Operation, the Battalion was again tasked to capture Area Black Rock on the night of 28 June 1999. During the attack on Black Rock, the assaulting company lost both its officers. Realising the gravity of the situation, the Commanding Officer personally led the assault once again and was instrumental in capturing area Black Rock.

Colonel Magod Basappa Ravindranath displayed exemplary gallantry and led from the front in the face of the enemy.

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



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2. Col SC Tyagi, "The Kargil Victory: Battles from Peak to Peak, Speaking Tiger Publication", New Delhi, 2009
3. Col. Gurmeet Kanwal, "Heroes of Kargil", Army Headquarters, New Delhi. (2002)
4. Lt Gen YM Bammi, "Kargil 1999: The Impregnable Conquered".
5. Ballabh, Anand. Insights into Indian Infantry Regiment: A Basic Factbook. Forward Books publication. New Delhi

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2. Honourpoint: An Online Memorial for every Indian Soldier  
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<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/kargil-war-hero-dies-on-way-to-jog/articleshow/63672078.cms>
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5. Officer who won back Tololing passes away (tribuneindia.com) (Accessed on 26 June 2022)  
<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/archive/nation/officer-who-won-back-tololing-passes-away-571024>
6. Col Magod Basappa Ravindranath, VrC (One India One People) (Accessed on 26 June 2022)  
<https://oneindiaonepeople.com/col-magod-basappa-ravindranath-vrc/>



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## VIDEOS

1. Col MB Ravindranath addresses the cadets of Sainik School Bijapur (Source: Youtube)  
<https://youtu.be/NWL2Vy1awQM>
2. Col MB Ravindranath addresses students of Parikrma Centre for Learning (NGO) on nation building (Source: Youtube)  
[https://youtu.be/qT\\_h\\_qmCUEs](https://youtu.be/qT_h_qmCUEs)
3. Kargil War Hero Col Ravindranath passes away (Source: Republic World)  
<https://youtu.be/Faq-qyXJSU8>

\*\*Disclaimer<sup>4</sup>

## OTHER INTERESTING RESOURCES<sup>5</sup>

A blog dedicated about Col MB Ravindranth is maintained by Mr D. Vijaya Kumar, Educational Consultant, CBSE Schools

<http://ssbjcolmbravindranathvrc.blogspot.com/>

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<sup>4</sup> DISCLAIMER:

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