Stanislav Petrov

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box:

against all odds	in flames
single-handedly	recognition
embroiled	averted

On September 26, 1983, Stanislav Petrov, a 44-year-old Lieutenant |lefˈtenənt| Colonel |ˈkɜːnl| in the Soviet Union's Air Defense Forces, 1)_____ saved the world from what would have been the end of modern-day civilization. So, if you were thinking, what else could it be if not a nuclear apocalypse |əˈpɒkəlɪps|, you're right. At the time, the United States and the Soviet Union were still 2)_____ in a cold war, and tensions were high. On that fateful day, the Soviet Union's early warning system indicated that the United States had launched five nuclear missiles |ˈmɪsaɪl| at the Soviet Union. Petrov was the duty officer at the command centre that day and was tasked with determining whether or not the alert was accurate. He had to decide whether to report the alert to his superiors and potentially launch a retaliatory |rɪˈtælɪətərɪ| strike or trust his gut instinct that the alert was a false alarm. 3)_____, Petrov chose the latter. He decided to trust his gut and not report the false alarm. Consequently, he 4)_____ a nuclear war between the two superpowers. Petrov's brave decision to trust his guts probably saved our planet and civilization from going up 5)_____. Decades later, Petrov would receive the World Citizen Award, gaining 6)_____ for his role in averting a potential global catastrophe.