



SPC DERECK BENNETT

With Operation Fury in place, the units schedule has been exhausting. Executing our daily patrols with numerous cordon and searches and raids in between. With the weather consistently staying over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, it takes an increased toll on the soldiers. Newly promoted SPC Derrek Bennett has proved himself as a “Can Do Soldier” in any circumstance. This is especially true when his platoon was on patrol last Thursday, July 7th. The platoon had already been on patrol for seven hours. It was in the early afternoon with the sun blazing down upon us. There were two other platoons from our company in sector with the company TAC. One platoon was securing a possible IED site North of the Buick/Isuzu intersection. Our platoon was traveling West on Isuzu with a detainee that we had captured during a TCP we conducted about a half hour earlier. With the news of the possible IED at the intersection that our second platoon was securing, we were on heightened alert looking for more possible IED’s as we drove through it. As we drove through the intersection, our platoon sergeant spotted what looked like another IED. We secured the site and called EOD. The element that was securing the other IED with EOD had come to our location so we could continue to transport the detainee to the detention facility on FOB Marez. As we were relieved in place, we continued down Isuzu until we reached the Lexus/Isuzu intersection. This is when I felt the tap on my leg. It was one of my soldiers telling me there might be another possible IED. I notified the other strykers and stopped my own. I turned around to talk with SPC Bennett, the one who identified the IED. He pointed it out to me and we once again notified EOD. Since EOD was already backed up, they sent out an additional team

to reduce the threat. Once on station, the EOD had identified the possible IED as a 152 HE round with the detonator in place attached to a Motorola.

SPC Bennett's quick reaction and knowledge of his surroundings enabled the platoon to reduce another deadly threat to coalition forces. Giving us another advantage over a persistent enemy who will not come out and fight, but who hides behind roadside bombs.

HHC 1/5 IN
SPC FRANCIS J. OHARA

SPC Ohara has served as a Stryker driver for the Platoon Leader for the last six months while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III. His ability to have his vehicle prepared for missions by performing a thorough and accurate PMCS allowed the Mortar Platoon and the Platoon Leader to be assured that his Stryker and its equipment was FMC. His efforts in operating the Stryker over and through tough terrain without damage to his vehicle, or damage to civilian property, frequently with little to no sleep is a true testament to his drive to successfully accomplish all missions. Periodically he has performed duties as a dismounted Soldier in patrols and on Traffic Control Points. SPC Ohara's ability to perform all tasks assigned to him successfully and in a timely manner is a true representation of his efforts as a Soldier in the Battalions Mortar Platoon and the Bobcat Battalion.

A 1/5 IN
SGT McDowell

On 06 July 2005 while 3rd PLT was conducting snap TCP's on RTE Sunset, just south of Isuzu, 2nd squad pulled out to block traffic and dismounted to start searching vehicles. While the Squad Leader and Interpreter were questioning people, SGT McDowell (A TM LDR) and SGT Reyna (B TM LDR) moved to search a white Toyota Pickup truck. Upon approaching the truck, SGT Reyna noticed a pistol on the driver side seat; he removed the pistol and asked the personnel in the area if it belonged to anyone. At that time SGT McDowell approached the truck from the driver side and noticed a plastic Wal-Mart style bag in the center of the bench seat, the bag had a Motorola 2way radio sitting on top of the bag. Upon further examination SGT McDowell noticed that the Motorola had 2 wires coming from inside the bottom of it and running into the underside of the seat, when the bag was opened, 2 small blocks, (about the size of a "Rubik's Cube") were taped up and wired together with blue wires, both blocks were "off-white" in color and taped up by 100MPH type tape. The boxes both had a small red light on the top and a toggle switch on the side. SGT McDowell announced what he found to the rest of the squad and alerted them to move away. When all personnel were clear, the squad had to leave to pursue a man who had fled the scene upon the find. After a chase pursuit the

squad lost sight of the person. The squad returned to the scene of the truck to help secure it along with HQ platoon and wait for EOD. Upon EODs arrival they determined it was an IED placed in the truck, and they reduced the IED/Truck on site.

B 1/5
SPC Jack

RECOMENDS SPC JACK HARMON TO BE NOMINATED FOR THE BOBCAT COIN OF EXCELLENCE FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE WHILE SERVING AS A RIFLEMAN IN 1ST SQUAD, BRAVO TEAM. WHILE DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM III, SPC HARMON'S EXPERIENCE WITH ALL FACETS OF THE INFANTRY FIRE TEAM WAS INVALUABLE IN TRAINING SOLDIERS TO FILL NEW POSITIONS UNFAMILIAR TO THEM. EVEN THOUGH HE IS NOT A TEAM LEADER, SPC HARMON HAS SACRIFICED WHAT LITTLE PERSONAL TIME HE HAS TO HELP OTHER SOLDIERS TO BE THE BEST AT THEIR JOB AS POSSIBLE. FURTHER MORE, ON SHORT NOTICE, HE SUCCESSFULLY STUDIED FOR AND PASSED THE SGT PROMOTION BOARD, THEREBY INCREASING HIS UNIT'S COMBAT READINESS, AND FURTHER ENHANCING THE CORPS ON NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS. SPC JACK HARMON IN AN EXCELLENT ROLE MODEL OF THE VERSATILE INFANTRY SOLDIER.

C 1/5
PFC BENJERMAN BLANNER

PFC Blanner is a outstanding young Soldier who approaches everyday with a type of enthusiasm and motivation that feeds and invigorates the same in others. From Squad Automatic Rifleman to Stryker driver, PFC Blanner has accomplished every task assigned, giving 100% every time. He is often found mentoring and teaching the younger Soldier's in his squad and he does this without being told to do so. PFC Blanner has performed the duties of Stryker driver for his Platoon Sergeant for the past month with the utmost skill during continuous mounted combat patrols. PFC Blanner is a solid performer and brings great credit upon C Co 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry and 3rd Platoon.