

## NARRATIVE TO ACCOMPANY AWARD OF

### COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE TO CPTCHRISTIAN WILLIAM DREW

On the morning of 25 OCT 2006, 3-2-3 MITT, along with it's Iraqi Army (IA) counterparts conducted a cordon and search mission in the AW and BS horseblanket sector of Tal Afar, Iraq. The team members involved in this mission were as follows: MAJ Joel Bryant; CPT Christian Drew; CPT Richard Austin; 1LT Brandon Folkert; SFC David King; SSG Thomas Bratton; and CPL Byron Heron. Organic to the team were 2x M1114 HMMWVs. Additionally, the team was allocated OH-58 Kiowa helicopters to facilitate coalition effects.

During the planning process, CPT Drew identified a location in sector that would facilitate our ability to initially advise our counterparts on the establishment of the cordon and search mission. This location was in the northern part of the AW sector, and was chosen by the IA as the location of the Battalion Headquarters element and detainee processing point. Upon completion of the cordon, we encountered sniper fire from a position north of our location, which wounded one IA soldier in the leg. CPT Drew was on the ground with his IA counterpart, and advised them to evacuate the soldier to the BN HQ's location for assessment by a medic, then onto the Tal Afar hospital. As these events unfolded, another sniper location was identified 75 meters north of the first sniper position. CPT Drew immediately called to let me know he was positioning his truck and crew 100 meters to the south in order to provide better security and enable our crew-served weapons to be available in the fight. He also informed me that this location would create better situational awareness, and help our team be more effective with the coalition effects of the OH-58 Kiowa helicopters. CPT Drew was advising both the Scout Platoon Leader and Command Sergeant Major during the sniper engagement. His presence on the ground, through leadership by example, was instrumental in getting the IA to orient on the enemy, thereby suppressing both sniper positions. Additionally, the IA was able to maintain the momentum of the search operation due to proper positioning of forces.

At approximately 1015 hours, a house Improvised Explosive Device detonated 200 meters east of CPT Drew's location, resulting in critical injuries to an IA officer. Due to the fact that other IA units not being engaged were able to respond, 3-2-3 consolidated their forces and provided overwatch for the maneuvering IA units with the assistance of the MITT advisors present. CPT Drew and his entire crew remained in the southern position to provide security for ongoing operations, and to tactically advise IA counterparts on fire, maneuver, and reporting.

The 3-2-3 IA Battalion engaged in active ground combat to close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires. CPT Drew took the appropriate actions and is deserving of this award. His 11A MOS fits the criteria for the Combat Infantryman's Badge.