

**SILVER STAR RECOMMENDATION FOR
SERGEANT RONDELL BROWN
MOTOR TRANSPORT OPERATOR**

On 20 March 2005, Convoy 678N was traveling north on Alternate Supply Route Bismark enroute to Logic Supply Area Anaconda when forty to fifty anti-coalition forces with the intent to cause American casualties ambushed the convoy. The ambush consisted of the following elements: heavy small arms fire; an improvised explosive device placed in the road median; two road obstacles meant to funnel and fix the convoy; accurate rocket propelled grenade fire with direct hits to vehicles; and a ground assault of 10-15 insurgents upon a line of convoy escort platforms. The insurgents captured were carrying handcuffs suggesting they were attempting to capture American troops. Sergeant Brown was the truck commander of the last convoy escort platform, Regulator 3, positioned at the rear of the convoy. He was monitoring the radio when he heard Specialist Higgins, the driver of the lead convoy escort platform, yell "Contact Left!" He immediately began scanning left and could not see any targets from his position. A high volume of gunfire began impacting his truck from the left and soon deflated three of his four tires. Out of the line of sight of any targets and defenseless against the insurgents' attacks, he ordered Sergeant Hernandez, the driver of Regulator 3, to pull forward along the right side of the convoy. They maneuvered their vehicle until they found a gap in the convoy to get to the left side. Upon clearing the gap, Sergeant Brown noticed a pair of convoy escort platforms on a service road across the main road. When Sergeant Hernandez maneuvered Regulator 3 behind the convoy escort platforms, Sergeant Brown and Sergeant Hernandez noticed that an injured soldier was lying on the ground being calmed by another soldier. Sergeant Brown dismounted to assist Sergeant Hernandez in moving the casualty to the safety of the interior of one of the convoy escort platforms. While Sergeant Hernandez performed first aid, Sergeant Brown returned to Regulator 3 to request a medical evacuation. Sergeant Brown was informed over the radio that a medical evacuation was already enroute to his location. Sergeant Brown again dismounted Regulator 3 and took up a defensive position along with Sergeant Hernandez and Staff Sergeant Castro, Regulator 3's gunner. Two members of the convoy escort platform crews had also taken up a defensive position. One of them leaned on the hood of his convoy escort platform and fired an AT4 light anti-armor weapon at the building from which they receiving gunfire, killing or wounding two to five insurgents and neutralizing that position. Ten to fifteen insurgents then mustered a coordinated ground assault but were repelled by the dismounted American soldiers with Sergeant Brown providing the base of fire for the counterattack with his M249 squad automatic weapon. The last insurgent fell, disabled, three to five meters away from their convoy escort platform position. As Sergeant Hernandez moved to the convoy escort platform, Sergeant Brown instructed him on a plan to ensure that Sergeant Hernandez did not get separated from the convoy. Sergeant Hernandez then drove the convoy escort platform in which he and Sergeant Brown had placed the American casualty to a casualty collection point established to the south of the attack site with Sergeant Brown following him in Regulator 3. As Sergeant Brown maneuvered back onto the alternate supply route, he noticed the second convoy escort platform sitting behind the convoy's maintenance bobtail. He approached and was informed there was another wounded soldier, at which point he radioed for another vehicle from the south casualty collection point to extract the soldier. After transferring that soldier into the vehicle from the south casualty collection point, Sergeant Brown met back up with Sergeant Hernandez at the attack site. Sergeant Brown then moved to the north casualty collection point set up by the convoy commander and reported on the status of the extracted soldiers. Sergeant Brown's calm leadership and fighting attitude was critical to defending the convoy and enabled the extraction of two wounded soldiers. His disregard for his personal safety in order to save and defend others reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.