

**SILVER STAR RECOMMENDATION FOR
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RICHARD W. DELANCEY
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. The convoy attempted to move out of the kill zone when a bus that had been driving slowly down the median of the road from the opposite direction was struck by a well-placed improvised explosive device and thrown thirty to forty feet in front of Private First Class Delancey's truck. Sergeant Ricketts, Private First Class Delancey's co-driver, swerved to the left to miss the emblazoned bus and became mired in the mud that was in the median adjacent to the road. A barrage of gunfire struck their truck and Sergeant Ricketts was wounded in the leg by a round that punched through his armored door. Private First Class Delancey, hearing his co-driver yelling in pain, laid down suppressive fire to the right with his M249 squad automatic weapon. Indirect fire Rocket Propelled Grenades began landing around their truck and one landed on the hood of their truck about two feet in front of Private First Class Delancey's seat. Sergeant Ricketts was crushed under the truck console, which collapsed from the force of the rocket propelled grenade impact, and Private First Class Delancey was knocked out of his seat. His skin was seared along the right shoulder from the blast and the flash of the rocket propelled grenade temporarily blinded him. As Private First Class Delancey scrambled to regain a good defensive position, a round pierced the left front of his helmet, grazed his scalp, and blew out the back of his helmet. Another round collided with the rear right of his helmet. Sensing that their survival depended upon getting the enemy gunfire diverted from his truck, Private First Class Delancey kicked out the shattered window in front of him, crawled out on the dismembered hood of his truck, and fired at the insurgents with rifles that he saw pointing in his direction. Although his truck was still being hit by gunfire, the enemy gunfire became more sporadic as insurgents were either killed, hiding under cover, or moving out of their hasty positions to positions further down the rear of the convoy avoiding Private First Class Delancey's counterattack. His counterattack inflicted two to five casualties on the insurgents, he continued to fire his squad automatic weapon until he was relieved of his weapon by Ron Hart, a retired Army Department of Defense driver who was driving one of the trucks behind him. He told Ron Hart that Sergeant Ricketts was wounded and that he needed help. He saw that another M915 had pulled to the right of Ron Hart's truck. Private First Class Delancey self-extracted from his damaged M915 and ran over to mount the other M915 while under fire. Private First Class Delancey's fighting spirit and intrepidity at the risk of life despite already being wounded enabled the convoy to continue moving through the kill zone, saved the lives of at least two soldiers, and neutralized an enemy position, inflicting between two to five casualties upon the insurgents. His gallant actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflect credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.