

**SILVER STAR RECOMMENDATION FOR
SERGEANT ALEXANDER HERNANDEZ
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 Hernandez was the driver of the last convoy escort platform, Regulator 3, positioned at the rear of the convoy. He heard Specialist Higgins, the driver of the lead convoy escort platform, yell "Contact Left!" He immediately began scanning left, though he could not see any targets from his position. A high volume of gunfire began impacting his truck from the left and soon flattened three of his four tires. Out of line of sight from any targets and defenseless against the insurgents' attacks, Sergeant Brown, the truck commander of Regulator 3, instructed Sergeant Hernandez to pull forward along the right side of the convoy. Sergeant Hernandez maneuvered their vehicle until he 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 lying on the ground being calmed by another soldier. Sergeant Hernandez dismounted to move the casualty to the safety of interior of one of the convoy escort platforms and was assisted by Sergeant Brown. While Sergeant Hernandez performed first aid, Sergeant Brown returned to Regulator 3 to request a medical evacuation. After performing first aid, Sergeant Hernandez took up a defensive position along with the other members of his crew. 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 were 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. Sergeant Hernandez was firing at the last insurgent when he fell three to five meters from their escort platform position. As Sergeant Hernandez moved to the convoy escort platform, Sergeant Brown instructed him on the plan he formulated 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, and Sergeant Brown followed him in Regulator 3. Sergeant Brown stopped to transfer another casualty while Sergeant Hernandez delivered his casualty to the south casualty collection point. After delivering that soldier, Sergeant Hernandez met Sergeant Brown back at the attack site. Sergeant Hernandez's initiative and disregard for his personal safety was critical to the extraction of the wounded soldier from the attack site. His actions reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.