
Maryland Guardsman awarded Soldier's Medal

Story by Sgt. Crystal Rothermel, 143rd Transportation Command Public Affairs



Maj. Gen. James A. Kelley (left) and Lt. Col. William L. Moseley (right) present Staff Sgt. George Brosenne with the Soldier's Medal.

KUWAIT – Maryland Guardsman Staff Sgt. George Brosenne was recognized during a ceremony in Kuwait on June 13 where he received the Soldier's Medal for attempting to save the lives of his comrades after an accident in October 2005 that took the lives of Sgt. Brian Conner, Cpl. Bernard Ceo, and Cpl. Samuel Boswell of the 243rd Engineer Company.

"You stand as a symbol," said Lt. Gen. James Kelley, Third Army deputy commanding general, as he presented Brosenne's Soldier's Medal. "As we salute you, we salute the best in American tradition."

Brosenne, a Lisbon native served as convoy commander on that fatal day. The Iraq bound convoy began typically, he said, but quickly turned chaotic when three vehicles were involved in an accident.

The vehicle Conner, Ceo and Boswell were in caught fire. Debris and shrapnel was flying in all directions, but personal safety was not Brosenne's concern as he rushed to the gun truck and frantically searched for his friends.

"Instincts took over," Brosenne said. "If that was me, and I was the one needing help- I would hope that someone would do the same thing."

Brosenne fought the elements and pulled the driver from the scene where medics began performing immediate first aid. Conner, Ceo and Boswell did not survive but Brosenne's actions set him apart among peers and superiors.

The Soldier's Medal is awarded to servicemembers who perform heroic actions, and most often to those who risk their lives to save another, like Brosenne.

"I have mixed emotions (about the award), I guess," said Brosenne. "I got the medal due to the fact that something went wrong. I don't feel like I deserve this- they (fallen comrades) deserve this more than I do." He says he was only doing his job, but added, that he is also a firm believer that convoy commanders should always put the lives of their Soldiers above their own.

"Today is a tribute to a great man, Soldier and great American hero," said Kelley. "We shall not forget them, you, or what you've done."