

Citation

NV approved as CV by James N Mattis on 12/17/2003

HEROIC ACHIEVEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH COMBAT OPERATIONS AGAINST THE ENEMY WHILE SERVING AS SECOND PLATOON COMMANDER, A COMPANY, FIRST BATTALION, FOURTH MARINES, FIRST MARINE DIVISION FROM 21 MARCH TO 20 APRIL 2003. WHEN LEAD ELEMENTS OF THE COMPANY BECAME ENGAGED WHILE ENTERING AL GHARRAF, SECOND LIEUTENANT MOULTON, WHILE RECEIVING ENEMY FIRE, PROMPTLY LED HIS PLATOON IN A DESTRUCTIVE ASSAULT ON THE ENEMY'S POSITION. ON 8 APRIL ONE OF HIS MARINES FELL CRITICALLY WOUNDED BY A FRIENDLY ARTILLERY BARRAGE. DESPITE THE RISK OF A SECOND VOLLEY, SECOND LIETENANT MOULTON RUSHED TO THE AID OF THE FALLEN MARINE AND QUICKLY COORDINATED IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. SECOND LIEUTENANT MOULTON'S INITIATIVE AND TOTAL DEDICATION TO DUTY REFLECTED GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF AND WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MARINE CORPS AND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL SERVICE.

Summary of Action

For meritorious service while serving as the Second Platoon Commander, Company A, 1st Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division in combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2nd Lieutenant Moulton's contributions were paramount to the company's highly successful assault of a fortified enemy position North of An Nasiriyah in the village of Al Graf, along Route 7, on 25 March 2003. As the column approached Al Graf from the South, the battalion's screening/guard force of four CAAT (write out) vehicles, were engaged with rocket propelled grenades, heavy machine guns, and small arms. The lead vehicles from Company A, only three hundred meters behind the CAAT vehicles, were also subjected to these fires, particularly those from the heavy machine guns. Immediately, the lead platoon moved toward the source of fire, co-locating and employing its AAVs, in order to provide overwhelming suppressive fires and allow the company to maneuver to destroy the enemy position. The Fire Support Team (FiST) rapidly coordinated deadly attack helicopter fires from nearby AH-1W Cobras. 2nd Lieutenant Moulton, without regard for his personal safety, led his platoon in a dismounted assault of the enemy positions. During the assault, the enemy fired on 2nd Lieutenant Moulton's platoon from two separate locations. 2nd Lieutenant Moulton promptly established a local support-by-fire position and accurately directed the final assault, eventually clearing the entire objective. Throughout the assault he effectively coordinated with the adjacent platoon ensuring coverage of the objective without fratricide. Upon consolidation on the objective, he directed and organized a detailed search of the area and the Enemy Prisoners of War (EPWs). Two enemy regular Iraqi Army soldiers were captured, one of which was wounded and was an officer, two Saddam Fedeyeen soldiers were captured, one of which was wounded, and 12 fleeing soldiers were seized by and adjacent unit as they fled the objective West across Route 7. Additionally, two technical vehicles were destroyed; one truck-mounted 12.7mm machine gun and one truck-mounted 23mm machine gun. This assault marked the battalion's first offensive contact and actions of the war, yet it was executed in near flawless manner due to the aggressive leadership of 2nd Lieutenant Moulton.

On 8 April, having crossed into Baghdad the previous day, the company was tasked to clear a heavily built up area where an adjacent company, Company B, had a Marine mortally wounded by enemy sniper fire less than one hour prior. The sector consisted of numerous large industrial buildings. 2nd Platoon, led by 2nd Lieutenant Moulton, rapidly and thoroughly cleared its sector and had consolidated at the limit of advance. Minutes afterward, the platoon received a barrage of friendly artillery fire which critically wounded a Marine from the platoon. Again, without regard for his personal safety and under the threat of a "repeat" or subsequent firing of the same target, 2nd Lieutenant Moulton rushed to the scene, calmed and relocated his platoon and proceeded to arrange immediate medical assistance for the fallen Marine.

Throughout the campaign, 2nd Lieutenant Moulton's aggressive, from-the-front leadership have distinguished him from his peers and have been critical to company's success in combat.

The Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized.



The Secretary of Defense takes pleasure in presenting the

DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

TO

**FIRST LIEUTENANT SETH W. MOULTON
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

“For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service to the United States while serving as the Special Assistant to the Commanding General while deployed with the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM II and III from 28 February 2005 to 5 September 2005. First Lieutenant Moulton identified equipment and construction needs for the Wasit and Hillah Police, Iraqi Army, and the Department of Border Enforcement. He spent over 13 million dollars of Iraqi relief reconstruction funds to solve urgent needs of the Iraqi Security Forces, allowing them to improve their force protection and counter-insurgency fighting capabilities. His foresight, initiative, and situational awareness prevented an exodus of Iraqi soldiers and police during a difficult period and proved to Iraqi Security Force members that the Coalition would stand by their side to enable the Iraqis to defeat the insurgency. His dynamic leadership and superior achievements were a pivotal factor in developing and sustaining Iraqi Security Forces in order to support Iraq’s ultimate goal of a unified, stable, and autonomous Iraq. The distinctive accomplishments of First Lieutenant Moulton reflect great credit on himself, the United States Marine Corps, and the Department of Defense.”

FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

MARTIN E. DEMPSEY
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding General

Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq

**NARRATIVE TO ACCOMPANY AWARD OF
THE DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL**

TO

**FIRST LIEUTENANT SETH W. MOULTON
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

First Lieutenant Seth Moulton, United States Marine Corps, distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service as a Special Assistant to the Commanding General of the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq (MNSTC-I), in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II and III from 28 February 2005 to 5 September 2005. During this period as a Special Assistant, 1st Lt Moulton provided crucial support and wise counsel to the Commander in his development and implementation of a strategy to organize, train, equip, and mentor the Iraqi Security Forces in Wasit and Babil Provinces and the towns of Al Kut and Hillah. Despite incredible professional demands and the constant dangers inherent in an active combat zone, 1st Lt Moulton was a selfless leader who proved an inspiration to the Iraqi Security Forces and members of the MNSTC-I team.

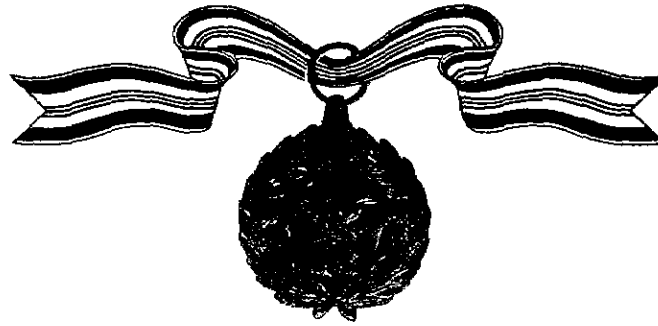
1st Lt Moulton was critical in enabling the Wasit police to gain the ability to operate in Suwayrah, by providing them with much needed logistics and infrastructure support. He also worked with the Hillah Police Chief, Brigadier General Qais, by providing him with weapons, vehicles, police equipment, and by constructing police stations. All told, he spent several million dollars on the Wasit Provincial Police, the Al Hillah Police, and the Al Hillah SWAT team to purchase equipment, renovate training and living facilities, and build 14 police stations and over a dozen checkpoints.

In Wasit and Babil Provinces, 1st Lt Moulton developed a personal working relationship with the 8th Iraqi Army Division Commander, Major General Othman, by merely walking up to him when he was the 50th Iraqi Army Brigade Commander in Diwaniyah and asking how he could help his unit. That initiative and forthrightness exemplify 1st Lt Moulton's actions while working with the Iraqi Security Forces and coordinating their needs with Coalition forces in Iraq. Using Quick Reaction Funds (QRF), he provided almost \$2,000,000 worth of basic equipment, ammunition, and supplies, as well as direct action tactical and reconnaissance equipment to the 8th Division. 1st Lt Moulton also helped build a headquarters for the military intelligence in the region and over \$550,000 of equipment for this unit to gather intelligence along the Iran/Iraq border.

Also to identify terrorist and criminal activity along the border, 1st Lt Moulton helped improve the capabilities of the Department of Border Enforcement in Wasit Province. He toured the border and identified sites to build four new border forts and to renovate twelve existing forts. 1st Lt Moulton prepared the statements of work, requested the funding, and oversaw all of the construction. He also started to oversee the construction of five bridges and the purchase of weapons and equipment through the logistics chain for the border forces in the area. In addition to helping develop the Iraqi Security Forces to defeat the insurgents, 1st Lt Moulton helped the local populace through humanitarian assistance projects.

1st Lt Moulton took the initiative in Al Kut to use several hundred thousand dollars of Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) funds to renovate the Al Kut orphanage. This project improved the living conditions for many children. He also designed projects to add a soccer field, swimming pool, wood working shop, and an internet-connected computer lab. 1st Lt Moulton also planned and proposed a project to improve the Hillah Government and Provincial Council complex in order to make it more conducive to governance and accessible to the people, while ensuring the safety of the municipal leaders.

1st Lt Moulton served as the MNSTC-I commander's "go-to" person in the Wasit and Babil Provinces. His foresight, independence, initiative, and endless energy enabled him to operate in the most austere of conditions to provide the resources to the Iraqi Security Forces that not only kept them functioning, but also expanded and improved their capabilities. 1st Lt Moulton is the consummate Marine that knows how to take broad guidance and limited resources and finds ways to turn the intent into actionable tasks, achieving results far beyond expectations. He displayed his true selflessness by volunteering to stay in Iraq for six additional months after his unit left country. The distinctive accomplishments of 1st Lt Moulton reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Marine Corps, and the Department of Defense.



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
HAS AUTHORIZED THE AWARD OF THE

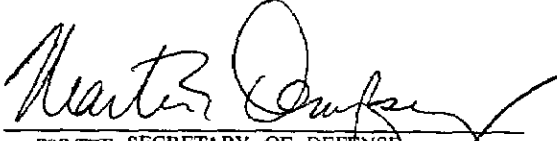
DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

TO
FIRST LIEUTENANT SETH W. MOULTON
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
FOR
EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS SERVICE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS 10TH DAY OF JANUARY 2006

MULTI-NATIONAL SECURITY
TRANSITION COMMAND - IRAQ
COMMAND OR OFFICE




FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
MARTIN E. DEMPSEY
LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U.S. ARMY
COMMANDING GENERAL



MULTI-NATIONAL SECURITY TRANSITION COMMAND-IRAQ
BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO AE 09316

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Permanent Orders 118-007

28 April 2006

MOULTON, SETH W., 010-70-4231, 1LT, USMC, Multi-National Security Transition
Command-Iraq, (W6AK23), APO AE 09348

Announcement is made of the following award.

Award: Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Date(s) or Period of Service: 28 February 2005 to 5 September 2005

Authority: By direction of the Secretary of Defense under the provisions of DOD 1348.33-M,
dated September 1996.

Reason: For Exceptionally Meritorious Conduct

Format: 320

FOR THE COMMANDER:

ANNIE J. MONTGOMERY
TECHNICAL SERGEANT, USAF
NCOIC, Awards & Decorations/J-1

DISTRIBUTION:

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