

**NARRATIVE JUSTIFICATION
FOR AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR SERVICE
TO
CAPTAIN ADAM L. COLLIER**

Captain Adam L. Collier, United States Marine Corps, distinguished himself by exceptional meritorious service in a number of critical positions, culminating as the Operations and Intelligence Senior Advisor to the 1st Brigade, Iraqi Intervention Force, Coalition Military Assistance Training Team, from 29 January 2004 to 15 December 2004.

As Recruiting Support Section OIC, Captain Collier supervised the three recruiting stations for the Iraqi Army. He used his expertise to help his Iraqi counterparts conduct their mission to recruit and assess thousands of soldiers for the Iraqi Army. Capt Collier demonstrated attention to detail and organization skill in coordinating life support for the Iraqi recruiting process. This included the support to the recruiting stations and their personnel and recruits. Without his diligent work the Iraqi Army would not be where it is today as he coordinated for construction and improvement of the station buildings and communications infrastructure for Iraqi recruiting. Understanding that the recruiting stations were a highly visible operation of the new Iraqi government, Capt Collier assessed, coordinated for and ensured proper force protection measures were in place at the recruiting stations. This ensured the anti-government forces would not interdict the recruiting process at the stations themselves and to date all continue open and functioning. Capt Collier further mentored the recruiting station staffs on proper procedures and administration. His efforts to open these three stations and begin the recruiting effort for the Iraqi Army has left a lasting impact on an Army that now fields almost 100,000 soldiers.

Capt Collier further demonstrated great maturity, organization skill and diplomacy not found in someone at his rank when assigned as the Secretary for the Iraqi General Officer Selection Board. He continued his lasting impact on the Iraqi Army as he was solely responsible to gather and collate data on Iraqi General Officers coming back to service. He further analyzed this data to determine what officers were suitable for service and where they would best serve the Army. Capt Collier was then responsible to prepare and provide decision briefings to the Commanding General and Deputy Commanding General of the Coalition Military Advisor Team assisting these leaders in making decisions along with the highest levels of the Interim Iraqi Government. Which General Officers were selected and what positions they occupied in the Iraqi Armed Forces fell on the briefings he put together for Coalition and Iraqi leaders.

Capt Collier was further assigned as the Ministry of Defense/Joint Headquarters Liaison Officer. Capt Collier was once again placed in a position of great responsibility in a nascent organization. He took the challenge one more time as he put his organizational

skills to use to mentor and train the Iraqi staff officers to stand up a working Joint Headquarters that today is able to monitor operations and statuses of all the units of the Iraqi Army, National Guard, Air Force, Navy and Special Forces in the field, pass appropriate orders and brief the Iraqi National Command. He once again demonstrated maturity in working closely with the Iraqi Armed Forces Chief of Staff and other senior officers to help coordinate their efforts with those of the Coalition Forces. That effort included organizing the Ministry of Defense and starting operations for that organization, manning and equipping all the armed forces and eventually fielding the initial units of the Iraqi Armed Forces to operate alongside the Coalition.

In his final assignment within CMATT, Captain Collier served as the 1st Brigade G2/G3 Advisor. Capt Collier provided daily mentoring and training to the brigade staff and was the advisor the two combat platoons within the brigade headquarters. He was responsible for the brigade's initial deployment from Taji Military Training Base to Rustamayah ensuring an effortless move by ground and air. Capt Collier quickly ensured the brigade staff established a working command post in their temporary facilities and began executing their functions to monitor brigade operations in Sadr City and South Baghdad.

When four advisors in 4th Bn, 1st Brigade were wounded in Sadr City, Capt Collier was sent to temporarily fill the void. There he demonstrated keen tactical knowledge and great courage. While defending the only symbol of the Iraqi Government remaining in Sadr City, Capt Collier was under fire daily from rockets, mortars and small arms. He coached and mentored the battalion and company commanders on proper actions to defend the Advisory Council building. Capt Collier further personally led patrols outside the building in order to build confidence in the Iraqi leadership on the need to actively patrol outside the area they were defending in order to secure it. He further convinced the leadership to move outside the building they were defending and secure outlying areas denying the enemy the ability to bring effective fire on the defending force. Through his efforts from 8 to 15 August, the 4th Battalion successfully defended the District Advisory Council building and did not allow the Mahdi Militia to destroy a visible symbol of the Iraqi Government. He further built confidence in a battalion that would move on to conduct decisive operations in Najaf and Fallujah.

Capt Collier deployed with the brigade to Najaf on 19 August and while there advised the brigade staff on planning and supporting three battalions engaged in operations. He helped the staff put together plans for daily support to units eventually leading to Iraqi-led logistics support to three battalions in the field. Capt Collier was further temporarily assigned to the 2nd Battalion Advisor Team to assist in their operations around the Holy Shrine of Ali to clear the Old City of Najaf. His coaching and mentoring once again led to 2nd Battalion's successful operations gathering weapons and munitions left by the Mahdi Militia. Capt Collier remained in Najaf with a small contingent of Iraqi soldiers when the brigade redeployed to ensure proper clearing of our bases with the 11th MEU.

Capt Collier deployed with the brigade on 1 November 2004 to Fallujah. On arrival Regimental Combat Team 1 designated a special mission for the Brigade's Reconnaissance and Security platoons. These soldiers would be the first in the brigade to

see action in 1 MEF's attack in Najaf. Capt Collier moved with the platoon as their advisor. The platoon performed flawlessly under his mentoring. The platoon's mission was to follow the Iraqi Special Forces and seize a hospital on the West side of the Tigris River from Fallujah and block enemy forces coming in and out of the city. What was to be about a 48 hour operation turned into 39 days. During that time the platoon secured the hospital and then was further ordered to assist 3 LAR manning checkpoints and given its own battle position to the South of the city protecting a dam bridge across the Tigris. During that time the platoon, under Capt Collier's coaching, denied anyone moving across the river into or out of Fallujah, captured caches of ammunition and were instrumental in helping 3 LAR screen Fallujah from the West. Capt Collier further coordinated for all life support for the platoon through 3 LAR.

Capt Collier has been at the center of the dawn of the Iraqi Army in their recruiting program, selecting, assessing and detailing senior leaders, standing up the Ministry of Defense and the Joint Headquarters and advising the first operational brigade to conduct operations side by side with the Coalition Forces.

Captain Collier served with diligence and enthusiasm in all of his assignments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His contributions to the combat efficiency of the Iraqi Army have improved leader and soldier performance from the soldier through the general officer level. He has made a particularly lasting impact with the Iraqi soldiers and leaders of the 1st Brigade, Iraqi Intervention Force and the Soldiers, Marines and Sailors in the 1st Brigade Advisor Support Team. Captain Collier's performance has been in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and is a credit to the United States Marine Corps and the Department of Defense.