



Ambushed 36ID SOLDIERS SAVE CONVOY

By 2nd Lt. Adam Musil

36th Infantry Division Public Affairs

Feb. 23, 2008, began as a typical night for Staff Sgt. Shane D. Lindsey and the Soldiers of Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 144th Infantry Regiment. Staff Sgt. Lindsey was a trained infantryman, but like the majority of his unit, had spent his tour in Iraq providing convoy security in and out of various military installations. His primary duty was that of assistant convoy commander and vehicle commander for his Combat Logistics Patrol (CLP). On this Iraqi evening, the men of his battalion were transporting fuel from a convoy support center to a logistical support area.

It was a cool night, and visibility was high, allowing gunners such as Spc. John A. Armstrong to better spot any enemy activity. Of course, this also gave any would-be attacker the same advantage. Traveling south of Baghdad International Airport, Sergeant Lindsey's convoy entered a highly populated area and was struck by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED).

The IED detonated near the first vehicle, stopping the convoy, and was immediately followed by a hail of bullets from enemy forces firing from well-placed positions on the north and south sides of the road.

Without hesitation, Specialist Armstrong began firing his M-240B machine gun at the source of enemy fire. The convoy commander ordered for the CLP to push the fuel tankers out of the line of fire and for the military vehicles to engage the enemy. Specialist Armstrong focused his fire and began relaying the locations of the enemy to the convoy commander. As Specialist Armstrong focused his fire to the south at the rear of the convoy, gunner Cpl. Tanerrius D. Robinson did the same, identifying two insurgents and eliminating them with his M-2 .50-caliber machine gun.

The firing continued, and Sergeant Lindsey ordered his vehicle to the right side of the road to engage the enemy. He

Staff Sgt. Shane D. Lindsey is awarded the Bronze Star with Valor by Vice President Dick Cheney. Staff Sgt. Lindsey was awarded for his valorous conduct as a vehicle commander after his convoy came under heavy enemy fire in Iraq.



Photo provided by 36 ID PAO

soon noticed the fuel tanker in front of him was disabled and quickly ordered his vehicle to be positioned in front of the immobile tanker. His vehicle was immediately bombarded by gunfire from both sides of the road. Sergeant Lindsey radioed Corporal Robinson's vehicle and requested fire support. Corporal Robinson adjusted fire and engaged an estimated six insurgents firing from a group of buildings 75 meters south of the road. His vehicle was then rocked by a second IED detonation approximately 50 meters behind his vehicle. This did not deter Corporal Robinson, who emptied his M-2, transitioned to his M-240B and continued the fight.

Near the front of the convoy, Sergeant Lindsey's vehicle continued to be pinned down by intense fire. His gunner, Spc. Anthony D. Cooke, did his best to lay down a high volume of effective fire as his turret was peppered with an endless assault of enemy bullets. Specialist Cooke emptied his M-2 and transitioned to his M-240B, continuing to fire without pause. This allowed his staff sergeant to exit his vehicle and enter the battle. Sergeant Lindsey, now exposed to enemy fire, began engaging targets with his M-203 grenade launcher.

As Specialist Cooke provided cover for Sergeant Lindsey, the battle was joined by Sgt. Anthony Robbins, a truck commander for a vehicle that escaped the impact area with little damage. When told by his driver that Sergeant Lindsey's vehicle was pinned down, Sergeant Robbins immediately ordered his vehicle back into the fight. His vehicle maneuvered through a maze of oncoming vehicles into the ambush site.

Nearing the kill zone, his gunner experienced a weapon malfunction. Hearing this, Sergeant Robbins grabbed a spare automatic weapon from the rear of the vehicle and exited, exposing himself to enemy forces on the north side of the road. He took up a firing position on the hood of his vehicle and began to fire on enemy positions in an attempt to draw fire away from Sergeant Lindsey's vehicle.

During this time, Sergeant Robbins' gunner corrected his malfunction and engaged the enemy. Sergeant Robbins then noticed one of the contract drivers out of his truck attempting to repair his vehicle. Sergeant Robbins ordered his vehicle to cover the driver. As his vehicle moved out, Sergeant Robbins walked alongside providing fire support. Slowly

the enemy gunfire lessened.

At the rear of the convoy, Corporal Robinson was now illuminating the area with flares in search of additional attackers. Specialist Armstrong did the same from his position. With the immediate area clear, they established security to allow for the recovery of the disabled vehicles. Enemy fire subsided, and Sergeant Lindsey returned to his vehicle to assist in the recovery efforts of the downed vehicles and check on his men. When the vehicles were secured, the convoy moved out to its objective.

These men were awarded for their

actions that day as such: Spc Anthony D. Cooke, Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device; Spc. John A. Armstrong, Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device; Cpl. Tanerrius D. Robinson, Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device; Sgt. Anthony W. Robbins, Bronze Star Medal with Valor Device; and Staff Sgt. Shane D. Lindsey, Bronze Star with Valor Device.

R&NG

(The descriptions of events in this story were drawn from soldiers' statements and award narratives.)