

# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
HAS AWARDED THE

## SILVER STAR MEDAL

TO

GUNNERY SERGEANT ROBERT J. BLANTON, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

FOR

GALLANTRY IN ACTION

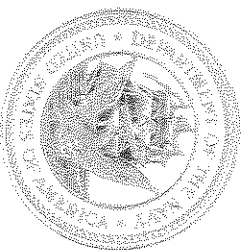
ON 10 AUGUST 2008

GIVEN THIS

28TH

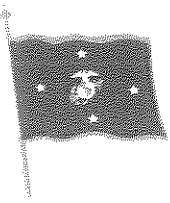
DAY OF OCT

2008



COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James T. Dunwoody".



## COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

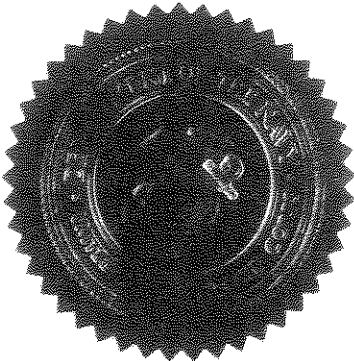
GUNNERY SERGEANT ROBERT J. BLANTON  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following

### CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving as Platoon Sergeant, 1st Platoon, Company A, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) on 10 August 2008 in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM FY-08. As an element of Gunnery Sergeant Blanton's platoon began clearing what appeared to be an abandoned house, it became heavily engaged with enemy small arms fire from a strong point located inside the building. Gunnery Sergeant Blanton immediately repositioned his element's vehicles to support the engaged element. Bravely exposing himself to enemy fire, he dismounted his vehicle and began engaging insurgents as they presented themselves. Using initiative and quick thinking, Gunnery Sergeant Blanton returned to his vehicle and directed it to ram the building's outer wall in order to expose additional insurgents within the building. He then led a small group of Marines to clear the building and recover a wounded Marine trapped inside. During the recovery, Gunnery Sergeant Blanton courageously transitioned from his rifle to his pistol and began engaging insurgents located in close proximity to his position. Once the recovery was complete, Gunnery Sergeant Blanton coordinated with supporting aircraft on station to deliver precision guided munitions directly on the insurgent stronghold, effectively ending the engagement. By his bold leadership, wise judgment, and complete dedication to duty, Gunnery Sergeant Blanton reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

For the President,



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "James T. Conway".

Commandant of the Marine Corps