

# Three Soldiers receive medals; six NCOs make E-7 promotions list

By Ed White

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** — Three Soldiers from U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command were awarded medals in a recent ceremony. SGT Katherine Braun received the Army Commendation Medal for service in Iraq and SGT Brandon L. Deaton and SPC Genoveva J. Gonzales received the Army Achievement Medal.

“Sergeant Braun was the Multi-National Coalition-Iraq’s (MNC-I) subject matter expert on commercial imagery, how to get it and how to use it,” said MAJ Tim Haynie, commander of the Commercial Exploitation Team (CET) in Iraq and Braun’s boss. “She helped increase the MNC-I use of commercial imagery from seven to 10 requests in a year to more than 30 in six months. Without her liaison work the Commercial Exploitation Team would not have been as effective or aggressive in providing commercial imagery to MNC-I.”

The CET team was stationed in Bahrain and according to Haynie, Braun was assigned to the team as a liaison officer. “Sergeant Braun eagerly went forward to Baghdad and never once made an issue of the disparity,” Haynie said. “She loved her job up there. She performed her duties with all the eagerness and dedication one would expect from a top-notch NCO.”

Deaton of the 2nd Company, 1st Space Battalion received the Army Achievement Medal for his selection as the Battalion non-commissioned officer of the quarter for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2004. He was specifically recognized for his “superb performance in the areas of military courtesy, bearing and knowledge.”

Gonzales received the Army Achievement Medal for her selection as Soldier of the quarter for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2004. Gonzales also was praised for her “superb performance in the areas of military courtesy, bearing and knowledge.”



LTC Jeffrey Farnsworth pins the Army Commendation Medal on SGT Katherine Braun for her recent contributions while serving with the Commercial Exploitation Team in Bahrain. *Photo by SFC Dennis Beebe.*

When asked to comment on her success, Gonzales said, “Never quit! Never quit! It pays off.”

LTC Jeffrey Farnsworth, commander, 1st Space Battalion, also recognized six staff sergeants who have been chosen for promotion to sergeant first class.

The group of future sergeants first class includes SSG Jerry Teter, SSG Andy Bryce, SSG Clifton Goodwin, SSG Daniel Kesinger, SSG Mark Lopez and SSG Jeremy Jones.

“This is a huge milestone in every NCO’s career,” Farnsworth said. “I liken it to the promotion from company grade to field grade in the officer corps. It clearly demonstrates that the Army is placing an immense amount of trust and confidence in the individual based on their demonstrated leadership ability.”

The battalion’s top NCO, CSM Daryall Sumpter congratulated the sergeants and said, “These NCOs make the whole Army better.”