

## **SERGEANT SARAH PATERSON**

**524<sup>th</sup> MI Battalion, 504<sup>th</sup> MI Brigade**

**CSM Doug Russell Award 2006 Recipient**



SGT Sarah E. Paterson distinguished herself by meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service to the US Army and the MI Corps as a tiger team interrogator for the Joint Interrogation and Debriefing Center (JIDC), Multi-National Force-Iraq, during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. SGT Paterson emerged as the most productive interrogator assigned to the JIDC. Often surpassing the JIDC standard for the daily number of interrogations by an interrogation team, SGT Paterson conducted over 250 interrogations, produced over 90 intelligence information reports, and managed the long term intelligence exploitation of over 50 detainees. Also, SGT Paterson proved herself to be the JIDC's subject matter expert on al-Qa'ida in Iraq and another lucrative

insurgent network through meticulous research and subsequent application. SGT Paterson's expertise and advanced interrogation skills were integral to the interrogation of high-level detainees that included the top lieutenants from an insurgent group.

SGT Paterson's proficient collection and rapid dissemination of accurate actionable intelligence enabled Warfighters to adapt to an ever-evolving insurgent threat and target those elements decisively engaged in anti-coalition activities. SGT Paterson possessed mentoring skills well-beyond those normally associated with her rank and while simultaneously managing her own caseload, vastly improved a subordinate interrogator's ability to recognize, contact and report intelligence. A consummate trainer and coach, SGT Paterson trained three newly deployed analysts with little previous human intelligence analytically-focused experience. SGT Paterson's additional advanced training of other analysts enabled them to manage complicated and fast-paced high-value detainee case loads. Her dedication and hands-on leadership directly resulted in providing for and supporting additional force multiplying and fully mission capable interrogator tiger teams.

In addition to performing her own duties to high standards, SGT Paterson performed the duties and responsibilities as Interrogation Section Sergeant for more than two months. SGT Paterson also served as a convoy operator on over 40 forward operating base-external convoy operations in support of unit sustainment operations as well as during

the course of providing critical interrogation expertise to higher and adjacent units. SGT Paterson received the Combat Action Badge for her unselfish and decisive actions in the defense of her forward operating base during a complex insurgent enemy attack.

SGT Paterson was an invaluable team player whose attitude, work ethic, and daily example provided immeasurable positive impact on the cohesion and morale of the entire unit. SGT Paterson promoted continued personal and professional self-improvement, enrolled in college undergraduate classes, and assisted fellow soldiers in their own college enrollment and establishment of personal educational paths. During her assignment to the JIDC, SGT Paterson was an assertive role model and demonstrated selfless service, maturity, and a level of interrogation expertise well beyond her peers.