

Summary Action: Corporal (Cpl) Kreuter was in receipt of Imminent Danger Pay during this period. Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For heroic achievement while serving as a Fire Team Leader, 3rd Platoon, Company L, 3d Battalion, 25th Marines, Regimental Combat Team-2, 2d Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) 03-05 and 04-06 from 4 March to 3 August 2005. Cpl Kreuter distinguished himself by displaying a high degree of valor, professionalism, and devotion to duty while engaged by direct enemy fire.

Cpl Kreuter participated in 11 major operations during OIF 04-06, assisted in clearing over 200 buildings, helped seize over 100 weapons, and aided in the capture of 20 detainees. One of the detainees was an insurgent responsible for manufacturing improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Hit, Iraq.

During Operation OUTER BANKS, in Hadithah, Cpl Kreuter was manning an observation post (OP) on top of a schoolhouse roof in Barwanah. Around 1200 hours, Cpl Kreuter heard the sound of mortar rounds being launched from their tube. While the rounds were in flight, he immediately scanned the area to pinpoint a place of origin (POO) and spotted the mortar position on an island in the center of the Euphrates River. He engaged the area with effective fires from his M-16 rifle/M203 grenade launcher, killing a 3-member enemy insurgent mortar team. His quick actions allowed the rest of his team to gain access to the rooftop position.

While the rest of his team was setting into position, the enemy started an attack with heavy machine-gun fire from a building approximately 1,000 meters away. Cpl Kreuter effectively directed all organic weapons to suppress the target until the platoon's Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAVs) could re-position and engage with their heavy machine-guns. Once in position, the AAVs immediately destroyed the enemy machine-gun position. His actions contributed to the killing of at least two enemy fighters.

During Operation OUTER BANKS, in Haqlaniyah, Cpl Kreuter, while clearing a house, found more than seven propaganda sheets, two black masks, detained six enemy insurgents, and seized \$12,900 dollars in U.S. currency hidden in a freezer. He personally searched the hard drive and CDs of an insurgents personal computer, which produced religious propaganda, anti-coalition information, beheadings of Iraqi Security Forces, and photos of suspected a torture house.

During Operation MATADOR, in New Ubaydi, Cpl Kreuter moved his team into their assault position while under an intense, high volume of small arms and machine gun fire. Being the first Marine out of his AAV, Cpl Kreuter directed his team to the wall on the outside of the first house. Once at the wall, he directed his Marines to rooftop positions to engage insurgents maneuvering on the ground. Advancing from rooftop to rooftop, he effectively directed his Marines' proper fields of fire, ensuring the suppression of enemy positions, which resulted in two enemy fighters killed.

Reaching his assigned limit of advance, Cpl Kreuter came under an intense heavy small arms, machine-gun, and rocket propelled grenade fire attack from a Mosque across the street. Without hesitation, he directed his team to engage from an over-watch position. With proper command and control, Cpl Kreuter directed his team's sectors and rates of fire, which destroyed the enemy. This contributed to the killing of four insurgents.

During Operation NEW MARKET in Hadithah, Cpl Kreuter expertly led his team into a house and caught an insurgent attempting to hide binoculars, flares, and small arms ammunition in a bag of sugar. He captured five foreign fighters, and confiscated \$1,000.00 in US currency and more than 49,750 Dinar in Iraqi currency.

In Operation OUTER BANKS, Cpl Kreuter's courage and performance under fire set him apart from his contemporaries. His actions identified a mortar position, seized \$13,900 in US currency, captured 11 detainees, and contributed to the killing of 11 enemy insurgents. Cpl Kreuter's effective fires not only contributed to the elimination of enemy insurgents but also enhanced the combat effectiveness of 3d Platoon and contributed significantly to the operation's success as a whole.

It is with the utmost enthusiasm that Corporal Kreuter is recommended the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with the Combat Distinguishing Device (Posthumously).

**SNM WAS KILLED IN ACTION 3 AUGUST 2005 DURING OPERATION QUICK STRIKE.**