

# Fort Riley medic earns Silver Star after saving Soldiers, Iraqi policemen

By Sgt. Stephen Baack

Even after having been thrown several meters, knocked unconscious, set aflame and buried under rubble as a result of a suicide-vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, a Fort Riley medic braved small-arms fire to save the lives of fellow Soldiers and Iraqi policemen.

Cpl. Clinton Warrick received the Army's third-highest award for valor during a June 18, 2007, ceremony at Riverside Park in Murphysboro, Ill., for his actions during a Sept. 18, 2006, insurgent attack, when he was serving as a medic with the 300th Military Police Company, at the Al-Hurriya Iraqi Police Station in Baghdad.

Maj. Gen. Carter Ham, then the commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, presented Warrick the Silver Star and other awards in front of his family, friends, his former platoon leader, company commander and first sergeant.

"This is one of Fort Riley's great Soldiers – one of our real, no-kidding heroes," Ham said at the ceremony. "It is right and proper that we come here to present you this award for valor. It is heroes like this who make our Army the best in the world, and our nation so strong."

Shortly before the explosion, Warrick heard small-arms fire. His platoon leader, 1st Lt. Kevin Jones, was on the roof and saw the suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device approaching. Just before what Warrick remembers as a "fireball" rolled down the hallway in his direction, Jones began running downstairs to get everyone as far back from the explosion as possible.

"I made it about halfway down the hallway when the explosion took place," said Jones, who suffered burns and received shrapnel wounds on his lower back and legs. He was temporarily knocked unconscious.

"When I regained consciousness, I had an idea of what happened, but I was thrown down a side hallway, and it was full of smoke and debris," Jones said.

Just feet away, Warrick lay unconscious. His legs were on fire, and the roof and an exterior wall had collapsed on him.

When Jones found Warrick, he put out the fire, dragged him 20 meters to a vacant room and helped him fully regain consciousness. After talking himself through continuing his mission and helping as many people as he could, Warrick made his way outside amid small-arms fire to triage patients at the casualty col-

lection point Jones and his Soldiers established moments earlier.

"I had a job to do, and I still needed to do it," Warrick said. "I was there for rendering medical aid."

Though he was injured severely, Warrick refused to sit down, as he knew he would have immediately slipped into shock. He triaged several wounded Iraqi policemen, assessed others and reported the situation to the medical station on Forward Operating Base Ramadi to prepare them for the incoming patients.

"Cpl. Warrick continued to use his medical knowledge to have the U.S. Soldiers treat our wounded as well as the Iraqi



Photo by Sgt. Stephen Baack

Cpl. Clinton Warrick, a medic formally with the 300th Military Police Company who was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during a complex attack on the Al-Hurriya police station in Baghdad, talks with Maj. Gen. Carter Ham (right), then the commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, Sept. 18, 2006.

police. Even though he couldn't physically do it, he was helping us do it," Jones said.

After a sufficient number of quick-reaction force personnel had arrived, Warrick and other injured Soldiers were evacuated.

Warrick was moved to a medical hold company at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, in 2006 where he underwent surgeries and rehabilitation. He was scheduled to be medically separated from the Army, and planned to return to his hometown to earn a teaching degree.

After receiving his medal, he insisted he was only doing the right thing at the right time.

"It's kind of hard to fathom because I just did my job," Warrick said. "I didn't do anything special, is what I feel. I did what I needed to do."