



United States Marine Corps

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SILVER STAR PRESENTATION

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Glenn M. Walters, will present the Silver Star Medal to Capt. Andrew Kim, Marine Corps Tactics & Operations Group, at the base theater May 18, 2017.

Through a Department of Defense initiative to review all valor awards for actions after Sept. 11, 2001, Kim's Bronze Star Medal will be upgraded to a Silver Star, the third-highest personal decoration for valor in combat.

Kim initially received the Bronze Star Medal for actions performed on August 6, 2003, while serving as a counterintelligence specialist with Task Force Scorpion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Kim, a sergeant at the time, was conducting operations with his team chief, a linguist, and a source, when they were approached by an Iraqi man who suddenly produced a pistol and shot the team chief in the neck. Kim immediately returned fire, killing the man. He was

then hit several times by small arms fire from the rear. Disregarding his own wounds, Kim maneuvered to his fallen team chief, helped him into a vehicle and began egressing from the kill zone. Five Iraqi aggressors in a white pickup truck pursued him, subjecting his vehicle to intense volleys of enemy fire. Kim linked up with a light armored reconnaissance security element and ordered a deadly counterattack on the enemy.

Kim's gallantry and effectiveness under fire saved the lives of all those conducting the mission. By his bold initiative, undaunted courage and complete dedication to duty, Kim reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

******MEDIA COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS******

Media interested in covering this event must email the MCAGCC Public Affairs Office at SMBPLMSCOMBATCENTERPAO@usmc.mil and must RSVP no later than 12 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, MAY 17. Members of the media who have RSVP'd will meet at MCAGCC's MAIN GATE located on Adobe Rd. at 10:00 a.m. on THURSDAY, MAY 18, to be escorted to the event. Please plan to remain on base for at least 2 hours.