

MedNews #04-32
August 20, 2004
Article MN043203

Pearl Harbor Environmental Officer Earns Bronze Star for Service in Iraq

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PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii - Lt. Cmdr. Duane Eggert, head of Plans and Operations at Navy Environmental and Preventative Medicine Unit 6 Pearl Harbor, received a Bronze Star in June for his service as an investigator with Team Pox in Iraq.

Team Pox, a group of investigators and infantrymen, or 'shooters,' investigated facilities suspected of housing chemical and biological weapons, and met with and interrogated Iraqi scientists.

"We were able to interrogate one of the 55 individuals on the deck of cards," Eggert said.

Capt. James Longstaff, officer in charge, Navy Environmental and Preventative Medicine Unit Six Pearl Harbor, said Eggert went above and beyond the call of duty, in more ways than one.

"When called to do so, he has gone above and beyond the call of duty and excelled way beyond that which is expected of a Navy environmental health officer," said Longstaff.

"He has sought out and gained special expertise and training in weapons of mass destruction. He brought us a wealth of leadership and professional knowledge above that of his peers," said Longstaff. "Put into a highly hostile and stressful environment where time is of the essence and you have to think on your feet in situations you cannot anticipate is where most people fall short. However, Lt. Cmdr. Eggert excelled."

For Eggert, the privilege to wear the Bronze Star belongs to others.

"[The infantrymen] deserve this honor in my eyes more than anyone for their professionalism and courage," said Eggert. "I wear this for them. This is their award."