

William O. Studeman Military Award

Gunnery Sergeant James Brenneis

Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command

While serving as a Special Collections Team Chief and Operator, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, GySgt Brenneis was directly responsible for saving the lives of countless Coalition Force members through the timely and accurate reporting of indications and warnings. He was the first SIGINT professional to provide national SIGINT architecture to the Afghan Commando mission which directly resulted in the success of 28 named operations against insurgent fighters. The national SIGINT architecture implemented by GySgt Brenneis significantly enhanced the precision and detail of their mission planning and provided accurate targeting information on complex networks associated with the insurgent strongholds in the Helmand River Valley. The resulting operations led to a significant and measurable decrease in insurgent operations throughout the area. In addition to his work as a SIGINT operator, GySgt Brenneis developed and provided instruction on intelligence tactics, techniques and procedures to team members and partner-nation forces. His mentorship greatly increased both his team's ability to fuse intelligence with operational planning as well as the partner-nation force's ability to operate independently of Coalition support. GySgt Brenneis has since assumed greater responsibilities as the Special Collections Team Chief for Direct Support Team Bravo where he continues to exceed expectations in preparing his team for their mission essential tasks. He is recognized by peers, seniors and subordinates as an exceptional and superior intelligence operator, leader, planner, collector and subject matter expert across all intelligence disciplines. His exemplary service in the Marine Corps embodies the intent of the William O. Studeman Military Award.