CWO4 Jeffrey R. Barone Awarded the Bronze Star Medal

WASHINGTON – Chief Warrant Officer Jeffrey R. Barone, a Navy diver, was presented with the Bronze Star Medal by Vice Adm. Paul E. Sullivan, Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command, Feb. 8. in an 11:30 a.m. ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C.

“It is my great honor to present this outstanding Sailor with the Bronze Star Medal,” said Sullivan. “His courage, dedication and mission focus in the fight against terrorists saved countless lives during Operation Iraqi Freedom.”

Barone was awarded the medal for his exceptionally meritorious service as a Navy individual augmentee while serving as an electronic warfare officer with the Joint CREW Composite Squadron One (JCCS 1) in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, supporting Marine Corps units from Dec. 18, 2006 to Sept. 11, 2007.

Lt. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, U.S. Army, Commanding General, Multi-National Corps Iraq (MNC-I) awarded Barone the Bronze Star Medal for his work in countering radio-controlled improvised explosive devices (IEDs). His efforts contributed to saving the lives of Iraqi civilians and MNC-I military personnel by using electronic warfare to prevent detonation of radio-controlled IEDs.

Barone’s citation reads as follows: For exceptionally meritorious service during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His outstanding dedication to duty during combat operations in Iraq contributed to the overwhelming success of the command’s mission. His actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon him, Multi-National Corps Iraq, and the United States Navy.

Barone participated in 89 combat patrols leading a group of Marines from the front as he worked to impede IED networks and prevent attacks. Barone was routinely involved in combat action as his unit seized enemy munitions and ordnance. He also used his underwater repair and dive expertise to help build a boat ramp at Hadithah Dam that is critical to MNC-I forces in launching and recovering riverine patrol craft to interdict insurgent supply routes going into Al Anbar Province.
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“It was an honor to serve with the Marines in Al Anbar Province. We saw a complete turn around in the war against terrorists and insurgents. There were many heroes in our unit. I am just proud to have been part of it,” said Barone.

Now back at home with his family, Barone has rejoined NAVSEA’s Supervisor of Salvage and Diving’s (SUPSALV) Underwater Ship Husbandry Division where he is responsible for managing inventory and logistics support for a multi-million dollar inventory of highly specialized underwater tool sets that are used by Navy divers to perform emergent underwater repairs to Navy ships and submarines around the world.

“We are very proud of Chief Warrant Officer Barone. He is a dedicated professional who demonstrated great leadership, courage and technical proficiency on the battlefield in Iraq,” said Capt. Richard Hooper, Navy Supervisor of Salvage and Diving.

The Bronze Star Medal is a U.S. Armed Forces individual military decoration, awarded for bravery, acts of merit or meritorious service. It’s the fourth-highest combat award of the U.S. Armed Forces and the ninth highest military award in the order of precedence of U.S. military decorations.

Barone is a native of Suffolk, Va.