

## U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army

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### **‘HIGH-SPEED’ PRIVATE HELPS SAVE SERGEANT MAJOR’S LIFE BY NOT WALKING AWAY**

**CAMP VICTORY, BAGHDAD, Iraq** – A private's quick response helped save a sergeant major's life here April 3.



MAJ MICHAEL INDOVINA

Pfc. Keon Christie, a mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Military Police Brigade, helped save the life of an Army command sergeant major who suffered an apparent heart attack or stroke while driving Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq, April 3.

Pfc. Keon Christie, a mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Military Police Brigade, was walking to a bus stop en route to work when he saw a sport utility vehicle veer off the road with a Soldier slumped over the steering wheel.

Christie attempted to open the doors of the vehicle but all were locked from the inside. Without hesitation, Christie used his M4 rifle to break a window to gain access to the Soldier at the wheel.

Several other Soldiers arrived on the scene. A captain, specialist and an FBI agent helped pull the driver from the vehicle.

The driver -- a command sergeant major -- appeared to be suffering a heart attack or stroke. As some of the rescuers began to perform CPR, the victim slipped in and out of consciousness.

“I did not feel comfortable doing the CPR because I was not certified in the process, but assisted in the recovery of the Soldier when he came to,” said Christie. “I would ask (the sergeant major) if he knew where he was and what had happened.”

As the group continued CPR, medics from the camp's troop medical clinic arrived and transported the sergeant major to the clinic for follow-on treatment.

Command Sgt. Maj. Rocky Chapla of the 2145th Garrison Support Unit, a U.S. Army Reserve unit from Nashville Tenn., was stabilized and later returned to the U.S to continue his recovery.

After the incident Christie, a native of Queens, N.Y., said he did not want to be a Soldier who "just walks away" when someone is in need.

"Where I come from most people that see this type of situation just look and stare and don't do anything about it," said Christie. "But I did not want to be one of those people."

"Because of this (event) I am now interested in taking courses to become certified in CPR for future use," he added.

"Pfc. Christie is high-speed," said Staff Sgt. Paul Basso of HHC 18th's headquarters security platoon. "Christie is a new Soldier to the Army and he did the right thing and what is expected of a Soldier."

"After being a military policeman for several years now, most people I have observed just continue on and watch and don't take action," added Basso. "Christie taking action definitely contributed to the sergeant major still being alive today."

As a result of his actions, Christie's unit has recommended the private for an Army Commendation Medal.

The 18th MP Brigade is a U.S. Army Europe unit headquartered in Mannheim, Germany.



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