

## SOLDIERS UPDATE: MEDAL OF HONOR RYAN PITTS

On July 21, 2014 President Barack Obama will award Ryan Pitts, a former active duty Army Staff Sergeant the Medal of Honor.

Ryan talks about a bracelet he was wearing when his patrol base was overrun by enemy insurgents.

**Ryan Pitts:** Everything that I've had that I've gotten back from that day I've kept... Yeah, so it's kind of a military tradition and I don't think it's just for the Army.

We call them KIA bracelets and it's just a bracelet with the guys that have fallen to remember them... and it's for us, and on that day I had two, there was one underneath that had the names of guys from both our first deployment and then guys that were from 1st platoon, our 1<sup>st</sup> platoon Chosen Company that were killed in November.

On top of that I had a bracelet of Sergeant Kahler. I had them both taped together and I was wearing it that day and it actually kept shrapnel from going through my right wrist and I don't like to speculate but it probably helped me keep full function my right hand and I still have it and you can see where the shrapnel hit it and where it penetrated the top bracelet but almost went through the bottom, but didn't.

I haven't worn it since just because it's more of a memorial to me than to wear it.