

TF Destroyer 3-61 Cav **FOB Bostick Afghanistan**



Complex Attack on COP Keating October 3, 2009 Killed in Action Identification LEP

- On 3 October 2009, after several reports indicating a potential large scale attack in the Kamdesh Valley, a concentrated number of Anti-Afghan Forces (AAF) conducted a complex attack on Combat Outpost (COP) Keating and Fritsche. (MGRS://respectively)
- The attacks on both COPs commenced during Coalition Forces (CF) stand-to period at 0600 hours local time.
- CF were engaged in fierce fighting* for several hours during which time nine (9) US Soldiers were Wounded in Action (WIA) and eight (8) US Soldiers were Killed in Action (KIA) – *Ref: COP Keating.
- CF casualties were MEDEVAC'd from COP Keating to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Bostick and began arriving at approximately 2100 hours local time.
- LEP was assigned to identify and prepare the KIA for transport to Bagram Air Field, Mortuary Affairs.
- Following, is a accounting of the identification of the eight (8) US Soldiers KIA: (All soldiers listed were KIA inside COP Keating.)

- ➤ Gallegos, Justin T. Age, 27 Rank: Sergeant, Unit: Bravo Troop, 3-61 Cav. Physical Identification: None. Extent of injuries: Large caliber projectile entrance wound upper left chest, exit wound upper right shoulder; Pepper pattern shrapnel right side thorax; Two (2) inch laceration upper/mid-stomach; Left mid-bicep large caliber projectile entrance site, outside left bicep exit site; 2" laceration outside right foot (heel). SGT. Gallegos was identified by fellow soldiers who knew and recognized him.
- Martin, Vernon W. Age, 25 Rank: Sergeant, Unit: Delta Troop, 3-61 Cav. Physical Identification: Dog tags worn around neck. Extent of injuries: Large compound fracture left mid-tibia; Center back skull large caliber entrance wound.
- Kirk, Joshua J. Age, 30 Rank: Sergeant, Unit: Bravo Troop, 3-61 Cav. Physical Identification: None. Extent of injuries: Large caliber projectile entrance site under left eye, left base of skull exit site. – SGT Kirk was identified by fellow soldiers who knew and recognized him.

- ➢ Hardt, Joshua M. Age, 24 Rank: Sergeant, Unit: Bravo Troop, 3-61 Cav. Physical Identification: Name on shirt worn. Extent of injuries: Traumatic injury to top/left side head; Large caliber projectile entrance site left side mid-back; left side calf 3"x3" traumatic injury.
- ➢ Griffin, Christopher T. Age, 24 Rank: Specialist, Unit: Bravo Troop, 3-61 Cav. Physical Identification: None. Extent of injuries: Large caliber projectile entrance site left facial cheek, left side skull exit site/traumatic injury; Left side upper neck traumatic injury; Back mid-right thigh large caliber projectile entrance site, top right thigh exit site. − SPC Griffin was identified by fellow soldiers who knew and recognized him.
- Scusa, Michael P. Age, 22 Rank: Specialist, Unit: Bravo Troop, 3-61 Cav. Physical Identification: None. Extent of injuries: Upper right side back large caliber projectile entrance site, right side neck exit site. SPC Scusa was identified by fellow soldiers who knew and recognized him.

- Mace, Stephan L. Age, 21 Rank: Specialist, Unit: Bravo Troop, 3-61 Cav. Extent of injuries: Left Stomach lower quadrant large caliber projectile entrance site; pepper pattern shrapnel lower left leg; fracture lower left tibia. NOTE: LEP Beesley did not observe Specialist Mace as he expired on the operating table inside the Aid Station. Information was disseminated my medical staff.
- ➤ Thompson, Kevin C. Age, 22 Rank: Private First Class, Unit: Bravo Troop, 3-61 Cav. Physical identification: None. Extent of injuries: Right side thorax large caliber projectile entrance site, upper left back/shoulder exit site. PFC Thompson was identified by fellow soldiers who knew and recognized him.

LEP photographed each soldier for identification purposes, available upon request.