

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Death of LNs in Combat Ops (1/1-086)

2-5 CAV, 1/1 CD

27 Feb 07

FACTS

On 27 February 2007, (b)(2)High of E Co., 2-5 CAV were conducting (b)(2)High in Khan Dari when they received a (b)(2)High o conduct a (b)(2)High of a suspected AIF along (b)(2)High. The el (b)(2)High consisted of 24 US Soldiers and one interpreter in four (b)(2)High. While moving North along the route the vehicles ca (b)(2)High under heavy SAF and RPG fire from a tely 20-30 AIF on both the east and west side of (b)(2)High.

The Company Commander, CPT (b)(3),(b)(6), ordered the element to engage the AIF, who were now maneuvering behind structures and into hide positions. SSG (b)(3),(b)(6) noticed five AIF running west from the route. SSG (b)(3),(b)(6) White 8, maneuvered his vehicle thro (b)(3),(b)(6) field to engage the running individuals. Once in position SE of the individuals he engaged the five AIF, while more AIF were firing at him to the NW. 2LT (b)(3),(b)(6) located to the South of SSG (b)(3),(b)(6), also saw the m (b)(3),(b)(6) nding away in front of SSG (b)(3),(b)(6) position, and moved into position and engaged the men. SSG (b)(3),(b)(6) directed his vehicle to stop firing when the insurgents took cover in the ground. 2LT (b)(3),(b)(6) directed his vehicle to stop firing when he saw an unarmed man and woman waving their arms.

Upon inspecting the area, SSG (b)(3),(b)(6) discovered one wounded AIF and a large weapons cache. First, however, they discovered a family consisting of the man and a woman who had been waving, their teenage son, and their young daughter. The male child had been shot in the neck and was dying when they arrived. The daughter had one finger shot-off and a flesh wound to her neck. The US Soldiers performed first aid on the daughter. The father directed the unit to weapons caches in the area. The unit was subsequently informed that the daughter had died of her wounds. Later CPT (b)(3),(b)(6) returned to the area and paid the family a \$5,000 condolence payment for the death of his two children.

FINDINGS

The accidental death of the local national was unavoidable due to the conditions on the ground, and was not the result of negligence on the part of the unit. The unit had PID of the AIF, and were unable to see the local nationals due to intermittent vegetation and terrain. The unit complied with the ROE.

The IO could not determine whether the local national was killed by US fire (from SSG (b)(3),(b)(6) vehicle or 2LT (b)(3),(b)(6) vehicle), or AIF crossfire.

RECOMMENDATIONS

(b)(5)

Bn Cdr: Concurs with IO's Findings and Recommendations

BCT Cdr: Concurs with the IO's findings and recommendations.