

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Bagram, Afghanistan

3 November 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, United States Forces-Afghanistan / International Security Assistance Force, Afghanistan

SUBJECT: AR 15-6 Investigation re: COP Keating Attack of 3 Oct 09

1. Enclosed is the completed AR 15-6 investigation report, relating to the complex attack on COP Keating of 3 October 2009, pursuant to your appointment letter of 13 Oct 09.
2. Of utmost importance is to recognize the tremendous courage, tenacity, and valor with which the Soldiers of B Troop, 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry, fought on 3 Oct 09 at COP Keating. In the best traditions of the American Soldier and the Warrior Ethos, selfless actions by outstanding Soldiers, NCOs, and junior officers repelled an attack by a numerically superior force and prevented the enemy from achieving his objective. I strongly endorse the valorous awards that will come out of this battle and commend these exceptional Soldiers.
3. In the course of this investigation, I traveled to Forward Operating Bases (FOB) Bostick and Fenty, and to Bagram AB, and interviewed or obtained statements from approximately 140 personnel who were either at COP Keating on 3 Oct 09 or had information relating to the attack. In addition, I reviewed briefing slides, intelligence reports, TOC logs, operations orders and plans, imagery, situation reports, casualty reports, medical records, personnel reports, battle damage assessments, and gun camera video to gain an accurate picture of what happened in this action. I also conducted a personal reconnaissance by air of COP Keating and OP Fritsche in order to have first hand observation, since the physical location of the COP is key to what happened on 3 Oct 09.
4. Using the questions contained in your appointment memorandum, I have enclosed findings at TAB A. These findings include specific determinations regarding command accountability as directed. My recommendations are at TAB B.

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GUY C. SWAN III
Major General, US Army
Investigating Officer