

SWORN STATEMENT

For use of this form, see AR 190-45; the proponent agency is PMG.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: Title 10, USC Section 301; Title 5, USC Section 2951; E.O. 9397 Social Security Number (SSN).
PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: To document potential criminal activity involving the U.S. Army, and to allow Army officials to maintain discipline, law and order through investigation of complaints and incidents.
ROUTINE USES: Information provided may be further disclosed to federal, state, local, and foreign government law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, child protective services, victims, witnesses, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Office of Personnel Management. Information provided may be used for determinations regarding judicial or non-judicial punishment, other administrative disciplinary actions, security clearances, recruitment, retention, placement, and other personnel actions.
DISCLOSURE: Disclosure of your SSN and other information is voluntary.

1. LOCATION FOB BOSTICK, AFGHANISTAN	2. DATE (YYYYMMDD) 2009/10/21	3. TIME 2030L	4. FILE NUMBER
5. LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME (b)(3), (b)(6)	6. SSN (b)(6)	7. GRADE/STATUS O2	
8. ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS TRP B, 3RD SQN-61ST CAV REGT, 4IBCT-4ID, APO AE 09354			

9. I, (b)(3), (b)(6), WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH:

I was the (b)(2) High LT LDR for B Troop located at OP Fritche. I was assigned to COP Keating from 29 May 2009 until 11 August 2009 when I moved up to OP Fritche. Our element at OP Fritche consisted of 20 personnel at the time of the attack (15 scouts, 3 mortarmen, 1 cook, 1 medic). The OP was a rotating task and its primary mission and purpose was to occupy the dominant terrain, deny the enemy freedom of movement, and provide fire support to COP Keating when required. The OP did not have a direct line of sight on COP Keating, but we could provide 120mm mortar fire support. The OP was established shortly after Keating and did not serve a real purpose in the COIN/Kinetic fight due to the minimal personnel on site. Simply, we did not have the manning to engage the local population directly and security/corruption severely limited contracted projects in the AO. Kinetically we could only engage a small sector of the terrain due to limited line of sight. Someone would have to deliberately walk into our engagement area for us to destroy them. Otherwise they could easily bypass our position. Our sister platoon made great strides in improving the fighting positions on the OP and we continued to improve on their fortifications until the attack.

At approximately 0530 on 3 October 2009 we started receiving indirect fire from the southeast, followed by direct fire from what I estimate to be no more than 70 AAF on the ridge line running between the ASGs position southeast and into the low ground to the south as well as the north and Kamdesh. The enemy attacked from multiple fighting positions and we could see them running up and down the draws. I estimate our element killed approximately 8 to 12 enemy during the fight. Five of my Soldiers sustained superficial wounds, were treated, and returned to duty. I believe they intended to isolate us and keep us from providing support to Keating during the first hour so they could mass effectively on Keating's perimeter before air could get on station. Had they massed on Fritsche they might have been able to completely destroy our position with the proper amount of personnel.

The first hour of the fight, both sections returned fire in heavy volumes. Around 0800, enemy fighters positioned themselves on the ridge of the ASG OP. This is the only advantageous position over Fritsche. From there, the enemy successfully pinned down my B Section and the mortars. At that time the mortar pit became ineffective due to heavy and effective fires and RPGs. B Section began throwing hand grenades and clacked one claymore to gain fire superiority over the enemy. The mortars moved to an alternate fighting position and began to suppress the ridge. The mortar pit finally became operational around 1000. At the time we began hanging round after round to destroy enemy personnel in support of Keating. We dropped around 200 120mm rounds. By 1130 we had the situation completely under control and were able to secure our position.

Every Soldier, save the medic and myself, were on a firing line during the fight. SP (b)(3), (b)(6) the medic checked the Soldiers on the firing lines and provided food and water as needed to sustain energy. Our main position was the TOC through the battle.

Between 1200-1230 two PLTs from Hammer Co (TF Chosin - approx 60 PAX), came in and were waiting for a third PLT to come in. The unit wanted to be as strong as possible when going into Keating. They left Fritsche around 1430L. There were not any viable LZs besides OP Fritche and COP Keating.

One MK-19 went down in the fight due to a mechanical failure, but the rest of our weapon systems worked properly. SS (b)(3), (b)(6) always ensured the Soldiers performed weapons maintenance and maintained 2404s on all systems.

10. EXHIBIT	11. INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT (b)(3), (b)(6)	PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES
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ADDITIONAL PAGES MUST CONTAIN THE HEADING "STATEMENT OF _____ TAKEN AT _____ DATED _____"
THE BOTTOM OF EACH ADDITIONAL PAGE MUST BEAR THE INITIALS OF THE PERSON MAKING THE STATEMENT, AND PAGE NUMBER MUST BE INDICATED.

USE THIS PAGE IF NEEDED. IF THIS PAGE IS NOT NEEDED, PLEASE PROCEED TO FINAL PAGE OF THIS FORM.

STATEMENT OF (b)(3), (b)(6) TAKEN AT FOB BOSTICK DATED 2009/10/21

9. STATEMENT (Continued)

WAS ANYONE NEAR YOU WOUNDED OR KILLED? WHO, AND WHAT WAS THE NATURE OF INJURIES? WHAT UNIFORM WAS THE SOLDIER WEARING AND WHY? WAS THE SOLDIER WEARING ALL HIS BATTLE GEAR?

Four Soldiers around me were wounded. Their wounds were all superficial - minimal bleeding and only dermal abrasions and cuts. All Soldiers were wearing full kit, minus knee pads. Not all Soldiers wore ear protection. Full kit includes MNAV, ACH, gloves, and eye pro. Soldiers did not wear knee pads due to the lack of necessity and the ear pro was more an issue of not remembering to grab it or get it out of their kit in the midst of the battle.

DID YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH THE ANA? HOW EFFECTIVE WAS THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH ASSIGNED ANA/ANP ELEMENTS?

We had 6 ANA on site at the time. They fired one RPG and then did nothing the rest of the battle. At one point, SSG(P) Martin moved to their location to extract them out of their building and get them to fight. The ANP did the same thing. The working relationship was manageable until a firefight then they hid and did nothing.

DID YOU INTERACT WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY? HOW WERE YOU RECEIVED BY THE LOCALS?

No, we did not interact with the local community except for the rare instance when we either a) injured them somehow, b) destroyed their crops, or c) they just generally wanted money from us for some reason. We could not engage the locals on any level due to the insufficient troops on hand. It posed a serious security issue to go into a village or too far on patrol. In the instance of a firefight or a casualty we could provide no QRF, no direct fire support, and most likely no indirect due to certain ROE stipulations. However, the reception by the locals, or at least the perceived attitude towards coalition forces, was one of indifference at best.

DID YOU EXPERIENCE ANY WEAPON SYSTEM FAILURE DURING THE INCIDENT?

Other than the MK19 breaking a pin all weapon systems worked just fine.

-----NOTHING FOLLOWS-----

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

(b)(3), (b)(6)

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9. STATEMENT (Continued)

THIS PAGE NOT USED

AFFIDAVIT

I, (b)(3), (b)(6), HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATEMENT WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 1, AND ENDS ON PAGE (b)(3), (b)(6) I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF THE ENTIRE STATEMENT MADE BY ME. THE STATEMENT IS TRUE. I HAVE INITIALED ALL CORRECTIONS AND HAVE INITIALED THE BOTTOM OF EACH PAGE CONTAINING THE STATEMENT. I HAVE MADE THIS STATEMENT FREELY WITHOUT THREAT OF PUNISHMENT, AND WITHOUT COERCION, UNLAWFUL INFLUENCE, OR

(b)(3), (b)(6)

Statement)

WITNESSES:

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 21 day of OCTOBER, 2009 at FOB BOSTICK, AFGHANISTAN. APO AE 09354

(b)(3), (b)(6)

th)

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

(b)(3), (b)(6) SFC, USA

(Typed Name of Person Administering Oath)

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

ARTICLE 136, UCMJ

(Authority To Administer Oaths)

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

(b)(3), (b)(6)

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OP Fritsche

