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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, MULTI NATIONAL DIVISION-BAGHDAD
CAMP LIBERTY, IRAQ
APO AE 09352

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

AFZP-CG

MEMORANDUM FOR [REDACTED] HHC, 1-10 MTN DIV (LI), Task Force Baghdad,
Camp Liberty, Iraq

SUBJECT: Appointment of Investigating Officer

1. You are hereby appointed as an investigating officer pursuant to Army Regulation (AR) 15-6, Procedures for Investigating Officers and Board of Officers, to conduct an informal investigation to determine the facts and circumstances surrounding the suspected friendly fire incident involving units from 2-502 IN that occurred on 23 November 2005 in Zone 304. You will specifically investigate the circumstances leading up to the incident, actions during the incident and actions taken after the incident. [REDACTED] from HHC, 2-101 BCT is appointed to assist you in the collection of statements and evidence.
2. Prior to beginning your investigation, you must contact [REDACTED]. She will be your legal advisor and will be available to assist you throughout the investigation.
3. In conducting your investigation, use informal procedures under AR 15-6. Make specific findings as to the issues stated above. The evidence you gather should support your findings. Make recommendations consistent with your findings to address any issues raised by the evidence.
4. In your investigation, all witness statements will be sworn and written on DA Form 2823, Sworn Statement. If, in the course of your investigation, you come to suspect that any individuals have committed a criminal offense, then use DA Form 3881, Rights Warning/ Procedure Waiver Certificate, to advise them of their rights under Article 31, Uniform Code of Military Justice, or the Fifth Amendment (if interviewing a civilian), as appropriate.
5. I direct you to compile a daily chronology of all investigative activities and encourage you to consult with a legal advisor whenever and as often as necessary. In the case of any alleged criminal misconduct, you must consult with a legal advisor.
6. Submit your findings and recommendations to me on DA Form 1574 within 10 working days of receipt of this appointment order. Should you require additional time, coordinate with me, through the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

WGS
WILLIAM G. WEBSTER
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

c/s

15-6 Investigation 2-502nd AASLT Blue on Blue Incident (23 Nov 05)

Investigation Chronology

Wednesday 23 Nov 05

- Incident occurs (1500-1630hrs)
- Strike arrives on Scene with Falcon
- Initial IO 2-101st takes statements from 3rd Plt

Thursday 24 Nov 05 (Thanksgiving)

- Initial IO continues to take statements from 3rd Plt
- Strike 6 Meets with CG and provides update

Friday 25 Nov 05

- LTC Drinkwine Appointed IO
- Initial Email and Phone Contact with 101st
- Received Appointment Letter
- Email on initial Storyboard

Saturday 26 Nov 05

- Meet with [redacted] Review ongoing efforts.
- Meet with SJA 101st for 15-6 inbrief
- Meet with [redacted] strike for inbrief.

Sunday 27 Nov 05

- Meet with Bn CDR L
- Prep Strategy & Plan

Monday 28 Nov 05 (Interviews)

- Meet with Gator CPT Donaldson
- Meet with [redacted] 2nd Plt

Tuesday 29 Nov 05 (Interviews)

- Meet with Gator
- Meet with members of 3rd Plt

Wednesday 30 Nov 05

- Site Recon by Ground with Safety Board Team

Thursday 1 Dec 05

- Interviews
- Air Site Recon with Safety Board Team

Friday 2 Dec – Wednesday 7 Dec 05

- Final interviews with 3rd Plt, TPT and 2nd Plt

Thursday 8 Dec – Sunday 11 Dec 05

- Data Analysis and Findings Development
- Telephonic Interview with [redacted] (Walter Reed)
- Telephonic Interviews with [redacted] (Walter Reed Malone House)

Monday 12 Dec 05

- Outbrief with [redacted] and [redacted] 2-101st

Tuesday 13 Dec 05 Investigation Results Completed

Exhibit E. Detailed Event Timeline. (All times are based on log entries or personal accounts are of those Soldiers involved. Some witness statements had conflicting times and this is to be expected for times to differ slightly, due to no synchronization of watches or accurate logging of key events other than any notes or logs or SIGACTs posted).

Note: Entries in Black Arial Font are Gator Patrol
 Entries in Blue Courier Font are Gator Patrol

19 Nov 05

- 2200 2502 FRAGO to (Specific Task to A Co, Conduct S&A on 21 Nov 05 vic) to locate destroy AIF caches and prevent AIF attacks

20 Nov 05

- Gator Conducting Operations in Sector

21 Nov 05

- 0200 Gator Patrol returns to FOB after successful mission
- 1300 completes Debrief with Co XO
- 2000 verbal WARNORD from C XO for mission on 22nd
- None No initial backbrief (Gator is forward in sector)
- 2200 LT Ripka assembled NCOs and issues WARNORD for Mission
- 2200 Gator 6 returns from sector

22 Nov 05

- 0600-0800 PCCs/PCIs
- 0730 Gives Patrol order to Section T1: Move to MB P1: Search for Cache, T2: Est Patrol base vic P2: Deny AIF IEDs on key intersection
- 0800 receives short update from Bn BTL CPT, and Bn S3
- 1100 Patrol departs FOB Liberty
- 1300-UTC Search for Cache vic VSTR (MB 245 681)
- TBD Cordon & Knock suspect names (with assistance): 1 Detainee
- 1800est Gator 26 Patrol links up with Gator Patrol, relieves of security of area around building to be JDAMED in the morning
- 1900est Gator 34 Departs and returns to FOB (2 Pax from 26 escort one detainee)
- 2000-2100 Gator - Receives Verbal FRAGO-Mission from Gator at Lompaby TOC
- TBD Initial verbal backbrief to Gator by
- 2100-UTC assembled NCOs and issues WARNORD for Mission
- 2200 TLPs Gator Patrol

23 Nov 05

- 0600 issues Patrol Order to Gator Patrol Gator receives Intel update, gets trip ticket
- 0630-0635 JDAM of Booby trapped House (ME)
- 0635-0715 2ND Plt Searches/Confirms House Destroyed
- 0715-0830 2ND Plt Clears Route and moves to Patrol Base
- 0700 est Gator Patrol Departs FOB (Search on Mission)
- 0830 est Gator Occupies Patrol Base vic
- 0830-1200 Priorities of Work for 26 Element establish Patrol Base
- 1200 delays SITREP to Gator
- 1200 est Gator X-Ray FRAGO to (Conduct Cache Search)
- 1200-1230 Less than 30minutes of Planning Time available for
- 1230 Modified Patrol Brief & 5 Point Contingency given by
- 1240 Gator Dismounted Patrol Departs
- 1320 Gator reports at STR

SIGACT 28

2/A/2-502 WAS CONDUCTING SEARCH AND ATTACK OPERATIONS IN ZONE 304. THE PLATOON WAS OPERATING IN TWO ELEMENTS, MOUNTED AND DISMOUNTED, WITH THE PLATOON LEADER IN THE DISMOUNTED ELEMENT. THE DISMOUNTED ELEMENT CAME UNDER DIRECT FIRE FROM AIF (REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ARMED WITH A RPK MACHINEGUN), AND THE PLATOON LEADER MOVED INTO THE HOUSE WHERE THE FIRE ORIGINATED IN ORDER TO DESTROY THE ENEMY ELEMENT. AT SOME POINT IN THE CONTACT, THE PLATOON LEADER WAS WOUNDED AND THE SENIOR NCO ASSUMED CONTROL OF THE DISMOUNTED ELEMENT. WHEN THE NCO COULD NOT ESTABLISH RADIO COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE MOUNTED ELEMENT, HE DECIDED TO USE A BLUE CIVILIAN TRUCK TO EVACUATE THE WOUNDED LIEUTENANT BACK TO THE MOUNTED ELEMENT. HE LOADED THE WOUNDED OFFICER AND THE REMAINDER OF THE DISMOUNTED ELEMENT INTO THE CIVILIAN TRUCK AND BEGAN MOVING BACK TO THE EAST (THE DIRECTION OF THE MOUNTED ELEMENT). SIMULTANEOUSLY, 3/A/2-502, ALSO CONDUCTING SEARCH AND ATTACK OPERATIONS IN THE AREA, HAD ARRIVED AT THE LOCATION OF THE 2/A/2-502 MOUNTED ELEMENT, HEARD GUNFIRE TO THE WEST, AND MOVED IN THAT DIRECTION TO DETERMINE ITS SOURCE. AS 3/A/2-502 MOVED THE WEST, THE PLATOON LEADER IDENTIFIED A BLUE CIVILIAN TRUCK APPROACHING AT HIGH SPEED, AND MEMBERS OF 3/A/2-502 IDENTIFIED WEAPONS ON THE PERSONNEL IN THE TRUCK. 3/A/2-502 OPENED FIRE ON THE BLUE TRUCK, CAUSING IT TO ROLL INTO A DITCH TO THE NORTH OF THE ROAD. UPON INVESTIGATION, 3/A/2-502 DISCOVERED THAT THEY HAD ENGAGED 2/A/2-502, WHO WERE USING THE TRUCK TO EVACUATE WOUNDED. THE FIRE FROM 3/A/2-502 KILLED TWO MEMBERS OF 2/A/2-502 AND WOUNDED THREE OTHERS (INCLUDING AN INTERPRETER).

1645: WHEELS UP FROM FOB FALCON

1648: WHEELS DOWN AT THE IED SITE

1654: WHEELS UP FROM THE IED SITE

1701: WHEELS DOWN AT THE CSH

1710: EOD AND CEXC ENROUTE TO ECP7

1737: EOD AND CEXC SP TO THE SITE.

2100: 2X US KIA ARRIVE AT STRIKER

24 NOV 05

0610; _____

_____ WILL FLIGHT TO GERMANY.

SUMMARY:

2X US KIA

3X US WIA

1x INTERPRETER WIA

KIA: _____

WIA: _____

CLOSED

and dismounted, with the platoon leader in the dismounted element. The dismounted element came under direct fire from AIF (reported to have been armed with a RPK machinegun), and the platoon leader moved into the house where the fire originated in order to destroy the enemy element. At some point in the contact, the platoon leader was wounded and the senior NCO assumed control of the dismounted element. When the NCO could not establish radio communications with the mounted element, he decided to use a blue civilian truck to evacuate the wounded lieutenant back to the mounted element. He loaded the wounded officer and the remainder of the dismounted element into the civilian truck and began moving back to the east (the direction of the mounted element). Simultaneously, 3/A/2-502, also conducting search and attack operations in the area, had arrived at the location of the 2/A/2-502 mounted element, heard gunfire to the west, and moved in that direction to determine its source. As 3/A/2-502 moved the west, the platoon leader identified a blue civilian truck approaching at high speed, and members of 3/A/2-502 identified weapons on the personnel in the truck. 3/A/2-502 opened fire on the blue truck, causing it to roll into a ditch to the north of the road. Upon investigation, 3/A/2-502 discovered that they had engaged 2/A/2-502, who were using the truck to evacuate wounded. The fire from 3/A/2-502 killed two members of 2/A/2-502 and wounded two others (including an interpreter).

MAJ Bred Rees has been appointed as the 15-6 officer and is currently on site, where he will continue his investigation in the morning.

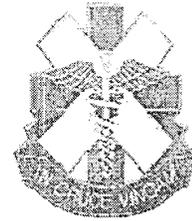
Line 7 Initial reports indicate no damage to government equipment. A civilian truck may have been damaged, but the extent of the damage is not yet known.

UPDATE (232230Nov05): There was no damage to US vehicles. The blue civilian truck was severely damaged by small arms fire from 3/A/2-502.



10th Combat Support Hospital
Ibn Sina Hospital
Baghdad, Iraq

HOSPITAL TEL. (914) 360-3477 DNV 538-2802



DISCHARGE NOTE

DATE: 23November2005 TIME: 1830hrs

NAME:

SSN:

Date of Admission: 23November2005

Date of Discharge: 24November 2005

Brief Admit Note:

_____ was shot in the left shoulder with a large exit wound in the left back. He also has a through and through GSW to the left triceps. Left arm neurovascularly intact. He does have pain when moving it, but best assessment is normal to near normal function.

DIAGNOSES:

- 1) GSW to left shoulder and arm with exit wound out the back. Left 4th digit near traumatic amputation.
- 2) Left hemopneumothorax

CONDITION: critical

RADIOLOGY: CXR reveals small hemothorax. CT scan of neck, chest abdomen and pelvis reveal small hemothorax. chest tube is in good position and hematoma left shoulder and back, as well as a broken scapula.

PLAN/RECOMMENDATION/HOSPITAL COURSE:

- 1) Admit to ICU. _____ has done well since washout and debridement of his wounds (left shoulder, left back and left triceps) last night. The wounds have been packed and he is ready for A/E. He will require further debridement of his soft tissue wounds and closure of the amputation of his left 4th digit. I anticipate good recovery.

MC

10th CSH, General Surgery

AL 9/502 INF

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

FROM		TO	
HOUR	DATE	HOUR	DATE
0300	23 Nov 68	0840	23 Nov 68

ITEM NO	TIME		INCIDENTS, MESSAGES, ORDERS, ETC.	ACTION TAKEN	INITIALS
	IN	OUT			
	0320		ASSUME	Received Report of Loss	
			DISTURB BY WANDERER PTC AND RUMOR	24	
2	0320		FALCON CALLS CALLS FOR STRIP, GATE IN	Change STRIP TO	
			DISTURB BY WANDERER PTC	FALCON CALLS	
3	0350		NET CALL, CONFERENCE CALL @ 0430	LOGGED	
4	0410		RELAYS FROM BTL WHILE THEY BE CONTACTED		
			THE COM ABOUT JIG AND WISLUK (S),		
			THEY STATED THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE THEM		
			AND WHEN HE RECEIVED HE DID NOT HAVE HIS		
			RELAYS INTO THE BATTLE CAMP AND THEY WERE GOING TO COVER	LOGGED INCIDENTS	
			THE BTL THAT WAS USED AND WHERE THEY HAD THE EQUIPMENT	NOTED LOSS OF COMMAND	
5	0415		Called COMBAT TROOP AND REQUESTED A SENS. TROOP UP	TO US BATTLES THAT W/2	
				ALL HELICOPTERS ON S.I.	
6	0545		FALCON XRAY CALLED AND COVERED JUMP TIME 0630	RELAYED TO G2-6	
	0625		FALCON ZEROED JUMP TIME ON TARGET AREA AND BOMB WEIGHING	RELAYED TO G2-6	
8	0630		FALCON CALLS	RELAYED TO G2-6	
9	0630		COMBAT REPORTS THAT THE BOMB WAS LAUNCHED	RELAYED TO FALCON XRAY	
10	0640		COMBAT BOMB IN 17 AXYS 30 MASS, 1000 AND BOMBING DATE		
			THIS BELONGED TO THE JIA THAT WAS NOT RECORDED ALONG		
			WITH AN		
			AND IS MORE OF A BOMB BELONGING TO	NOTED FALCON XRAY	
11	0651		COMBAT REPORTED THAT THE TARGET HOUSE WAS DESTROYED	NOTED FALCON XRAY	
12	0705		FALCON CALLS FOR STRIP	Change Call at 0705 Hrs	
13	0848		FL.T. ON GATE	RELAYED TO FALCON XRAY	

TYPED NAME AND GRADE OF OFFICER OR OFFICIAL ON DUTY

SIGNATURE