

(b)(2)High

From: (b)(2)High
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2007 13:50
To: (b)(2)High
Cc:
Subject: FW: Initial Report - Blue on Blue Engagement

CLASSIFICATION: (b)(2)High

CAVEATS: (b)(2)High

TERMS: NONE

Sir,
Here is the initial report on the fratricide involving SGT(P) Nelson. Currently (b)(6), (b)(3)10 USC 130b is appointed as the 15-6 IO. He received a brief from our paralegal this morning and will talk to the JAG today. This will enable us to complete the investigation in a timely manner. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

V/R

(b)(2)High, (b)(6), (b)(3)10 USC 130b

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(2)High
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2007 14:20
To: (b)(2)High
Subject: For F3: Initial Report - Blue on Blue Engagement

S3 – Please forward to (b)(2)High Initial statements of all involved have been taken and will be provided to the designated IO upon RTB.

BLUF – This is a fratricide / “blue on blue” engagement resulting in 1 x US KIA.

O/A 291000AUG07 a 12xman patrol from the (b)(2)High platoon encountered a (b)(2)High patrol from A Company. (b)(2)High was stationary in a security perimeter. T/P at time of incident was local security at an enemy cache site. (b)(2)High patrol was the moving element. T/P at time of movement was MTC against suspected insurgents operating several hundred meters south of the ACP. (b)(2)High directed (b)(2)High to conduct MTC following multiple direct fire engagements by assessed 3-5 enemy operating 150-300 meters south of the ACP.

(b)(6) accompanied the (b)(2)High patrol on their mission, moving with SGT Andrew Nelson's fire team for the entire operation. The patrol commenced operations O/A 0830. O/A 1000 hours the (b)(6) platoon heard voices 100-200 meters north of a security halt, changed direction of movement north towards the voices. One member of the patrol reported voices as Arabic. I assess neither element was aware of the others presence. I was tracking (based on radio reports / updates) the location of (b)(6) 200 meters south of the (b)(2)High axis of advance. The (b)(6), (b)(6)5 USC b(3)(10 USC 130b), (b)(2)High, (b)(1)1.4a patrol utilized bounding overwatch during this maneuver. Vegetation throughout the orchard area was extremely dense, with 10-20 meter visibility the maximum range of observation throughout. SGT Andrew Nelson (b)(2)High and his fire team was conducting a bound (stealth / stalking) when the fratricide incident occurred. was following SGT Nelson's team at the time of the engagement. The actual engagement happened over the span of one-two seconds. I believe a member of SGT Nelson's team fired at movement on (b)(6) security perimeter. An unknown trooper from the (b)(6) perimeter then returned fire striking SGT Nelson. I recall only two shooters – one incoming and one outgoing. asked for a contact report from SGT Nelson with no response. was operating north of the PLT main body on OBJ and was in actuality 50 meters north of axis of advance. Calls of medic / man down came within five seconds of the realization that SGT Nelson had sustained wounds. Near simultaneous, (b)(6) (b)(6), (b)(3)10 USC 130b called (b)(2)High and moved immediately to site of wounded friendly. (b)(6), (b)(3)10 USC 130b went to work on SGT Nelson within 15 seconds. Leaders of both elements immediately established security. commenced medevac request / 9 line. The work of both medics was truly heroic – they never quit. It appeared SGT Nelson was struck at least three times, once in the throat, one upper chest that resulted in a through and through (sucking chest wound) and one round that appears to have passed through his loaded M4 magazine (inserted in magazine well), with further fragmentation on his IBA. Stopping the bleeding and airway management were the primary tasks performed by the medics. SGT Nelson was secured on a SKEDCO. A portion of the platoon under (b)(6), (b)(3)10 USC 130b moved to secure route and LZ for MEDEVAC. All elements moved to the ACP location approximately 250 meters away. (b)(2)High was the nearest viable PZ, approximately 350 meters from point of injury. The element carrying SGT Nelson stopped twice prior to reaching the ACP location. At the second stop (still in heavy undergrowth), it was determined SGT Nelson had stopped breathing. (b)(6), (b)(3)10 USC 130b applied several techniques to open the airway. His earlier successful attempts no longer worked, noted by an inability to get SGT Nelson's chest to rise. I checked SGT Nelson's pulse and detected none. (b)(6), (b)(3)10 USC 130b also checked with no response. I assess SGT Nelson succumbed to his wounds and died during the second stop enroute to the extraction PZ. The element was met shortly thereafter by (b)(6), (b)(3)10 USC 130b and additional security that assisted in getting SGT Nelson to the extraction PZ. Medevac AC successfully landed and extracted SGT Nelson O/A 1036. All elements conducted consol/reorg procedures. directed to initiate 15-6. SGT Nelson's equipment / weapon were isolated. All Troopers involved have provided initial statements and will be available for questions upon return from mission.

[REDACTED]

DERIVED FROM: (b)(1)1.4a, (b)(2)High
DECLASSIFY ON [REDACTED]

CLASSIFICATION: [REDACTED]
CAVEATS: [REDACTED]
TERMS: NONE