DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
TASK FORCE MOUNTAIN WARRIOR
HEADQUARTERS, 4TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM
4TH INFANTRY DIVISION (MECHANIZED)
FORWARD OPERATING BASE FENTY, AFGHANISTAN
APO AE 09310

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFZC-BCT-AD 21 September 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Executive Summary of AR 15-6 Investigation into the Combat Deaths of 1stLt Michael E. Johnson, GySgt Edwin W. Johnson, SSgt Aaron M. Kenefick, and PO3 James R. Layton

1. Event Summary: On 08 September 2009, Anti-Afghan Forces (AAF) attacked a Coalition Force (CF) consisting of an Embedded Training Team (ETT), Afghan National Army (ANA) Soldiers and Afghan Border Police (ABP) with small arms fire (SAF) in the vicinity of Ganjgal, Konar Province, Afghanistan, which resulted in the deaths of 1stLt Michael E. Johnson, GySgt Edwin W. Johnson, SSgt Aaron M. Kenefick, and PO3 James R. Layton and the wounding of (b)(3), (b)(6) and SFC Kenneth Westbrook.

2. Planning: The plan for this mission started with the successful cordon and search and key leader engagement (KLE) in the neighboring village of Dam Dara on 03 September 2009. During this mission, village elders from the town of Ganjgal approached the U.S. and Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and extended an invitation for a meeting in the near future to discuss community projects and improvements. The elders publicly announced their support for the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIRoA) and promised safety for the CF. Several combined, ANSF led, meetings were conducted using the Dam Dara plan as the template for support. The date for the Ganjgal mission was decided as 07 September 2009. Both the ABP and ANA decided to delay the mission by one day despite being briefed that no dedicated air support would be available on 08 September 2009 and the presence of an increased threat may be present in the town.

3. Execution: On the morning of 8 September 2009, (b)(2)High ANA personnel from (b)(2)High Kandak (b)(2)High U.S. ETT personnel, (b)(2)High ABP personnel from (b)(2)High Kandak, (b)(2)High and (b)(2)High U.S. Border Mentor Team (BMT) personnel were approaching the town of Ganjgal, when they came under effective enemy SAF and RPG from a complex ambush involving numerous positions located to the north, south, and east of the village. During the engagement, 3x Marine ETTs, 1x Navy Corpsman, and 1x ANA Soldier became separated and isolated in a trench about 50 meters from the western edge of the town and were reported as missing. Enemy forces most likely maneuvered from the town and overwhelmed their position, killing them in the process. The remains of 1stLt Johnson, GySgt Johnson, SSgt Kenefick, and PO3 Layton, were later recovered by CF and missing their sensitive items. (b)(3), (b)(6) and SFC Westbrook were also wounded by SAF during the enemy engagement that morning. (b)(3), (b)(6) (b)(3), (b)(6) has been returned to duty, while (b)(3), (b)(6) and SFC Westbrook are expected to fully recover and return to duty at a later date.

Exhibit B

4. Recommendations:

a.

b.

c.

d.

(b)(2)High

e.

f.

g.

h.

i. 1stLt Johnson, GySgt Johnson, SSgt Kenefick and PO3Layton, (b)(3), (b)(6) (b)(3), (b)(6)and (b)(3), (b)(6) are all recognized for their sacrifice and heroic efforts.

j. Command take adverse administrative action against (b)(3), (b)(6) for his poor battle management.

5. The point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned at DSN (b)(6) or (b)(3), (b)(6) @afghan.swa.army.mil.

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

MAJ, AD
Investigating Officer