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PRESS RELEASE: U.S. Army Special Operations Soldiers killed in combat

U.S. Army Special Operations Command Public Affairs

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (USASOC News Service, October 08, 2013)—Two U.S. Army Rangers, one Cultural Support Team member and a U.S. Army Special Agent were killed in action Oct. 6, during combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Killed were:

Sgt. Patrick C. Hawkins, 25, was assigned to Company B, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, at Fort Benning, Ga.

Pfc. Cody J. Patterson, 24, was assigned to Company B, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, at Fort Benning, Ga.

1st Lt. Jennifer M. Moreno, 25, was assigned to Madigan Army Medical Center, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., and attached to a joint special operations task force as a Cultural Support Team member.

Special Agent Joseph M. Peters, 24, was assigned to the 286th Military Police Detachment (CID), 5th Military Police Battalion, Vicenza, Italy.

All four service members were killed by an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

Sgt. Patrick Hawkins

Hawkins was born Oct. 1, 1988. After graduating from High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Army from his hometown of Carlisle, Pa., February 2010 and completed One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Ga., as an infantryman. After graduating from the Basic Airborne Course there, he was assigned to the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program also at Fort Benning. Hawkins graduated from the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program and was then assigned to Company B, 3rd Bn., 75th Ranger Regiment September 2010 where he served as a Rifleman, Gun Team Leader and Ranger Team Leader.

“Sgt. Patrick Hawkins was a brave and incredibly talented Ranger,” said Lt. Col. Patrick J. Ellis, Commander of 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. “He was moving to the aid of a wounded Ranger when he was killed. His actions that night were in keeping with the epitome of the Ranger Creed: ‘I will

never leave a fallen comrade.' Our thoughts and prayers are with the Hawkins family during this difficult time."

This was his fourth deployment to Afghanistan.

His military education includes the Basic Airborne Course, Ranger Assessment and Selection Program, U.S. Army Ranger Course, and the Warrior Leader Course. His awards and decorations include the Ranger Tab, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Parachutist Badge, and the U.S. Army Expert Rifle Marksmanship Qualification Badge.

Hawkins has also been awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

"Sgt. Patrick Hawkins dedicated himself to serving our Nation and ultimately gave his life in her defense," said Col. Christopher S. Vanek, Commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment. "Those who knew him understood he was man of character and commitment. He excelled as a Ranger Team Leader, always leading from the front and highly respected by all of his fellow Rangers who fought with him. His loss is felt by the entire Regiment."

He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal and Purple Heart.

Hawkins is survived by his wife, Brittanie M. Hawkins, of Lansing, Kansas and his parents, Roy and Shelia Hawkins, of Carlisle, Pa.

Pfc. Cody James Patterson

Patterson was born April 12, 1989 in Corvallis, Ore. After graduating from Philomath High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Army from his hometown of Philomath, Ore., January 2012 and completed One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Ga., as an infantryman. After graduating from the Basic Airborne Course there, he was assigned to the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program also at Fort Benning. Patterson graduated from the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program and was then assigned to Company B, 3rd Bn., 75th Ranger Regiment November 2012 where he served as a Rifleman.

"Pfc. Cody Patterson was the poster child for the Ranger Regiment," said Lt. Col. Patrick J. Ellis, Commander of 3rd Bn., 75th Ranger Regiment. "He was courageous and dedicated and lost his life while fighting tenaciously against our Nation's enemies alongside his fellow Rangers. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Patterson family."

This was his second deployment to Afghanistan.

His military education includes the Basic Airborne Course and the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program. His awards and decorations include the Parachutist Badge and the U.S. Army Expert Rifle Marksmanship Qualification Badge.

Patterson has also been awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Overseas Service Ribbon.

“Pfc. Cody Patterson had a limitless future,” said Col. Christopher S. Vanek, commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment. “He would have been successful in whatever path he had chosen in life. He chose to serve his country by volunteering for the most difficult and challenging duties of a United States Army Ranger. His loss is devastating to his fellow Rangers, our Army and our Nation. Our country was fortunate that he chose to serve in our ranks. Our thoughts and prayers are with this young Ranger’s family.”

He was posthumously awarded the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Purple Heart and NATO Medal.

Patterson is survived by his mother, Nancy R. Wilson of Corvallis, Ore., and his father, Randy L. Patterson, and his sister, Taylor, both of Philomath, Ore.

1st Lt. Jennifer M. Moreno

Moreno was a member of the Cultural Support Team assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, supporting a Joint Special Operations Task Force.

She was on her first deployment to Afghanistan in support of the War on Terror.

Moreno was born June 25, 1988 in San Diego, Calif. After graduating from San Diego High School, she was commissioned in the U.S. Army as a Nurse Corps Officer after graduating from the University of San Francisco with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. Moreno completed the U.S. Army Airborne Course 2009 at Fort Benning, Ga., and the Army Medical Department Officer Basic Course 2010 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Moreno was then assigned to Madigan Army Medical Center, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., where she served as a Clinical Staff Nurse on a medical surgical unit.

She volunteered and was successfully assessed and selected into the U. S. Army Special Operations Command Cultural Support Team program and deployed in June 2013.

“Our unit mourns the loss of 1st Lt. Jennifer Moreno,” said Lt. Col. Patrick J. Ellis, Commander of 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. “She was a talented member of our team who lost her life while serving her country in one of the most dangerous environments in the world. Her bravery and self-sacrifice were in keeping with the highest traditions of the 75th Ranger Regiment. She was making a difference in Afghanistan and that legacy will live on. The Moreno family is in our thoughts and prayers.”

Her awards and decorations include the Parachutist Badge, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal and Army Service Ribbon.

1st Lt. Moreno was posthumously awarded the Combat Action Badge, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Purple Heart, Afghanistan Campaign Medal and NATO Medal.

She is survived by her mother, Marie V. Cordero, and her sisters Jearaldy Moreno and Yaritza Cordova of San Diego, Calif., and her brother, Ivan F. Moreno, currently serving in the U.S. Army.

Special Agent Joseph M. Peters

Peters was born Dec. 22, 1988. After graduating from high school in 2007, he enlisted in the U.S. Army from his hometown of Springfield, Mo. He completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Advanced Individual Training as a Human Intelligencer Collector at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and was assigned to the 210th Military Intelligence Company. Following this assignment, Peters was assigned to the 14th Military Intelligence Battalion. He served as a Human Intelligence Collector at both assignments.

Peters reclassified as an Army Criminal Investigations Special Agent and was assigned to the 286th Military Police Detachment (CID), Vicenza, Italy as a Special Agent with the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command.

This was his third deployment in support of the War on Terror with two previous deployments to Iraq.

“We are all deeply saddened by the death of one of our own – Special Agent Joseph Peters,” said Major General David Quantock, the Provost Marshal General of the United States Army and Commanding General of the United States Army Criminal Investigation Command. “Special Agent Peters was a highly respected agent and Soldier who sacrificed his life in the defense of this nation. We are extremely proud of his service and what he accomplished as a CID Special Agent and as a Soldier. His death is a reminder to all of us of the unequalled contributions our military members and their families make on a daily basis in the defense of the freedoms that we all enjoy and value so dearly.”

He was promoted to Sergeant Aug. 1, 2010.

His military education includes the Criminal Investigation Division Agent Course, Protective Services Training Course, Human Intelligence Collector Course, Joint Analyst Interrogator Collaboration Course, the Advanced Crime Scene Investigative Technician Course and the Warrior Leader Course.

His awards and decorations include the Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal 2nd Award, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Arrow Device, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon and the Driver’s Badge.

He was posthumously awarded the Combat Action Badge, Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart.

He is survived by his wife and 20 month old son.

NOTE TO MEDIA:

For more information on Sgt. Hawkins and Pfc. Patterson, contact Lt. Col. Brian DeSantis at 706-545-8407 or 706-570-5091.

For more information on Special Agent Peters, contact Mr. Chris Grey, Chief of Public Affairs, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command at 571-305-4041 or email christopher.p.grey.civ@mail.mil.

For more information, on 1st Lt. Moreno, contact Mr. Jay J. Ebbeson at (253) 968-1901 or Carrie Bernard at 253-968-2968.

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