Crash 'worst day in our history'

CH-47 Callsign Extortion 17 6 August 2011

USA KIA = 5
USN KIA = 22
Afghan's = 9

USAF KIA = 3
TSgt John W. Brown [PJ]
TSgt Daniel Zerbe [PJ]
TSgt Andy Harvell [CCT]

Total KIA = 39

Air Force Tech Sgt. John W. Brown was an Air Force Pararescueman based at Pope Field in Fort Bragg, N.C.

His death was confirmed by his mother, Elizabeth Herndon Newlun of Rogers, Ark., who told the AP that her son loved to do anything active.

"If I wanted to have a conversation with him that was serious, I would have to shoot baskets with him. There's nothing athletic about me, but I realized that you have to get into other people's comfort zone to get information," Newlun says.

Newlun says she is so proud of her son. "I want to make sure that everyone knows that he's a hero. I can fall apart later."

An investigation will determine the facts surrounding the deaths of 30 U.S. service members when their CH-47 Chinook helicopter went down in Afghanistan's Wardak province Aug. 6, a Pentagon spokesman said.

Siloam Springs, Arkansas Native Killed in Afghanistan Helicopter Crash

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Air Force Sgt. John Brown.


Air Force Sgt. John Brown.

Heather Lewis, KFSM

SILOAM SPRINGS, ARKANSAS -- A Siloam Springs native is killed after his military helicopter is shot down in Afghanistan Saturday morning. Arkansas State Representative Jon Woods says his friend John Brown was the perfect soldier.

"He was just an All-American G.I. Joe. Just a great guy who loved his country," said Jon Woods.

Woods says he and Brown grew up in Siloam Springs together.

"Everybody liked John in high school," said Woods, "He was easy to get along with, great athlete, and great sense of humor."

Saturday afternoon Woods got an email from Brown's mother Elizabeth Newlun stating the Navy Seal unit Brown had been assigned to had been shot down in Afghanistan.

"Hearing the news that it was the Navy SEAL team, or a large group of the men that were killed this morning, it doesn't surprise me that John was more than likely part of that team," says Woods.

He says Brown always loved a challenge.

"He loved to fight," said Jon Woods, "He loved his country. He likes doing the right thing and he really believed in what he was doing."

Newlun says her son studied pre-med in Florida before deciding to become a Para-rescueman in the United States Air Force. She says he was assigned to a Navy SEALS unit and was recently promoted to tech sergeant.

"His specific job is to be with them and to see to their medical needs and to see to their rescue in the situation that they'd been taken hostage or something like that," said Elizabeth Newlun.

Newlun says the public outpouring of support and knowing Brown was not only her hero, but an American hero has given her comfort during this difficult time.

"We all have a great comfort in that he died doing what he wanted to do and that he died with honor," says Newlun.

According to Woods, losing Brown isn't only a tragic loss for friends and family, but also for our country.

"He was physically fit, mentally sharp, great sense of humor, and he was the perfect, you know, when I think of the perfect soldier, that was John Brown," said Jon Woods.

He says Brown is an airman who will always be remembered.

"He died a hero's death and I'm very proud of him and proud to say I'm a friend of his, and I'm going to miss him tremendously," said Woods.

Newlun says her son is best described in a letter written by Brown's uncle.

"John Brown was a rambo without the attitude," reads Newlun, "He was a humble healer in service to his country, a Special Forces medic on a mission in Afghanistan. He was brave, but never arrogant, powerful but always gentle, a smart man who knew himself and chose his words carefully."

Sgt. John Brown will be buried in the National Cemetery in Arlington, Texas.

Unprecedented tragedy devastates the naval special warfare community
By Sean D. Naylor - Staff writer
Posted : Saturday Aug 6, 2011 18:44:31 EDT

The naval special warfare community was reeling in what one member called “shock and disbelief” Saturday after 22 of its own died in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan that also killed eight other U.S. service members, a civilian interpreter and seven Afghan soldiers.

The CH-47 Chinook crash, which occurred during a raid in Wardak province, is believed to be the biggest single loss ever suffered by the NSW community or in the 24-year history of U.S. Special Operations Command.

Of the 22 NSW members killed, 17 were SEALs and five were direct support personnel, according to the source in the NSW community. Two of the SEALs were from a West Coast SEAL unit, but the others were from Gold Squadron of Naval Special Warfare Development Group, or DevGru, sometimes known as SEAL Team 6, said the NSW source.

DevGru, based in Dam Neck, Va., is the Navy’s “Tier One” special mission unit that operates as part of task forces formed under the Joint Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C. It is the Navy’s equivalent to the Army’s 1st Special Forces Operational Command — Delta, or Delta Force. DevGru

has four line squadrons — Blue, Gold, Red and Silver — plus a strategic reconnaissance element known as Black Squadron.

Each squadron is divided into three troops. The crash wiped out an entire troop in Gold Squadron, said the NSW source.

The presence of the West Coast SEALs on the mission should not come as a surprise, even though they are not part of a unit that habitually reports to JSOC, said the NSW source.

“We have SEALs from the West Coast augmenting Dam Neck on every deployment,” the source said.

The remaining U.S. military casualties were divided between a five-person regular Army aircrew and three Air Force combat controllers, said a special ops source who has been briefed on the incident. The use of a regular Army Chinook to fly a JSOC mission was “atypical,” the source said. Most JSOC missions involving helicopters are flown by the Army’s 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne).

The Defense Department has not announced which unit or units the three Air Force personnel were from, but most JSOC missions of this type are supported by members of the 24th Special Tactics Squadron.

The seven Afghan soldiers who died were Afghan National Army commandos from the Afghan Partnered Unit, which accompanies JSOC forces on their combat missions in Afghanistan, according to the special ops source, who has been briefed on the mission.

Although there have been reports that the twin-rotor helicopter was shot down, the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan has not confirmed that. An initial statement about the crash states that “reporting indicates that there was enemy activity in the area.”

The personnel in the helicopter belonged to an “immediate reaction force” that was en route to support troops in contact on the ground, said the NSW member. An immediate reaction force differs from a quick reaction force in that the former is built into the mission plan and is on site during the raid, sometimes circling the action in a helicopter, waiting to be committed if needed, whereas a quick reaction force is typically brought forward from the rear, the NSW source said.

There were no survivors from the crash, said the special ops source who has been briefed on the incident. “There will be multiple investigations,” the spec ops source said, noting that this was typical for an aircraft crash of this magnitude.

Asked what the naval special warfare community’s initial reaction to the incident was, the NSW source answered: “Shock and disbelief. There’s no precedent for this. It’s the worst day in our history by a mile.”

The source noted that twice as many NSW personnel died in the Wardak crash than were killed in Operation Red Wings, which cost the lives of eight SEALs and eight 160th soldiers when insurgents shot down their MH-47 Chinook near Asadabad, Afghanistan, on June 28, 2005. A further three SEALs were killed during a firefight on the ground.

The tragedy comes two months after JSOC’s highest profile success — the May 2 mission that killed al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden in his safe house in Abbottabad, Pakistan. That raid, conducted by DevGru’s Red Squadron and air crews from the 160th, was executed without any friendly casualties.

The Wardak incident also occurred less than three days prior to the change of command at U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., that will see Adm. Eric Olson relinquish command to another SEAL, Vice Adm. William McRaven, who was the JSOC commander for the bin Laden mission. (McRaven is due to be promoted to admiral immediately prior to the change of command.)

Army Lt. Gen. Joe Votel has since replaced McRaven as the JSOC commander.

Fallen Airman from Siloam Springs

One of the military personnel killed during a helicopter attack in Eastern Afghanistan is from Siloam Springs.

Elizabeth Newlun confirmed Sunday that her son, Air Force Tech Sgt. John W. Brown, died in the crash. Newlun says Brown was a paramedic whose unit was attached to the Navy SEALs.

She says her son was athletic and went to John Brown University on a swimming scholarship. Newlun says he wanted to go into medicine, but instead joined the military after seeing a video about a special tactical unit.

Brown attended high school with State Rep. Jon Woods, who called him the ideal model for a soldier -- tall, physically fit and smart. Newlun says Brown will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

State Representative Jon Woods says shortly after high school, Brown joined the military.

"He died a hero's death, and I'm very proud of him and proud to say I'm a friend of his, and I'm going to miss him tremendously," says Woods.

In all 38, U.S. and Afghan troops were killed when that NATO helicopter was shot down. The Taliban is claiming it shot down the chopper, but U.S. officials will only say they are still trying to determine exactly what happened. This appears to be the single most deadly incident for coalition forces since the war began.

Brown was a USAF Pararescueman assigned to the 24th Special Tactics Squadron.



Air Force Tech Sgt. John W. Brown

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — An Arkansas woman whose son and 37 others were killed when their helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan says he was a hero.

Elizabeth Newlun confirmed Sunday that her son, Air Force Tech Sgt. John W. Brown, died in the crash. Newlun says Brown was a paramedic whose unit was attached to the Navy SEALs.

She says her son was athletic and went to John Brown University on a swimming scholarship. Newlun says he wanted to go into medicine, but instead joined the military after seeing a video about a special tactical unit.

Brown attended high school with state Rep. Jon Woods, who called him the ideal model for a soldier — tall, physically fit and smart.

Newlun says Brown will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Spokesman: Probe will determine Chinook crash facts

by Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

8/8/2011 - **WASHINGTON (AFNS)** --
An investigation will determine the facts surrounding the deaths of 30 U.S. service members and eight Afghan commandos when their CH-47 Chinook helicopter went down in Afghanistan's Wardak province Aug. 6, a Pentagon spokesman said.

Marine Corps Col. Dave Lapan warned against jumping to conclusions about the incident.

"Any conclusions are premature until we conduct an investigation to determine the facts," he said Aug. 8 during an informal meeting with Pentagon reporters. Leaks of information resulted in reporting that was "all over the place in terms of facts that were not accurate," Lapan said.

"It's never helpful when people get out in the immediate aftermath of an incident like this and start providing information that one, can be inaccurate and lead to inaccurate reporting, and two, can be speculative about what may or may not have happened," he added.

A rocket-propelled grenade shot down the Army helicopter, Pentagon officials said Aug. 8. Five of the U.S. casualties were aircrew members, and 25 were members of U.S. Special Operations Command. It was the largest loss of life in a single combat incident in Afghanistan, officials said.

Lapan caution reporters against reading too much into a single combat incident. As tragic as the loss of life is, he said, it is not a trend, but an anomaly.

"This one single incident does not represent any watershed or trend," Lapan said. "As we have said continuously, the Taliban were going to come back hard. They weren't going to take the losses that they have suffered lightly. They were going to try to inflict casualties not only on us, but the Afghans, and those are the things we are seeing."

The Taliban are still on the run, and the coalition and its Afghan partners have reversed the momentum of the insurgent group, the colonel said, adding that special operations forces will continue to drive on.

"In the immediate aftermath, they press on with the mission," the colonel said. "It is an unfortunate fact of the business we're in that we take casualties, and our folks are well-trained to recognize that they can't let the loss of their comrades deter them from the mission, especially since this is a very dangerous undertaking, and you can't afford to lose focus."

Arkansas woman whose son and 37 others were killed when their helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan says he was a hero.

Elizabeth Newlun confirmed Sunday that her son, Air Force Tech Sgt. John W. Brown, died in the crash.

Newlun says Brown was a paramedic whose unit was attached to the Navy SEALs.

She says her son was athletic and went to John Brown University on a swimming scholarship.

Newlun says he wanted to go into medicine, but instead joined the military after seeing a video about a special tactical unit.

Brown attended high school with state Rep. Jon Woods, who called him the ideal model for a soldier - tall, physically fit and smart.

Newlun says Brown will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

A 21-year-old Kansas soldier was among 30 U.S. troops killed when a helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan.

Chief Warrant Officer Michael Walsh said Sunday that Specialist 4 Spencer C. Duncan was serving as a door gunner on the CH-47 helicopter that was hit by rocket fire Saturday.

Walsh said Duncan, who graduated from Olathe South High School, was a member of Bravo Company, 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment based at New Century AirCenter in Gardner.

Duncan joined the military in 2008 and had been in Afghanistan since late May.

He was stationed at Forward Operating Base, Shank.

Ex-FSU student dies in copter crash
Tallahassee Democrat 08/12/2011, By Derek Redd Democrat night editor

A former Florida State University student, called “a natural leader” by those who knew him from his Arkansas home, was among 30 killed Saturday in a helicopter crash in eastern Afghanistan.

Tech. Sgt. John W. Brown, 33, was one of three Air Force Special Operations Command Airmen on the CH-47 Chinook helicopter that crashed in the Maiden Wardak Province, according to the AFSOC. Brown was a Pararescueman assigned to the 24th Special Tactics Squadron in Pope Field, N.C .

Twenty-five U.S. Special Operations Command operators died in the crash, along with five U.S. Army Reserve soldiers, seven Afghan commandos and one civilian interpreter.

Brown was a student at FSU starting in the fall of 1998, according to university officials. He majored in chemistry, but did not receive a degree from FSU. The last term he took classes was the summer of 2001.

Teachers at Siloam Springs High School in Arkansas, where Brown graduated in 1996, remembered him as a leader.

“He was very conscientious and always willing to help others,” said Susan Morris, Brown’s ninth-grade English teacher. “He was a quiet leader, not the bossy type.

“He was a man of good character on the basketball court and in the classroom,” Morris added. “It’s a terrible loss because he was a topnotch person.” Brown’s mother, Elizabeth Newlun, said she’d meet him under the basketball hoop if she wanted a serious conversation with him. “There’s nothing athletic about me, but I realized that you have to get into other people’s comfort zone to get information,” said Newlun, of Rogers, Ark., explaining Brown was a “gentle giant” who “just loved anything physical, anything athletic .”

Newlun said her son played football and basketball in high school and went to John Brown University on a swimming scholarship. He had wanted to go into the medical field and become a nurse anesthetist, but decided to join the military after seeing a video of a special tactical unit, she said.

Arkansas Rep. Jon Woods, who graduated high school with Brown, said he had a great sense of humor.

“We’d watch ‘Saturday Night Live’ before we went out to hang out with our friends,” Woods said. “He was a big Adam Sandler and Chris Farley fan. There would be 10 of us in the room all cutting up. He loved a good laugh.”

Woods said Brown was married but had no children.

Mark Alvarez, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3308 in

Tallahassee, said learning of Brown's death was a "sorrowful moment" for the post .

"When you have someone who has touched lives in the community, it brings it home," he said. "That connection we do all have is that we're combat veterans and that's what makes it hard."

A private memorial was held at Pope Field on Thursday. Woods said a memorial service will be held in Siloam Springs on Tuesday, but funeral arrangements have not been finalized. Woods said Brown will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

24th STS Toast for our Fallen

Here's to the men that wear the beret, Not blue, not black, not tan, not grey, but the maroon and the red, we wear on our head, like the blood our brothers before us have shed, may we all grow old together and never die, so we can tell the stories of why we fly, the blood the sweat the tears we give, So First There..... That Others May Live.

From **Brian Stephens** 10:43am Aug 18

John Brown's memorial was in Siloam Arkansas last night. Four hours south of KC. I didn't know him personally.

I walked through 200 flags and bikers on my way into the hall. First time I'd put my beret on since I took it off 11 years ago. I think I might have had it on backwards… I thanked mongo holding the door open for me, he said, "no sir, thank you, for being here"… My foot wasn't in the door and my eyes welled.

John's friends from high school, family, pastors, Congressmen, brothers in arms all took turns speaking about what John had done for them. Bold men, haltingly describing the essence of a fallen brother. By the time the ceremony was over I deeply understood JB's character and I recognized it.

The team highlighted the loving relationship John and his wife displayed. Kindness, love, deep respect. They were role models for the younger guys. Their relationship was core to describing John. This ceremony helped me better understand what being a "Godly man" is all about. John grew up in the Baptist church and it had many fond memories of him. I could see the Baptist deeply held beliefs being a great solace to the grieving families. I'm still on a personal journey and I'm not sure I'll ever be an organized religious man. I do think of myself as spiritual and I saw that John had dedicated himself and practiced honing his spirituality to a fine edge… I respect and honor that practice.

It was a solemn event. Then one of the speakers started reading emails from guys downrange. One of those started off pure and then talked about how JB's farts stunk beyond measure and how he held the speed record in Okinawa for downing a yard of Guinness… A full Baptist Church in Arkansas belly laughed together. It was perfect.

One NCO read more notes from the team. Afterwards, I told him he held it together very well. Not an easy thing to do read someone else's deepest emotions 10 feet in front of the family. 20 guys came in late due to flight delays. I could see the pain and grief in their bloodshot eyes. Especially in the guys I knew well.

The pain and anguish from a loss like this takes light from incandescent men… Seeing these young men in pain highlighted for me the sacrifice we're asking of them. This doesn't come lightly or without long-term implications.

There were several Navy guys in attendance. It was a noble gesture that I hope we're reciprocating. I I did want to thank them and didn't get the chance before they left.

There was something in the southern air last night. I drove alone to the heart of our Nation and I listened as smart, funny and deep thinking Americans described the best type of young man that our country can produce. Even though I didn't know John, I feel the loss of his passing very deeply. I know what he meant to all of us. I know it's men like this that would lead us forward.

Only something as precious as freedom would make losing men like this bearable… And to be honest, I'm not sure that's even a fair trade.

I truly miss being around men of this caliber on a daily basis.

To the brave Men of the 24, you represented your friend, your Team, Pararescue and our country with unbelievable grace last evening. God bless you all!

The Seattle Times

30 Americans, including 22 Navy SEALs, killed in Afghan copter crash

Originally published August 6, 2011

In the deadliest day for U.S. forces in the nearly decade long war in Afghanistan, insurgents shot down a Chinook transport helicopter Saturday, killing 30 Americans — including Navy SEAL commandos from the broader unit that killed Osama bin Laden — and eight Afghans, U.S. and Afghan officials said.

KABUL, Afghanistan — In the deadliest day for U.S. forces in the nearly 10-year war in Afghanistan, insurgents shot down a Chinook transport helicopter Saturday, killing 30 Americans — including Navy SEAL commandos from the broader unit that killed Osama bin Laden — and seven Afghan commandos, U.S. and Afghan officials said.

The helicopter, on a night-raid mission in the Tangi Valley of Wardak province, west of Kabul, was most likely brought down by a rocket-propelled grenade, one coalition official said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, and they could hardly have found a more valuable target: U.S. officials said 22 of the dead were Navy SEAL commandos from two different special teams, including SEAL Team 6.

It takes years to train a Navy SEAL unit and it will have reverberations across the force.

Saturday's deaths bring to 365 the number of coalition troops killed this year in Afghanistan and 42 this month.

The attack came during a surge of violence that has accompanied the beginning of a drawdown of U.S. and NATO troops, and it showed how entrenched the insurgency remains even far from its main strongholds in southern Afghanistan and along the Afghan-Pakistan border in the east. U.S. soldiers recently had turned over the sole combat outpost in the Tangi Valley to Afghans.

When the 4th Brigade Combat Team handed over its only combat outpost in the Tangi Valley to Afghan security forces in April, the U.S. commander for the area said that as troops began to withdraw, he wanted to focus his forces on troubled areas that had larger populations.

But he pledged coalition forces would continue to carry out raids there to stem insurgent activity.

"As we lose U.S. personnel, we have to concentrate on the greater populations," said Lt. Col. Thomas Rickard, commander of 10th Mountain Division's Task Force Warrior, which has responsibility for the area that includes Tangi. "We are going to continue to hunt insurgents in Tangi and prevent them from having a safe haven."

Gen. Abdul Qayum Baqizoy, the police chief of Wardak, said the helicopter attack occurred after an assault on a Taliban compound in the Tangi Joy Zarin area in the Tangi Valley. The fighting lasted at least two hours, the general said.

A spokesman for the Taliban, Zabiullah Mujahid, confirmed insurgents had been gathering at the compound, adding that eight had been killed in the fighting.

President Obama offered his condolences to the families of the Americans and Afghans who died in the attack. “Their death is a reminder of the extraordinary sacrifice made by the men and women of our military and their families,” Obama said. Afghan President Hamid Karzai also offered his condolences to the victims’ families.

Gen. John Allen, the commander of the international military mission in Afghanistan, said: “All of those killed in this operation were true heroes who had already given so much in the defense of freedom. Their sacrifice will not be forgotten.”

The Tangi Valley runs along the border between Wardak and the neighboring Logar province, where security has worsened over the past two years, bringing the insurgency closer to the capital, Kabul.

It is one of several inaccessible areas that have become havens for insurgents, according to operations and intelligence officers with the 4th Brigade Combat Team.

The mountainous region, with its steeply pitched hillsides and arid shale, traversed by small footpaths and byways, has long been an area that the Taliban have used to move between Logar and Wardak, local government officials said.

Officers at a forward operating base near the valley described Tangi as one of the most troubled areas in Logar and Wardak provinces.

“There’s a lot happening in Tangi, it’s a stronghold for the Taliban,” said Capt. Kirstin Massey, 31, the assistant intelligence officer for Fourth Brigade Combat Team in an interview last week.

The fighters are entirely Afghans and almost all local residents, Massey said.

The redoubts in these areas pose the kind of problems the military faced last year in areas of Kunar province, forcing commanders to weigh the mission’s value given the cost in soldiers’ lives and dollars spent in places where the vast majority of the insurgents are local residents who resent the NATO presence and the Afghan government.

The dilemma is that if NATO military forces do not stay, the areas often quickly slip back under Taliban influence, if not control, and the Afghan National Security Forces do not have the ability yet to rout them.

Within a few days of the transition, the Taliban raised their flag near the outpost, said a NATO military official familiar with the situation. Afghan security forces remained in the area but were no match for the Taliban, the official said.

Local officials in Wardak said that residents of the Tangi Valley disliked the fighting in the area, and that though they had fallen under the Taliban's sway, the residents were not willing allies.

"They do not like having military in that area — no matter whether they are Taliban or foreigners," said Hajji Mohammad Hazrat Janan, the chairman of the Wardak provincial council.

"When an operation takes place in their village," he said, "their sleep gets disrupted by the noise of helicopters and by their military operation. And also they don't like the Taliban, because when they attack, then they go and seek cover in their village, and they are threatened by the Taliban."

However, when local residents are hurt by the NATO soldiers, then, he said, they are willing to help the insurgents.

This was the second helicopter to be shot down by insurgents in the past two weeks.

Material from The Associated Press and McClatchy Newspapers is included in this report.

New York Post

Pentagon releases names of 30 Americans killed in Afghanistan helicopter crash

Published Aug. 11, 2011

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon on Thursday released the names of the 30 Americans who were killed when their helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan over the weekend.

Those killed in the crash include 22 sailors — 17 of them Navy SEALs — assigned to East Coast and West Coat-based Naval Special Warfare units. Two soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment, three soldiers assigned to the 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment and three airmen assigned to 24th Special Tactics Squadron of Pope Field, N.C., also died.

The Americans' CH-47 Chinook helicopter was shot down in Wardak province in eastern Afghanistan, apparently by a Taliban-fired rocket-propelled grenade. The helicopter had been part of a mission targeting a Taliban leader.

US forces later killed the insurgents responsible for the crash in an F-16 air strike.

The Pentagon announced Wednesday that it planned to release the names of the Americans who died in the crash. The announcement came after military commanders from the Special Operations community

requested that the Defense Department review its policy of releasing names because of potential security implications for the families of those killed.

The remains of the soldiers returned to the US Tuesday, greeted by President Barack Obama, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and other US officials in a ceremony at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

Pentagon spokesman Col. Dave Lapan said that after Panetta attended the ceremony, he “decided to follow the law” and Defense Department policy and release the names, according to FOX News Channel.

A law passed by Congress in 2004 calls for the public release of names of all those killed in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Department of Defense announced Thursday that the following sailors assigned to an East Coast-based Naval Special Warfare unit were killed:

Lt. Cmdr. (SEAL) Jonas B. Kelsall, 32, of Shreveport, La.,

Special Warfare Operator Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Louis J. Langlais, 44, of Santa Barbara, Calif.,

Special Warfare Operator Senior Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Thomas A. Ratzlaff, 34, of Green Forest, Ark.,

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Senior Chief Petty Officer (Expeditionary Warfare Specialist/Freefall Parachutist) Kraig M. Vickers 36, of Kokomo, Hawaii,

Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Brian R. Bill, 31, of Stamford, Conn.,

Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) John W. Faas, 31, of Minneapolis, Minn.,

Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Kevin A. Houston, 35, of West Hyannisport, Mass.,

Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Matthew D. Mason, 37, of Kansas City, Mo.,

Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Stephen M. Mills, 35, of Fort Worth, Texas,

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Chief Petty Officer (Expeditionary Warfare Specialist/Freefall Parachutist/Diver) Nicholas H. Null, 30, of Washington, W.Va.,

Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Robert J. Reeves, 32, of Shreveport, La.,

Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Heath M. Robinson, 34, of Detroit, Mich.,

Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class (SEAL) Darrik C. Benson, 28, of Angwin, Calif.,

Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class (SEAL/Parachutist) Christopher G. Campbell, 36, of Jacksonville, N.C.,

Information Systems Technician Petty Officer 1st Class (Expeditionary Warfare Specialist/Freefall Parachutist) Jared W. Day, 28, of Taylorsville, Utah,

Master-at-Arms Petty Officer 1st Class (Expeditionary Warfare Specialist) John Douangdara, 26, of South Sioux City, Neb.,

Cryptologist Technician (Collection) Petty Officer 1st Class (Expeditionary Warfare Specialist) Michael J. Strange, 25, of Philadelphia, Pa.,

Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class (SEAL/Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist) Jon T. Tumilson, 35, of Rockford, Iowa,

Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class (SEAL) Aaron C. Vaughn, 30, of Stuart, Fla., and

Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class (SEAL) Jason R. Workman, 32, of Blanding, Utah.

The following sailors assigned to a West Coast-based Naval Special Warfare unit were killed:

Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class (SEAL) Jesse D. Pittman, 27, of Ukiah, Calif., and

Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Nicholas P. Spehar, 24, of Saint Paul, Minn.

The soldiers killed were:

Chief Warrant Officer David R. Carter, 47, of Centennial, Colo. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion), Aurora, Colo.;

Chief Warrant Officer Bryan J. Nichols, 31, of Hays, Kan. He was assigned to the 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion), New Century, Kan.;

Sgt. Patrick D. Hamburger, 30, of Lincoln, Neb. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion), Grand Island, Neb.;

Sgt. Alexander J. Bennett, 24, of Tacoma, Wash. He was assigned to the 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion), New Century, Kan.; and

Spc. Spencer C. Duncan, 21, of Olathe, Kan. He was assigned to the 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion), New Century, Kan.

The airmen killed were:

Tech. Sgt. John W. Brown, 33, of Tallahassee, Fla.;

Staff Sgt. Andrew W. Harvell, 26, of Long Beach, Calif.; and

Tech. Sgt. Daniel L. Zerbe, 28, of York, Pa.

All three airmen were assigned to the 24th Special Tactics Squadron, Pope Field, N.C.