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**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE-AFGHANISTAN  
TASK FORCE LEATHERNECK  
UNIT 73010, FPO AE 09510-3010

IN REPLY REFER TO  
5830  
CG  
MAR 04 2010

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on Capt (b)(3), (b)(6) PI 5800 IO of 26 Feb 10

From: Commanding General, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan

To: File

Subj: LINE OF DUTY/MISCONDUCT INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE FATALITY OF LANCE CORPORAL JOSHUA H. BIRCHFIELD, (b)(6)/0311, USMC, THAT OCCURRED IN FARAH PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN ON 19 FEBRUARY 2010

1. The subject line has been modified to more accurately reflect the location and date of this event. I concur with the inquiry officer's summary of findings and recommendation and have determined that LCpl Birchfield's death occurred in the line of duty and not due to his own misconduct.

2. This tragic event reminds us of the dangers and uncertainties of conducting counterinsurgency operations in Afghanistan. LCpl Birchfield's fellow Marines and the squad's corpsman did everything possible to save his life, but his wound was too severe. Given the unusual nature of this incident, Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) assumed jurisdiction, and in conjunction with Afghan officials, collected evidence and questioned the local national contractor who fired at the squad. Upon completing the investigation, NCIS provided the man and all of the evidence to Afghan prosecutors in Farah Province, in support of future criminal proceedings in the Afghan justice system.

3. Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan mourns the untimely and tragic loss of this brave young man. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and loved ones.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. D. Nicholson", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

L. D. NICHOLSON

Copy to:  
CO, 3dBn, 4thMar  
NCIS  
SNM's Medical Record

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MARINE EXPEDITIONARY BRIGADE - AFGHANISTAN  
TASK FORCE LEATHERNECK  
UNIT 73010, FPO AE 09510-3010

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5800  
IO  
26 Feb 10

From: Captain [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6) /5803, USMC  
To: Commanding General, 2D Marine Expeditionary Brigade

Subj: LINE OF DUTY/MISCONDUCT INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE FATALITY OF LANCE CORPORAL JOSHUA H. BIRCHFIELD, [redacted] (b)(6) /0311, USMC

Ref: (a) JAGINST 5800.7E, Change Transmittal 2, Manual of the Judge Advocate General (JAGMAN), 16 Sep 08

Encl: (1) Commanding General Appointing Order, 26 Feb 10  
(2) LCpl Birchfield Basic Individual Record (BIR), dtd 25 Feb 2010  
(3) LCpl Birchfield Basic Training Record (BTR), dtd 25 Feb 2010  
(4) Personnel Casualty Report of Lance Corporal Birchfield, 18 Feb 2010  
(5) Summary of Facts from Capt [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6) email, dtd 19 Feb 2010  
(6) Cpl [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6) witness statement, dtd 23 February 2010  
(7) HM3 [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6) witness statement, dtd 19 February 2010  
(8) LCpl [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6) witness statement, dtd 23 February 2010  
(9) LCpl [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6) witness statement, dtd 19 February 2010

1. This reports the completion of the preliminary inquiry conducted in accordance with reference (a) into the fatality of Lance Corporal (LCpl) Joshua H. Birchfield on 19 Feb 2010.

2. Personnel contacted:

a. Special Agent (SA) [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7F), NCIS, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan NCIS detachment, Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, DSN [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6), (b)(7F);

b. Captain (Capt) [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6), USMC, Staff Judge Advocate, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines, Forward Operating Base [redacted] (b)(2)HIGH, Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, DSN [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6), [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6);

c. Major (Maj) [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6), USMC, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, DSN [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6).

3. Materials reviewed: a Personnel Casualty Report of LCpl Birchfield, e-mail from Capt [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6) to Maj [redacted] (b)(3), (b)(6), select pages from the Service Record Book of LCpl Birchfield, and witness statements from members of his squad that were present during the event.

4. Summary of findings:

a. LCpl Joshua H. Birchfield, USMC, was a regular active duty member of the United States Marine Corps at his time of death on 19 February 2010. On 19 February 2010, LCpl Birchfield was present for duty and was a member of 3<sup>rd</sup>

Subj: LINE OF DUTY/MISCONDUCT INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE FATALITY OF LANCE CORPORAL JOSHUA H. BIRCHFIELD, (b)(3), (b)(6) /0311, USMC

Platoon, Kilo Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He was on temporary assigned duty to 3/4 from 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division.

b. At approximately 0500, (b)(2)HIGH Squad of 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Kilo Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines commenced a dismounted combat patrol to establish an observation point (OP) approximately (b)(2)HIGH of COP (b)(2)HIGH. There were (b)(2)HIGH Marines and one Navy Corpsman on the patrol. At approximately 0600 (before sunrise), the patrol established an OP in a wadi (dry riverbed) just south of Route 515. Upon establishment of the OP, the squad noticed a contractor security checkpoint (CP) approximately (b)(2)HIGH of their position. At approximately 0720, the OP received small arms fire from the direction of the contractor CP. After the initial shots, the members of squad announced to the contractors that they were Marines and activated red, white and green flares. After the contractors ceased fire, Cpl (b)(3), (b)(6) noticed that LCpl Birchfield had been shot and called to HM3 (b)(3), (b)(6) for assistance. HM3 (b)(3), (b)(6) performed initial triage noticing he had one gunshot wound to the head. LCpl Birchfield was pronounced dead at 0748 on 19 Feb 2010 and transferred off site via air MEDEVAC.

c. LCpl Birchfield was wearing all appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) during this mission. He was wearing the new Kevlar Helmet, Modular Tactical Vest (MTV) with two Enhanced Small Arms Protection Inserts (ESAPIs), side SAPI plates, ballistic eye protection, Nomex gloves and throat and groin protectors.

d. LCpl Birchfield was in the line of duty and his death was not due to his misconduct.

5. Recommendation:

a. No further investigation warranted.

6. Captain (b)(3), (b)(6) can be reached at DSN (b)(3), (b)(6) or (b)(3), (b)(6).

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



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

5830

CG

FEB 26 2010

From: Commanding General, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan

To: Captain [REDACTED] (b)(3), (b)(6) /5803, USMC

Subj: PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF A MARINE FROM KILO COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION, 4TH MARINES THAT OCCURRED ON OR ABOUT 19 FEBRUARY 2010 IN HELMAND PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN

Ref: (a) JAGINST 5800.7E, Change Transmittal 2, Manual of the Judge Advocate General (JAGMAN), 16 Sep 08

1. This appoints you, per chapter II of reference (a), to inquire into the facts and circumstances surrounding the alleged death of a Marine from Kilo Co, 3rdBn, 4thMar that occurred on or about 19 Feb 10.

2. You will investigate the cause, procedures and any fault, neglect, potential claims against the government or responsibility therefore, and recommend appropriate administrative or disciplinary action. You will report your findings of fact, opinions, and recommendations in letter form by 5 March 2010, unless an extension is granted. You will read Chapter II of reference (a) in its entirety before beginning your investigation.

3. You will seek legal advice from the Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate during the course of your investigation. The Legal Chief is Gunnery Sergeant [REDACTED] (b)(3), (b)(6) at [REDACTED] (b)(3), (b)(6) or DSN [REDACTED] (b)(3), (b)(6).

[REDACTED] (b)(3), (b)(6)

By Direction

SSN: (b)(6)  
 RUC: 00000 COMPANY CODE: NAME: BIRCHFIELD, JOSHUA H  
 PRES-GRADE: E3 RECSTAT: E COMP CODE:  
 PLT CODE: TRNGRP: R-RECSTAT: RCOMP-CODE:

## -----\*\*CONTRACT INFORMATION\*\*-----

EAS: 20100219 COMPONENT CODE:  
 EOS: 00000000 ECC: 20140413 RESERVE COMPONENT CODE:  
 RESERVE ECC: 00000000 DATE ACCEPTED FIRST COMMISSION: 00000000  
 DATE OF ENL/ACCEPT: 20080414 DOD TRNGRP: TRAINING GRP:  
 AFADB: 00000000 PEBD: 20080414 MANDATORY DRILL START: 00000000 END: 00000000  
 DATE OF ORIG ENTRY: 20080228 DATE OF BASIC ELIG: 00000000MDP EXT MO: 00  
 LENGTH CURR ENL: 6 YRS PEF:  
 LENGTH CURR ENL: 00 MOS BONUS PEF: F9 6 YR INFANTRY BONUS  
 LENGTH CURR EXT: 00 MONTHS COLLEGE FUND PEF:  
 NO EXT CURR ENL: 00 MGIB-SR STATUS:  
 TOTAL MONTHS EXT: 00 MONTHS ACTIVE DUTY MGIB STATUS: 5 OVEBP CODE: 3  
 EFF DTE CURR EXT: 00000000 DESIG MIL PILOT: 00000000  
 MONTHS LAST ENL EXT: 00 6 YEAR OBL START: 00000000  
 TI LOST CURR ENL: 000 DAYS OCAN CODE: OCAN EFF DATE: 00000000  
 SO. LE OF INT ENTRY MIL SER: C  
 SOURCE OF ENTRY: ADBA

## -----\*\*SERVICE INFORMATION\*\*-----

PRES GRADE: E3 DOR: 20090601 ACDU RUC: 00000 MCC:  
 SEL GRADE: DTE: 00000000 RESERVE RUC: MOB MCC:  
 PROM RESTR STAT CD: 0 PROM RESTR TERM DTE: 20090408

WORK STATION: D83 1TAD RUC: 00000 MCC:  
 BILLET DESCRIPTION: 2TAD RUC: 00000 MCC:

ANNIVERSARY DATE: 00000000  
 PEN: 0206211M RCN: 467025 FAPRUC: 00000 RESERVE MCC:  
 DCTB: 20081025 FORMER RUC: 13230 FUTURE RUC:  
 DATE JOINED PRES UNIT: 20081025 IND LOC CODE: 110 AF 0000 AFGHANISTAN  
 DATE JOINED SMCR: 00000000

GEO LOC CODE: DEPLOY RET DATE: 20101003 DEPLOY STAT: 1  
 GEO LOC DCTB: 000000 ROTATION TOUR DATE: 00000000  
 COMBAT SERV CODE: 0 OVERSEAS SERV CONTROL DATE: 20030831  
 LAST COMBAT TOUR: 00000000 LAST PHYS EXAM: 00000000  
 OF EMOVAL DATE: 00000000 PHA DATE: 00000000  
 CO DATE: 00000000 RESERVE UNIT JOIN DATE: 00000000  
 LAST SEP/DISCH DATE: 00000000 REASON: 8611 DEATH OUTSIDE US BATTLE-KILLED IN AC

PMOS: 0311 ADMOS1: ADMOS6: ADMOS11:  
 BMOS: 0311 ADMOS2: ADMOS7: ADMOS12:  
 SMOS: 0000 ADMOS3: ADMOS8:  
 JMOS: ADMOS4: ADMOS9:  
 JMOS ED: 00000000 ADMOS5: ADMOS10:

## -----\*\*PERSONAL INFORMATION\*\*-----

DATE OF BIRTH: 19850524 HOME OF RECORD: (b)(6)  
 CITIZENSHIP: CA US COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: US UNITED STATES  
 BLOOD TYPE: 4 B POS CIVILIAN ED LEVEL: 12 12TH GRADE  
 SEX: M CERT: L HS DIPL MAJOR: AA H.S. ACADEMIC -  
 RACE AGG CODE: E RACE CODE: E WHITE  
 POPULATION GROUP: WHITE  
 ETHNIC CODE: P EUROPEAN/ANGLO  
 RELIGION: 13 CHRISTIAN - NO DENOMINATIONAL PREFERENCE  
 DNA DATE: 20080414 HIV-TESTED: 000000

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL DATE: 20090109 SMCR MEDAL DATE: 00000000  
ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL DATE: 00000000

DUTY PREF1: Y00 NO PREFERENCE/AS DIRECTED  
DUTY PREF2: Y00 NO PREFERENCE/AS DIRECTED  
DUTY PREF3: Y00 NO PREFERENCE/AS DIRECTED

-----\*\*PERSONAL INFORMATION\*\*-----

HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER: (b)(6)

CELL PHONE NUMBER:

SECONDARY PHONE NUMBER:

WORK TELEPHONE NUMBER: (b)(6)

WORK DSN PHONE NUMBER PREFIX: 000

MAILING ADDRESS: (b)(6)

ADDRESS VALIDATION: R RECORD BOOK

WORK EMAIL: NONE

WORK EMAIL DATE: 20081202

PERSONAL EMAIL:

PERSONAL EMAIL DATE:

SECONDARY EMAIL:

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: BLDG 1429 RM 318

29 PALMS

CA 922780000

-----\*\*RECORD INFORMATION\*\*-----

RECORD STATUS: E SEP/DESERT/REC STATU RESERVE RECORD STATUS:

DISPUTED DATE: 00000000

DISPUTED DATA:

LAST SCREENING: 20090925

REASON: 2 ANNUAL SCREEN QUEST

SCREENING RESULT: 4 INDIVID DID NOT RESP TO SCREEN CORRESP

-----\*\*DEPENDENTS INFORMATION\*\*-----

MARITAL STATUS: S SINGLE

TOTAL NUMBER DEPENDENTS: 00

DEPN CERT CODE: NONE

DEPN GEO LOC CODE: 000

DATE DEPN LOC BEGAN: 00000000

SERVICE SPOUSE SSN:

CUSTODY STATUS CODE: 0

SERVICE SPOUSE CODE:

SPL POWER OF ATTORNEY: 00000000

SERVICE SPOUSE DATE: 00000000

\*\*\* THERE ARE NO REMARKS FOR INPUT SSN \*\*\*

-----\*\*BILLET IDENTIFICATION\*\*-----

PRESENT BILLET IDENT CODE:

RESERVE BILLET IDENT CODE:

FAP BILLET IDENT CODE:

FORMER BILLET IDENT CODE:

-----\*\*DUTY STATUS INFORMATION\*\*-----

DUTY STATUS: A/TAD

DUTY LIMIT: 0/NONE

DUTY LIMIT ED: 20080414

STR CAT: 4/TAD > 30 DAYS NOT AS A STUDENT

STR CAT ED: 20091003

COMBAT CAS:

COMBAT CAS ED: 00000000

I CERTIFY THAT MY ELIGIBILITY FOR ENTITLEMENT TO BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING HAS/HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE MY LAST CERTIFICATION/UPDATE.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

DEPN ZIP  
IF APPLICABLE

RESERVE ONLY:

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE BEEN INFORMED ABOUT THE MOBILIZATION DELAYS/EXEMPTION PROGRAM AND ASSOCIATED POLICIES. I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT MY RETIREMENT OR DISABILITY PENSION STATUS HAS NOT CHANGED. IF MY STATUS HAS CHANGED, I HAVE COMPLETED THE NECESSARY FORMS. INITIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

BIR CERTIFICATION SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR BOTH ACTIVE DUTY AND RESERVE MARINES:

MARINE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ AUDITOR: \_\_\_\_\_ UD NUM: \_\_\_\_\_

## MCTFS BASIC TRAINING RECORD

02/25/2010  
22:29:35

SSN: (b) (6) NAME: BIRCHFIELD, JOSHUA H  
 RUC: 00000 COMPANY CODE: PRES-GRADE: E3 RECSTAT: E COMP CODE:  
 PLT CODE: TRNGRP: R-RECSTAT: RCOMP-CODE:

## -----\*\*UNIT TRAINING\*\*-----

BST/EST DATE: 200807 WATER SURVIVAL CODE: 3 COMBAT WA  
 PERFORMED: 050 WATER SURV REQUAL DATE: 201005  
 ATTEMPTED: 050 GAS MASK SIZE: C MEDIUM  
 SCORE: 50 GAS MASK TYPE: N XM40  
 HELMET SIZE: C MEDIUM

ANNIVERSARY DATE: 00000000

WEIGHT CONTROL STATUS:  
 WEIGHT CONTROL DATE: 00000000  
 MIL APPEARANCE STATUS:  
 MIL APPEARANCE DATE: 00000000  
 WT CNTL QY: 00 MILAP QY: 00

## -----\*\*UNIT TRAINING\*\*-----

CURRENT RIFLE QUAL DATE: 20080530 CURRENT PISTOL QUAL DATE: 000000  
 CURRENT RIFLE SCORE CD: 319 CURRENT PISTOL SCORE CD:  
 CURRENT RIFLE CLASS CD: E CURRENT PISTOL CLASS CD:

DISTINGUISHED DATE: 000000 DISTINGUISHED DATE: 000000  
 PET DATE: 000000 PET DATE: 000000  
 EXCEPTION: WAIVER EXCEPTION: WAIVER  
 EXCEPTION DATE: 200910 EXCEPTION DATE: 200910

EXPERT RIFLE QUALIFICATIONS: 01 EXPERT PISTOL QUALIFICATIONS: 00

INCUR OBLIG SERV DATE: 00000000  
 INCUR OBLIG SERV CODE:

INTELLIGENCE TRAINING HOURS: 00

## -----\*\*SERVICE TRAINING\*\*-----

CODE	TRAINING DESCRIPTION	DATE
AJ	SECURITY LECTURE	20080711
AF	SEXUAL HEALTH (STI/HIV) TRAINING (SF)	20080711
AG	GAS CHAMBER	20080711
A*	BASIC ANNUAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING	20080711
A	ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL TRNG (SF)	20080711
AU	SUICIDE AWARENESS TRAINING (SF)	20080624
AT	SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION TRAINING	20080624
AS	HAZING PREVENTION TRAINING	20080624
AR	SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING	20080624
AQ	EEO TRAINING	20080624
AP	CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING	20080624
AL	BASIC ANNUAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING	20080624
AK	ORM TRAINING	20080624
AH	DRUG LECTURE	20080624
AF	SEXUAL HEALTH (STI/HIV) TRAINING (SF)	20080624
AB	ANTI-TERRORIST ANNUAL TRAINING DATE	20080624

## -----\*\*SERVICE SCHOOLS/SPECIAL SKILLS\*\*-----

CODE	SCHOOL/SPECIAL SKILLS	ST DATE	CODE	SCHOOL/SPECIAL SKILLS	ST DATE
Z1	COMBAT HUNTER	PA 2009	031	RIFLEMAN	PA 2008
IDG	BASIC INFANTRYMAN	PA 2008	808	RECRUIT TRAINING, MALE	PA 2008



## MCTFS BASIC TRAINING RECORD

02/25/2010

22:29:35

SSN: (b)(6) NAME: BIRCHFIELD, JOSHUA H  
 RUC: 00000 COMPANY CODE: PRES-GRADE: E3 RECSTAT: E COMP CODE:  
 PLT CODE: TRNGRP: R-RECSTAT: RCOMP-CODE:

## \*\*TEST SCORES\*\*

CLAS/ASGN TEST-TYPE: ASVAB 01E DATE: 20080227 GT/GCT: 111  
 SCORES: GT -111 MM -116 CL -102 EL -109

ARMY RADIO CODE- SCORE: 000 DATE: 00000000 AFQT FORM #: 01E AFQT - 60  
 ELEC/DP TEST- SCORE: 000 DATE: 00000000  
 DLAB - SCORE: 000 DATE: 00000000

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

## SOURCE

CODE LANGUAGE DESCRIPTION CODE TYPE TEST TEST DATE TYPE SKILL SKILL LEVEL  
 \*\*\* THERE ARE NO REMARKS FOR INPUT SSN \*\*\*

## \*\*\*\*MARTIAL ARTS TRAINING\*\*\*\*

CO.	COMPL DATE	INSTR	REASON	REVOKE
MMB	20080619	00000000	REVOKED	EFF DATE
		TAN BELT	0	00000000

## \*\*\*\*INFORMATION ASSURANCE (IA)\*\*\*\*

\*\*\* THERE ARE NO REMARKS FOR INPUT SSN \*\*\*

## \*\*\*\*PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST\*\*\*\*

SCORE	DATE	CODE	CLASS	PU/FAH	CRUNCHES	RUN
234	20100106	1	9	00	000	00:00
234	20091006	2	9	00	000	00:00
234	20090626	1	1	00	000	00:00

## \*\*\*\*COMBAT FITNESS TEST\*\*\*\*

SCORE	EFF DATE	CODE	CLASS	MOVEMENT TO CONTACT	AMMO LIFT	MANEUVER UNDER FIRE
268	20090929	2	2	03:30	090	02:39
268	20091101	2	9	03:30	090	02:39

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

**LiCol**

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

**MEB-A CE SJA)**

**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Cc:**

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

**SSgt**

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

(IMEF G-1 Cas SNCOIC) on behalf of MEB-A Casualty

Friday, February 19, 2010 2:51 PM

Casualty PCR USMC - Deceased

1MARDIV CAS; 1MLG Casualties; 2DMAW DSS OMB; 2dMLG CASUALTY;

2MARDIV CASUALTY CELL; 2MAWCP 2DMAW CASUALTY OMB; 3DIV CASUALTY;



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

**Subject:**

~~(FOUO)~~ Casualty Report - INIT - BIRCHFIELD, JOSHUA - Incident Date/Time: 2010/02/19 07:25

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

THIS E-MAIL CONTAINS ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO)~~ INFORMATION WHICH MUST BE PROTECTED UNDER THE PRIVACY ACT, DOD 5400.11-R. TREAT ANY ATTACHMENTS AS ~~FOUO~~.

\*\*\*\*\*

DO NOT CHANGE ANYTHING BELOW THIS LINE.

TO CHANGE THIS CASUALTY REPORT, DISCARD THIS EMAIL, RETURN TO  
DCIPS-FORWARD, MAKE YOUR CHANGES AND GENERATE THE EMAIL AGAIN.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* CASUALTY REPORT \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

Report Type: INIT

Casualty Type: Hostile

Casualty Status: DECEASED

Casualty Category: Killed In Action

Report Number: 1F110196

Personnel Type: Regular

Personnel Affiliation: Active Duty

Personnel Category: Obligated/Voluntary Service

SSN (New/Old):

Last Name: BIRCHFIELD

First Name: JOSHUA

Service: United States Marine Corps

Military Rank: LCPL

Military Unit of Assignment: KILO CO, 3D BN 4TH MAR, RCT-7, MEB-A (PARENT CMND:1ST MARDIV)

Date/Time of Incident (New/Old): 20100219/0725

Inflicting Force: Enemy Forces

Incident City: NEAR COP (b)(2)HIGH

Incident Country: Afghanistan

Circumstance: LCPL BIRCHFIELD WAS KILLED IN ACTION WHILE CONDUCTING COMBAT OPERATIONS AGAINST ENEMY FORCES IN FARAH PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN. AT 0725 OF 19 FEB 2010 WHILE PART OF A DISMOUNTED PATROL, LCPL BIRCHFIELD WAS SHOT IN THE HEAD AND THEN RECEIVED IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION BY THE ON SITE CORPSMAN. AT 0748 HE WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD. THE BODY WAS RECOVERED BY THE KILO COMPANY 3/4 DISMOUNTED PATROL AND IDENTIFIED BY MEANS OF NAME TAPES ON HIS UNIFORM AND PERSONAL RECOGNITION. LCPL BIRCHFIELD WAS WEARING THE NEW KEVLAR HELMET, MODULAR TACTICAL VEST WITH TWO ESAPI PLATES, SIDE SAPI PLATES, BALLISTIC EYE PROTECTION, NOMEX GLOVES, AND THROAT AND GROIN PROTECTORS. MEDICAL MISSION #02-19C.

Diagnosis Info: GUNSHOT WOUND TO THE HEAD

Died in/out of Medical Facility Treatment: Died Outside A Medical Treatment Facility

Date/Time of Death: 20100219/0748

Place of Death City: NEAR COP (b)(2)HIGH

Place of Death Country: Afghanistan

Cause of Death: GUNSHOT TO HEAD

Duty Status: Present For Duty

Remarks: A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY WAS INITIATED ON 19 FEBRUARY 2010. THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING LCPL BIRCHFIELD'S DEATH ARE UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME. ASSIGNMENT OF THE PRELIMINARY INQUIRY OFFICER IS STILL PENDING. THE PROPER MEDICAL AUTHORITIES WILL MAKE THE APPROPRIATE ENTRIES IN SNM'S MEDICAL RECORDS. NOK HAS NOT BEEN NOTIFIED. THE MARINE IS A MALE AND HIS MOS IS 0311. THIS PCR HAS BEEN VERIFIED BY MAJ (b)(3), (b)(6), 3/4 EXECUTIVE OFFICER. POC AT THIS COMMAND IS LT (b)(3), (b)(6) OR DSN: (b)(3), (b)(6). SUPPLEMENTAL PCR WILL FOLLOW AS NECESSARY.

Software Version: DCIPS Forward - Version 4.0 Build: 57 Release Date: 01 MAR 2007

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

(b)(4)

(b)(4)

(b)(4)

(b)(4)

(b)(4)

(b)(4)

<END>



**From:** (b)(3), (b)(6) Capt (b)(3), (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2010 7:48 AM  
**To:** (b)(3), (b)(6) Maj (b)(3), (b)(6) (MEB-A Deputy SJA)  
**Subject:** RE: Fallen Angel and CI

Sir,

Here are the facts currently reported:

At around 0600, a squad from 3d Platoon, Kilo Company left PB (b)(2)HIGH to establish an observation post (b)(2)HIGH of (b)(2)HIGH

The security contractors had a check point approximately (b)(2)HIGH of the observation post.

The Marine saw one contractor on top of a building (at the checkpoint) on the roof of a compound with a small fire.

At 0715 after daylight, the LN contractor on the roof appeared to observe the observation post. The LN contractor climbed down from the roof and disappeared behind the building. Shortly after this, the OP began to receive SAF from the LN contractors. We're tracking down the amount of shots.

After the first shot, the Marines shot a pop-up pyro to signal they were Marines. The firing stopped shortly afterwards.

The Marines discovered one Marine had received one gunshot wound to the head. The Corpsman applied pressure dressing and called an Urgent Medivac. Shortly thereafter, the Marine died.

After the MEDEVAC was complete, the Marines moved to the LN checkpoint and relieved the LNs of their weapons. They are currently questioning the LNs.

I will send more info as I receive it.

V/r,

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

Capt (b)(3), (b)(6) USMC  
3/4 Battalion Judge Advocate

NIPR: (b)(3), (b)(6)

SIPR: (b)(3), (b)(6)

DSN: (b)(3), (b)(6)

VOSIP: (b)(3), (b)(6)