

## TAB A - Findings

### a. ~~(FOUO)~~ What are the facts and circumstances surrounding the complex attack on COP Keating?

(U) Operational graphics of battle at Appendix I.]

1. (U) Junior leaders (lieutenants and NCOs) of B Troop, 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, 61<sup>st</sup> Cavalry fought heroically in repelling the 3 Oct 09 AAF attack on Combat Outpost (COP) Keating by a force five times their size. Small unit leadership, tenacity, and battlefield skill defeated the enemy attack and resulted in up to 150 AAF fighters killed or wounded and the recovery of all fallen heroes. Soldiers lived up to the Warrior Ethos, the Army Values, the Soldier's Creed, and the NCO Creed and validated Army training.
2. (U) On 3 Oct 09, at 0558L hours, an enemy force of approximately 300 Anti-Afghan Forces (AAF) fighters launched an indirect and direct fire attack on COP Keating and OP Fritsche in the Kamdesh District of Nuristan Province, Afghanistan. Mortars, rocket propelled grenades (RPGs), and precision small arms fire impacted the COP at an unusually high rate of fire.
3. (U) The enemy fire came from all sides, and notably, from positions used previously by enemy forces in probing attacks in the months leading up to 3 Oct 09.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

11. (U) Members of B Troops upheld the highest standards of their profession in locating and recovering each of their fallen comrades.

b. ~~(FOUO)~~ How many US servicemembers and Afghan National Security Forces were occupying COP Keating? What units were present at the time of the attack?

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

c. ~~(FOUO)~~ Who attacked COP Keating? How many Anti-Afghan Forces (AAF) were involved in the attack? How many AAF were killed or injured during the attack?

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

d. ~~(F~~  
and after the attack.

17. (U) A detailed timeline is at Appendix II (position locations noted on attached graphic). The following timeline shows the sequence and time approximate of major events in the battle:

(U)            **0558**      Enemy attack Initiated (IDF, SAF) at COP Keating and OP Fritsche

~~(FOUO)~~      **0600**      **PFC THOMSON** killed at mortar position

(U) **0602** COP Keating TOC notifies 3-61 CAV TOC of the troops in contact (TIC)

(U) **0602** 2 x F15E, call signs (b)(2)High tasked to support TIC at COP Keating

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

~~(FOUO)~~ **0610** SGT Martin joins (b)(2)High with SPC Mace, SGT Gallegos, SGT (b)(3), (b)(6)SPC (b)(3), (b)(6)SGT Martin, SPC Mace and SGT (b)(3), (b)(6) hit by RPG shrapnel through open turret

~~(FOUO)~~ **0610** SGT Kirk is moved from Shura building to aid station with severe head wound

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g and (b)(2)High apply.

(U) **0630** AAF inside perimeter at three locations

~~(FOUO)~~ **0630** **SPC SCUSA Killed vicinity Blue (3<sup>rd</sup> Plt) barracks (POS 5)**

~~(FOUO)~~ **0630** SGT Gallegos, SPC Mace and SGT Martin exit (b)(2)High RPG impacts, severely wounding SPC Mace and wounding SGT Martin; **SGT GALLEGOS hit by machine gun fire**

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g and (b)(2)High apply.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

~~(FOUO)~~ **0700** SGT Hardt reports AAF on COP pointing RPG at his position; last comms from SGT Hardt

(U) **0702** US elements collapse perimeter around TOC as final fighting position

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

~~(FOUO)~~ **0715** SPC Mace recovered with severe wounds to (b)(2)High remains with SGT (b)(3), (b)(6) and SPC (b)(3), (b)(6) approximately 5 hours

~~(FOUO)~~

(b)(2)High

~~(FOUO)~~

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

~~(FOUO)~~

(b)(2)High

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

(U)      **1236**      B Troop regains initiative and begins offensive action to clear and secure COP Keating

~~(FOUO)~~      **1240**      SPC (b)(3), (b)(6) and SGT (b)(3), (b)(6) recover **SPC GRIFFIN; KIA from apparent sniper fire**

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

~~(FOUO)~~      **1415**      **SGT GALLEGOS and SGT Martin** remains recovered to aid station

~~(FOUO)~~      **1603**      (b)(2)High      (SGT Hardt)

(U)      **1900**      QRF 2 passes thru QRF 1 to clear into COP Keating

(U)      **1902**      QRF 2 conducts link-up with B TRP on COP Keating

(U)      **1945**      HLZ at COP Keating secured by QRF (HHC/1-32 IN)

~~(FOUO)~~      **2002**      QRF recovers **SGT HARDT vic maintenance bay; KIA due to apparent RPG**

~~(FOUO)~~      **2007**      LTC (b)(3), (b)(6) Commander, 3-61 CAV, inserted into COP Keating via MEDEVAC es      MEDEVAC collects three WIAs from COP Keating

(U)      **2100**      Remaining casualties MEDEVAC'd and remains of KIAs extracted from COP Keating

~~(FOUO)~~      **2235**      **SPC MACE DOW at FOB Bostick**

**e. ~~(FOUO)~~ Where did the attack occur? Provide relevant graphics and photographs depicting the location of the attack.**

18. (U) Imagery of COP Keating at Appendix III.

19. (U) In addition to the imagery at Appendix III, based on my personal reconnaissance overflight of COP Keating on 24 Oct 09, I note the following:

a.

b.

c.

d.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g and (b)(2)High apply.

e.

f.

g.

**f. ~~(FOUO)~~ What were the specific injuries to each member of the coalition forces killed or injured in this attack?**

20. (U) Appendix IV contains a spreadsheet of injuries. No incidents of fratricide or friendly fire occurred during this action.

21. (U) In addition to the medical treatment reflected at Appendix IV administered by the physician's assistant and medics at COP Keating, all Soldiers in B Troop were trained as Combat Life Savers (CLS) and in several instances rendered buddy aid, thereby reducing the impact of wounds during the action.

- g. ~~(FOUO)~~ What was the AT/FP plan for the COP? Was it current? Was it available at the FOB or was it at a higher HQ? Was the plan appropriate based on the terrain and AAF activity in the area? What force protection technology was in place and how was it employed? Did the COP commander conduct any base defense rehearsals prior to the start of the attack? Was the plan followed? How many US servicemembers were engaged in force protection duties at the time of the attack?

22.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

23. (U) The plan was initiated at COP level and available in the TOC. The Troop conducted base defense drills for the first few months of the deployment, but approximately two months prior to the attack reduced the frequency of the drills based on the number of real world responses to enemy fire. From these limited engagements personnel knew the plan and their roles during troops in contact situations.

24.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

25.

26.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.

(b)(2)High

- g.
- h.
- i.

j.

k.

(b)(2)High

l.

m.

n.

o.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

- h. ~~(FOUO)~~ Were there contract security guards in place at COP Keating? If so, how were they employed prior to the attack, how did they respond to the attack, and who had command and control of the contract security force?

27.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

28.

- i. ~~(FOUO)~~ Were the ISAF and/or US ROE followed during the engagement? If so were the ROE too restrictive? Did the on-scene commander understand his authority to employ force and did he apply the appropriate amount of force?

29. (U) Soldiers and leaders understood and complied with the ISAF and US Rules of Engagement (ROE). Notably, B Troop applied the ROE in engaging the mosque in the village of Urmol in self defense, when they came under heavy fire from the mosque and had no means to withdraw or otherwise neutralize the threat. In addition, there were no civilian casualties observed or reported in this action in part due to the villagers having been warned to leave the area by AAF prior to the attack.

30. (U) The ROE posed no restrictions to the US forces on the ground, nor to the supporting air elements, that inhibited their actions in responding to the attack. The on-scene commander employed all the force he had available, and that force plus the air attacks constituted an appropriate use and amount of force.

31.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

- j. ~~(FOUO)~~ When was COP Keating first occupied? Was COP Keating under construction at the time of the attack? Was the occupation and construction of COP Keating a planned operation? If so, who did the planning and what planning was done? Was there a current vulnerability assessment? If so, what was the result of the vulnerability assessment? How were identified vulnerabilities mitigated?

32.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

33. (U) The original occupation and construction of COP Keating was planned and performed prior to the arrival of 3-61 Cavalry. B Troop essentially occupied existing positions.

34.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

- k. ~~(FOUO)~~ Had COP Keating been attacked in the 30 days prior to this attack? If so, what was the extent of the attacks?

35. (U) In the 30 days prior to 3 Oct 09, enemy forces conducted small scale attacks, but demonstrated some level of coordination and experience. The attacks immediately preceding 3 Oct occurred as follows:

- a. (U) 9/7/2009 Small Arms Fire
- b. (U) 9/9/2009 Complex attack RPG/SAF
- c. (U) 9/9/2009 Small Arms Fire
- d. (U) 9/9/2009 Small Arms Fire
- e. (U) 9/11/2009 Small Arms Fire
- f. (U) 9/12/2009 Complex attack RPG/ Small Arms Fire
- g. (U) 9/16/2009 Complex attack RPG/ Small Arms Fire
- h. (U) 9/20/2009 Complex attack RPG/ Small Arms Fire
- i. (U) 9/22/2009 Small Arms Fire
- j. (U) 9/27/2009 Small Arms Fire

36.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.



37.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

38. (U) It should be noted that the frequency of these small scale attacks peaked in July and had declined somewhat during August and September.

- I. ~~(FOUO)~~ Was there a current threat assessment? Had any intelligence reports been received indicating a possible attack in the 30 days prior to this attack? If so, what was that intelligence? What office was responsible for those reports? What actions were taken as a result of that intelligence? Were those actions appropriate? Were higher HQ made aware of any current intelligence?

39.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

40.

41.

(b)(2)High

42.

43.

(b)(2)High

- m. ~~(FOUO)~~ (1) What Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) platforms were covering COP Keating at the time of the attack? Was the ISR support appropriate? What organic ISR support was available at the COP? Was that organic support adequate? Were any deficiencies made aware to higher HQ? Was anything done to correct deficiencies?

44.

45.

46.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

47.

- ~~(FOUO)~~ (2) What was the relationship with the local community prior to the attack? Was there any indication from the local community that there would be an upcoming attack?

48.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

49.

(b)(2)High

- n. ~~(FOUO)~~ What was the indirect fire plan? If so, was it integrated with other military installations in the area? What organic indirect fire support was available at COP Keating? Was that level of support appropriate? Was close air support requested and delivered in a timely manner?

50.

51.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g and (b)(2) High apply.

52.

53.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

- o. ~~(FOUO)~~ What were the personal protective equipment requirements for individuals on the COP? Were those requirements followed? Were the requirements appropriate?

54.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g and (b)(3) and (b)(6) apply.

55. ~~(FOUO)~~ The first sergeant enforced the standard without fail. There is no indication any soldier was killed or injured because he failed to wear the appropriate PPE, or in fact that any Soldier was without PPE during the battle on 3 Oct 09.

- p. ~~(FOUO)~~ What, if any, medical treatment was provided to the servicemembers? Were the MEDEVAC procedures timely and appropriate under the circumstances?

56. ~~(FOUO)~~ Appendix IV contains a record of medical treatment provided.

57. ~~(FOUO)~~ In addition to the medical treatment provided by the unit physician's assistant at COP Keating shown in Appendix IV, one Soldier, SPC Mace, was evacuated to the squadron Forward Surgical ) at ck where he received follow-on care before he died of wounds. SPCs (b)(3), (b)(6) and (b)(3), (b)(6) received care at the FST before they were evacuated to Lan hom Most of the wounded were treated and returned to duty within hours or days.

58.

59.

(b)(1)1.4a and g apply.

60.

61.

(b)(2)High

- q. ~~(FOUO)~~ What is the nature and extent of loss of military equipment? Initial reports indicate that a UAV crashed during the attack. If so, what are the facts and circumstances surrounding the crash?

62.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

63.

- r. ~~(FOUO)~~ Were any Law of Armed Conflict violations alleged or observed during this engagement? If so, by whom and what were the specific violations? Did the AAF attack the COP from inside Mosques or other protected buildings (e.g., schools, hospitals)?

64.

(b)(1)a and g apply.

- s. ~~(FOUO)~~ What impact did the commander's plan to abandon this camp in the future have on the ability to defend this camp at the time of attack? Was the drawdown in progress or were defenses at their normal rate?

65.

66.

67.

(b)(2)High

(U) It is not clear that a change in any one of these factors would have prevented the attack of 3 Oct 09, but each played a role in creating a less than optimal readiness posture. In my estimation, failure to take these and other force protection measures made the COP an easier target for enemy attack.

68.

69.

(b)(2)High

70.

(b)(1)1.4a and g apply.

71.

(b)(2)High

72.

(b)(2)High

- t. ~~(FOUO)~~ Recommendations concerning improvements, if any, to coalition force techniques, tactics and procedures to prevent future incidents from occurring?

73.

74.

75.

(b)(2)High

76.

77.

78.

79.

(b)(1)1.4a, c and g apply.

80. ~~(FOUO)~~ PPE – Reinforce standards and constantly reevaluate PPE posture.

81.

(b)(2)High

82.

**u. (U) Any other matters you deem relevant.**

83.

84.

85.

(b)(2)High

86.



87. ~~(FOUO)~~ Command responsibility/accountability –

a.

b.

c.

d.

(b)(2)High, (b)(3), (b)(6)

e.

f.

g.

(b)(2)High, (b)(3), (b)(6)

h.

i.

j.

k.

(b)(2)High, (b)(3), (b)(6)

l.