

OVN Fallen Heroes Project

Remembering the service members who died in the service of their country.

U.S. Air Force Pararescueman TSgt Scott E. Duffman

“The Code”

It is my duty as a Pararescueman / Combat Rescue Officer to save life and to aid the injured. I will be prepared at all times to perform my assigned duties quickly and efficiently, placing these duties before personal desires and comforts. These things I do, That Others May Live.

U.S. Air Force TSgt Scott E. Duffman

<https://www.afsoc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/163406/afsoc-airman-killed-in-helicopter-crash/>

By AFSOC News Service, / Published February 20, 2007

Hurlburt Field, Florida -- Tech. Sgt. Scott E. Duffman, 32, of Albuquerque, N.M. was killed in a MH-47 helicopter crash in Afghanistan on Sunday.

Of the 22 coalition personnel on board Sergeant Duffman and seven others were killed while 14 were injured when the helicopter crashed. They were supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

According to a coalition press release the helicopter pilot reported a sudden loss of power and control just prior to the crash.

Sergeant Duffman, a Pararescuemen, was assigned to the 24th Special Tactics Squadron at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. The 24th STS falls under the 720th Special Tactics Group, a unit of Air Force Special Operations Command here.

"Scott Duffman was an exceptional Pararescuemen, friend, husband and father. He loved his profession and loved his family," said Lt. Col. Robert Armfield, Commander of 24th Special Tactics Squadron.

"Losing him is a tragedy but we are all consoled by the fact that he died strong, doing what he loved: going into harm's way so others may live."

Sergeant Duffman was born on August 14, 1974 and spent the majority of his childhood in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Following his graduation from La Cueva High School, Scott joined the Air Force in October 1992 and completed a series of challenging training schools earning him the maroon beret of an Air Force Pararescuemen.

Sergeant Duffman served as a Pararescuemen in a number of units including the 56th Rescue Squadron in Keflavik, Iceland and the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron before being assigned to the 24th Special

Tactics Squadron in April, 2001.

Sergeant Duffman is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and two devices, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with two devices, the Air Force Commendation Medal with three devices and the Air Force Achievement Medal with two devices.

Sergeant Duffman leaves behind his wife Mary and 6-month old daughter Sophia.

<https://thefallen.militarytimes.com/air-force-tech-sgt-scott-e-duffman/2568182>

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Scott E. Duffman
Died February 18, 2007 Serving During Operation Enduring Freedom

32, of Albuquerque, N.M.; was assigned to the 24th Special Tactics Squadron, Pope Air Force Base, N.C.; died Feb. 18 when the coalition CH-47 helicopter he was riding in crashed in eastern Afghanistan.

Pentagon identifies 8 killed in helo crash

By Sean D. Naylor, Staff writer

Sunday's crash of a Chinook helicopter in Afghanistan killed eight special operations personnel, seven from the Army and one from the Air Force.

The helicopter was an MH-47E from the Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment's 2nd Battalion, according to a source in the special operations community.

According to a Defense Department release, killed in the crash were:

* Pfc. Ryan C. Garbs, 20, of Edwardsville, Ill.; B Company, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, Ga.

* Spc. Brandon D. Gordon, 21, of Naples, Fla.; B Company, 2nd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Fort Campbell, Ky.

* Chief Warrant Officer 3 Hershel D. McCants, Jr., 34, of Arizona; B Co., 2nd Battalion, 160th.

* CW3 John A. Quinlan, 26, of New Jersey; B Co., 2nd Battalion, 160th.

* Pfc. Kristofer D. Thomas, 18, of Roseville, Calif.; B Co., 3rd Battalion., 75th Ranger Regiment.

* Spc. Travis R. Vaughn, 26, of Reinbeck, Iowa; B Co., 2nd Battalion, 160th.

* Sgt. Adam A. Wilkinson, 23, of Miskayuna, N.Y.; B Co., 2nd Battalion, 160th.

* Air Force Tech Sgt. Scott Duffman, of La Cueva, N.M., was assigned to the 24th Special Tactics Squadron, Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

According to a press release posted on the Army Special Operations command web site Tuesday night, 160th Commander Col. Kevin W. Mangum said, "The aircraft was crewed by an exceptionally qualified team of professionals and was flying in a formation of other aircraft in performance of this mission. It is unclear at this time as to exactly what caused the aircraft to crash onto a high plain in southeastern Afghanistan.

"While it is important that we investigate and determine what caused this tragic event — which we will — our immediate and lasting concern is for the families and friends of the extraordinary men who served their country with distinction," Mangum said.

Fourteen others were wounded in the crash when the helicopter reportedly had a sudden, unexplained loss of power and control before crashing in southeastern Afghanistan.

A combat search and rescue operation was launched immediately to secure the site and recover the passengers, the release said, adding that wounded personnel were transported to coalition medical facilities for treatment.

The 160th, the Rangers and the 24th STS all support Joint Special Operations Command, which is headquartered at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., and is in charge of the most sensitive special operations missions. The 160th is headquartered at Fort Campbell, Ky., and the 24th STS is headquartered at Pope. The helicopter was carrying 22 personnel, and while some of the survivors “did walk away,” several others are very seriously injured, the source said.

The helicopter was flying from Kandahar to Bagram at about 300 feet above the ground when it experienced a sudden loss of power, the source said. Initial speculation about the cause of the loss of power has centered on the possibility of engine icing, he said. But whatever caused the loss of power, “at 300 feet you don’t have a lot of space to recover,” the source added.

The helicopter appears to have come down aft end first, then bounced on its nose, causing the transmission assembly to come down on the cockpit, crushing the personnel at the front of the helicopter, according to the source.

The Chinook crashed in Zabol province about 50 yards away from the main Kabul to Kandahar highway, according to press reports.

The helicopter is at least the fifth MH-47 that has crashed or been shot down worldwide since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. The 160th is the only unit that flies the MH-47.

The 160th will hold a memorial ceremony for those killed on Wednesday.

Walter Sokalski, spokesman for USASOC, had no comment when reached by phone Tuesday.

A U.S. military statement said details of the crash or the helicopter’s mission would not be released until “completion of recovery operations.”

Thousands of U.S. forces are deployed in southeastern Afghanistan, including in Zabol, where they have a base under NATO command.

The province has long been a hotbed for militant supporters of the former Taliban regime who have stepped up attacks over the past year.

In May 2006, another U.S. CH-47 Chinook crashed attempting a nighttime landing on a small mountaintop in eastern Kunar province, killing 10 soldiers.

In 2005, a helicopter crashed in Kunar, after apparently being hit by a rocket-propelled grenade, killing 16 American troops.

Another crash of a civilian helicopter last year in southeastern Khost province killed up to 16 people, including the wife and two daughters of a U.S. civilian worker.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

<https://airforce.togetherweserved.com/usaf/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApp?cmd=ShadowBoxProfile&type=Person&ID=115895>

Last Known Activity

TSgt Scott Duffman was aboard a Chinook helicopter that crashed in Afghanistan, killing eight special operations personnel, seven from the Army and TSGT Duffman. The helicopter was an MH-47E from the Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment's 2nd Battalion. Fourteen others were wounded in the crash when the helicopter experienced a sudden, unexplained loss of power and control before crashing in southeastern Afghanistan. The Chinook crashed in Zabol province about 50 yards away from the main Kabul to Kandahar highway. The 160th, the Rangers and the 24th Special Tactics Squadron all support Joint Special Operations Command, which is headquartered at Pope AFB. The 160th is headquartered at Fort Campbell, Ky and the 24th STS is headquartered at Pope. TSGT Duffman was a member of the 24th Special Tactics Squadron. He had only been on assignment in Afghanistan five days

before his death, though TSGT Duffman had been deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan a number of times.

<http://www.veterantributes.org/TributeDetail.php?recordID=2301>

Scott E. Duffman

Technical Sergeant E-6, U.S. Air Force

U.S. Air Force 1992-2007

War on Terrorism 2001-2007

Afghanistan 2001-2007 (Multiple Deployments, KIA)

Iraq 2003-2007 (Multiple Deployments)

Scott Duffman was born on August 14, 1974, in the Philippines, and was raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force on August 26, 1992, and completed basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas, in October 1992. After completing Air Force Pararescueman training and Special Tactics team training, SrA Duffman served as a Pararescueman with the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Florida, from October 1994 to January 1997. His next assignment was as a Pararescueman with the 56th Rescue Squadron at Keflavik Naval Air Station, Iceland, from January 1997 to January 1998, and then back with the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron at Hurlburt Field from January 1998 to January 2001. SSgt Duffman served as a Special Tactics Team Member, Pararescueman, and Special Tactics Instructor with the 24th Special Tactics Squadron at Pope AFB, North Carolina, from January 2001 until he was killed in the crash of an MH-47 Chinook helicopter near Kabul, Afghanistan, on February 18, 2007. Scott Duffman was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

His 1st Bronze Star Medal w/Valor Citation reads:

Staff Sergeant Scott E. Duffman distinguished himself by heroism as Combat Search and Rescue Team Member, Task Force Eleven, Joint Special Operations Command while engaged in ground operations against the enemy at a classified location from 10 February 2002 to 17 April 2002. During this period, in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, Sergeant Duffman demonstrated unparalleled professional skill, judgment and operational foresight during numerous special operations. Sergeant Duffman performed heroically, calmly and professionally during Combat Search and Rescue Operations while under fire from the enemy. Sergeant Duffman's team conducted a daring rescue of fellow teammates who had sustained numerous casualties and after helicopters crashed while battling enemy forces for hours on a mountaintop. His bravery and immediate medical attention were essential to the recovery and safe evacuation of his wounded teammates. Sergeant Duffman's team was exposed numerous times to intermittent enemy fire and the threat of enemy reinforcement at any moment. His heroic actions resulted in the recovery of multiple critically injured litter patients, one minimally injured patient, and several additional personnel. On board the helicopter, Sergeant Duffman's exemplary medical knowledge was instrumental in stabilizing the injured patients and then transferring the patients at a remote landing site. Sergeant Duffman's actions during this trying time deterred terrorist actions against United States forces and demonstrated America's resolve to recover friendly forces regardless of enemy strength. Sergeant Duffman's professionalism and heroism are an example for others to follow. By his heroic actions and unselfish dedication to duty, Sergeant Huffman has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

