

O 292234Z APR 04  
FM TASK FORCE  
TO RUCAACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CDR//  
INFO RUCQSAS/USSOCOM FP MACDILL AFB FL//CDR//  
RUERHNE/CDRUSASOC FT BRAGG NC//CDR//  
RUEPVBT/TASK FORCE  
BT

PERSONAL FOR CDR USCENTCOM CDR

USSOCOM CDR USASOC  
DELIVER DURING NORMAL DUTY HOURS  
DO NOT TRANSMIT VIA OPINTEL BROADCAST  
OPER/OEF//

MSGID/GENADMIN/TASK FORCE //  
SUBJ/P4 CONCERNING INFORMATION ON CORPORAL TILLMAN'S DEATH//  
RMKS/SIR, IN THE AFTERMATH OF CORPORAL PATRICK TILLMAN'S UNTIMELY  
YET HEROIC DEATH IN AFGHANISTAN ON 22 APRIL 04, IT IS ANTICIPATED  
THAT A 15-6 INVESTIGATION NEARING COMPLETION WILL FIND THAT IT IS  
HIGHLY POSSIBLE THAT CORPORAL TILLMAN WAS KILLED BY FRIENDLY FIRE.  
THIS POTENTIAL FINDING IS EXACERBATED BY THE UNCONFIRMED BUT  
SUSPECTED REPORTS THAT POTUS AND THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY MIGHT  
INCLUDE COMMENTS ABOUT CORPORAL TILLMAN'S HEROISM AND HIS APPROVED  
SILVER STAR MEDAL IN SPEECHES CURRENTLY BEING PREPARED, NOT KNOWING  
THE SPECIFICS SURROUNDING HIS DEATH.  
THE POTENTIAL THAT HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN KILLED BY FRIENDLY FIRE IN NO  
WAY DETRACTS FROM HIS WITNESSED HEROISM OR THE RECOMMENDED PERSONAL  
DECORATION FOR VALOR IN THE FACE OF THE ENEMY. CORPORAL TILLMAN WAS  
KILLED IN A COMPLICATED BATTLESPACE GEOMETRY INVOLVING TWO SEPARATE  
RANGER VEHICLE SERIALS TRAVERSING THROUGH SEVERE TERRAIN ALONG A  
WINDING 500-600 FOOT DEFILE IN WHICH FRIENDLY FORCES WERE FIRED UPON  
BY MULTIPLE ENEMY POSITIONS. CORPORAL TILLMAN DISEMBARKED FROM HIS  
VEHICLE, AND IN SUPPORT OF HIS FELLOW RANGERS AND DEMONSTRATING  
GREAT CONCERN FOR THEIR WELFARE OVER CARE FOR HIS OWN SAFETY ENTERED  
THE ENEMY KILL-ZONE INTO WHICH BOTH ENEMY AND FRIENDLY FIRE IMPACTED.  
I FELT THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION AS  
SOON AS WE DETECTED IT IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE ANY UNKNOWING STATEMENTS  
BY OUR COUNTRY'S LEADERS WHICH MIGHT CAUSE PUBLIC EMBARRASSMENT IF  
THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF CORPORAL TILLMAN'S DEATH BECOME PUBLIC.//  
DECL/DERI:DRV FROM  
/INST

BT

CLASSIFIED BY:  
REASON:  
DECLASSIFY ON:

CLASSIFICATION:  
CAVEATS:  
TERMS: