

Crane, Judson, Mr, DoD OGC

From: Curtin, Joseph COL OCPA [Joseph.Curtin [REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2004 10:00 PM
To: Whitman, Bryan SES OASD-PA
Subject: FW: final v2

Bryan:
Subject: final v2

Press Release

Good Morning. I would like to make a brief statement on the events surrounding the death of CPL Pat Tillman 22 APR in Afghanistan. I will not be taking questions.

A military investigation by US Central Command into the circumstances of the 22 April death of Corporal Patrick Tillman is complete.

While there was no one specific finding of fault, the investigation results indicate that Corporal Tillman probably died as a result of friendly fire while his unit was engaged in combat with enemy forces.

The results of this investigation in no way diminish the bravery and sacrifice displayed by Cpl Tillman. Cpl Tillman was shot and killed while responding to enemy fire without regard for his own safety. He focused his efforts on the elimination of enemy forces and the protection of his team members. There is an inherent degree of confusion in any firefight, particularly when a unit is ambushed, and especially under difficult light and terrain conditions which produce an environment that increases the likelihood of fratricide.

Corporal Tillman's platoon was ambushed with small arms and mortar fire at about 7:30 PM local time while conducting combat operations in the vicinity of Khowst, Afghanistan. The enemy ambush was immediately responded to by a coalition patrol including Cpl Tillman with direct fire, and an intense firefight lasting approximately 20 minutes ensued.

The ambush was conducted by 10-12 enemy personnel from multiple locations over approximately 1 kilometer in very severe and constricted terrain with impaired light conditions. Following initial contact, Cpl Tillman disembarked from his vehicle and, in support of his unit, moved into position to suppress enemy fire.

We regret the loss of life resulting from this tragic incident. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the Tillman family.

Thank you all for being here this morning.

(PAO) US Central Command is the point of contact for future inquiries.

[Bush, Hans E. LTC] DOL
Hans

Bush, Hans E. LTC

From: Curtin, Joseph COL OCPA [Joseph.Curtin [REDACTED]]
Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2004 10:50 AM
To: 'bushh [REDACTED]'; 'taylors1 [REDACTED]'; 'robinsjr [REDACTED]'
Cc: Gaylord, Robert E BG OCPA
Subject: CPL Tillman Award

Gentlemen: Again, thank you for the great team effort here. Believe we got out ahead on this the best we could. Story will run hot today and diminish over the weekend. Senior leaders want to make sure the public affairs community vigorously respond to any media query that potentially questions the Silver Star award. Emphasize the following:

- Investigation served to verify and reinforce CPL Tillman's bravery and sacrifice.
- His heroic actions are no way diminished by his manner of death
- He served our Nation with great honor and commitment. CPL Tillman fought with distinct valor, gallantry and leadership. He epitomized selfless service to the fullest.

The press statement is posted at www.soc.mil

vr, COL Curtin.

Bush, Hans E. LTC

From: Gaylord, Robert E BG OCPA [robert.gaylord@centcom.mil]
Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2004 1:41 PM
To: 'robinsjr@centcom.mil'; Curtin, Joseph COL OCPA; 'bushh@centcom.mil'; 'taylors1@centcom.mil'
Subject: Re: CPL Tillman Award

You all did a great job in a short period. Thanks to all of you! HOOAH!!

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

-----Original Message-----

From: Robinson, LTC John R. <robinsjr@centcom.mil>
To: Curtin, Joseph COL OCPA <Joseph.Curtin@centcom.mil>; 'bushh@centcom.mil' <bushh@centcom.mil>; 'taylors1@centcom.mil' <taylors1@centcom.mil>; Robinson, LTC John R. <robinsjr@centcom.mil>

CC: Gaylord, Robert E BG OCPA <robert.gaylord@centcom.mil>
Sent: Sat May 29 11:16:10 2004
Subject: RE: CPL Tillman Award

Thanks, Sir. We're responding to numerous queries - also responded to several other last night, and asked reporters to hold the story pending NOK notification -- release is posted at www.centcom.mil

Think the WWII Memorial and attack in Saudi Arabia have helped to dilute the story somewhat.

vir

John

-----Original Message-----

From: Curtin, Joseph COL OCPA [<mailto:Joseph.Curtin@centcom.mil>]
Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2004 10:50 AM
To: 'bushh@centcom.mil'; 'taylors1@centcom.mil'; 'robinsjr@centcom.mil'
Cc: Gaylord, Robert E BG OCPA
Subject: CPL Tillman Award

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vr, COL Curtin.

Crane, Judson, Mr, DoD OGC

From: Rhynedance, George, COL, OASD-PA
Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2004 12:27 PM
To: Whitman, Bryan, SES, OASD-PA
Subject: Re: Dirita not answering anything

No one will ever tell you, but nice job on this one. May have minimized to damage by pushing the panic button early.
COL George H. Rhynedance

-----Original Message-----
From: Whitman, Bryan, SES, OASD-PA <Bryan.Whitman[REDACTED]>
To: Rhynedance, George, COL, OASD-PA <George.Rhynedance[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sat May 29 12:25:13 2004
Subject: Re: Dirita not answering anything

Yeah-it was painful, but I'm glad we got it out this morning.

Sent from my BlackBerry Handheld.

-----Original Message-----
From: Rhynedance, George, COL, OASD-PA <George.Rhynedance[REDACTED]>
To: Whitman, Bryan, SES, OASD-PA <Bryan.Whitman[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sat May 29 12:20:36 2004
Subject: Re: Dirita not answering anything

Tillman thing running. Seems low key.
COL George H. Rhynedance

-----Original Message-----
From: Whitman, Bryan, SES, OASD-PA <Bryan.Whitman[REDACTED]>
To: Rhynedance, George, COL, OASD-PA <George.Rhynedance[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sat May 29 12:10:45 2004
Subject: Re: Dirita not answering anything

I know

Sent from my BlackBerry Handheld.

-----Original Message-----
From: Rhynedance, George, COL, OASD-PA <George.Rhynedance[REDACTED]>
To: Whitman, Bryan, SES, OASD-PA <Bryan.Whitman[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sat May 29 11:49:11 2004
Subject: Dirita not answering anything

COL George H. Rhynedance