

Message

From: Henderson, Hedy, OASD-PA [Hedy.Henderson [REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2004 2:03 PM
To: Currin, John
Subject: RE: Tillman

<http://www.soc.mil/News/releases/04APR/040423-01a.htm>

Public Affairs Officer

Carol Darby

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

From: Currin, John [mailto:John_Currin@...]
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2004 1:50 PM
To: Henderson, Hedy, OASD-PA
Subject: RE: Tillman

Thanks. The writers pulled from a news article that put his rank as sergeant.

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

From: Henderson, Hedy, OASD-PA [mailto:Hedy.Henderson [REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2004 1:46 PM
To: Currin, John
Subject: RE: Tillman

yep

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

From: Currin, John [mailto:John_Currin@...]
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2004 1:39 PM
To: Henderson, Hedy, OASD-PA
Subject: RE: Tillman

Thanks Hedy. And to confirm, Tillman's rank is Specialist

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

From: Henderson, Hedy, OASD-PA [mailto:Hedy.Henderson [REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2004 12:40 PM
To: Henderson, Hedy, OASD-PA; Currin, John
Subject: RE: Tillman
Importance: High

He did do tours in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

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

From: Henderson, Hedy, OASD-PA
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2004 11:59 AM
To: 'Currin, John'
Subject: Tillman
Importance: High

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOD IDENTIFIES ARMY CASUALTY

The Department of Defense announced today the death of a Soldier who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Spc. Patrick D. Tillman, 27, of Chandler, Ariz., died April 22, in Afghanistan when his patrol vehicle came under attack. Spc. Tillman was assigned to the Army's 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash.

The incident is under investigation.

For further information related to this release, contact United States Army Special Operations Command at 910-432-6005.

I'm still checking the Afghanistan/Iraq part

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

From: Currin, John [mailto:John_Currin:
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2004 11:45 AM
To: Henderson, Hedy, OASD-PA
Subject:

Hi Hedy. I hope you can help us confirm some information. We are putting in the President's remarks at the correspondent's dinner a few lines about Pat Tillman. We need to get confirmed his rank and that he did tours of duty in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Thanks:

Message

From: Currin, John
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2004 2:09 PM
To: Scully, Matthew
Subject: Tillman

What is your source for the statement that Tillman, seeing on September 11 the burning towers on television, felt called to fight that evil. Going back to press accounts at the time, Tillman refused to give his reasons, and kept it to himself.

From: Currin, John
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2004 2:25 PM
To: Scully, Matthew
Subject: RE: Tillman

My DoD contact, who checked with the Rangers, confirm that he never gave any media interview or discussed the reasons why he left the NFL to join the Rangers. They have confirmed also that his rank was specialist, not sergeant, and that he has been posthumously promoted to Corporal. It is therefore correct to refer to him as Corporal Tillman. I will put that in my comments. But given that he never spoke to the press about his reasons for joining the Rangers, we simply do not have support for the statement that he decided to join the Rangers after seeing the burning towers on television.

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

From: Scully, Matthew
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2004 2:11 PM
To: Currin, John
Subject: Re: Tillman

Should be in news accounts.

From: Currin, John
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2004 3:53 PM
To: Gerson, Michael J.; Scully, Matthew; McConnell, John P.
Subject: Tillman

There is no direct support for the statement that Pat Tillman saw the burning towers on television and felt called to fight the evil behind it. Tillman and his brother never discussed their reasons with the press, nor have their parents. Tillman kept his reasons to himself. The people at Fort Lewis, the base for Tillman's unit, could not confirm that September 11 was the reason why Tillman joined the Army. All that I and Carol Darby at USASOC (Ft. Lewis) could find is mention in a news article from March 2003 that says that "friends say the brothers were deeply affected by the September 11 terrorist attacks and felt compelled to enlist." We do not know if these friends were speculating about Tillman's reasons or if they had direct knowledge of Tillman's reasons. The bottom line is that Tillman never stated publicly his reasons for joining the Rangers, and it is speculation that he did so because of September 11.

From: Currin, John
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2004 1:47 PM
To: Gerson, Michael J.; Scully, Matthew; McConnell, John P.
Cc: Kropp, Emily L.
Subject: Tillman

Mike, Matt and John: As I mentioned yesterday, Pat Tillman and his family never spoke about the reasons why he chose to leave the NFL and join the Army, and the statement in the remarks for the correspondence dinner attributing his motivation to his seeing the burning towers on 9/11 is speculation. I spoke yesterday with Carol Darby at Ft Lewis (the base for the Rangers) to check on Tillman's correct rank and see if she could verify Tillman's reasons for joining the Rangers. Carol phoned me just now to ask if we wanted to go through the CACO assigned to the Tillman family and see if they would talk to us about Corporal Tillman's reasons for joining the Army. I am not certain if we would want to approach the family on this matter in their time of grief (they will receive Corporal Tillman's remains today), or if you can work around the problem of not knowing as fact the reasons that motivated Tillman to join the Army. Let me know if you want me to go through the Tillman family CACO to see if the family will let us know his reasons. My sense, however, is that because Tillman wanted to keep his reasons private, and because his family continues to respect his wish to this day, we should as well, and work as best we can around the speculation.

From: Currin, John
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2004 2:01 PM
To: Gerson, Michael J.
Subject: RE: Tillman

I do not have the new draft. I gather that you have worked around the issue?

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

From: Gerson, Michael J.
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2004 1:50 PM
To: Currin, John
Subject: Re: Tillman

See new draft.