

I

SWORN STATEMENT

For use of this form, see AR 190-45; the proponent agency is PMG.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: Title 10, USC Section 301; Title 5, USC Section 2951; E.O. 9397 Social Security Number (SSN).

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: To document potential criminal activity involving the U.S. Army, and to allow Army officials to maintain discipline, law and order through investigation of complaints and incidents.

ROUTINE USES: Information provided may be further disclosed to federal, state, local, and foreign government law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, child protective services, victims, witnesses, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Office of Personnel Management. Information provided may be used for determinations regarding judicial or non-judicial punishment, other administrative disciplinary actions, security clearances, recruitment, retention, placement, and other personnel actions.

DISCLOSURE: Disclosure of your SSN and other information is voluntary.

1. LOCATION [REDACTED]	2. DATE (YYYYMMDD) 2015/03/19	3. TIME 1310	4. FILE NUMBER
5. LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME [REDACTED]	6. SSN [REDACTED]	7. GRADE/STATUS [REDACTED]	
8. ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS [REDACTED]			

9. I, [REDACTED], WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH:

IO: Please state your name, rank, and unit of assignment, and duty position.

WIT: [REDACTED] Louisiana National Guard.

IO: Describe involvement in the initiation of the training mission as you were supporting it

WIT: According to my email history, on 7 Oct 14, I received a hand-off from [REDACTED] introducing me to [REDACTED], who was from [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] wanted to ensure we could provide what they needed. We talked about dates and our abilities. [REDACTED] asked for a CAPS (capabilities) brief. [REDACTED] asked about unit make-up etc. Planning started rolling in December 2014. We agreed to do a RAVEN mission from 10 – 12 Feb 15. RAVEN was the name of the exercise. [REDACTED] explained the mission to me and I was sent grid coordinates of all the different locations. I explained that we didn't have POI assets and that we would need to get back to home station for that support. [REDACTED] was very understanding. [REDACTED] and I had VTCs and face to face meetings regarding the training. G-Wayne and I flew to New Orleans to the Naval Air Station and linked up with the Marine Reserves. We had a VTC with MARSOC and the Marine Reserves. The MARSOC flew down to Gulfport, Wayne and I flew there and met with them and discussed operations and the next week we executed the mission.

IO: What type of tasks did you do for the RAVEN mission?

WIT: We did a QRF and CASEVAC.

IO: Where were you operating out of?

WIT: We would launch and recover out of Hammond, a lot of the PZ would centralize around Gulfport, and the LZ would be in the vicinity of Shelby and Hattiesburg. We did a QRF in Kiln, MS. The TST was handed off to the MARSOC guys. The first time we supported the MARSOC it was a CASEVAC. We were a little disappointed they took us out of the fight. They came up with a QRF mission for us. [REDACTED] an LNO [REDACTED] handled the planning with the crews. The PCs were Wayne Griffin and [REDACTED]. Everything worked out great. This all took place from 10 – 12 Feb 2015. In January 2015, I was contacted by [REDACTED] from [REDACTED]. They were interested in doing some of the same training only more in the crawl phase. They asked about FRIES bars which we don't have. [REDACTED] MARSOC wanted them but we didn't have them and couldn't find them. I tried to make the mission with the FRIES but we couldn't make it happen.

10. EXHIBIT	11. INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT [REDACTED]	PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES
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ADDITIONAL PAGES MUST CONTAIN THE HEADING "STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] AT [REDACTED] DATED [REDACTED]"

THE BOTTOM OF EACH ADDITIONAL PAGE MUST BEAR THE INITIALS OF THE PERSON MAKING THE STATEMENT, AND PAGE NUMBER MUST BE INDICATED.

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STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] TAKEN AT [REDACTED] DATED 2015/03/19

9. STATEMENT (Continued)

We agreed they would fund our travel to Destin to assist in their training mission. I explained I wanted 8 March 2015, to be dedicated to static training to compare training techniques and ensure all equipment was compatible and working. We agreed on what training to conduct on which days. We discussed different types of training K-Duck, T-Duck, rolled Duck, helo-cast. I was unsure if we could support all the training requests until we got closer to the actual training days. MARSOC requested we meet on the 4th and 5th to conduct parallel planning for a one ship air movement to be conducted on 5 March. G-Wayne and [REDACTED] went to meet the MARSOC team to establish personal contacts. I was very comfortable with Wayne's understanding of my intent for the training exercise.

IO: Take us from the time they left Sunday morning until the time of the incident.

WIT: The best thing to jog my memory about this time is my text message history with Mr. Griffin. They landed at Destin at 1115. At 1902 I received a text that the day was complete and the equipment was chained down for the night. No issues noted during the trip to Destin via the text messages. On 9 March 2015, at 1040 hours, he texted he was taking off and mission should be complete by 2200. I called him because it was supposed to be day OPS only so I called to ask what the deal with the night mission was. He explained they had forgot some equipment and that they were going to do some SPIES and helo-cast in the sound. I said I trusted them. I did not look in detail at the risk assessment. I let them do the training. I don't know what was discussed at the training site but I trusted it would go well. He sent me the AAR at 2241. The next day, the 10th, I didn't get a text from him until 1740. He said they started OPS at 1500. He said they were doing casting and ladders and boats tonight at 2100 and that he would send AAR upon completion of training. That was the last of our text messages. At 2153 I got a call from [REDACTED] explaining the incident. I then got dressed and left for the facility.

IO: What did [REDACTED] say re: no contact with Wayne?

WIT: He said they took off as a flight of two, approx 2030, they hit the beach and then beached out, they hit degraded weather, he announced he was turning around. Chalk 2 turned around. I think they were only a few kilometers from the DZ. He had about 1600lbs of fuel.

IO: Back to Planning.

WIT: [REDACTED] handed me this from the get go. My superiors were involved/aware of what I was doing in regard to the training. I back-briefed them on what was happening.

IO: Explain the briefing and approval process.

WIT: For briefing and approvals we allow our guys to get their own weather. I did not brief the mission or approve it. They were given very specific guidance to call back if there were any major changes to the type of training they were involved with. We allow them to talk to the daily supervisor for briefing info. I'm not sure who the supervisor was on that day. I selected this crew because I wanted someone who was aggressive at getting things done and digging through the TM. I thought it was a good mix putting [REDACTED] with him. I selected this crew because I was hoping that we could establish a good working relationship with MARSOC making future training events more likely. MARSOC agreed we could establish this working/training relationship.

IO: [REDACTED] was the mission briefer. There was a possibility that he did not talk to Wayne on the 10th.

WIT: That correct. These missions were briefed and signed the weekend before they left. It's possible he could have gotten this mission approved on Friday before the mission. [REDACTED] didn't reach out because it was not his responsibility.

IO: You mentioned the crew had a desk-side brief with [REDACTED]

WIT: That's correct, prior to the 8th.

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT [REDACTED]

PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES

9. STATEMENT (Continued)

WIT: I had detailed discussions about the CTL's (Crew member task list) with G-Wayne and [REDACTED] We have had issues trying to migrate the system to the new digital CAFRS 4.0 (centralized aviation flight record system).

IO: On the day of the accident you were the [REDACTED]?

WIT: That's correct.

IO: Describe the environment the day the accident occurred.

WIT: I went to the facility and broke out the accident plan. There were a lot of phone calls and a lot going on. We received a call from search and rescue that they had found some debris with tail number etc. We have FLIP kits (flight information) for the Destin area.

UNKNOWN: This was a planned goggles night mission.

WIT: It was normal the crews would use goggles and hoods, some train with them some don't.

UNKNOWN: Was over water training and equipment utilized?

WIT: A lot of training takes us over water; we had not gotten around to getting re-certified yet this year for over water training. Wayne had quite a bit of offshore experience. He had been through dunker training several times. I know [REDACTED] had offshore training too. All the crew had gone through the initial qualifications. I know [REDACTED] had similar civilian training so I was comfortable assuming that risk.

IO: Are horse collars worn all the time?

WIT: Yes.

IO: What about HEEDS bottles? (Helicopter Emergency Egress Device System)

WIT: No sir, we have them but we don't carry them.

//////////NOTHING FOLLOWS//////////

AFFIDAVIT

I, [REDACTED], HAVE READ OR HAVE HAD READ TO ME THIS STATEMENT WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 1, AND ENDS ON PAGE 3. I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF THE ENTIRE STATEMENT MADE BY ME. THE STATEMENT IS TRUE. I HAVE INITIALED ALL CORRECTIONS AND HAVE INITIALED THE BOTTOM OF EACH PAGE CONTAINING THE STATEMENT. I HAVE MADE THIS STATEMENT FREELY WITHOUT HOPE OF BENEFIT OR REWARD, WITHOUT THREAT OF PUNISHMENT, AND WITHOUT COERCION, UNLAWFUL INFLUENCE, OR UNLAWFUL INDUCEMENT.

WITNESSES:

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS



INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT [REDACTED]

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1. LOCATION [REDACTED]	2. DATE (YYYYMMDD) 20150325	3. TIME 1320	4. FILE NUMBER
5. LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME [REDACTED]	6. SSN [REDACTED]	7. GRADE/STATUS [REDACTED]	
8. ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS [REDACTED] LAANG			

9. I, [REDACTED], WANT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UNDER OATH:

Q. Who identified the crewmembers that would perform tactical ingress/egress tasks?

A. I recommended the crewmembers to the [REDACTED] I hand selected the pilots and SSG Bergeron selected the crew chiefs. [REDACTED] was the final approval.

Q. What oversight did you have in the briefing process of G Wayne and [REDACTED] for the MARSOC support mission 8-12 March?

A. I laid out the ground work and pre-planned the mission. Mr. Griffin and I worked together from there. [REDACTED] was involved, but not nearly as much as Mr. Griffin.

Q. NGR supplement to AR-95-1 requires that specific crewmembers identified to perform tactical ingress / egress by identifying each task and annual iteration on the crewmembers CTL. Who is responsible for this? Was it done?
Were the Tasks, Conditions, and Standards developed and reviewed for the mission tasks to be conducted for the MARSOC mission?

A. Mr. Griffin and [REDACTED] both told me that task had been accomplished. I did not verify this. We operated under the assumption that T/Duck and other tasks fell under helocast in accordance with USSOCOM 350-6

Q. What training, such as ground school, was conducted prior to the designated crewmembers performing these missions?
We did not develop ground school before they departed, but the intent for 8 March was to meet up with the MARSOC castmaster and conduct such training. I don't know if that training was annotated on the records. Only SOP development and revision was conducted prior to departure.

Q. Who, from your unit / guard went on the RAVEN mission on 10-12 February 2015

A. Mr. Griffin, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were the pilots. The only crew chief I remember was [REDACTED]

10. EXHIBIT	11. INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT [REDACTED]	PAGE 1 OF <u>3</u> PAGES
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9. STATEMENT (Continued)

Q. Did you confirm that the crews had conducted similar overwater tasks (Bambi buckets and overwater hoist)? If so, how?

A. A company did external training such as Bambi bucket in November of 2014. B Company did the training in February. We don't train the UH-60s with hoist.

Q. What knowledge did you have to believe that the flight crews were qualified to conduct these overwater missions?

A. They were all IPs and they were briefed and approved to conduct the tasks. We had done overwater operations before and we compared these tasks to tasks we had conducted in the past. Bambi bucket is a state mission that we train on annually.

Q. Had comprehensive SOPs been developed and reviewed for conducting the specific MARSOC tasks that were scheduled to be conducted? Caving Ladder, SPIES, HELOCAST, K/T-DUCK

A. Mr. Griffin developed these and they were signed off on. I saw four SOPs with caving ladder, SPIES, helocast and FRIES. We believed that K/T-DUCK fell under the HELOCAST mission.

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

[REDACTED]

PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES

9. STATEMENT (Continued)

Q. What procedures did you use to ensure that weather conditions for the missions met the requirements of regulations, SOP, briefing constraints?

A. My guidance for Mr. Griffen and the rest of the crew was that if anything strayed from the published itinerary that they were to give me a call. I expected to be notified if they were going to do anything other than what we agreed on. The parameters were 1000/3 for NVGs and 500/1 or 2 for day.

Q. As the [REDACTED] what constraints did you put on the flight crews for executing the mission?

A. The constraints were outlined. I expected to be consulted if there was anything outside the parameters given.

Q. What oversight did you have during the execution of the mission after the aircraft departed AASF #1?

A. I told Mr. Griffen that I wanted to know begin and end of mission on a daily basis. I also wanted an AAR with details like flight time, number of passengers and number of sorties. We had a plan and itinerary, but this was a general guideline, I expected that there could be some minor changes.

Q. Were all the LAARNG crewmembers in support of the MARSOC missions in an official duty status? When was that duty status discussed?

A. They were all federal technicians, and they were all on AFTP status. This was discussed prior to departure. The pilots were given the flexibility to choose their status. Lance Bergeron can choose his status because he is a facility Standardization Instructor. The other crew chiefs had to be in AFTP status.

AFFIDAVIT

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[REDACTED]
(Signature of Person Making Statement)

WITNESSES:

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 25th day of March, 2015 at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
(Signature of Person Administering Oath)

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

[REDACTED]
(Typed Name of Person Administering Oath)

ORGANIZATION OR ADDRESS

[REDACTED]
(Authority To Administer Oaths)

INITIALS OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

[REDACTED]