

Sgt. Bowe R. Bergdahl Story

Operation Enduring Freedom

Afghanistan

Hometown: Hailey, Idaho

At 0900 on the Tuesday morning of June 30, 2009, at Outpost Mest, in the Yahya Khail District of Paktika Province, Afghanistan, Company B, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry (Airborne) Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 25th Infantry Division (ID) conducted their Morning Roll Call for 100% accountability. It was at this Roll Call that Company B Commander discovered Private First Class Bergdahl was missing. An immediate search of all areas in Outpost Mest was conducted without locating the missing soldier. The next higher command Blackfoot Tactical Operations Command (TOC) was notified of the missing soldier. Blackfoot TOC then reported the situation to the 4th BCT command at Geronimo TOC.



The command issued a mandatory 100% accountability of all camps and launched a search for PFC Bergdahl. Military Dogs and a Pathfinder unit were dispatched to the rugged mountainous area, twelve miles from the Pakistan border, and had boots on the ground within few hours. A Drone and aviation assets were tasked and expedited to the area of search. Blocking Positions were deployed on area roads and known paths of travel checking all traffic. A more detailed search of all vehicles, latrines, bunkers, and other Personnel Facilities was ordered for Outpost Mest and nearby Outpost Sharan. All of these efforts did not result in finding PFC Bergdahl.

On July 2, 2009 it was reported the Outpost Mest Commander met with the local Elders to seek information and request their assistance in recovery and learning the wellbeing of PCF Bergdahl. The Taliban had asked the Elders to be the go between the Taliban and the U.S. Military to work a trade. The Elders assured the Commander that PFC Bergdahl was alive and not being harmed. The Taliban wanted 15 of their own held in American prisons to be released and an unspecified amount of money in exchange for PFC Bergdahl. The Commander offered to request resources to help the Elders defend themselves if they would help get PFC Bergdahl back from the Taliban. The Elders said they would try, and they even attempted to contact the Taliban so that the Commander could speak to Bergdahl but the communications network was down so the call did not go through.

The last reported physical sighting of PFC Bergdahl was on July 4, 2009 where he had a bag over his head, wearing dark khaki apparel being transported in a black Toyota Corolla escorted by motorcycles. Between December 2009 and May 2011 the Taliban have released five videos of Bergdahl but there has not been anything for thirteen months now. There are reports that negotiations have been ongoing for an exchange and a fairly reliable source that Bergdahl is still alive.

PFC Bergdahl was last seen at his firing position performing guard duty on Outpost Mest. There has been much speculation in how he disappeared in the press. Though the Defense Department has not officially reported anything on this subject, there was reported intercepted radio traffic of the Taliban bragging and the added insult how they captured Bergdahl with his pants down in a latrine. If this is true, it would explain why he didn't have his personal weapon with him at the time of his capture, as its common practice to ask a buddy to watch your weapon when they go to the latrine. We may not find out the actual circumstances of his capture until the situation is resolved.

Bowe R. Bergdahl's was born March 28, 1986 in Sun Valley, Idaho. His home town is Hailey, Idaho where his father Robert and mother Jani live, along with his older sister Sky. Robert Bergdahl is a United Parcel Service (UPS) driver and works the family 40 acre farm in the town of 6,000. Bowe was home schooled and earned a high school equivalency and then traveled a lot which included a three month hitch on a commercial fishing boat off the coast of Alaska. He was into dirt bike riding and ballet dancing. At the age of 25 he joined the active U.S. Army and did not tell his parents until after the fact.

After his training, Bowe was assigned to Co. B, 1st Bn, 501st Infantry Regt., 4th BCT, 25th ID stationed at Fort Richardson, just outside Anchorage, Alaska. His unit deployed to eastern Afghanistan in February 2009. In May 2009 his Company B was assigned to Outpost Mest. The next month he was taken prisoner.

Since Bowe has been in captivity, the U.S. Army has promoted him twice. In June 2010 he was promoted to Specialist Fourth Class (E-4) and in June 2011 he was promoted to Sergeant (E-5). If Bowe R. Bergdahl's disappearance was suspicious to the Army it is highly unlikely the Army would have promoted him while in captivity.