



# *News Release*

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## *United States Special Operations Command*

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

### **Release of the AR-15-6 Investigation into the Nov. 4, 2016, King Faisal Air Base, Jordan, Shooting**

**MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Tampa, Fla.** – U.S. Special Operations Command released the Army Regulation 15-6 investigation into the Nov. 4, 2016, King Faisal Air Base, Jordan, shooting. The incident led to the death of three U.S. Army Special Forces Soldiers – Staff Sgt. Kevin McEnroe, Staff Sgt. James Moriarty, and Staff Sgt.(P) Matthew Lewellen.

USSOCOM extends its deepest condolences to the families, friends and teammates of the three Special Forces Soldiers killed in this tragic incident. The command is fully committed to working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation as they complete their separate, criminal investigation into the shooting.

On Nov. 10, 2016, USSOCOM Chief of Staff U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. J. Marcus Hicks appointed an investigating officer from U.S. Army Special Operations Command to determine the facts and circumstances surrounding the Nov. 4, 2016, shooting deaths of the three Special Forces Soldiers.

On Feb. 16, 2017, the investigating officer submitted his investigation and findings to Maj. Gen. Hicks. USSOCOM is releasing the investigation minus redacted information protected by FOIA exemptions and information the FBI requested be withheld due to their ongoing criminal investigation into the shooting.

As the lead for the criminal investigation, the FBI is the release authority for information relating to the Jordanian Air Force guard involved in the shooting and other aspects regarding the incident.

The summary below briefly describes the overall findings.

Summary of investigation findings:

- On the afternoon of Nov. 4, 2016, a Jordanian Air Force guard shot and killed three Special Forces Soldiers at the entry gate to King Faisal Air Base, Jordan.

- The three Soldiers were returning to the base in a four-vehicle convoy after conducting weapons familiarization training on a nearby military range.
- The Jordanian Air Force guard opened fire on the second vehicle of the convoy with his M-16 rifle, killing Staff Sgt. McEnroe and mortally wounding Staff Sgt.(P) Lewellen.
- Within seconds of coming under fire, Staff Sgt. Moriarty and another Soldier exited the third and fourth vehicles in the convoy in order to seek cover as the shooter closed in on their location. After unsuccessfully trying to communicate to the shooter that they posed no threat, the Soldiers returned fire. While the other Soldier maneuvered to gain a better position, Staff Sgt. Moriarty stood and fired his pistol directly at the shooter, who was wearing body armor. After closing in on their position, the shooter hit Staff Sgt. Moriarty with two rounds, mortally wounding him. Staff Sgt. Moriarty's actions enabled the remaining Soldier to maneuver and engage the shooter, seriously wounding him.
- Staff Sgt. McEnroe died at the scene. Staff Sgt. (P) Lewellen and Staff Sgt. Moriarty were medically evacuated after receiving initial treatment at the local medical treatment facility but died en route to King Hussein Hospital in Amman. Autopsy results show that no amount of medical care could have saved the three Soldiers due to the nature of their wounds.
- All three Soldiers died in honorable service to their country. All three Soldiers were properly trained, equipped, and armed, and were acting in compliance with all procedures and accepted practices. In maintaining their position and engaging the shooter, the Soldiers acted with great valor.
- Multiple rotations of Army Special Operations units had been deployed to the base for months without any incidents entering the base.
- All team members maintained at least an intermediate proficiency in Modern Standard Arabic. Prior to deployment, the team conducted additional language training in Levantine Arabic, specialized weapons training and advanced medical training.

**Further details relating to the engagement are withheld by the Department of Defense and USSOCOM due to the ongoing FBI criminal investigation. As the lead for the criminal investigation, the FBI is the release authority for information relating to the Jordanian Air Force guard and other aspects regarding the incident.**

A copy of the redacted investigation can be found at the [USSOCOM FOIA Reading Room](#). The USSOCOM FOIA Reading Room URL is <http://www.socom.mil/FOIA/Pages/ReadingRoom.aspx>.