

**IN A GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL  
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, U.S. ARMY TRIAL JUDICIARY  
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA**

UNITED STATES	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	Defense Reply to Government
BERGDAHL, ROBERT BOWDRIE	)	Response to First Defense
(BOWE)	)	Motion to Compel
SGT, U.S. Army	)	
HHC, Special Troops Battalion	)	
U.S. Army Forces Command	)	1 July 2016
Fort Bragg, North Carolina 28310	)	

COMES NOW THE ACCUSED, by and through counsel, and respectfully replies to the Government's Response.

**FACTS IN REPLY**

In the Government Response to the First Defense Motion to Compel, the Government claims to have "provided all files in an electronic and searchable format, grouped and categorized all documents by OCA, provided documents which are in sequences with closely associated documents in the same sequence, and removed or redacted immaterial, irrelevant and unnecessary documents and information." See Response to First Defense Motion to Compel at p. 5.

With regard to the evidence that was turned over by way of a classified hard drive, contrary to the Government's assertions, the material was not provided in a searchable format. Furthermore, the sequence of the documents often have no relationship to one another. Moreover, for many of the documents, it is not possible to determine where one document ends and another document begins. While there is material that is certainly relevant, much is either not relevant, or is so heavily redacted that the materiality is impossible to be gleaned without information as to why the evidence was produced at all.

The Defense does not wish to burden the Court with a review of the entirety of the Government's disclosures nor does the Defense ask that thousands of pages of documents be placed into evidence unnecessarily. However, the Defense asks that the Court consider a small sampling of the material in order to help understand the manner in which the material was disclosed to the Defense. To that end, the Defense respectfully requests that the Court briefly examine the first 10 pages of each subdivided folder from among

the documents that were disclosed in a SECRET format. A review of even that small random sampling will corroborate the Defense's assertions above.

For a sampling of the documents that were turned over in an unclassified format, the Defense submits two small samples of unclassified evidence to be considered. Enclosure 1 is a document received from one of the Government's counsel which accompanied a number of the disclosures. Paragraph 1(i) states, "Human Resources Command (Bates Numbers 4523-5789)." Enclosure 2 is a sample of documents taken from within the above listed bates numbers. The sample consists of bates numbers 4599 through 4608. The sequence of documents contain emails that are years apart from one another and deal with subject matters that are wildly divergent with one another. Enclosure 3, bates numbers 5590 – 5597, is another sample taken from the same subset of documents. In this sample, the Government appears to believe that it is relevant for the Defense to know that certain documents exist but that every single word must be completely redacted. There is no explanation for the redactions. Furthermore, nothing can be gleaned from the pages immediately preceding and immediately following the redacted pages that would offer any insight into why the documents are being provided to the Defense.

#### WITNESSES/EVIDENCE

The Defense requests that the Government produce a hard drive containing the Documents that were provided to the Defense on a classified system in the same format as has already been provided. Namely, the Defense requests bates numbers S944 through S33126 and 5955 through 40206. The Defense also requests that should the Judge wish to review a small portion of that evidence, as suggested in the motion, the Government provide the Court with the means to do so.


Defense will address Government's argument section of their response during oral argument.





For EUGENE R. FIDELL  
Civilian Defense Counsel



For FRANKLIN D. ROSENBLATT  
LTC, JA  
Individual Military Counsel

  
For JASON THOMAS  
MAJ, JA  
Defense Counsel

  
OREN GLEICH  
MAJ, JA  
Defense Counsel

  
For NINA S. BANKS  
CPT, JA  
Defense Counsel

I certify that I have served or caused to be served a true copy of the above on the Trial Counsel on 1 July 2016.

  
OREN GLEICH  
MAJ, JA  
Defense Counsel



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES COMMAND  
4700 KNOX STREET  
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA 28310-6000

AFCG-JA

14 December 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR: LTC Franklin Rosenblatt, Defense Counsel, SGT Robert Bowdrie (Bowe) Bergdahl

SUBJECT: Disclosures under Rule for Courts-Martial 701(a)(1)

1. The Government provides the following disclosures under Rule for Courts-Martial 701(a)(1).

- a. Criminal Investigation Division (Bates Numbers 3262 – 3831)
- b. U.S. Army North (Bates Numbers 3832 – 3961)
- c. U.S. Army South (Bates Numbers 3962-3998)
- d. Coast Guard (Bates Numbers 3999-4041)
- e. DFAS (Bates Numbers 4042-4198)
- f. Immigration and Customs Service (Bates Numbers 4199-4202)
- g. Treasury (Bates Numbers 4203-4210)
- h. U.S. Army South Reintegration (Bates Numbers 4211-4522)
- i. Human Resources Command (Bates Numbers 4523-5789)<sup>1</sup>
- j. USARAK Personal Effects Inventory (Bates Numbers 5793-5825)
- k. Joint Personnel Recovery Agency (Bates Numbers 5826-5856)
- l. Photographs (CPT John Marx) (Bates Numbers 5857-5865)
- m. Allen AR 15-6 Investigation, Benson DA Form 2173 (Bates Numbers 5866-5913)
- n. U.S. Army South Videos (5) – not Bates Stampable
- o. Videos (CPT John Marx) (8) – not Bates Stampable

2. Point of contact is the undersigned.



MARGARET V. KURZ  
MAJ, JA  
Trial Counsel

CF:  
Defense Counsel

<sup>1</sup> Bates Numbers 5790-5792 (DA G1) were provided to the Defense on 18 November 2015.

**From:** Edwards, Mark D CIV (US)  
**To:** USARMY Ft Knox HRC List All Users  
**Subject:** 5 January Early Bird & Local News Highlights (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Thursday, January 05, 2012 8:57:01 AM

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Army News:

Today at 1100 (Eastern) the President, Secretary of Defense, and Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff will hold a press event at which they will discuss the Strategy going forward. It will appear on the Pentagon Channel, [www.pentagonchannel.mil](http://www.pentagonchannel.mil), and will be streamed live on [www.Defense.gov](http://www.Defense.gov). The Pentagon Channel can be viewed on channel 8-6 (channel 98 for TV's without a digital tuner) within HRC. You can also watch it on the HRC Command Channel.

Early Bird highlights:

In New Strategy, Panetta Plans Even Smaller Army  
<http://ebird.osd.mil/ebfiles/e20120105861535.html>  
(New York Times)...Thom Shanker and Elisabeth Bumiller  
Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta has concluded that the Army has to shrink even below current targets, dropping to 490,000 soldiers over the next decade, but that the United States should not cut any of its 11 aircraft carriers, according to Pentagon officials and military analysts briefed on the secretary's budget proposals.

Family Of U.S. Soldier Held By Taliban Hopeful Over Qatar Deal  
<http://ebird.osd.mil/ebfiles/e20120105861643.html>  
(Reuters.com)...Laura Zuckerman, Reuters  
The family of a U.S. soldier held captive by the Taliban for over two years said on Wednesday they were optimistic about the possibility of talks between the Afghan insurgent group and countries including the United States.

Hearing Set For Fort Bragg Soldier Accused Of Trying To Carry Explosives Onto A Plane  
<http://ebird.osd.mil/ebfiles/e20120105861622.html>  
(Fayetteville (NC) Observer)...Drew Brooks  
A hearing for a Fort Bragg soldier accused of trying to carry explosives onto an airplane has been set for Friday.

For more Early Bird News go to <https://rbsaws.osd.mil/rbsaws/> or you can login to AKO - go to AKO select links (center of page) - chose Early Bird News

Other News Highlights:

Sources: Defense Budget Cuts Prevent Two-War Force Structure  
Fox News

<http://fxn.ws/AauHOy>

Obama plans to cut tens of thousands of ground troops

Stars and Stripes

<http://1.usa.gov/zzCk1G>

Soldier on stage with Ron Paul could face punishment for politicking

Stars and Stripes

<http://1.usa.gov/ytrnDg>

Changes in AER include family dental assistance, spouse scholarships

Army.mil

<http://1.usa.gov/y9bXf5>

Guard Bureau chief joins Joint Chiefs of Staff

Army.mil

<http://www.army.mil/article/71434/>

Mark Edwards

Chief, Media Relations

U.S. Army Human Resources Command

Ft Knox, KY 40122

Room 1-3-028

(502) 613-4216 (Office)

(502) 235-6682 (Blackberry)

(312) 983-4216 (DSN)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

**From:** Miller, William P COL USARMY (US)  
**To:** Logan, Kevin P CIV (US)  
**Subject:** Automatic reply: FOUO Bergdahl's Corrected Copy to Amendment (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Friday, March 22, 2013 10:36:43 AM

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COL Jim Anderson is the new US Army Alaska Chief of Staff. He can be reached at:

[james.e.anderson.mil@mail.mil](mailto:james.e.anderson.mil@mail.mil)

office: 907-384-2180

bb: 907-382-3364

**From:** [Balz, Rainer K MAJ MIL USA](#)  
**To:** [Logan, Kevin P CIV USA](#)  
**Subject:** baseops posts.ppt (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 30, 2010 10:45:17 AM  
**Attachments:** [baseops posts.ppt](#)

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: FOUO

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: FOUO

Google   [Advanced Search](#) [Preferences](#)



Web Show options...

Results 1 - 10 of about 255 for baseops captured us soldier family. (0.17 seconds)



**US Soldier Captured in Afghanistan - Baseops Forums - 8:27 am**

**Baseops Forums: US Soldier Captured in Afghanistan - Baseops Forums** ..... Have them look into the guy's family, you'll know what I mean when you hear it. ...  
[www.flyingquadrant.com/.../index.php?...us-soldier-captured...](#) -  
 Cached - Similar -  



**Miranda Rights for Enemy Combatants - Baseops Forums**

I wonder how Obama would feel if it was one of his family in the orange ... a policy where U.S. soldiers might have to read captured enemy combatants their ...  
[www.flyingquadrant.com/forums/index.php?showtopic...](#) - Cached - Similar -  



**Basic Training and Boot Camp - Army Careers**

A job in the U.S. Army is called a military occupational specialty (or MOS) and ... peacetime and to capture, destroy and repel enemy ground forces during combat. ... The Army's Special Forces are some of the most specially trained Soldiers in the Army. ... it is also a must for family members of recruits as well. ...  
[www.baseops.net/basictraining/ranger.html](#) - Cached - Similar -  

**PDF Afghan National Army producing soldiers at new training facility ...**

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - View as HTML  
 Base Ops!, Fayetteville, N.C., "Vietnam D milk be- cause there is no var- ... Let all of us at some moment in time continue to remember his family in ... and laws, paving the way for the facility to receive captured enemy combatants. ...  
[www.cste-a.com/News/...0711-enduring%20ledge.pdf](#) - Similar -  

**This Fucking War, Afghanistan, The New War for Hearts and Minds**

It is a war-fighting support hub, an air base, ops center, .... The enterprising Jones comes up with a trip for us to a forward operating base about two hours northeast. ... Upon hearing this command, the Afghan soldiers immediately flop down and start to nap. ... Karokhail has captured the crux of the problem. ...  
[thisfuckingwar.blogspot.com/.../afghanistan-new-war-for-hearts-and.html](#) -  
 Cached - Similar -  

**The cost of the army cost results highlights the strategy ...**

[Error on page.](#)

Group: Supreme User  
Posts: 434  
Joined: 24-September 02

Reply: MultiQuote

Roach

Posted 04 July 2009 - 09:30 AM

Crew Dawg

●●

Registered User

Posts: 67  
Joined: 09-March 06  
Location: Houston Quiet Predator Pilot

My squadron has been on this non-stop for days. Can't get into it here, but many assets have been put against this mission. The rabbit hole goes deeper, too. If your intel bubbas have nothing better to do (when do they ever, really), have them get you some info on this. << CUT: DO NOT RECOMMEND PEOPLE VIOLATE US INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT LAWS!>>

Bottom line - not sure what this guy was thinking, but he left the FOB with no gear, a couple water bottles and a knife. Maybe since Rambo made it look pretty easy...? Dunno, but I hope we find him.

Roach

This post has been edited by MZ: Yesterday, 07:05 PM

0

Reply: MultiQuote

Zrooster99



Gray Beard

●●●●

Registered User

Posts: 843  
Joined: 05-May 04  
Location: Pee NNY

Posted 04 July 2009 - 06:01 PM

Quote

Dunno, but I hope we find him..

Me too. I'm actually surprised this (the bad guys grabbing one of ours) didn't happen sooner. Hope we find him in one piece and fuck some of those fuckers up.

This post has been edited by Zrooster99: 04 July 2009 - 06:04 PM

Reply: MultiQuote

Roach's Profile

Roach has not set their status

- About Me
- Topics
- Posts
- Blog
- Gallery
- Files

About Me

This user has not configured their 'About Me' page and has not added a signature to their account yet.

My Information

**Member Title:** Crew Dawg33 years old  
**Age:** July 17, 1975  
**Birth day:** Houston  
**Location:**  
**E-mail:** [http://](mailto:)  
**Website URL:**

Send me a message

Find Topics

Find Posts

Display name history

Reputation: 0  
Neutral

**Group:** Registered User  
**Posts:** 39 (0.03 per day)  
**Most Active In:** [General Discussion \(30 posts\)](#)  
**Joined:** 09-March 06  
**Profile Views:** 189  
**Last Active:** Jul 12 2009 03:37 PM  
**Currently:** Offline

Previous Fields  
Qual: Predator Pilot

**From:** Skillman, Deborah S COL USA HRC  
**To:** Cochran, Marcus A COL USA HRC  
**Cc:** Fringeli, Dennis J CIV USA HRC; White, Jeanine MAJ USA HRC; Logan, Kevin P CIV USA HRC  
**Subject:** Bergdahl (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 09, 2009 3:41:09 PM

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Marc

Bergdahl update below.

Deb

SFC Mason, CAO for Mr. and Mrs. Bergdahl, reported in his weekly report that the Bergdahls did not have any questions or issues they wanted passed on to Army leadership. However, on 8 Dec 09, COL Skillman received a request from OCLL on behalf of Senator Risch. The parents of PFC Bergdahl have requested an office call with the Senator to discuss the status of their Son. Senator Risch's office would like either a briefing or an update on the case before they meet with the family. This action was passed to Army G-3. Additionally, COL Skillman received a call from COL Steven Sifers from the CSA's office. He wanted CMAOC to be aware of a conversation he had with a trusted friend regarding the Bergdahls. He needed to make the CSA aware of this conversation as it had implications for the Army. According to his friend who is a Director of Security for a conglomeration of NGOs, he (the friend) was at a meeting with members of the Bergdahl Family (COL Sifers was not told which Family members were present). The Family was exploring ways to get their Soldier back. The Bergdahls were talking to organizations who have done this before and were thinking of contacting the International Red Cross for assistance. During this meeting, the Bergdahl Family indicated that they were unhappy with the way the Army was dealing with them and their Soldier; they were thinking of going public with their dissatisfaction.

COL Skillman passed this information on to COL Cochran who asked that COL Skillman contact the CAO to see if he was aware of any issues with the Family. She spoke with the CAO for about 15 minutes. He had returned from his weekly scheduled meeting with the Family. She asked him pointed questions and if he knew if the Family was unhappy with the way the Army was dealing with them. He said no, but he said the Family has been very displeased about the Security Clearance issue. They were unhappy that it took so long to get the security paperwork to the right people at the Pentagon, and then they were displeased that they had to provide additional information. The CAO said the Family had been in contact with Senator Crapo's office though he's not sure what was discussed. COL Skillman asked the CAO if he was aware that the Family had also contacted Senator Risch's office. He said no. The CAO reports that the Family talks to many groups and individuals affiliated with the military or prior military though he is not privy to those discussions. He's not aware that they were seeking the help of the International Red Cross or that they wanted to go public.

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

**From:** Chatman-Terry, Vilisa R CPT USA HRC  
**To:** Logan, Kevin P CIV USA HRC  
**Subject:** bergdahl (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 16, 2010 10:11:30 AM  
**Attachments:** AR-M550U\_20100316\_091155.pdf

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Per your request Sir.

V/r

CPT C-T

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

From: sender@conus.army.mil [mailto:sender@conus.army.mil]

Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 10:12 AM

To: Chatman-Terry, Vilisa R CPT USA HRC

Subject: Scanned image from AR-M550U

DEVICE NAME: 4S33\_SH550NPST1  
DEVICE MODEL: SHARP AR-M550U  
LOCATION: 4S33

FILE FORMAT: PDF MMR(G4)  
RESOLUTION: 300dpi x 300dpi

Attached file is scanned image in PDF format.  
This file can be read by Adobe Acrobat Reader.  
The reader can be downloaded from the following URL:

<http://www.adobe.com/>

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY HUMAN RESOURCES COMMAND  
200 STOVALL STREET  
ALEXANDRIA VA 22331-0482

AHRC-PDC

13 November 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Promotion Eligibility of PFC Bowe Bergdahl [REDACTED]  
Missing-Captured

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide promotion information regarding missing-captured Soldier, PFC Bowe Bergdahl. According to AR 600-8-19, PFC Bergdahl is eligible for promotion to SPC (E-4) 1 Dec 09, with a waiver and if requested by his chain of command.
2. Per LTC Clint Baker, BN Cdr, 1<sup>st</sup> BN, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry, the command does not wish to request a waiver of promotion eligibility at this time. PFC Bergdahl will be promoted when he is fully eligible on 1 Jun 10.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcus A. Cochran", enclosed in a large, loopy oval.

MARCUS A. COCHRAN  
COL, AG  
Director, Casualty and Mortuary Affairs  
Operations Center

## **Mccoy, Kiara N SPC USARMY 2 ID 1 BCT (US)**

---

**From:** HEINEY, JEFF CIV DFAS <JEFF.HEINEY@DFAS.MIL>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 03, 2013 1:04 PM  
**To:** Bumgardner, Kenneth S LTC USARMY (US)  
**Cc:** Logan, Kevin P CIV (US); Lawrence, Kimberly A CIV (US); Malone, Glenda F CIV (US); Macmurray, Marty L CIV (US); Richards, Donald R CIV (US)  
**Subject:** RE: Ref. SGT Bowe Bergdahl/PFC Kelli Bordeaux (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Attachments:** RE\_Benefits for Members Held as Captives (UNCLASSIFIED).pdf

LTC Bumgardner,

Message received.

In accordance with DODFMR Vol. 7A, Chapter 34, para 3402, our office will take the following actions on the following Missing in Actions soldiers:

SGT Bowe Bergdahl - [REDACTED]

1. Return member back to an "Active Pay Status". (Member put in "Suspended Status" as a direct result of his original ETS date of 121001)
2. Change member's monthly direct deposit from twice a month to once a month for account management efficiency
3. Establish a Savings Deposit Allotment to deposit members pay and allowances into the Saving Deposit Program  
(IAW DODFMR 7A Chapter 37, para 3703 & Chapter 51, para 510206)

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE SAVINGS DEPOSIT PROGRAM

Authority for the program is found in the DODFMR VOL. 7A, Chapter 51

For Missing in Action service members see para 510206 below:

510206. Member In a Missing Status

The Secretary of the Military Department concerned may, in the interest of a member who is in a missing status (see Glossary) or his dependents, initiate, stop, modify, and change allotments for deposit of unpaid pay and allowances accruing in a missing member's pay account, and authorize withdrawal of deposits made under this chapter, even though the member had an opportunity to make deposits and elected not to do so. Compute interest as prescribed by this chapter, from January 1, 1991, or the day the member enters a missing status, whichever is later. The \$10,000 limitation on the amount that interest is payable does not apply to deposit accounts of members in a missing status.

In a nutshell, an interest bearing account is established for the member earning 10% annually. Interest is calculated quarterly on available balances. Chapter 51 provides excellent examples on how the interest is applied.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. The primary POC's are listed below:

Ms. Kimberly Lawrence, 317-212-6030, kimberly.lawrence@dfas.mil, Division Chief, Centralized Processing

Ms. Glenda Malone, 317-212-7551, glenda.malone@dfas.mil, Branch Chief, Special Processing

Ms. Marty MacMurray, 317-212-8625, marty.macmurray@dfas.mil, Team Chief, Casualty Team.

Jeffery J Heiney  
Chief, Systems Liaison & Procedures Division  
Military Pay Operations-Indianapolis  
Phone: 317-212-2771  
jeff.heiney@dfas.mil

For Official Use Only- Privacy Act of 1974

FOUO. This document contains information exempt from mandatory disclosure under FOIA. Exemption 5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(6) applies. This document also contains personal information that is protected by the Privacy Act of 1974 and must be safeguarded from unauthorized disclosure.

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

From: Bumgardner, Kenneth S LTC USARMY (US)  
[mailto:kenneth.s.bumgardner.mil@mail.mil]  
Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2013 4:07 PM  
To: HEINEY, JEFF CIV DFAS  
Cc: Logan, Kevin P CIV (US)  
Subject: Ref. SGT Bowe Bergdahl/PFC Kelli Bordeaux (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Jeff,  
Per Mr. Kevin Logan Deputy CMAB Branch Chief, HRC request that DFAS revise pay accounts on SGT Bowe Bergdahl and PFC Kelli Bordeaux from current checking account to the SAFE PAY Account effective 2 Jan 2013.

Please send description and explanation of benefits on Safe Pay Account.

v/r

Steve

LTC Steve Bumgardner  
Chief, Fatal Incidents and  
Investigations Section  
Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Branch  
HRC, Ft Knox, KY 40121

☎Comm: 502-613-8324

☎DSN: (312 if calling from Overseas) 983-8324

SIPR: kenneth.bumgardner@us.army.smil.mil

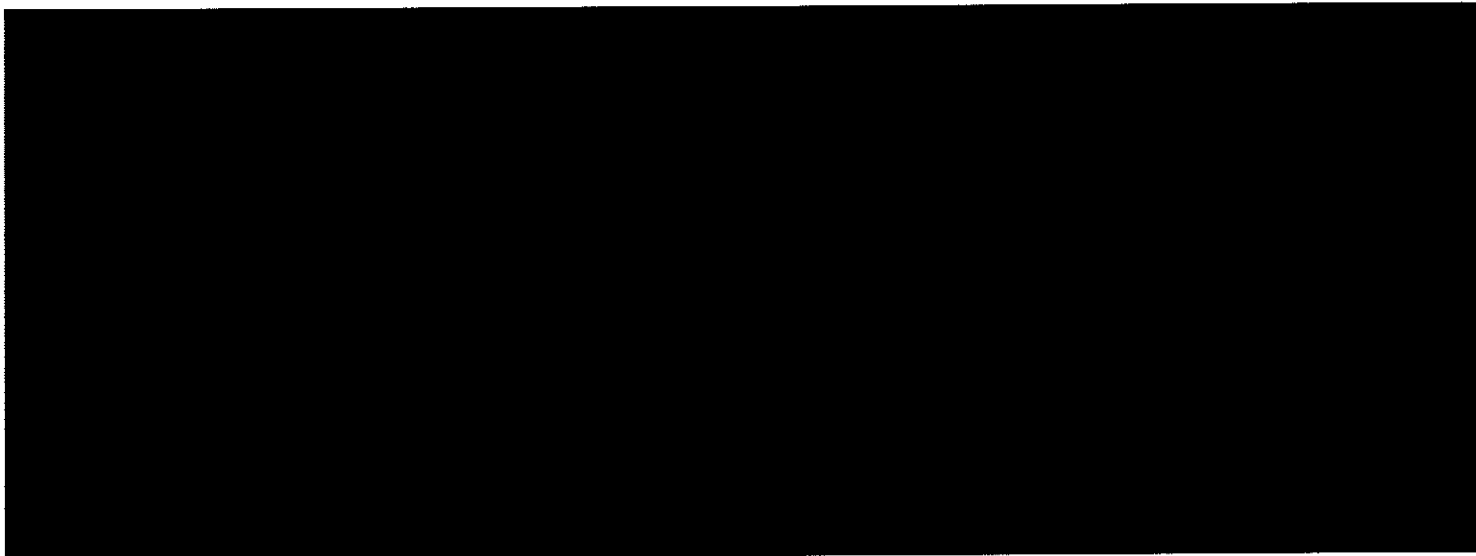
FIS SIPR: knoxhrccmaoc@conus.army.smil.mil

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE







**Mccoy, Kiara N SPC USARMY 2 ID 1 BCT (US)**

---

**From:** Bumgardner, Kenneth S LTC USARMY (US)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2014 2:35 PM  
**To:** Logan, Kevin P CIV (US); Rapanotti, Dare A MAJ USARMY HRC (US)  
**Subject:** RE: Response Letter (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Attachments:** Set Letter of Response SGT Bergdahl.docx

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Mr. Logan,  
Response letter is attached for your review.

v/r

Steve

LTC Steve Bumgardner  
Chief, Fatal Incidents and  
Investigations Section  
Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Branch  
HRC, Ft Knox, KY 40121  
☎Comm: 502-613-8324  
☎DSN: (312 if calling from Overseas) 983-8324  
SIPR: kenneth.bumgardner@us.army.smil.mil  
FIS SIPR: knoxhrccmaoc@conus.army.smil.mil

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY HUMAN RESOURCES COMMAND  
1600 SPEARHEAD DIVISION AVENUE  
FORT KNOX KY 40122-5405

January 15, 2014

Casualty and Mortuary Affairs

Sophal Hy  
102 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Warick, RI 02888

Dear Mr. Hy:

I have been asked to respond on behalf of Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to your December 18, 2013, letter concerning Sergeant (SGT) Bowe Bergdahl, who was captured by insurgents in Afghanistan in June 2009.

Searching for and rescuing captured Service members are top priorities for the US military. The Department of Defense is fully committed to the safe return of SGT Bergdahl. I assure you that US and Coalition forces in Afghanistan, along with the Intelligence Community, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of State, and other agencies, continue to make every effort to effect his return.

Additionally, the US Army and US Central Command continue to provide support, assistance, and periodic updates to the Bergdahl family during this difficult time.

I truly appreciate your concern and your support of our men and women in uniform.

Sincerely,

Kerk B. Brown  
Colonel, US Army  
Director, Casualty and Mortuary Affairs  
Operations Center