



160TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS AVIATION REGIMENT

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
FORT BRAGG, NC 28310 / (910) 432-6005 / <http://news.soc.mil>

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3 NIALL D. LYONS

Died on Oct. 26, 2009

Operation Enduring Freedom

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Niall D. Lyons, 40, died Oct. 26, 2009, when his MH-47 Chinook helicopter crashed while conducting military operations in western Afghanistan.

Lyons was a native of Spokane, Wash., and volunteered for Army service in October 1994. After serving three years in the Army as an enlisted Soldier, Lyons was accepted into the Army Warrant Officer Program at Fort Rucker, Ala., in 1998. Upon graduation from flight school in 1999, Lyons was assigned to 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Bragg, N.C., as a tactical operations officer. In 2003, while stationed at Fort Rucker, he was assigned to 1-14th Aviation Battalion as an instructor pilot followed by an assignment with 1-145th Aviation Bn. as an Aviation Warrant Officer Basic Course small group leader. In 2006, he was assigned to 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Drum, N.Y., as an instructor pilot and instrument examiner.



After a successful assessment in 2009, Lyons was assigned to 3rd Bn., 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) in Savannah, Ga. Lyons earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Geography from Eastern Washington University in 1995.

He was a combat veteran with two deployments; one in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and one in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

His military training includes the Warrant Officer Candidate School, the Aviation Warrant Officer Basic Course, the Aviation Warrant Officer Advanced Course, the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape Course, the CH-47 Aircraft Qualification Course, the OH-58D Warrior Instructor Pilot Course, the Rotary Wing Instrument Flight Examiner course, the Basic Instructor Training Course, the System Administrator Course, the Air Movement Operators Course.

Lyons's awards include two Air Medals, four Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, the Army Good Conduct Medal, two National Defense Service Medals, Iraqi Campaign Medal-Campaign Star, Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Combat Action Badge and Senior Aviator Badge.

Lyons is survived by his son John of Dothan, Ala.; his parents, John and Nuala Lyons; his brothers, Sean and Kevin Lyons; and his sister, Bernadette Buck, all of Spokane, Wash.

– NIGHT STALKERS DON'T QUIT –