



Biographical Sketch

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, FORT BRAGG, NC 28310 910-432-6005

MAJ. STEPHEN C. REICH

Killed in action on June 28, 2005

Operation Enduring Freedom

Maj. Stephen C. Reich died June 28, 2005 in eastern Afghanistan when his MH-47D Helicopter was shot down by enemy fire during combat operations.

He was born May 22, 1971 in Ohio, and was raised in Washington, Conn. He graduated from the United States Military Academy with a bachelor's of science degree in Arabic and Spanish, and received his commission in 1993. In 1994, he attended the Aviation Officer Basic Course and Initial Entry Rotary Wing training. In 1995, Reich was assigned to the University of Kentucky Reserve Officer Training Corp program, and played professional baseball in the Baltimore Orioles organization.

After receiving a UH-60 Blackhawk transition in 1996, he was ordered to Germany where he served as Platoon Leader in Company A, 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment. During his subsequent tour with the 12th Aviation Brigade, he served in Operation Allied Force deploying to Hungary, Bosnia, Albania, and Kosovo.

Returning from Germany in 2000, Reich attended the Infantry Captain's Career Course at Ft. Benning, Ga., followed by the Combined Arms Services Staff School at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. Upon arrival to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, he deployed with 2nd Battalion to Operation Enduring Freedom, as Battle Captain in support of Task Force Dagger. In December 2001, he served as Operations Officer for 2nd Battalion's detachment of MH-47E aircraft in Afghanistan. He commanded Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion from February 2002 through May 2003. Reich recently completed a one-year assignment to Daegu, Republic of Korea as the Operations Officer for E Company, 160th SOAR (Airborne). He took command of B Company, 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operation Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. on August 5, 2004.

Reich's military schools include the Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape Course, the Airborne School and the Air Assault Course.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Senior Army Aviator Badge and the Airborne and Air Assault Badges. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal for valor and the Combat Action Badge.

Reich is survived by his wife, Jill, of Panama City, Fla.

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