



WOLF PACK NEWS LETTER

June 23, 2008

It is with some trepidation that I write this issue of the Wolf Pack News Letter. For the first time since I have been writing these updates a member of Wolf Pack has been killed in action. While soldiers are certainly aware that death stalks us, it does not make the sudden loss of a brother in arms any easier.

LTC James Walton Killed In Action June 21, 2008



On June 21, 2008 Wolf Pack was notified that LTC James Walton, the former leader of Wolf Pack's Team A, was killed in action in south eastern Afghanistan. In late April 2008, LTC Walton left Team A to lead a PMT (Police Mentor Team) based in Kandahar. Despite the significantly increased risks associated with operating in that part of Afghanistan, LTC Walton volunteered to take the PMT mission because of his deep commitment to Operation Enduring Freedom and the Afghan people. Indeed, he consistently referred to the Afghans he mentored as "my brothers." LTC Walton's loss is a deep blow to Team

A and all of those who served with him.



I was not on LTC Walton's team at Ft. Riley. However, upon joining his team upon arrival in Kabul, I quickly learned that he was a superb team leader—indeed he represented the full positive potential that military leadership can offer. In retrospect, I was truly fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve under LTC Walton.



LTC Walton tirelessly cared for not only his soldiers, but all those he came in contact with. When a Wolf Pack team member from a different team was heading home on emergency leave (due to the death of the soldier's brother), LTC Walton help the soldier move his gear to the convoy pick-up point and waited for

more than an hour with the distraught soldier until the convoy departed—which was at 0430 in the morning. LTC Walton never sought personal praise for his efforts—just doing the right thing seemed reward enough for him.

LTC Walton was the consummate professional soldier. He endeavored to share his previous combat experience with his team. He gave us the essential confidence in our weapons, our team and ourselves—confidence which would be essential to surviving our first engagements with the enemy. LTC Walton also an excellent team member. Although team leader, there was no job beneath him. When Team Alpha had B-Hut clean up, LTC Walton could be found moping the floor and taking out the garbage. If HQ 56 was in maintenance, LTC Walton was could be found working on the truck—much to the surprise of the young mechanics.



Most importantly, however, LTC Walton had the courage to allow his team members to lead and learn. He routinely turned over convoy



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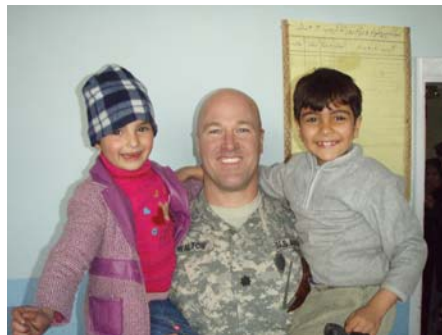
command to all members of the team—thereby ensuring each person had the confidence to not only fight their own vehicle, but the entire team—should that need arise.



LTC Walton loved dogs and seemed intent on adopting nearly every dog in Afghanistan. Several “stray” dogs roamed at Bela Hissar—and LTC Walton immediately took to all of them. Within a few visits, he had named them all (Zeus and Caesar were some of the names he selected).



LTC Walton also loved kids, and his affection for the kids of the MOD daycare center was obvious by the smile on his face.



LTC Walton’s death is a loss to not only his PMT team or Wolf Pack, but to the entire US Army. The bad guys won one and killed an excellent soldier on Saturday—creating a deep loss we all feel. However, we will continue our mission and through our memories and the excellent training provided by LTC Walton, we will ensure he remains with us on each patrol. Please keep his wife and parents in your thoughts and prayers. As a fellow USMA graduate, LTC Walton would understand my closing words and know their source: “Sir, Well Done! Be thou at peace!”

