General Information

Source: NBC Nightly News  Resource Type: Video News Report
Creator: Brian Williams/Jim Miklaszewski  Copyright: NBCUniversal Media, LLC.
Event Date: 12/10/2012  Copyright Date: 2012
Air/Publish Date: 12/10/2012  Clip Length 00:02:34

Description

Petty Officer Nicolas Checque was a member of the Navy's elite special operations force, SEAL Team Six. He was killed during a hostage rescue mission in Afghanistan.

Keywords


Citation

MLA
"Navy SEAL Killed on Rescue Mission Hailed as Hero." Jim Miklaszewski, correspondent. NBC Nightly
Navy SEAL Killed on Rescue Mission Hailed as Hero

BRIAN WILLIAMS, anchor:
Tonight, a U.S. Navy SEAL is being remembered as a military hero for his part in rescuing an American doctor kidnapped by the Taliban. The SEAL is a member of the very same storied team of special operators, SEAL Team Six that was last in the news for taking out Osama Bin Laden. Jim Miklaszewski at the Pentagon has our report on this tonight. Jim, good evening.
JIM MIKLASZEWSKI, reporting:
Good Evening, Brian. President Obama and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta have hailed this Navy SEAL for his valor, willing to sacrifice his own life to save another. Petty Officer Nicolas Checque was a member of the Navy’s elite Special Operations SEAL Team Six. The 28 year-old was a highly-decorated 10 year Navy veteran, killed Sunday in Afghanistan during a hostage rescue mission. The SEAL set out to rescue an American relief worker, Doctor Dilip Joseph kidnapped last week on the road East of Kabul. Joseph was held hostage at an enemy compound in Laghman Province in Eastern Afghanistan. Under the cover of darkness, the navy SEAL rescue team was flown into the area aboard assault helicopters. But as they approached the compound on foot, they came under intense enemy fire from AK-47s, heavy machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades. In the fierce firefight, Petty Officer Checque took a single bullet and later died from his wound. The SEALs killed seven Taliban fighters, captured two others, and in the heat of that battle, miraculously rescued Doctor Joseph unharmed. Checque was a seasoned combat veteran in both Iraq and Afghanistan where he earned a Bronze Star and two other awards for valor in combat. He’s a native of Monroeville, Pennsylvania, where he lettered in wrestling at Norwin High and was widely admired by coaches and classmates alike.
RICH GINTHER (Former Coach): I remember Nick real well. He was, you know, one of those guys you loved to have on your team.
SCOTT SCHUCHERT (Former Classmate): And he's a really special, special person. So he won't be forgotten.
MIKLASZEWSKI: Doctor Joseph works with an American relief organization, Morning Star, providing free medical care for Afghan civilians. He was safely flown to Bagram Air Base, north of Kabul and expected to return to the U.S. soon. Military officials stress tonight that nobody made any mistakes here. That both Doctor Joseph and SEAL Checque were simply doing their jobs; and that both fully recognized the risk going in. Brian.
WILLIAMS: Jim Miklaszewski with the story out of the Pentagon tonight. Jim, thanks.