



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

ARIZONA NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

5636 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85008-3495
(602) 267-2550 (office); (602) 267-2495 (fax); (602) 206-7659 (cell)



DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

Maj. Gen. MICHAEL T. McGUIRE
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Media Release

July 9, 2018

Arizona Guardsman dies during training weekend

PHOENIX – An Arizona National Guard Soldier was found dead in his barracks from what first responders are calling natural causes while on military duty at Papago Park Military Reservation Saturday afternoon.

Army Capt. Juston Doherty, 45, was a traditional guardsman serving his weekend drill as a platoon trainer, or “Black Hat,” at the 215th Regional Training Institute when he was found on the ground by fellow cadre.

The determination of his death will remain inconclusive until medical examiners complete their report.

“The loss of Capt. Doherty weighs heavy on the hearts of our Guard members,” said Maj. Gen. Michael T. McGuire, adjutant general for the Arizona National Guard. “He was a talented officer and great friend to many. Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Juston. We’ll do everything we can to support his family through this difficult time.”

Doherty was last seen by fellow cadre heading back to his room to get rest around 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Doherty was found by a fellow Black Hat when he did not return to the training environment in the afternoon.

Rotating instructors through daily activities is common practice because of the rigorous schedule they maintain throughout the day and night. This allows cadre to accomplish administrative tasks and rest, so they can maintain the intensity needed for training officer candidates.

“Captain Doherty was the kind of guy who liked to wake up the candidates as well as put them to bed the same day,” said Capt. Julie Shelley, a friend of Doherty’s and former OCS company commander at the 215th RTI. “That’s the kind of guy he was. He gave everything to the training.”

“Captain Doherty was a dedicated man,” said Col. John “Boz” Bozicevic, 215th RTI Commander. “He was dedicated to his family, his community, his state and his nation.”

Capt. Doherty was a highly-decorated Soldier whose previous assignment was with the 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry Regiment “Bushmasters.” He served two combat tours: the first in Iraq in 2003 and the second in Afghanistan in 2013. He received many awards, including the Bronze Star Medal. Doherty entered military service in 1996, later commissioning in 2008 through the Arizona National Guard’s officer candidate school. He earned his airborne wings in 2009 and completed Ranger School in 2010.

In addition to being a traditional Guardsman, Doherty was a proud member of the Phoenix Fire Department.

The next of kin have been notified and the Arizona Governor’s office has ordered all state agency flags to fly at half-staff today in honor of Doherty.

Queries can be directed to the Arizona National Guard Public Affairs Officer, Capt. Aaron Thacker at aaron.c.thacker.mil@mail.mil or at (602) 513-6482.